



*Changes since publication appear in red*

# ICE TIMES

PUBLISHED BY THE WAYZATA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



## Rink in the new year

The Grand Opening celebration of the third sheet of ice at the PIC, in use since early December, will take place on January 9th from 1:15 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. About 200 people are expected to attend the public event.

All contributors to the third-rink fund will receive a personalized invitation to the event and a recognition donor puck in a clear plastic display case commemorating the opening date of the rink. Anyone contributing after the Grand Opening will also receive an encased donor puck.

WYHA President Greg Gibson will start the activities with opening remarks at 1:15 p.m., followed by a ceremonial puck dropping at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is

invited to drop a puck. A half-hour of free open skating will follow. At 2:00 p.m., the winner's name will be drawn for the adult-sized Polaris All Terrain Vehicle, donated by Tom and Michelle Tiller. Eligible contributors to the rink fund need not be present to win.

Monetary and stock contributions toward the Plymouth Ice Arena's new Rink C have inched toward the \$450,000 mark on the fundraising thermometer, leaving about \$275,000 yet owed to the city. Less than 200 of the nearly 800 registered WYHA families have sent in their checks or signed over their stock to the organization.

December 31 was the last date families could contribute money or stock to the Rink C fund for a chance of winning the adult-sized ATV. At press time, nearly 15 percent of the 200 contributors are eligible for the drawing. Additional opportunities are available until February 28 for a chance at winning the youth-sized ATV, which is on display at the Wayzata Central Middle School rink.

To be eligible for either ATV, a minimum \$500 donation is required for one chance in the drawing. Each additional \$500 donation earns the contributor another entry. Families who have contributed less than \$500 can add to their donations up until the closing dates of the drawings.

The donor board, designed in the shape of a hockey rink, will be on display in Rink C's spectator area. The board is divided with goalie sticks into four levels of giving and a puck for each contributor is placed in a circle underneath either the platinum, gold,

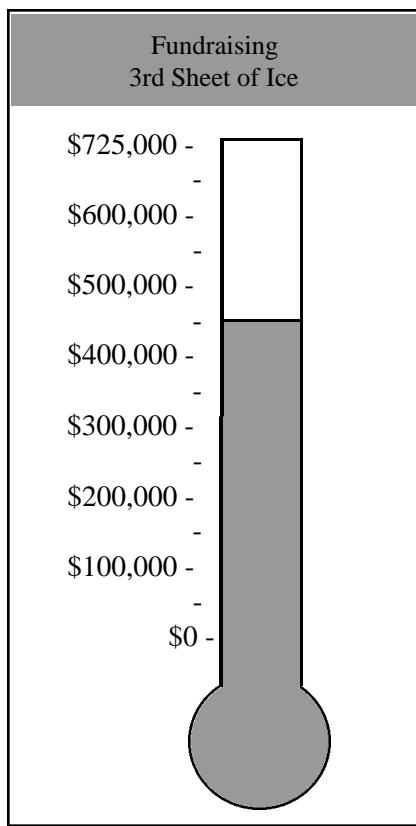
silver or bronze sections according to the level of contribution. Pucks can move to a higher level on the board when additional contributions are made by the individual families.

About 20 families took advantage of last year's tax opportunities by donating their stocks to the association by year end. Some of those families have donated a second time around.

It's not necessary to wait until the end of 2005 to donate stock to WYHA. Stockholders should continuously monitor their stock's gains or losses. The best time to contribute stock is when it has appreciated, saving the holder from having to pay taxes on the gain once it's sold.

The following is a comparison between selling stock outright and

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for complete list and e-mail addresses)

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## Rink C write-off

contributing the stock to a nonprofit organization: If a \$500 stock has appreciated to \$1,100 and is sold by the stockholder, the stockholder would receive a check for the \$1,100 but would have to pay taxes on the \$600 gain.

If, however, that stock was donated to WYHA through Mark Eckerline at Piper Jaffray, the stock would be sold that day and the association would receive the \$1,100 tax free. The entire \$1,100 can be deducted on the donator's taxes.

The tax advantage is similar when mutual funds or bonds are donated, Eckerline says. (To donate stock to WYHA, call Mark Eckerline at 952-476-3965 or e-mail him at

[mark.d.eckerline@pjc.com](mailto:mark.d.eckerline@pjc.com).)

Besides the monetary and paper contributions, which are 100 percent tax deductible, individuals or businesses can lease advertising space on the dasherboards at PIC. Rink A is completely sold out, but there are still dasherboards available on rinks B and C. The boards sell for \$1,000 per year with a three-year commitment.

The fundraising committee members, striving to avoid assessments to cover the remaining debt, will continue to make personal phone calls to WYHA members asking for donations to help the association's financial commitment to the third rink.

## Girls U10 B Blue first to skate on Rink C



U10 B Blue

On Dec. 4, the girls from the U10 B Blue team were the first hockey players to skate on Rink C, the new sheet of ice at the Plymouth Ice Arena.

Each teammate was excited to be the first to skate on the new rink—even at 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday. After a few cancelled ice times due to the rink's construction, the girls enjoyed the new locker rooms and bright arena.

The team, which has been skating together since November, is comprised of girls who skated Mite Girls last year and some first-time hockey players: Katelyn Wheeler, Ashley Klein, Tonya Korin, Alexis Larson, Mariana Campbell, Christina Higgins, Emily Umland, Abigail Jaqua, Melissa

Gossen, Stephanie Skoro, Kyle Gullet and Crosby Shaver.

They're coached by Joe Klein, Derek Gullet, Jim Higgins and Tom Shaver,

and managed by Patti Jaqua. The team representative is Sandi Wheeler.

The girls skated in the Chaska Turkey Trot tournament over Thanksgiving where they beat Edina 2-1, lost in overtime to St. Michael 3-2 and lost to Minnetonka 5-0.

In January, they'll be playing in the Jesse James Tournament in Northfield and will host the Wayzata Shooting Star Tournament.

Like most other girls' teams, U10B Blue is scrambling for goalies. Currently the girls who are interested in trying the position are rotating turns in front of the net.

—Caroline Gossen

## Squirt B tournament first on Rink C

In a tournament hosted by WYHA, sixteen Squirt B teams from all over the state took to the ice at PIC over the Dec. 10-12 weekend.

Five of those teams were from Wayzata; others came from as far away as Rochester, Fairbault and Moorhead, and as close as Chaska and Bloomington.

The five Wayzata teams put up a big fight against each other and the guest teams in all three rinks. This was the first tournament played on Rink C.

In an exciting pre-championship game between the Wayzata White and Blue teams, Rink C was packed with supporters.

"The kids really liked that," says Kevin Sullivan, team manager for the White team. "They got their goal-scoring shuffles and pulled out all their tricks for mom and dad."

After a head-to-head three periods between two tightly matched teams, the game went into a five-minute overtime.

"It was extremely intense for all the kids and the coaches and whatnot," says Sullivan. "Of course, the two teams knew that the winner of that would go into the championship game."

The game ended in a shootout. The Blue team won the draw and went on to face their tough opponents from Elk River. In a tight match and with just 16 seconds left in the championship game, Elk River walked away with the trophy with a score of 4-2.

Says Sullivan: "I've got to give some kudos to the Wayzata Blue team, having not played anything—no tournaments or anything—to get second place in the tournament. It's quite a testimony to their team."

The Wayzata teams took four of the top five places, with the Blue team taking home the second place trophy, the White team coming in a close third, the Gold team finishing fourth and the

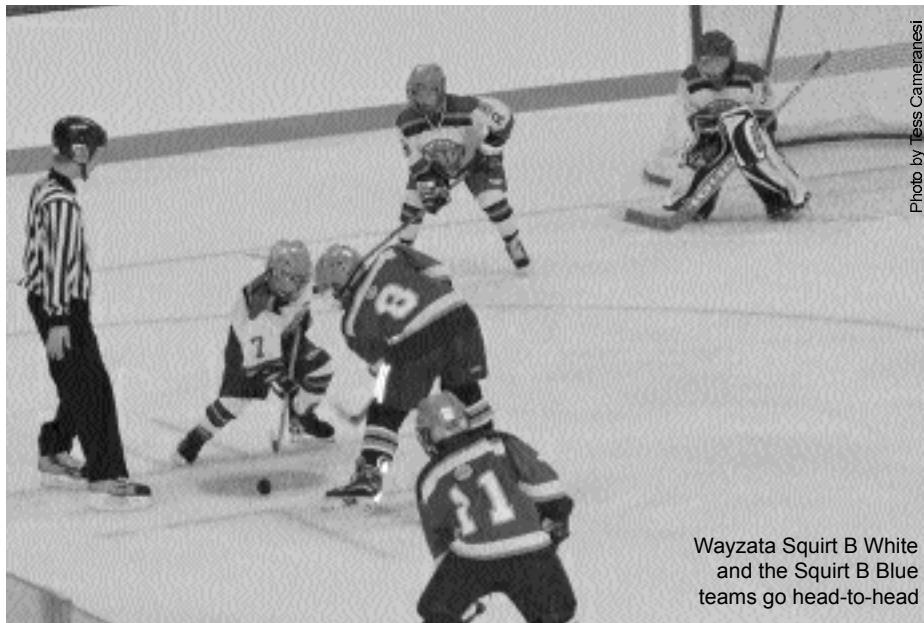


Photo by Tess Cameranesi

Wayzata Squirt B White and the Squirt B Blue teams go head-to-head

Royal winning the consolation title. The Yellow team put up quite a fight against Fairbault coming away with a 2-1 win.

Each of PIC's three sheets of ice

was used during the tournament, and the benefits of the extra rink were demonstrated in the weekend's smooth success.

### Donate to Rink C, Win a Polaris ATV!

*Don't miss two opportunities to win a Polaris ATV*

### PIC Rink C Grand Opening January 9, 1:15 - 2:45

Donate \$500 by December 31  
for a chance of winning an adult-sized

All Terrain Vehicle from Polaris  
Drawing will be held during the Grand Opening

### Mite Madness Silent Auction March 11 - 13

Donate \$500 by February 28  
for a chance of winning a youth-sized ATV

Drawing will be held during the  
Mite Madness Silent Auction

*Polaris ATVs donated by Tom and Michelle Tiller*

# Skill development key to WYHA success

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association is not only the largest program in the nation, but it's also one with an innovative history of pushing ahead to the forefront. Skill development is another way the association remains a strong leader in youth hockey.

"We're one of the few programs in the state that runs in-season skills sessions," says Carl Davis, head coach for Wayzata High School Boys Varsity.

About eight years ago, two WYHA coaches, Doug Bowdish and Lou Forsberg, noticed that while the kids were trained in their breakouts and penalty kills, their basic skating and stick handling skills were lacking. The two coaches worked on developing a skills night where instead of concentrating on game strategies, the players

## In-season skills sessions

WYHA skaters are taught by Davis, his staff and other instructors one evening every other week. While the development instructors might be WYHA coaches, they cannot be the coaches of those teams they work with on skills nights.

Goalies attend a weekly clinic on Monday nights which is overseen by former NHL goalie Robb Stauber. (See article on page 13.)

The mandatory in-season program runs this year from late October through January. The benefits of these sessions are three-fold: coaching continuity, repetitive skill development and coaches training.

Since most of the hockey players will move up in the association from

players, are learning how to work with the kids on these fundamental skills. They're expected to use these methods during the regular practice session to help further develop the players' skills.

"Repetition, obviously, is critical in their development," says Davis.

While Wayzata was one of about eight schools who pioneered player development, today there are many other associations who, Davis says, were concerned about falling behind and have mirrored their own skill development program to Wayzata's.

"It's rewarding because it just reinforces that we're doing a lot of good things for the kids in our program," Davis says.

**"Skill development isn't something  
that's going to happen in a short amount of time.  
It takes years and years and years  
of training to help them reach their potential."**

**—Carl Davis, Wayzata High School Boys Varsity Hockey Coach**

worked on their fundamentals.

Five years ago, Davis took over the skills session and developed them for each level from Mites to high school varsity. The skills are age-appropriate and progress according to the players' levels.

"Skill development isn't something that's going to happen in a short amount of time," Davis says. "It takes years and years and years of training to help them reach their potential."

The success of the development program became evident last year when the Wayzata High School Boys Varsity team, the first group of skaters to have received skills training, qualified for the state tournament.

Mites through high school, Davis stresses the importance of using consistency when instructing the kids. That way the kids become familiar with the coaching strategy, tactics and areas of emphasis.

This consistency is carried out by the instructors continuously drilling the players on the fundamentals of stick and puck handling, passing and shooting, as well as basic and advanced skating techniques. Davis plans to utilize the bubble at Wayzata Central Middle School for some dry-land practice with 45 minutes of off-ice training before heading to the rink for another 45 minutes.

Finally, the team coaches, who also attend the sessions with their

## Summer programs

Also about eight years ago before the Minnesota Hockey clinic Satellite Training Program (STP) was offered to the younger players, Davis opened the first summer session for Squirts and PeeWees in the Wayzata district. Unlike other programs that employed a one- or two-week intensive training camp, Davis developed an extended-length program. His theory was that skill development progressed over a long period of time, not in short bursts.

"We were the only association at the time that was running a program like this," Davis says. Word got out to neighboring associations and Davis had

*Continued on page 6*

# Wayzata Hockey Clinics

## 2005 Spring & Summer Clinics

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

### In the Spring . . .

#### Mite Shiny/Pond Hockey Clinic

(8 days – 8 hours)

Separate clinics for:

- Mite 1's
- Mite 2's
- Mite 3's and 4's
- Girls 1's and 2's
- Girls 3's and 4's

Registrations will  
be accepted from  
players outside of  
WYHA for the Girls  
Clinics only.

#### Squirt Overspeed / Pond Hockey Clinic

(4 days – 6 hours)

#### Checking Clinic (2 Sessions)

(3 days – 4 ½ hours)

### In the Summer . . .

#### Summer Mite Clinics

Beginning Mites (6 weeks/12 hours)

Mite 3 & 4 Clinic (2 weeks/10 hours)

Mite for Girls Only (6 weeks/12 hours)

#### Squirt Summer Development

#### Program (2 Sessions)

(8 weeks/30 hours)

#### Girls U10 (6 weeks/12 hours)

#### Girls U12 (6 weeks/16 hours)

#### Girls U14 (6 weeks/24 hours *PLUS* 24 hours of dry-land training)

#### Peewee STP (2 Sessions)

(8 weeks/30 hours)

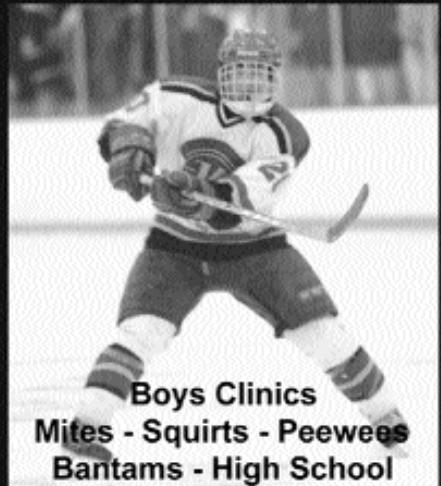
#### Bantam STP (3 Sessions)

(4 day week format – 36 hours over 6 weeks  
*PLUS* 40 hours of dry-land training)

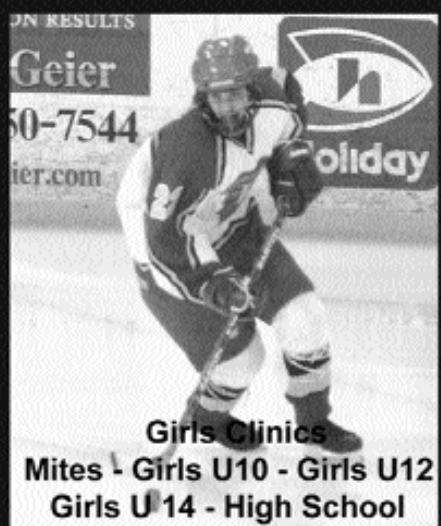
#### High School STP

Girls - (6 weeks/24 hours – *PLUS* 24 hours  
of dry-land training)

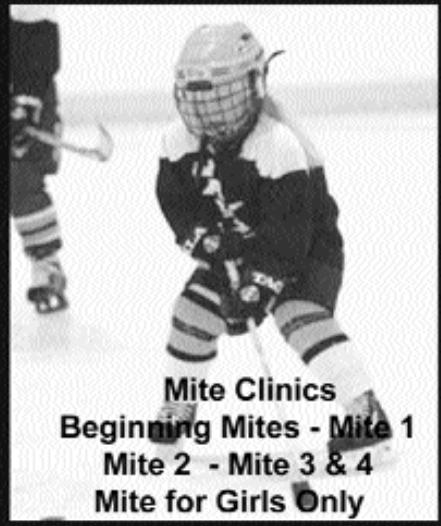
Boys – For returning Varsity/JV player only



Boys Clinics  
Mites - Squirts - Peewees  
Bantams - High School



Girls Clinics  
Mites - Girls U10 - Girls U12  
Girls U14 - High School



Mite Clinics  
Beginning Mites - Mite 1  
Mite 2 - Mite 3 & 4  
Mite for Girls Only

# PRODUCING BETTER PLAYERS FOR TOMORROW!

Wayzata Youth Hockey Association

## Satellite Training Program

so many requests from other areas that he had to restrict the program to only WYHA players. Originally designed as a 40-hour, ten-week program, he found the Squirt Development Program too taxing for the players and shortened it to a 32-hour, eight-week program.

At the same time, Bantam players interested in a summer skill session could enroll in STP, an on-ice and dry-land training program developed and overseen by Minnesota Hockey. The program, designed for elite players, could only be run by a high school coach who must "provide a comprehensive skill development program for the kids that is based on a curriculum for individual skills," Davis says.

After three years, STP became so successful that Minnesota Hockey opened the enrollment to any Bantam and, eventually, PeeWee travel player. When STP became widespread throughout the state, Minnesota Hockey turned the ownership of the program over to the local associations with the continued requirement that high school coaches must run the program.

With the program's popularity and the number of hockey players in the WYHA program, Davis last year had

to limit the number of participants. Only the top applicants from the A, B1 and B2 teams were accepted into the program, and students attending schools outside of the Wayzata district were declined participation. Davis reasoned that private schools had their own STP program, so these players' needs would be covered elsewhere. Other associations also limited their enrollment on the same basis.

"That was an issue last year that became a real hot topic," Davis says.

However, Minnesota Hockey stepped in and recommended that the private school players also be given the opportunity to attend the districts' STP programs. According to Davis, some STP high school coaches continued to turn away the private school students.

Davis chose to reopen the program this summer for Wayzata players, regardless of where they will attend high school, and will add another Bantam session. The addition of Rink C helped create this opportunity.

"The difference is that we've got more ice now for the summer. We went from not having enough ice, to building the third rink, and now we've got more ice

time available to us," Davis said. "We're going to include the private school kids if they want to be in our program."

While the in-season weekly or biweekly skills sessions are mandatory for the Wayzata hockey players, the summer STP programs—backed by WYHA—are optional.

Mike Gibbenhein, coordinator for the WYHA Youth Player Development Committee, stresses that players who choose to attend other clinics instead of Davis' summer STP program are not penalized when it comes to tryouts for the WYHA or the Wayzata high school hockey teams. (For links to other clinics, go to [www.wayzatahockey.org](http://www.wayzatahockey.org).)

"When it comes down to making the Varsity hockey team, they're going to take the best skaters," Gibbenhein says.

Both the in-season and the summer programs are designed so that the players enjoy their ice time while learning the skills.

"Every day they step off the ice, hopefully they're walking off with a smile," says Davis. "You try to finish up with something fun that they really enjoy doing so they look forward to coming back to the rink."



Photo by Duane Sather

Players receiving instruction during an in-season skills session.

# Hegland focuses on fundamentals and mentorship

Over the past several years, WYHA has experienced a surge in girls interested in playing hockey. Mites, which historically has been only a coed program in Wayzata, split into two groups to include several girls-only teams. The number of U10 through U14 teams remained strong, and the Wayzata High School Girls Varsity Hockey team has seen stronger and better-developed players both in their program and in their competitors' programs.

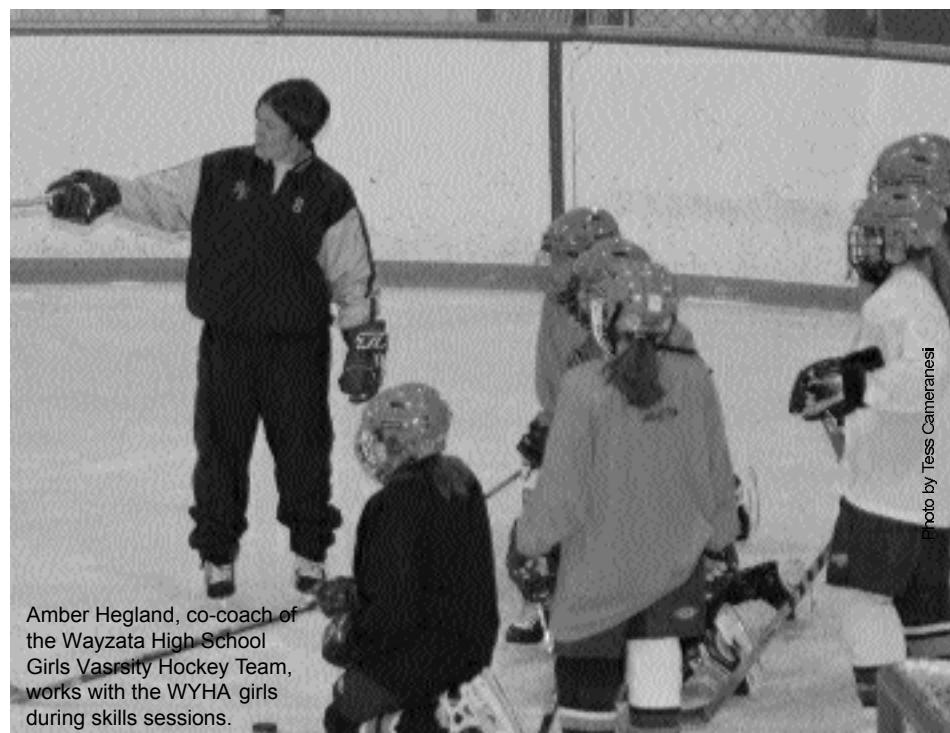
Beyond the youth programs, women's hockey is also becoming more recognized. Women's college teams are gaining more respect and there are a growing number of opportunities for women to play hockey outside of college.

Amber Hegland, the co-coach for the Wayzata High School Girls Varsity Hockey team, is one of those women who has made hockey a large part of her life. She grew up playing hockey on boys youth teams and the high school boys team in Farmington. She went on to play three years of women's hockey at the University of Minnesota and is now a member of the newly-formed Minnesota White Caps, a nonprofessional women's hockey team that is part of the Women's Western Hockey League (WWHL) in Canada.

"When I was growing up, if you would have asked me what my goal or my dream was, or what I was going to do when I got older, I was going to play in the NHL," Hegland says. "We want girls to dream like that and have something to look up to."

That's why she feels it's important for the girls youth program to have mentors involved in their development program.

"I think it helps with their development as a person," Hegland says.



Amber Hegland, co-coach of the Wayzata High School Girls Varsity Hockey Team, works with the WYHA girls during skills sessions.

Photo by Tess Cameranesi

This is the second year that Hegland works one day a week during the season on skill development with the WYHA girls programs. She brings in some of her Wayzata High School varsity players and her White Caps teammates to work with the girls.

Like the boys skills sessions, the girls practice the fundamentals of skating and puck handling. Hegland also runs a weekly three-day summer session for the U12s, U14s and high school girls where they spend one day concentrating on individual skills.

"Hopefully they understand that I value and think that the fundamental skills of the hockey are very important. That's the message that I want them to get by me being involved," Hegland says.

The philosophy behind these sessions is to pay attention to the details of each skill and to try to perfect their delivery and execution.

Skills night is also useful as a bridging tool between youth hockey and the high school program.

"It gives the high schools kids the

opportunity to work with the younger kids, and the younger kids to look up to some great girl hockey players who are right here in their own community and who are positive influences in the community," she says.

While Hegland herself has experienced the benefits of playing on boys teams, she's excited about the opportunities girls teams offer. Some girls might feel more comfortable playing a sport with their own gender, which in turn makes it conducive to attracting more girl athletes.

Dean Pospesel, head of the Girls Player Development Committee, praises Hegland's work with the girls program.

"Amber does a super job in terms of being able to bridge that link to give those girls a goal," he says. "She gives those players an opportunity to look ahead and see what environment they would possibly participate in if they're successful in making those transitional growth steps throughout their progress as a Wayzata youth bridging into high school."

# 'Tis ALWAYS the season

For WYHA players and parents, there always seems to be something going on. Between October and February, hardly an evening or weekend passes without some hockey event driving us out of our snug homes and into the freezing temperature.

Who's responsible for this all these skills sessions, practices, games, in-town tournaments, out-of-town tournaments, more practices, more skills and more games?

Because WYHA is the largest hockey association in the nation, we must rely on our knowledgeable

Because of the growing number of WYHA girls teams, the girls formed their own Player Development Committee over five years ago, and, like the youth committee, it's also made up of parents, coaches and board members. For information on the Girls Player Development Committee, contact Dean Pospesel at [dean.pospesel@mcg.net](mailto:dean.pospesel@mcg.net).

District 3, which oversees the northern and western suburb associations, including Wayzata, stipulates the number of games each level can play. From there the committees decide if they

"Ideally, the Player Development Committee makes hockey-knowledgeable decisions. That's why we have the A coaches," says Gibbenhein. "You have to tap into the people who have the knowledge."

The committees also determine what is taught during the skill development programs for each level. For example, if players need help transitioning forward to backward, or need more experience with body checking, these are set up through the committee and passed on to the skills coaches.

Currently the committees are working

Once we're sitting in the arena watching our kids shuffle, glide or fly across the ice, we realize there's no better place to be.

And we have the player development committees to thank for that.

members and coaches to help organize the dozens of teams from Mites to U14 Girls to Junior Gold. That's why we turn to the player development committees for the youth and girls teams.

Both committees determine the number of practices, games and tournaments for each age group and level, as well as what the young athletes are taught during practices and skills sessions.

The Youth Player Development Committee strives to meet the third Wednesday of each month. Its members are made up of parents, A-level and high school coaches and WYHA board members. The meetings are open, so anyone interested in the development process or who has questions or concerns are welcome to attend. Contact Mike Gibbenhein, Youth Player Development Committee coordinator, to verify time and location. ([mikeg@tcacoustics.com](mailto:mikeg@tcacoustics.com))

want to stay at that maximum amount or play less games or tournaments.

Before the season even starts and the registration materials are printed, the WYHA Board and both committees meet to determine the number of levels for each age group and the number of teams in each level. They also decide if the teams should be balanced, meaning if the players are at an equal skill level, or not balanced, where various skill levels are mixed together on a team.

Then taking into consideration the emotional and physical maturity of the youth hockey players and the financial commitments and time constraints of their parents, the committees make recommendations to the WYHA Board as to the number of practices, games and tournaments to assign to each level. The board makes the final approval. Any deviation from these recommendations must be approved by the committees and the board.

with ice schedulers and rink managers to set up ice times for summer programs and clinics.

(Um, excuse me ... summer?)

Well, we may seem to be always on the go, and for many of us, our winter activities nearly all center around a hockey puck, a stick and a pair of skates. But once we're sitting in the arena watching our kids shuffle, glide or fly across the ice, we realize there's no better place to be. And we have the player development committees to thank for that.

As for summer, check the WYHA Web site under Player Development for a variety of programs and clinics. ([www.wayzatahockey.org](http://www.wayzatahockey.org))

And for those of us who can't seem to get enough hockey even when the temperature starts to rise and the days start getting longer, make sure to keep those gloves and winter jackets handy.

# 2004 - 2005

## WYHA Tournament Schedule

Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
<b>Junior Gold A</b>	January 14-17	PIC	John Dando 952-541-5404
<b>Snow Flurry</b> Girls 10U A & B	January 21-23	PIC	Jim Fong 763-551-2536
<b>Junior Gold B and U16</b>	January 28-30	PIC	Jim Fong 763-551-2536
<b>Shooting Star</b> Girls 12U A & B Girls 14U A & B	February 4-6	PIC	Jim Fong 763-551-2536
<b>Gold Star</b> Bantam C PeeWee C Squirt C	February 11-13	PIC	John Wellman 763-205-5600

### Bantam B2 Royal Wins Spring Lake Park Tourney

The Wayzata Bantam B2 Royal team took first place in the Spring Lake Park Panther Invitational Tournament over the Dec. 11-12 weekend. Every player on the team demonstrated exceptional play and teamwork which led them to the championship.

In the first game of the tournament, the Royal team faced St. Peter. The Trojans got ahead 5-0 after two periods and went on to a 5-2 victory.

Their second game started four hours later against a fresh Minneapolis Washburn team. After scoreless first and second periods, the Trojans gutted out a 5-2 win. Goal scorers for the day included Jordan Schmidt, Zac Peterson, Jesse Hodges and Alex Helgren.

In the game against Eastview on the following day, no goals were scored by either team in the first or second periods. In the third period, Brett Day

scored the first goal of the game, assisted by Zac Peterson. The second goal came from Jesse Hodges, unassisted. In the last minute, Eastview rallied and scored a goal, but it wasn't enough to stop the Royal from winning the game.

Other forwards on the team who played outstanding hockey were Andy Hirsh, Kyle Williams, Mike Johnson, Kevin Fecho and Andrew Dunlay. The goalies, Chris Anderson and Karl Olson, both made numerous outstanding saves over the weekend. Perhaps the unsung heroes of the tournament were defensemen Tyler Dubbin, John Fairbairn, Sean Keogh and Reilly Thompson who, because of injuries, played every other shift and did a great job of moving the puck and shutting the opponents down.

The Wayzata Bantam B2 Royal have consistently demonstrated exceptional play as a team that led them to the

championship at the Spring Lake Park Invitational.

The tournament was filled with events including a skills competition on Saturday afternoon and a presentation of the games' most valuable players. Representing the Wayzata Bantam B2 Royal for skills included:

- **Best Shooter:** Jesse Hodges, 1st place
- **Fastest Skater:** Andy Hirsch, 2nd place
- **Goalie Competition:** Karl Olson
- **Hardest Shot:** Tyler Dubbin

Earning game MVP awards were:

- Jordon Schmidt, Game 1
- Zac Peterson, Game 2
- Jesse Hodges, Game 3

Spring Lake Park hosted an exciting tournament filled with tons of fun for the players and fans. Team and player introductions were made in a darkened arena with spotlights, fog machines and plenty of tinsel for the players to skate through. The atmosphere contributed to the celebration for the Wayzata Bantam B2 Royal team.

—Terri Peterson

### **NEEDED:** **Spaghetti Dinner** **Raffle Items**

Suggestions:

Apparel for adult and children

Tickets

Merchandise

Gift Certificates

**Contacts:**

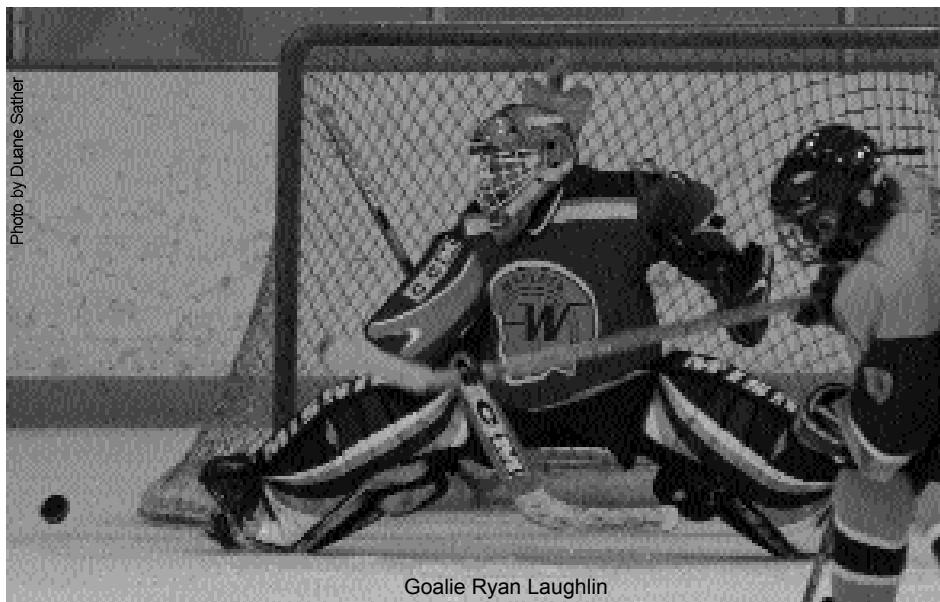
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# The puck stops here!

Photo by Duane Sather



Goalie Ryan Laughlin

They take shots to the head, chest, arms and legs—and they go back for more. They take most of the blame for a loss, but they live for the glory of a win. They're critical to the game of hockey, but few people envy their position.

They're the goaltenders, the keepers of the net.

Just like a game can't be played without wingers or a center or defensemen, hockey would be nothing without its goalies. But that's what's becoming more critically apparent: there aren't enough goalies to fill the nets.

The girls teams in particular are hurting this year. Of the eight WYHA girls teams, there are only four goalies. Teams without a goalie have had to cajole skaters to don the pads.

"It's unbelievably bad how few (goalies) there are," says Lance Cole, WYHA facilitator this fall for the goalie tryouts. "(The girls) aren't stepping up to do it."

The traveling and C-league teams are facing a shortage of goalies, as well. The Squirts, for instance, have four fewer goalies this year than last year, and the Junior Gold team has seven goalies for five teams.

"We've got to get some people going

out there, or it's going to get ugly," Cole says. "The numbers, even at the younger levels, are dwindling a little bit, and that's not good."

The shortage may actually be a product of the growing roster of WYHA players, says Greg Gibson, WYHA President. The program increased from about 825 participants to about 1,100, but the number of goalies remained constant.

And since the recruiting can be difficult for that position, the chances of enticing prospective goalies—and their parents—can be challenging.

Signs are posted at the Plymouth Ice Arena and Wayzata Central Middle School arena petitioning for more girls to try out the position. So far, nobody's biting.

## Parents versus determination

Most often, the difficulty isn't having to coerce young skaters to become goalies as much as it is to persuade the parents to let their children give the position a try.

Robb Stauber, owner of Goalcrease in Edina, runs the Monday night goalie clinics for WYHA. He's also witnessed the decrease in the number of goalies and cites the parents' reluc-

tance to put their children in such a stressful position. And, let's face it: Goalie equipment ain't cheap.

"The parents don't oftentimes want their kids to play the position for those two reasons and all of the things the goalies go through from top to bottom: the good, the bad and, quite frankly, the ugly," Stauber says.

He contends, however, that goaltending has lifelong benefits—more so than any other position in any sport. Good goalies learn to deal with stress, take responsibility, work with other people, bounce back after a disappointment and be a graceful champion.

"If parents only knew the skill sets that these goalies can develop that will take them well beyond their years as a goalie—it then becomes a real-life deal," Stauber says.

As far as the financial strain, WYHA does what it can to help goalie families. Pads, gloves, blockers and sticks are furnished for the goalies up to the Squirt and U12 levels. Families with older goalies get a \$250 yearly reimbursement.

But even with the extra cash or free gear, ask any non-goalie parent and most will say they could never put their son or daughter in front of the net. Too much pressure. Too much responsibility—for both the parents and the kids. They don't want their kids to go through that, nor do they want to have to ride the tide themselves. So they don't encourage or allow their kids to try the position.

But then they'll never know.

Peg Kaju, owner of Kaju Travel and sponsor of the Bantam C Blue team, didn't want her son Eddie to play in the net as a Mite. She told him no, she wanted him to learn how to skate. But he persisted.

"Like most goalies, (Eddie's) kind of like a horse of a different color. I don't know how to explain it. They're just

*Continued on next page*

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## Goalies

kind of different, and I mean that in a positive way. He marches to the tune of his own drummer," says Kaju.

Eddie's played C league in the net his entire career even though, with the shortage of goalies, he could easily have tried for a traveling team. "He likes the fact that it's less pressure, and he likes the kids that he's been with for a while," Kaju says.

### Six-feet tall

Deb Rasmussen also discouraged her son, Buck, to play goalie, although he played the position quite often as a third-year Mite. "I just knew he couldn't handle the defeat," she said. "Although in life, he's very easy going." Plus, he liked to score the goals. He's now a forward on the Junior Varsity team at Wayzata.

But when her daughter, Shelby, tried her first game in the net as a Mite and loved it, Rasmussen knew the match was a perfect fit. Scoring a goal wasn't easy or as exciting for Shelby, so being a perfectionist, she focused on keeping the puck out of the net.

"I think parents should encourage their kids, because you don't know. You could have a really talented kid on your hands," Rasmussen says. "I think you either have what it takes to be a goalie or you don't—mentally, physically. Our kids have found that that's their niche in this sport. And they've been successful in it and they do well."

Shelby has had a successful career in the net, and two years ago helped take her U12 team to state. And while the position can be taxing mentally and physically, playing goalie has made her more self-assured—both on and off the ice.

"It's given me a lot of confidence and stuff. I know I can handle things if I'm under pressure," she says. "I think being a goalie has made me the kind of person that I am."

Shelby considers herself pretty laid back and doesn't take things too seriously or get down on herself for mistakes. Also, she thinks goalies have to be kind of daring.

"It's scary sometimes—especially because I'm kind of little—when you have people twice your size coming at you. But you learn to ignore it," she says.

Shelby, 13, has a hormone growth deficiency which makes her smaller than other kids her age.

"An extremely positive thing for us was that size didn't matter when she

plays hockey," Rasmussen says. "When she's out in the net, she feels like she's six feet tall."

Much of Shelby's confidence has come from her mentors and the clinics she attends. Beth Spurrier, WYHA Varsity goalie, took Shelby under her wing after first seeing her play five years ago. Today, they're still good friends and support each other during their games.

Like most WYHA goalies, Shelby regularly attends the Wayzata-sponsored Monday night goalie clinics at PIC and has private lessons at Goalcrease.

Through Stauber, his staff and other goalies, Shelby's learned that goaltending is more of a mental game and that she needs to trust her first instincts. When in the net, she says, she doesn't think, she just reacts. And when a shot goes in, she's learned to brush it off and get ready for the next one.

*Continued on page 12*



Photo by Duane Sather

Goalie Ryan Laughlin

## Goalies

Shelby would like to share her experience with the younger girls in order to convince them that if they are interested in being a goalie, they too can have success in the net. She hopes to become a mentor to the Mites, U10 and U12, just as she's had mentors of her own who have helped build her confidence and skill.

And while her mother still finds that being a goalie mom has its ups and downs, she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's a weird position to be in as a goalie parent because there are so many great things, and then there's so many not so great things, too," Rasmussen said. "I do like being a goalie parent. I do. If I had to do it all over again, I would do it."

### Just for the fun of it

Mary Whelan is another mother who wouldn't give up being a goalie mom. In fact, as a parent also of a defenseman, she thinks there's more pressure in that position since the puck generally only reaches the net if it's already passed by five other skaters.

"It takes an entire team to win a game and to lose a game. A whole team, not just a goalie," Whelan says.

Her son Patrick started hockey in the fifth grade and knew immediately that he wanted to be a goalie. He started out in the C league and was, as his mother puts it, "the hero of every game."

He moved to the B level for most of his career until this year when he was selected as one of two goalies for Junior Gold A.

While Whelan admits feeling nervous during her son's first game this season (Wayzata 3, Champlin Park 1),

she and her husband, Casey, make sure not to add to Patrick's pressure.

"I think that as they get older, parents realize it's not all about the goalie. They are part of a team," Whelan says. "They will do as best as they can, just as the forwards and the defensemen will. If you put too much pressure on them, then pity the poor kids that have to deal with it. I don't think they'd last."

During games, Whelan always sits



Photo by Tess Cameranesi

with the rest of the team's supporters. She feels that if Patrick were to see her and Casey sitting apart from the group, it would send the wrong message to him: that she's worried that he might fail.

"Maybe I'm off base, but that's just my philosophy. I sit with the parents and I ride out the good and the bad with my son as he sits in the net. And I don't get up and walk away," she says.

Like Kaju and Rasmussen, Whelan agrees that it takes a certain personality to be a good goalie: One that is easygoing and can deal with pressure. One that doesn't get uptight when an opponent scores. And the parent needs to have just about the same outlook.

"I don't care if they win or lose," Whelan said. "I just want my kid to

feel good about himself and feel like he's contributing and being successful at what he's doing. To me, that has always been the most important thing."

And Patrick certainly feels like he's contributing. For him, it's exhilarating to stop the shots flying from the point.

"Your whole team's counting on you to make the stop, and when you do, you just get a sense of achievement out of it," Patrick says. He also admits enjoying the attention he gets when the rest of his team skates out to congratulate him at the end of the game.

Patrick measures his success not only by the number of saves he makes in a game, but also by whether he's having fun in the net. He's never considered what he'd do if he didn't play goalie, since he's still having fun stopping the pucks.

Yet, during pond hockey games, Patrick always skates out and never tends to the net. It gives him a different perspective, he says, which is always good for a goalie. Plus, playing out can cure potential burnout.

"I just say, if you want to be a goalie, you're one of a very few. It takes a special person to be a goalie, standing in there getting pucks shot at your face all the time," Patrick says, adding that first and foremost a goalie has to stay composed, even after letting in a puck.

But he encourages everyone who wants to try it to strap on the pads and get in the net: "I think that if you become a goalie, you're going to enjoy it. I like the pressure of it and all. It's just fun getting out there. You're the last defenseman. You're the third defenseman out there and the most important, I guess. If you like that kind of stuff, you'll want to be a goalie."

# Goalie clinic

On Monday nights at Plymouth Ice Arena, pucks fly across the ice while four goalies in different stations swoop, snatch, twist and turn and do everything in their power to make sure the puck doesn't make its way into the net.

The whistle blows, and another four goalies take their turn. Another whistle, another group.

This is how it goes every week from October through February for three 45-minute sessions until all 50 or so WYHA goalies from Mites to Bantams have received semi-private instruction from Robb Stauber, his staff and other goalie coaches.

"If you're going to be a goalie, you've got to get some training early," says Stauber. "You've got to start developing some skills and stay in tune and not stay too far behind."

Stauber, a former goalie for the University of Minnesota, the Los Angeles Kings and the Buffalo Sabres, and the owner of Goalcrease, a goalie training site in Edina, works with the goalies alongside the other trainers in the free WYHA-sponsored goalie clinic.

The clinics teach the goalies various skills and techniques based on their individual level and style.

Some of the goaltenders wear the Staubar, a devise Stauber designed to help train the goalies' muscles and limbs into the position he says will make the goalie more efficient. The bar fits over the goalie's shoulders and curves around both arms so as to cover as much open space as possible when the goalie is positioned in front of the net.

The Staubar is "another tool that will reinforce the proper positioning, but like anything, it's not the end-all," Stauber says.

He encourages the teams' coaches to also attend the clinic in order to better



Photo by Duane Sather

understand the fundamentals of the position and what the goalie is going through—physically, mentally and emotionally—when in a game. For coaches unable to attend the Monday night clinics, Stauber offers coaches training at Goalcrease.

"Building consistency and an understanding of how we are trying to develop the goalies is critical. And the way to do that is to get coaches to understand what's happening at goalie training," Stauber says. He hopes that by attending the clinics at PIC or Goalcrease, coaches become more supportive of their goalies and more trusting of the skills they're being taught.

On their own, goalies can get additional training at Goalcrease. There, goalies are given individualized les-

sons with specialized trainers who work to strengthen goalies' particular problem areas. Every few lessons, the goalies are videotaped during their session and, together, they and the trainer review the tape and discuss how to perfect their technique and positioning, and how to play the mental game.

The players learn how to deal with the stress of goaltending by breaking down each move, analyzing the opponent and learning to read the puck.

"You have to have athletic ability and different things, of course, that are going to help you be successful," Stauber says. "But you can have those things and have a weak mind, and not even get close to making it. Your mind is your biggest asset."

## HELP WANTED

Academic Awards Assistants  
Academic Awards Purchasing Coordinator  
BlueLine Ice Times Reporter  
WCMS Concessions  
Fundraising Executive Board Reps  
Time Clock Monitors

Tournament volunteers needed for:  
Junior Gold A  
Snow Flurry  
Shooting Star  
Gold Star  
Mite Madness  
District tournaments

Contact: Jerry Trapp, 763-509-9117, jkhc5@msn.com

# Bringing home the hardware

The Squirt B Royal have just started the season and have already brought home three trophies. On Thanksgiving weekend, the Royal placed third in the Gold Division of the Brooklyn Park "Pirate Classic."

Wins over Forest Lake, Brooklyn Park and Andover were highlighted by balanced scoring, strong team defense, and solid goaltending. The only blemish in its four games was a heated 4-3 loss to Edina in the semi-finals.

At our own Wayzata Tournament, after a loss to Elk River—who subsequently won the Championship—the Royal were determined to not let the Wayzata Yellow knock them out of the tournament. After this victory and another against Rochester, the Royal became the consolation champions of the Blue bracket. The Royal persevered and became the tournament consolation champions by defeating Tri-City, the consolation champion of the Gold bracket. And this is all before they had even played a regular season game.

This group of 16 boys is resilient and supportive and respectful of their teammates and coaches. Team members include Ben Feeney, Luke Gildemeister, Peter Hildreth, Garrett Hoglund, Garrett Knapp, Rob Lance, Connor Lehman, Luke McCormick, Derek Nelson, Dalton Nowicki, Alex Sorenson, Brock Sorenson, Sam Stecker, Kenzie Vold, Alex Walsh and Robbie Zitzlsperger.

Thanks to Coaches Mark Nowicki, Kevin Sorenson and Todd Zitzlsperger, and team manager Chad Feeney, the team's development and fun have only begun. And let's not forget the support from parents and other members of the WYHA community. Parents, fellow Wayzata Squirts, and supporters were part of the crowd at the final games of each tournament—and they had spirit!

We're hoping for many more exciting, action-packed games during the season. And we certainly hope to run into that Edina team again!

—Ildiko Hildreth



Squirt B Royal

## WYHA Silent Auction

*Mark your calendars now*

*Plan on attending as well as donating to Wayzata Youth Hockey Association's most exciting fundraiser during*

**Mite Madness**  
**March 11 - 13**

*New this year:*

All Mite teams are asked to donate two smaller baskets.

All other teams are asked to donate one theme basket or one item such as a bike, scooter, game systems, BBQ grill, gift certificate for skates or hockey equipment.

*Use your imagination!*

*All basket coordinators and individual donations of \$50 or more receive two volunteer hours.*

**Tuesday, January 11, 7:00**

Informational get-together for all basket coordinators to share ideas and turn in commitment sheets.

Michelle Tiller's home  
2333 Country Road 24, Medina

*Watch for more information*

*Contacts:*

Michelle Tiller 763-473-0135 [TViper@aol.com](mailto:TViper@aol.com)  
Jill Gibbs 763-473-3045 [gibb.jill@dorsey.com](mailto:gibb.jill@dorsey.com)

# PeeWee B2 Royal Wins Big

As the Wayzata PeeWee B2 Royal team neared the start of the Chisago Lakes tournament, they were as anxious as ever. They learned that they were playing Centennial, which has a very good hockey program. The Wayzata team started their line with John Michael Coon, Sam Critzer, Jeff Rhodes as forwards and Nick Batinich and Glenn Krause on defense.

In the first period, as the score stayed 0-0, bodies were thrown around and more shots were coming in. The first goal of the game came with about seven minutes remaining in the first period. Critzer scored from the inside hash marks with assists from Coon and Mason Starry. Derek Herbert continued his solid goaltending as the first period ended with Wayzata leading 1-0.

When the second period started, Centennial out-skated and out-shot Wayzata and earned their first goal. Early in the third period, Krause took a shot from the point off a good face-off win by Michael Lenz, and the puck found the back of the net giving Wayzata the 2-1 lead with five minutes remaining. The rest of the game started to turn into pandemonium. With one minute left, the Royal looked good until Centennial called a time-out and pulled their goalie. Then Centennial took the puck up the alley, shot and scored, tying the game

with only 24 seconds remaining. The game went into overtime. Thirty seconds into the overtime, Batinich took the puck up along the boards and fired a shot from the blue line. The goalie saved it, but the juicy rebound came to Kyle McNab, who put the biscuit in the basket for a 3-2 win.



PeeWee B2 Royal

After the first win over Centennial, the PeeWee Royal team was feeling better about their chances of winning the tournament. On Saturday, Herbert took the net for an injured Colton Tomsich against Crow River, a team unknown to Wayzata. They knew if they could beat Crow River, they would be automatically in the running for some hardware. All of the Wayzata players played inspired hockey. Michael (Texas) Kirsch, McNab, David Iten, Zach Miller

and Max Baker made up the starting line. The first five shifts started out with Wayzata moving as slow as molasses. With about seven minutes remaining in the first period, Crow River scored a nice goal, lower left. Wayzata came back within two minutes and went on a shooting spree with Critzer and Mark Onken scoring two goals in one minute and 30 seconds. In the second period, David Reynolds got off to a hot start and scored a goal within the first five minutes of the period with an assist from Zach Darula. On the next shift, Max Baker released a shot from the point, which Kirsch deflected into the upper corner of the net putting the score at 4-1.

Going into the championship game on Sunday against Superior, Wayzata skated like they had never skated before. They jumped on top of Superior with a 3-1 advantage going into the second period. At the end of the third period, the scoreboard displayed what Wayzata wanted: A championship in their first tournament as a team!

The PeeWee B2 Royal team is coached by Tim Herbert, Bill Krause, Brent Miller and Carrie Starry. Team manager is Jim Starry and team representative is Kathy Rhodes. The team sends a special thanks to co-sponsors McDonald's of Medina and Iten Chevrolet.

—Captain Max Baker, #5

## U14A Girls starts off strong

The Wayzata U14A Girls are off to a good start this season with a 3-1-2 league record and a second-place win in the Anoka tournament in early December.

Members of the team include forwards Sarah Fleming, Jill Reynolds, Alison Umland, Ally Croal, Eme Orke, Tiffany Sivets, Lauren Kramer, Katie Bowdish and Kirsten Gregerson.

Defensively, Wayzata is lead by Sara Cole, Kate Loberg-Sonderup, Maggie Jenkins, Shaylee Jensen and Ali Myhre. Goalie is Shelby Rasmussen.

Coaches for the team are Keith Radloff, Bill Orke, Doug Bowdish and Mike Umland. Team Manager is Susan Fleming.

—Lance Cole



Girls U14A

## PeeWee B Gold places second in Superior, third in Stillwater

The PeeWee B Gold team got off to a strong start this season with a 12-3-1 record (5-1 in league play) that includes second and third place finishes in tournaments in Superior and Stillwater.

Teamwork, crisp passing and solid defense enabled the Gold to outscore its opponents 88-32 in its first 16 games, including three shutouts.

"The kids are really playing well and we think we can continue to improve and get stronger over the season," said Bill Richardson, head coach.

In Superior, the Gold won three of four games in the round-robin tournament, which was good for second place. The team defeated Pine City 9-1, Duluth Lakers 3-1 and Superior 5-1 but fell short (5-2) against the eventual tournament champions from Thunder Bay.

A few weeks earlier the Gold placed third in the Stillwater Stampede tournament over Thanksgiving. The team won its first game over Elk River 4-3, but they were bested in the next round by Blaine in



PeeWee B Gold

an exciting 5-4 game in which the lead changed hands three times. The Gold bounced back the following day to beat Minnetonka 4-2.

The teammates on Wayzata PeeWee B Gold, sponsored by Better Life Media and Lighting Affiliates, are Andrew McIntyre, KC Iverson, Chase Nystedt, Taylor Topousis, Eric Puls, Michael Borillo, Chase Mlnarik, Billy

Gregerson, Jake Gangstee, Cara Johnson, Parker Vegemast, Danny Walsh, Michael Fleming, Pat Sivets, Max Oppenheimer, Jack Wiese and Ben Grabowski. The Gold coaches are Bill Richardson, Jeff Richardson, Bill Rowland, Mark Sivets and Dave Vegemast.

—Dave Walsh

## PeeWee A captures consolation championship at Eden Prairie Invitational Tournament

Looking at the pairings going into the Eden Prairie Invitational Tournament, the Wayzata PeeWee A team knew they had a monumental task ahead of them if they wanted to advance out of pool play. In their pool were Edina, White Bear Lake and Anoka. Looking beyond pool play were even larger mountains: They'd be facing many of the top Peewee teams in the region and state.

Many doubted this young team. Coaches Tom Younghans, Jim Larson and Matt Gelling broke with Wayzata tradition and selected seven first-year boys for their A team. When asked about the team he had assembled, Younghans said, "We took the kids that played hard in both directions. We wanted a team that had heart."

Consensus said they are too inexperienced to compete at the top level in the state. Many detractors predicted a long and futile season.

Despite their lack of experience and comments by doubters, the coaches got this team to believe in themselves.

A successful road trip into Fargo, Moorhead and Park Rapids showed that this group of boys had heart and could play with any team. Momentum and confidence were building. The mantra going into the Eden Prairie Tournament had changed from one of doubt to one of guarded optimism: Maybe we can? We think we can!

Their first game in pool play was against a very talented Edina team who earned the number-two spot in Let's Play Hockey's ratings for their outstanding play.

In the first period, Edina outplayed Wayzata despite the tied score of 1-1. At the first intermission, Younghans stressed the importance of old-school hockey: Give and take the hits, win the races and give 100 percent. Superb goal-tending by Scott Langfus kept Wayzata in the game during the first period.

Midway through the third period, Wayzata took a 2-1 lead on a screen shot from the point by Lucas Whelan.

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## Fight to the finish

A solid defense led by veteran defensemen Whelan, Alex Higginbotham, Colin Mohagen and Seth Barnes shut Edina down. Aggressive play by forwards Hunter Kamm, Brian Tabery, Tanner Jensen, John Myhra and Scott Holm disrupted Edina's offensive plans.

Halfway through the third period, Edina scored, tying the game 2-2. For the remainder of the match, Edina and Wayzata traded blows as the game ended in a 2-2 tie.

In the second game of pool play Wayzata drew Anoka, and in a hard fought game, Wayzata prevailed 5-4.

Special teams played an important role in this game as Wayzata went two-for-two on the power play and were perfect on the penalty kill.

For their rugged play and determination in this game, much of the credit for the special team play goes to Holm, Chris Spurlock, Paul Voelker and Matt Davidson.

Michael Larson was solid in the net, stopping pucks with outstanding moves. Defensemen Duncan Salstrom and DJ Jones played old-school defense and helped preserve the win for Wayzata.

In the third game Wayzata met White Bear Lake. This was a must-win game for WBL if they wanted to advance in the tournament. A tie or win would allow Wayzata to jump ahead.

WBL came prepared to play. The first period was a "feeling out" match. In the second period WBL took it to Wayzata outshooting them 13-4 in the period and posting a 1-0 lead. Langfus was once again outstanding in goal.

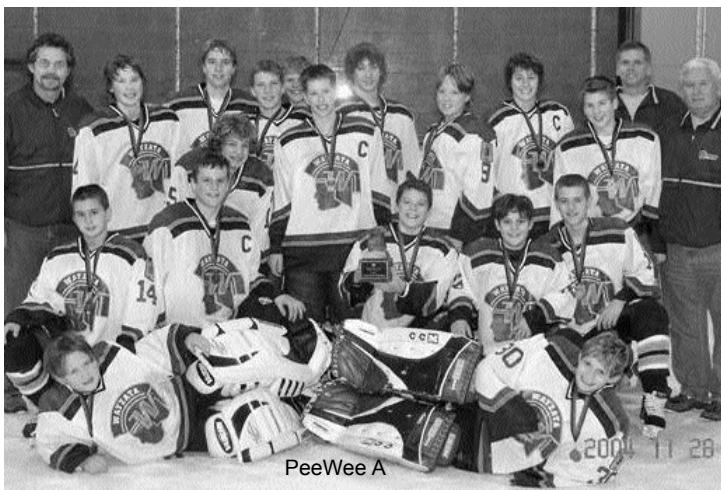
In the third, Wayzata got back to basics: hitting, forechecking and

backchecking. In a complete reversal of the second period, Wayzata took it to WBL outshooting them 9-3. Whelan let a shot go from the blue line that found the twine at the 5:26 mark.

In a last-ditch effort to get the win, WBL pulled their goalie late in the third period. Wayzata stood strong and preserved the 1-1 tie.

A better goal differential enabled Wayzata to advance to the Consolation Championship bracket.

For a team that only days before questioned if they belonged in the company of such outstanding hockey teams to advance to the Consolation Championship round with an unbeaten record was a major confidence builder. "The Little Engine that Thought it Could" continued its long uphill journey.



First obstacle: The big and strong Duluth Lakers who the night before tied Eden Prairie 3-3.

In an outstanding example of all-out, gut-check hockey, these two teams traded blows for three periods to find themselves dead-locked at 3-3. This game had it all: It was hard hitting, both teams showed great team play, and every player on the ice gave everything they had. At the end of a shift many of the kids barely had the strength to get off the ice; some limped off due to big hits. There was no quit in either team.

The torrid pace continued through the first overtime. Both goalies came up big. Players gave everything they had only to remain tied 3-3.

The second overtime mirrored the rest of the game. It wasn't until 3:25 remaining in the second overtime that Tabery slapped a rebound in to secure the victory. Assists were given to Kamm and Jensen.

Final obstacle: Wisconsin Fire, who earlier in the day defeated the talented Maple Grove team.

Both teams took the ice beat-up and exhausted. Many players hobbled on bruised and spent legs; others winced as they took shots in the warm-ups from hits taken earlier. It was obvious from the time the teams took the ice that this game would be won or lost on heart.

Wayzata came out hitting and established an early physical dominance.

At the 9:34 mark of the first period, Jensen took an interference penalty putting the Fire on the power play. Seventy-three seconds later Tony Cameranesi scored a short-handed goal for Wayzata for the early lead.

Later in the first, Cameranesi scored again on the power play with assists from Voelker and Mohagen.

The line of Myhra, Davidson and Spurlock played with great desire and helped establish the physical dominance of the game.

The final goal of the game came again on a short-handed goal as Tabery found the net on an assist from Barnes.

Final score: Wayzata 3, Wisconsin Fire 0.

The boys took home the consolation championship trophy that weekend, proving themselves a strong and solid team.

—John Higginbotham

# Scrip update

The Scrip fundraiser is off to a great start. We've placed two group orders as of Dec. 6, already earning WYHA \$239.25. Let's keep the momentum growing.

How are people using the Scrip program? Here are just a few ways: Personally, I look at my monthly budget to see which merchants are on the Scrip program. I choose them to do my shopping. We regularly shop at Cub Foods for groceries and Holiday Stationstores for gas. For pizza night, we keep Pizza Hut gift cards on hand. As we planned for the holidays, we chose Hollywood Video and other restaurant gift cards for gift ideas.

Some people have used the fundraiser to purchase gifts for employees. Others sold gift cards to neighbors, friends and relatives. The use for this program is endless. Be creative.

When placing your Scrip order, be aware of a couple of things: The denominations listed on the merchant list are the actual dollar amounts. The dash between the multiple denominations doesn't mean that you can select a figure between the two. The dash is simply a way to separate the dollar amounts.

Some gift cards can be used at multiple locations. For example, the Gap card can be used at Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy. If there's a merchant name in parentheses, this will indicate that the card is used in multiple locations. You'll receive the same card when you order from the other merchants that share the card.

Scrip orders are picked up from PIC on Monday and will be placed on Tuesday. Your order should be ready for pick up on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at PIC. Additional order forms and updated merchant lists are the Web site. See the WYHA Fundraising page on [www.wayzatahockey.org](http://www.wayzatahockey.org).

—Jerry Trapp, BlueLine President

## 2004 - 2005

### BlueLine Calendar of Events

Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
Team Rep Meeting	January 24 February 28 March 28 (7:00 p.m.)	Center Ice Room, Plymouth Ice Center	Jerry Trapp 763-509-9117
Spaghetti Dinner	January 23 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Hamel VFW	Diane Straate 763-550-9792
SKATE Academic Awards	March 29	Wayzata Central Middle School	Larry Foote 763-551-3539
Annual Silent Auction	March 11-12	Plymouth Ice Center	Michelle Tiller 763-473-0135 Jill Gibbs 763-473-3045
Golf Tournament	June 27	Rolling Green	Diana Straate 763-550-9792
BlueLine newsletter deadlines	January 10 February 7 March 7 April 11		Tess Langfus 763-557-6031 <a href="mailto:tmlangfus@aol.com">tmlangfus@aol.com</a>

### Ongoing Events

Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
Concessions	Saturdays Sundays special events	Wayzata Arena	Tracy Meister 763-745-1186
Scrip	All year		Jerry Trapp 763-509-9117
Pucks-N-Stuff	Saturdays 9:00 - 3:00	Plymouth Ice Center	Andrea Sorensen 763-449-9740

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS



## Herb's Servicenter and Oakwood Square



Since 1933, Herb's Servicenter, a family-owned and operated business, has sat on the corner of county roads 101 and 6, which is now part of the Oakwood Square neighborhood shopping center across from Oakwood Elementary School. The gas station and automotive service center touts a history of outstanding reputation and quality repairs and a longtime devotion to sponsoring Wayzata Youth Hockey Association teams and other youth activities.

Dave Johnson, whose father was the original owner of the station, has supported a variety of teams and outreach programs since 1966. Even though he hasn't had children in the hockey program, he's been a sponsor for the WYHA since its inception.

As a testimonial to Johnson's dedication to youth associations, about a dozen team photographs and plaques adorn the waiting area's wall.

"I mainly do it because I just love to and I think it's a good opportunity for the kids to get involved," he says. Herb's Servicenter sponsors the Squirts B Royal team and the Oakwood Square, which Johnson also owns, sponsors the PeeWee C White team.

A smorgasbord of businesses lease space from Johnson in Oakwood Square, including Caribou, Carbone's Pizza, Oakwood Barbers and Smokies Superette. There's one

vacant space available.

The station, open seven days a week, offers full auto service and repair Monday through Friday from 6:30 until 11, and on Saturday from 7 until 5.

Besides Shell gasoline and a touch-free car wash, Herb's Servicenter offers towing and major and minor repair for cars and trucks. Their auto repair service is AAA-approved, a certification awarded to reputable stations that have Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified technicians, well-equipped facilities and good quality repair. The service must also meet or exceed a 90-percent or higher satisfaction rating among its customers.

The Johnson crest, shown above, displayed on the tow trucks and in the service station, is most likely familiar to its returning customers.

Because the station has been around since the 1930s, it's seen generations of customers. A fair number of antique cars are serviced there, as well as the typical domestic and imported vehicles. Quality service and the station's "latest and greatest technology" is what apparently keeps Johnson's customers coming back.

"One thing we stress is quality repairs," Johnson said, "by having good quality manpower and equipment to back it up. That's what it's all about."

## Kaju Travel

**"Large enough to serve you, small enough to care."**

Kaju Travel's sponsorship banners have followed WYHA for the past eight years, since the sons of owner Peg Kaju have been in the program. This year, Kaju Travel sponsors Bantam C Blue, the team on which her son Eddie plays goalie. Her younger son, Bobby, plays forward for the PeeWee C White team.

The sponsored WYHA team pictures and plaques are displayed on the walls in her downtown Minneapolis office.

"I sponsor to help the association, for sure," Kaju says. "And then to get some name recognition."

Sponsoring WYHA teams has proven effective for her company, she says, with repeat business from hockey families.

Kaju Travel is a full-service travel agency, and for a flat service fee of only \$35 will research the industry for competitive prices on airline tickets, cruises, tours and independent travel. Kaju cautions against the misconception that booking travel arrangements through the Internet is guaranteed cost effective.

"There are so many travel Web sites, it's mind boggling," Kaju says. "You go online and you could spend hours and you still may not get a good price. Plus you won't find, necessarily, the availability that we would find for you."

The company motto is "Large enough to serve you, small enough to care." Its Web site, [www.kaju-travel.com](http://www.kaju-travel.com), is linked on the sponsor page of the

WYHA Web site.

Originally named National City Travel Center, Kaju Travel has been in family since 1965 when Kaju's father owned the First National Bank subsidiary. In 1977, he purchased it outright when banks were restricted from owning travel agencies. Kaju took over as owner after her father's death in 1985.

Kaju says some of her returning customers have been with the company since 1977—maybe even earlier.

"We've always stressed that service is very critical and attention to detail. And that's what gets people coming back," she says. "We're definitely eager to help people."

**CORRECTION:** All Star Sports, Kane Crumley Law Firm and Sports Star Photo were inadvertently left off of the hard copy of the previous issues. Our apologies for the error.

## Show Your Support to WYHA Sponsors

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association wants to thank all of our sponsors for their support during the 2004-2005 season.  
Please visit their place of business to show your appreciation and mention that you are with WYHA.

Accorde Orthodontists	GMAC – RFC	Pillar Homes, Inc.
Advantage Point Group, Inc.	Herb's Servicenter	Piper Jaffray, Minneapolis
<b>All Star Sports</b>	Iten Chevrolet	Piper Jaffray, Wayzata
Allstate Insurance, Nick Pizano	Kaju Travel	RE/MAX Results—Dean Haagenson
Anchor Bank	<b>Kane Crumley Law Firm</b>	Rider Bennett, LLP
Better Life Media	Knight's Formal Wear	Schwarz Builders, Inc.
Bill and Jennifer Mullin	Lighting Affiliates	Score Sports
Carlson, Lundquist & Company, Ltd.	Luminaire Recyclers	Sexton Printing—Tom Kubinski
Collision Center Inc., Golden Valley	Maynard's Restaurant	Sports Hut
Contemporary Images, Inc.	McDonald's, Medina	<b>Sports Star Photo</b>
Custom Technical Resources, LLC	MDR Construction	State Farm Insurance—Eric Rhodes
Denny Hecker and Holmers Real Estate	Medicine Lake Extrusions, Inc.	Symbology, Inc.
Denny Hecker's Auto Connection	Medina Entertainment Center	The Foursome, Inc.
Denny Hecker's Rosedale Dodge and Hyundai	Metro Millwork	The UPS Store
First Data Merchant Services	Metro Siding, Inc.	Universal Data Corporation
Foley & Mansfield, PLLP	Michael J. Harrison, DDS	Walmart
Forest Lake Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep	Morgan Stanley	Wells Fargo Bank, Wayzata
General Sports	Northwest Insurance Agency	Wells Fargo Investments, LLC
	Oakwood Square	Wiese Law Firm

Sponsors are still needed for some WYHA teams. Go to the Sponsors page on [www.wayzatahockey.org](http://www.wayzatahockey.org) and click on the sponsor forms link for more information.