



Volume 1, Issue 5

November 2011

## FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

### A Message from the KVHA Board

After a rough start to the fall season, the Board would like to take time to publicly assume responsibility and give our word that we are working hard to ensure the rest of the season runs much smoother. From registration, to draft, to ice scheduling and jerseys, we are well aware that that this was not the ideal beginning and it has caused much angst for our players and their families.

As many of you may/may not have been aware, most of the intricate operations of our association had previously been run in large part by one person. With half the board voted in new last spring to infuse some fresh perspective into the direction of the association, the decision was made to create a new leadership structure. In terms of vision, this was exactly what the association needed, but in terms of operations, there proved to be a gap between how things used to operate and how they needed to operate under our new direction. Unfortunately all of you have felt the repercussions of this gap, and for that we are truly sorry.

## VIEW FROM CENTER ICE

### IN THE HOUSE

by Brad Dedrick - Director, House Program

The season is underway and teams have gotten a fair amount of practice time and are now excited to be playing games. Practice is great for skill development and is where hockey players are made but let's face it....kids like to play in games!

Whether you are a new to youth hockey or a veteran, there seems to always be new information available and many options for your teams. I want to cover a few points that may or may not be new to you:

1. <http://www.mlive.com/forums/youthhockey/> - This online forum is all hockey all the time. It is a resource for finding outside training, tournaments and sheets of ice for sale. Teams also will look to schedule scrimmages on this site. Check it out; you will be surprised at the information available. Please reach out and share this with your other hockey families on the team.
2. Scrimmages – Each of our teams are rostered through Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) and each of our players has insurance through USA Hockey. This allows our teams to participate in scrimmages with other youth hockey teams. Your coaches and managers have probably already received many offers to do

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### District Playoff Deadlines

*November 1 - Notification of Intent to Enter*

*November 15 - Team/Player Exception Requests due*

*January 8, 2012 - 1st Round Scheduling Meeting - Farmington Hills Ice Arena*

### Team Pictures - TSS Photography

*November 13-20*

*Kensington Valley Ice House*

*Contact Mindy Vachow at TSS to confirm your team's picture day at (800) 704-1006*

### Board Meeting

*November 21*

*6:00 - 8:00 PM*

*Kensington Valley Ice House*

### Local CEP Clinics

*Reminder - All coaches must complete all USA Hockey certification requirements by December 31st to remain on the team roster. Below is a list of local CEP clinics being offered between now and the end of December.*

*November 5 - Livonia, CEP Level 1*

*November 12 - E. Lansing, CEP Level 1*

*November 13 - Rochester, CEP Level 3*

*November 19 - Flint, CEP Level 3*

*December 3 - Taylor, CEP Level 2*

*December 4 - Taylor, CEP Level 1*

*December 10 - Royal Oak, CEP Level 1*

*December 11 - Royal Oak, CEP Level 2*

*December 17 - Taylor, CEP Level 3*

*December 18 - E. Lansing, CEP Level 2 & 3*

*Go on-line at [USA Hockey](http://USA Hockey) for Complete state-wide listing and to register for a clinic.*

Rest assured the Board has made a conscious decision to move beyond stewing on the problems and is entirely devoted to focusing on the solutions to our current situation so our ultimate vision can be achieved. To that end, the following addresses resolutions to our current jersey situations:

- **Mite/MiniMite House teams** – Perfect Edge has agreed that each player who chooses to keep the current jersey as is will be given three free skate sharpenings (flat bottom V or traditional), plus each player will receive a knit winter hat displaying the team logo and player number on it. For those who choose to have their child's jersey corrected, you will receive the corrected jersey when it arrives in five to six weeks. By now you should have already been in contact with your coach to let him or her know your decision.
- **Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, House and Travel teams** – We have renegotiated a cost per jersey and shipping savings with GameWear. While we did not ultimately achieve the published savings number for the association we were able to reduce our expenditure by over \$7000 during this process. This renegotiated price is still considerably less than we paid last season and our teams are wearing a much nicer jersey. As a group we are already working on the jersey ordering process for next year so that we do not have these same issues. We truly appreciate the patience of everyone who waited too long for a resolution.

**We believe there are definitely better times ahead of us.** While we are still correcting the present problems and hope to have them fixed ASAP, we hope that you can count on us to get the job done. Please know that although we have learned a lot over the last six months, the board realizes we must do better, and we must work harder to make this association the premier association in the state. In the meantime, please feel free to approach any one of us with ideas, suggestions or even complaints so we can make YOUR association the best it can be.

### KVHA Board of Directors

*Scott Staby  
Alicia Urbain  
John Maley  
Len Pietila  
Scott McLaren*

*Jason Valente  
Barry Paxton  
Brad Dedrick  
Bob Kittridge*

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scrimmages. You should take advantage of these opportunities!

3. Tournaments / Jamborees – Nothing brings a hockey team and hockey families together like an away tournament. I think it is a great idea to do one or two per year. There is certainly a cost involved but it will be an experience that your players remember long after the season. The best part is they won't necessarily remember the wins & losses but they will not quickly forget their camaraderie with their teammates and siblings
4. MAHA Playoffs – Squirt division and higher will participate in MAHA District / State playoffs. KVHA only sponsors a limited amount of teams per age bracket. More information will follow on this topic.

A final reminder, at KVHA our House hockey program is all about player development and fun! Our by-laws stipulate that equal playing time is a requirement. Everybody likes to win and is frustrated to lose but we want this to be de-emphasized at this level. Our players need to be having fun so that coming to the rink is a joy and they learn a sport that they can play their whole life.

Brad Dedrick  
KVHA House Director

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## ON THE ROAD

### Justin Abdelkader Visits '03 Rebels

Detroit Red Wings Left Wing, Justin Abdelkader, took time out of his busy schedule to visit the 2003 Rebels Travel team during one of their practices on October 19. The kids were excited to hear how he has been successful in his rise to the NHL. He also stressed the importance of practice and hard work in his rise to the top of the game. He then took time to sign some autographs and take pictures with the team and Coaches. It was a great experience for all.



*Justin Abdelkader talks to the 2003 Rebel Travel Team about the importance of practice*



*The 2003 Rebels coaches and players take a moment to pose with Justin*

**About Justin:** Justin Abdelkader was selected by the Red Wings with the 42nd overall pick in the 2005 NHL Entry Draft. He played for the Grand Rapids Griffins during the 2008-09 season where he scored 23 goals and was one of the teams best offensive players. Justin scored his first career NHL goal on May 30, 2009 in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals against the Pittsburgh Penguins. He scored again in game 2 and became the first rookie to score a goal in consecutive finals games since Minnesota's Dino Ciccarelli did it in 1981.

## **RAVEN NATION**

*by Mike Wainwright, Director Girls Hockey*

### **Ravens Join New Michigan Girls Hockey League**

One of the more exciting things to happen on the girls hockey front is the formation of the MGHL (Michigan Girls Hockey League). The new league was formed over the summer months and is officially off the ground. It started as a destination for girls playing travel at the 10U level but has quickly demonstrated potential to be much more than that.

Eight major associations have joined the league and will forever be the founding fathers of the MGHL. KVHA, Belle Tire, Victory Honda, Suburban, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Livonia, DSC are all playing in the new MGHL this fall. Exhibition games were played in September to determine appropriate levels of play and form fair but competitive brackets. During this exploration phase it became evident this was a much bigger opportunity than just 10U Tier 2. Several of our MGHL partners also wanted organization and girls specific play for their 10U Tier 3 and 12U Tier 3 teams. The league responded and we now have 16 teams calling MGHL home with the 2011/12 season underway.



Each division is unique in the amount of games played and travel but the concept is consistent across them all. All three divisions have a regular game schedule, followed by playoffs and will name a champion. Several teams are expected to

advance to the State Championship from this league. We have also provided enough "room" for each team to play outside league games and tournaments on their own. This tailored approach gives each team the best of both worlds. Something many boys teams struggle with.

The league is official with a new set of By Laws, board of directors and MAHA sanctioning. A new website is under development that will feature a home page for each team, official standings and many other useful tools. We are getting calls on a regular basis from associations with girls teams lost in space. In a sense we can call the MGHL a new frontier and the foundation we've been looking for to REALLY build a girls hockey program in the state of Michigan.

This is a very exciting time for Girls Hockey in our backyard. KVHA is at the forefront here and we are lucky to have so many great coaches, managers and mom's and dad's working together. As always, THANK YOU and you don't hear it enough! We will all look back at this time as an amazing time in the continuum of the Girls Movement.

### **KVHA 12U Ravens Leave the Nest**

*KVHA has two 12U Girls Hockey Teams. There are still a few openings, join the fun!*

The 12U Ravens have left the nest and are definitely accumulating some frequent flyer miles. Both squads are heading to Ontario, Stratford, and Waterloo. One squad has just returned from Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. There were some rough traveling conditions as the team RV needed an escort to cross the Mackinaw Bridge due to high winds. Thank goodness those hockey bags are heavy and kept the vehicle rubber-side down! While in the Soo, the Ravens took in the MSU vs. LSSU hockey game and came across Chris Chelios (see photo). I think the moms are still up there talking to him. The rest of the team made it back though.

Both squads have been very competitive for this early in the season as they are still fairly new to the game of hockey. One thing is for sure, the Ravens top the standings in the FUN department. The Ravens already have a Pool Party and Movie Night

under their belt, and have also met the MSU Girls Hockey Team. Up next: Hayride and Bowling Party. Our goal is to make Ravens girls hockey an unparalleled fun experience while still focusing on skill development. **Come join us!!!**



*12U Ravens run into Chris Chelios at the MSU vs. LSSU game up in the Soo*

Feedback from the parents and coaches has been pretty positive so far. Graeme Voller, whose son plays on the Bantam Admirals was kind enough to send an email praising the program. "I just want to say how impressed I am with the Academy...[my son's] skills are developing at an impressive rate, the ratio of instructors-to-players is great, and they get plenty of attention with very little opportunity for standing around. At \$220 it is amazingly good value for what is generally an expensive sport; the progress I've seen in my son so far has been worth the whole price....Thank you very much for putting this on....I'm recommending it to all the other parents I know." Thanks Graeme for the great endorsement.



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## VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

### KV Hockey Academy Off to a Great Start

The Kensington Valley Hockey Academy has completed its first month and has been a big hit so far in its inaugural year. The 22 week program was developed by former NHL Player Rob Palmer along with the KVHA Coach & Player Development Committee, and is based in large part on ADM principles (see September KV News for more on Rob and his training views). The training sessions usually begin with 15 to 20 minutes of skating drills followed by station training covering everything from stick handling, passing, and shooting, to relay races and small ice 1 on 1 "battle" play. According to Rob, "the specific drills are not that important but we need to be sure we touch on all the skills every session. Keeping the kids moving, the lines to a minimum, and having fun are the keys."



*Rob Palmer works with Mini-Mite Skater*

The training program runs Wednesday evenings from 6:15PM to 8:35PM at the Hartland Pond through March 7. There are two 1 hour 10 minute sessions each evening: the first session is for 10U players (Mini-Mite through Squirt) and runs from 6:15 until 7:25, and the second session is for 16U players (Pee Wee through Midget) and runs from 7:25 to 8:35. There are still at least 20 places open in both sessions. If you are interested in signing your child up, applications are available in the KVHA office or on-line at the KV Website [here](http://www.kvhockey.org). For

those joining the training academy late, fees for the program will be prorated based on the number of remaining sessions (\$10/session).



*KVHA Travel Director, John Maley works 1 on 1 with a Mite Player*

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## **OFF THE BENCH**

### **Hockey Helmet Impact Performance**

Hockey helmets sold in the United States are all required to meet minimum impact safety standards as specified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Hockey Helmets must meet the requirements outlined in ASTM F1045 which specifies testing and performance standards for shock and impact absorption of the complete helmet, strength and elongation of the chin strap and attachment, as well as requirements for area of coverage and penetration resistance.

In 1978, the Hockey Equipment Certification Council (HECC) was formed at the request of USA Hockey as an independent, non-profit certification body for amateur hockey equipment, primarily head protection. USA Hockey mandates the use of HECC certified equipment for all amateur players. All helmet manufacturers must submit samples to HECC for independent testing to the ASTM Standard. Once the helmet passes, the manufacturer can then attach the HECC certification sticker to the helmet. Helmets sold in Canada must meet similar requirements as specified by The Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Most

helmets sold from the major manufacturers will have both the HECC and CSA certification labels.

As most players and parents know, helmets can vary greatly in price but they all must meet the same impact safety standards. The more expensive helmets tend to offer more advantages in terms of weight, comfort, and customizing of fit. The greatest difference between lower end and higher end helmets is in the energy absorbing material used to meet the impact standards. Entry level helmets typically use vinyl nitrile foam as the primary energy absorbing material. This foam is relatively thick and adds a fair amount of bulk and weight to the helmet. In the mid-priced range, the helmets typically use a dual layer/dual density vinyl nitrile foam. This allows the overall foam layer to be thinner and the helmet less bulky than with the single density foam. At the high end, helmets use a different material called EPP (Expanded Polypropylene) foam. EPP is much lighter than vinyl nitrile foam, and is a much more efficient energy absorbing material. The EPP foam can also be molded into more intricate shapes, which allows for better air flow management and cooling.

The bottom line is more expensive helmets do not offer any significant advantage in terms of safety but do offer advantages in terms of weight, bulk, and comfort (and not to mention looks), which makes them worth the price for many players.

### **TRIVIA CORNER**

*Which team has the longest Stanley Cup Drought?*

The team with longest active drought is currently the Toronto Maple Leafs at 44 years. They last won the Stanley Cup in 1967 against the Montreal Canadiens. Toronto took over that distinction from the Chicago Blackhawks, whose 49 year drought ended in 2010 with their Stanley Cup championship against the Flyers. The longest Stanley Cup drought on record goes to the New York Rangers, whose drought lasted 54 years from 1940, when they won over Toronto, until 1994, when they beat Vancouver in 7 games.

There are also two other teams from the expansion era that are also at 44 years without a Stanley Cup: the LA Kings and the St. Louis Blues. The Detroit Red Wings longest drought lasted 42 years from 1955 to 1997, and the Montreal Canadiens who have won a record 23 Stanley Cups, is currently in the middle of their longest drought in franchise history at only 18 years (must seem like an eternity to their fans).

## 2011/2012 KVHA Board of Directors

[Scott Staby](#) - Vice President Administration

[Jason Valente](#) - Vice President Hockey

[Barry Paxton](#) - Treasurer

[Alicia Urbain](#) - Secretary

[John Maley](#) - Director, Travel Program

[Brad Dedrick](#) - Director, House Program

[Bob Kittridge](#) - Operations

[Len Pietila](#) - ACE Director

[Scott McLaren](#) - Communication &  
Membership Services

*Special Appointees (1 year term - non voting)*

[Mike Wainwright](#) - Director, Girls Program

[Keith Schulz](#) - Equipment

[Bruce Gray](#) - Communication & Membership  
Services

*Other KVHA Staff*

Joann Palaian - KVHA Office Manager

Norm Kawaelde - Referee Scheduler

Matt Ronan - Bookkeeper

## Kensington Valley Hockey Association

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## Arena Information

### Kensington Valley Ice House

10540 Citation Dr.

Brighton, MI 48116

(810) 494-5555

[www.kensingtonvalleyicehouse.com](http://www.kensingtonvalleyicehouse.com)

### Hartland Ice House

2755 Arena Dr

Hartland, MI 48353

*Staff:*

[Amy Finkbeiner](#) - Manager

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[Joe Sokol](#) - Manager

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