

Disabled Hockey Section Report
April 15th, 2010

USA Hockey Disabled Section:

National Sled Hockey Development Camp:

This years USA Hockey Sled development camp will be held in Rochester New York the 3rd week in July. More information will be coming soon.

2010 Disabled Festival:

The 6th Annual Disabled Hockey Festival is scheduled for April 8–11, 2010, at The Garden Ice House in Laurel, Maryland. It is a beautiful facility with three ice surfaces. The hotel situation is crucial because it is the same time as the Cherry Blossom Festival. There are quite a few hotels within 20 minutes of the arena.

2011 Disabled Festival:

The committee for the 2011 Disabled festival continues to meet to prepare for next years event. The festival will take place at the Super Rink in Blaine, MN, April 1-3, 2011. Anyone interested in assisting with this event (before we call and ask you) can send an e-mail to tonib@dakcom.org.

USA Sled Hockey team takes GOLD:

Saturday, March 20, 2010

U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team Wins Gold at the Paralympic Winter Games with 2-0 Shutout of Japan

Team USA Did Not Allow a Goal in Five Games at the Tournament VANCOUVER, B.C. - The U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team won its second-ever gold medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games thanks to a 2-0 shutout victory over Japan this afternoon. Team USA did not surrender a goal in all five of its games at the tournament, outscoring its opponents, 19-0.

With the victory, the U.S. becomes the first-ever team to claim its second Paralympic Winter Games sled hockey gold medal. Team USA last won gold at the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I could not be more proud of our players," said Ray Maluta, head coach of the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team. "These guys have given us so much over the last few years to get to this point. They've grown as athletes, players and men, and I'm lucky to have been a part of this ride." NOTES: Taylor Chace (Hampton Falls, N.H.) was named the top defenseman of the tournament, while Steve Cash was named the top goaltender by the tournament directorate

Hartford Sled Hockey presentation:

The Hartford Group, a sponsor of the Paralympic games, will be holding a sled clinic for their employees on June 2nd, 2010 at the Super Rink in

Blaine. Both on ice as well as classroom instruction will take place. Taylor Lipsette, Gold Medal Sled Hockey player from the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics, will be on hand to advise as well.

Disabled hockey celebrates Prairie Island Indian Community:

On Saturday, February 20th, 2010, Minnesota Special Hockey along with the Minnesota Northern Sled hockey team and the RIC Blackhawks Sled hockey team from Chicago hit the ice for a couple of exhibition games at Bergwall Arena in Red Wing, MN. While this was another opportunity for these amazing athletes to put their disabilities on ice, it was an opportunity for all players represented by Disabled Hockey in Minnesota to say thank you to the generosity of the Prairie Island Indian Community.

In September 2009, during Disabled Night at the Minnesota Wild, Prairie Island presented a check to Disabled Hockey in the amount of \$10,000. The largest single donation ever given to this section of Minnesota Hockey, the funds assured that every member of Disabled Hockey would have opportunities that were otherwise unavailable to them. New jerseys were purchased for the Minnesota Adult Sled team to wear as they participated in the inaugural season of the Midwest Sled Hockey league. The newly named Minnesota Northern was the envy of the league and proudly displays a patch honoring the Prairie Island Community on their sleeves. In addition to the new jerseys, travel costs were supplemented allowing the 14 players on the team to travel to tournaments for the first time in their existence.

And finally, Minnesota Special hockey, with the support received from Prairie Island will be taking their very first Minnesota Special Hockey team to compete in April in the USA Hockey Disabled Festival. This event brings together over 75 Disabled hockey teams from around the nation to participate in an amazing demonstration of skill, ability and passion for the game.

After receiving pins and recognition from the mayor of Red Wing, the Minnesota Sled team presented a signed jersey to Cindy Taube, Public Relations Manager, Treasure Island Resort & Casino. Following the games that evening the players, families and friends enjoyed a night filled with fun at Treasure Island Casino.

While this one night was a magical event for everyone involved, the generosity of the Prairie Island Community has been felt throughout our season. All of our athletes have been touched by their contributions. Disabled hockey recognizes that all people should have access to the sport of hockey, and the Prairie Island community has allowed us to break down even more barriers and clear the way for citizens of the State of Hockey to play the game they love. For this gift and for their support, Minnesota Disabled Hockey is eternally grateful.

Sled hockey:*Midwest Sled Hockey league-adult program*

This was the first year that the Minnesota Adult Sled program was a part of the Midwest Sled Hockey league. In addition to San Antonio, St Louis and Chicago, they each hosted a tournament in their hometown, finishing up with the Wirtz Cup in Chicago the second weekend in March. The Adult team will blend with the USA Warriors Sled program to participate in the USA Hockey Disabled Festival in April. At the end of the season, the team had 16 registered players and is poised to have a very strong season in 2010-11.

Sled Hockey-youth program

We had 37 youth players, most of them could skate on their own and did not need pushers. We hosted the Wisconsin youth team for 3 games in February. We had youth volunteers from the following associations: Orono, Minnetonka, Apple Valley, Lakeville, St. Paul Johnson and the following high school teams: Osseo, St. Paul Johnson, Lakeville South, and Hill Murray.

Special Hockey:*Minnesota team attends disabled festival*

With over 85 registered players this year, Minnesota Disabled hockey has had it's most successful season to date. We continue to look t the north to expand our program, and are actively searching for that one family that can spearhead a new team. In addition to our four teams this year, we are sending our first ever Minnesota Special Hockey team to the National Disabled Festival in Laurel, Maryland. 13 players, 3 coaches along with family and friends will skate against other teams from across the nation. With chances to meet the USA Sled Team, the players will have the chance to make news friends, watch amazing hockey and even get their picture with the Stanley Cup. At this writing the event has not taken place, but everyone is very excited and I look forward to sharing the stories at the next board meeting.

Stand up-amputee Hockey: No report from this program at this time.

New initiatives:*Minnesota Warriors program*

The Minnesota Warriors program is designed to assist injured veterans with either introducing the sport of hockey into their lives or getting them back to the sport that they love. Our official name will be the Minnesota Warriors. We will be creating our own team logo for jerseys and marketing, incorporating the USA Warriors in to the overall design (possibly a patch on the sleeve, etc.). We will have our ice time determined, including location, by June 2010. A clinic will be scheduled for September, with a regular schedule to begin in October. The season

will run October to April each year, skating 1x per week on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening. The following are board positions we are currently looking to fill:

- a. Ice scheduler
- b. Equipment manager

Please contact Toni Boelter if you are interested in working with this amazing program that is getting injured veterans either back on the ice or into a sport than can assist them with their recovery and help them on their journey back to a full life here at home.

Minnesota Wild Disabled Hockey Night-2010

Always looking to the future, Disabled Hockey will again be approaching the Minnesota WILD in the hopes of creating another Disabled Hockey night. In addition to the game, we hope to again bring in the USA Paralympic coaching staff for more on ice training and another coaches clinic. More information will be available in the upcoming months.

Respectfully submitted;
Antonia Boelter
USA Disabled Hockey Representative
Minnesota District