



Dear TYHA Members,

With the 2012-2013 season coming to a close, I would like to thank everyone for a great season. Here are a few of the TYHA highlights that some of you may not be aware of:

Our Registration increased by 10% from last season, primarily at our Learn to Play level. This increase was a great contribution to our continued growth! Thank you everyone who got the word out there about this great sport!

Our coaching staff is top-notch and we are so thankful to have each and every one of you! You are the life line of TYHA and you all did an excellent job this season. The growth was phenomenal! Thank you for all you do! I would like to give a special thanks to those coaches who coach for us who don't have children in our program or at the levels in which they coach: Coach Roger Del Fiacco, Coach Scott Baglien, and Coach Bucket...thank you for your support, dedication and love for the kids and the game!

Our U8 teams did great this year with huge improvements across the board. The U8-1 team proved they had what it takes to hang with the big dogs. They faced several high caliber teams at an invitational tournament two weekends ago – taking 3rd overall! Fantastic work!!!!

Our Squirt numbers were up this year allowing us to have two full rosters. Squirt 1 came out of the box strong and never gave up. Squirt 2 had a slow start but proved by mid-season that with teamwork, hard work, and dedication they could go toe-to-toe with anyone in their division. Greatness all around!

Pee Wees had an amazing season. Congratulations to the KCAHL Season Champs!!!! This group is great to watch! I can't wait to see where next season takes you!

Our Bantam team is full of love and dedication! This group of kids is a great example that, no matter what you're faced with, push harder and never give up. I've never experienced anything quite like the leadership and togetherness that this team, from the coaching staff to the players, is made of. Truly amazing dedication all around! Makes me proud to be a part of this organization!

I am confident TYHA is on the right track for us to find greatness. Will Rogers said; "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." We have celebrated the ups and the downs of this season, and have grown from each and every hurdle and accomplishment with class. We can't just sit there and get run over. We push through everything together and come out stronger! Our coaches preach the importance of teamwork on the ice, but teamwork goes well beyond the rink. Past Presidents, board members, our volunteers, our sponsors, our coaches, our parents, and our players have made our organization better than I could have imagined. We are a true TEAM! So, from the bottom of my heart ~ A MILLION TIMES, THANK YOU!

- Amber Droke, TYHA President

{ U8's }

Dear U8 Blue 3 Team, Friends & Family,

Thank you for a great season! I would like to thank my team, and all of the parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who contributed to our team's success this season. First off let me thank my team for trying so hard and making hockey so fun this season. When I reflect back on our season from our kick-off jamboree to wrapping up at the Carriage Club tourney I am amazed by the improvement! Our skating and passing skills showed incredible progression and I am proud of each and every player's effort and dedication to improving each practice. Thank you parents, friends and family for getting our player's to practice and games and for providing delicious post-game treats! Thanks to Coaches Omitt, Bucket, Cynthia, and Scott for all of their help this season. Thanks to the premiere U8 division director in the KCAHA, Beth, for her support and organization of all things U8. I hope to see all of you on the ice next Fall!

- Coach Fred Moody

The U8 White 1 Team finished the season by participating in the KC Stars Spring Invitational Tournament and showed up strong! The U8-1's put up the highest goal total of any team in the tournament!

So proud of you guys!

- Coach Bucket (Jason Simonsen)



While I will remember many special moments this year, I believe Nov. 18th should stand out for all Squirts as the day both teams took to the road for big wins that would signal to the league that both teams would be competitive every time the Topeka Jr. Roadrunners took the ice!

Squirts 2 went to Line Creek that day to face a Saints 2 team that had yet to give up a goal in league play on the young season. They came away with a hard-fought 3-1 victory to notch their first win of the year, where they would go on to finish 7-3-2 the remainder of the season before bowing out to the top seed in our league tournament. This team consistently displayed good spacing, competitive spirit, and became a team no one wanted to face down the stretch this season.

Squirts 1 also traveled on the road to the KC Ice Outdoor Pavilion to face a Stars 2 team that had beaten our Squirts in the season opener, 6-4. The Squirts rallied from a 2-0 deficit with 8 minutes left in the 3rd period to take a hard-fought and emotional 3-2 win where everyone on the bench could feel the positive energy of a team working together and knowing we were going to get that game-winning goal! The look of satisfaction from our boys was exhilarating! The boys began to trust one another, played like a team and family, and rolled to a 10-3 record the remainder of the season for a 2nd place tie in league and loss to our eventual league champions.

Both seasons ended a little earlier in the tourney than we would have liked, but I could not have been more proud of the effort, the improvement of every player this year, the way both teams came together as teammates and a family, and the way these young men represented Topeka Youth Hockey. As a coach, I enjoyed working with each player and coaches to encourage, build skills, and share in all the special moments on and off the ice this year. Both teams should be extremely proud and we'll look forward to an even better season next year!

As Squirts Director, I would like to thank all the parents, the coaches, and the Topeka Roadrunners for all the volunteer hours, refreshments, and coaching provided for and to our players. I especially enjoyed our pizza party at Cici's after our league game to bring everyone together as one Squirt and Jr. Roadrunner family! This is all about our kids having fun, playing the greatest game on earth, and learning to share as friends and teammates in all these young men accomplished this season!

Keep skating if possible, work on stickhandling at home, and watch games in person and at home to see where and how other players are moving and working together to be where they need to be on the ice to make the play! Tell everyone you meet you are a HOCKEY player, and most importantly, you are a ROADRUNNER!

- Coach Vince Berry

"I would like to thank all of my coaches this season, especially Coach Roger Del Fiacco for helping the team out. My shooting and skating have improved this season!"

- Keegan Hook-Gallagher, # 23 Squirt Division

{ SQUIRT SELECTS }

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If you know me at all, you know I love everything Chicago. From the Cubs to the Blackhawks and everything in-between, the city is spectacular! Getting to be on the bench for our Squirt Select team and visiting the Windy City was a great experience.

The kids blew into town Friday and took care of business, sealing a 3-2 win. Teamwork, speed and effort are what the coaches ask for and that is what the kids delivered. Hustle all over the ice, and some great team plays gave us the win.

The second game we lacked the intensity that was there in game one. We still had good teamwork but that wasn't enough to pull out on top.

Our third game of the weekend was a 7am thriller! Down one with 8 seconds left in the third period, the Runners scored to tie the game!

There is nothing sweeter than watching pure effort from every player and teamwork on an Olympic-sized sheet of ice. On Sunday afternoon, playing for third place, almost every player on the team had their skates shifted into overdrive by the third period. The coaches know the potential of our team and we saw what that potential can accomplish in our last win.

It was a great tournament for the Squirt Select team and we look forward to seeing the kids give the same effort in their final tournament of the season in St. Louis, two weeks from now.

We would like to thank our three subs that came on board. They had less than a week's notice but came to play! All three were a great asset to our team play and it just proves that no matter what team you come from, your love for the game always shines through! - Vic Riggan, Squirt Select Manager



{ PEE WEES }

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Pee Wees are Champions!

Last September, as a new hockey season was beginning, the anticipation for the Pee Wee team was at a fever's pitch. After a successful 2011-12 season that saw the team finish with an 11-7 record, a core group of returning players combined with a talented group of players moving up from the Squirt Division gave the new season great promise.

The only question marks were, "Who would generate the offense?" The majority of the scoring from the previous season had moved up to the Bantam Division.

"Could Tre' Burkett be the workhorse in goal?" Burkett had been the back-up goaltender in previous seasons, but would be called on to be the starter this season.

The season began with a bang with a 4-2 win over Jr. Mavs-2. Spencer Taylor recorded his first hat trick of the season and Nolan Omitt also chipped in his first of the season. (1-0-0)

In Game Two, the Pee Wees hosted Carriage Club and skated to a 3-3 tie. Mason Romine provided all the team's offense that day with his first hat trick. (1-0-1)

The Jr. RoadRunners then traveled to Line Creek to take on the Saints. It's was a hard fought battle that saw the Jr. 'Runners escape with a 3-1 win. Once again Spencer Taylor paced the team with two goals and Nolan Omitt netted his second of the season. (2-0-1)

For the second straight game, the Pee Wees were back on the road. This time, to KCIC to take on the Stars-2. Another closely contested game, but the Jr. 'Runners would prevail with three goals in the final period to claim a 3-1 victory. Braden Chaffin had two goals while Spencer Taylor had the other. (3-0-1)

The team would return home to take on the Saints who they had defeated 3-1 just two weeks prior. The Saints would steal a 2-1 victory with Dawson Essary scoring the Jr. RoadRunners' lone goal. (3-1-1)

The Jr. Mavs-1 handed the Pee Wees their second loss, 2-0, that saw the Jr. 'Runners dominate every aspect of the game. A couple of costly defensive breakdowns were the team's only downfall. (3-2-1)

The team showed its resolve in the next game as they pounded the Jr. Mavs-3 by the score of 6-2. Spencer Taylor and Braden Chaffin each had two goals while Mason Romine and Jack Murphy each had one. (4-2-1)

For the second straight game, Jr. Mavs-3 would be the opponent and would face the same fate with the Jr. RoadRunners winning 7-3 this time. Six different players found the back of the net. Spencer Taylor with two and Braden Chaffin, Nolan Omitt, Mason Romine, Jason Emerson and Dawson Essary each with a one. (5-2-1)

It was back to KCIC for a tilt against Stars-1. It was the last game before the Christmas break, so the team wanted to go into the holiday on a winning note. Spencer Taylor and Braden Chaffin led the way with a goal apiece as the Pee Wees claimed a 2-1 victory. (6-2-1)

The Jr. RoadRunners would travel to St. Joseph, MO. for the season finale. A win would give the team no worse than a share of the regular season league title. The team played like champions as they smothered the Griffons 8-0. Team captain Spencer Taylor led the scoring with two goals. Kaela Hook-Gallagher, Mason Romine, Alex Woods, Jason Emerson, Dawson Essary and Jack Murphy also "lit the lamp"! (12-3-1)

Shortly after the game ended, you could hear the screams and chants from the locker room as the team heard news. The Saints, who had they had been neck-and-neck with in the standings all season long, had lost earlier that day giving the Jr. RoadRunners outright their first-ever regular season title!

{ PEE WEES }

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After a couple of weeks off, the team returned to home ice to host the Stars-1. The game was never in doubt as they rolled to a 6-1 victory. Once again balanced scoring was the key as four different players had goals. Spencer Taylor and Alex Woods with two goals and Braden Chaffin and Jason Emerson with one each. (7-2-1)

The Pee Wee team found themselves in the thick of the race for the regular season championship when they traveled to the outdoor rink at Carriage Club. The cold, early morning was not a friend as Carriage Club defeated the Jr. 'Runners 5-3. Spencer Taylor, Kaela Hook-Gallagher and Jack Murphy with the goals. (7-3-1)

The team had to have a short memory because an afternoon game in Independence just a few hours later was on the schedule. The team rebounded in a big way defeating a tough Jr. Mavs-4 team by the score of 6-2 with six different players scoring goals. Spencer Taylor, Nolan Omitt, Mason Romine, Alex Woods, Dawson Essary and Jack Murphy with the goals. (8-3-1)

It was back to Independence once again. Jr. Mavs-2 would be the next in line as the Jr. RoadRunners were running on all cylinders with four different goal scorers. Spencer Taylor, Nolan Omitt, Braden Chaffin and Mason Romine. Tre' Burkett recorded his first shutout of the season 4-0. (9-3-1)

For the third consecutive game, the Jr. 'Runners were once again in Independence. A win would secure the team its 10th win of the season. As he had done all season, Spencer Taylor led the way to a 3-1 victory. Conner McGehee and Mason Romine also had goals. (10-3-1)

It was finally back home on home ice for the final home game of the season as the Pee Wees welcomed Stars-2. A four-game winning streak held in the balance as the team looked to keep pace in the race for first place. A big crowd of family and friends cheered on the Jr. RoadRunners to a dominating 6-1 win. Nolan Omitt paced the scoring with two goals. Braden Chaffin, Mason Romine, Alex Woods and Jack Murphy each had one. (11-3-1)

...Just one win away from the regular season crown! - Brady Chaffin

The KCAHA Pee Wee Division Regular Season Champions:

4 - Spencer Taylor

7 - Kaela Hook-Gallagher

15 - Nolan Omitt

16 - Braden Chaffin

17 - Conner McGehee

19 - Mason Romine

20 - Alex Woods

24 - Tre' Burkett (G)

25 - Trevor Rodriguez

29 - Jason Emerson

55 - Dawson Essary

87 - Jack Murphy

Head Coach: Derek Burkett

Assistant Coaches: Sean Murphy and Michael Rodriguez

"My favorite part of the 2012-2013 season was being part of the Pee Wee Division Regular Season Champion ship team! I improved my passing skills a lot and my skating skills as well this season!"

- Kayla Hook-Gallagher, # 7 Pee Wee Division

BANTAMS

This was the first team I was privileged enough to coach who had a large skill set gap from one player to the next. We had first year players and players who had been lacing up since they were three! This challenged me and took some time to get a better idea on where we needed our greatest help. We worked on systems. A lot. We were beat by teams playing basic systems that a lot of our players weren't aware of. By the end of the season, you guys had caught onto the systems and were making great progress. It was awesome to see our team clicking when the pressure was on.

I know I came into the season a little late, but I have to say it was truly fun getting to know all the players and parents. Our entire team progressed this year - every player, every shift. I hope you gained as much out of this season as I did.



I tend to get animated on the bench, especially when the score is tight, but what Canadian doesn't, right? A special thank you to those who witnessed my crazy and didn't make too much fun of me for it. :)

I would really like to emphasize the importance of stick work over the summer. As a whole our Bantam team needs more puck work! Skating is improving but we

consistently make bad puck choices or lose possession of the puck in pressure situations. Off-ice puck handling skills and practicing at home makes a huge difference in how well you control the puck in a game situation. Grab a stick and a tennis ball and give that garage door a work out!

A very special thank you for the coolest trophy ever and the gift card. You guys didn't need to do that. The kids made this season special enough. I really appreciate the thought though and will proudly display this trophy in my home! Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to Coach Paul Popiel for all of his help this season!

- Coach John Fennell

TOPEKA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

How can you help make next season even better?

Share your talent and skills by joining the Topeka Youth Hockey Board of Directors! Voting for our 2013-2014 TYHA BOD will take place at April's Annual Meeting, **April 14th at 6:00** at the Capital Plaza Hotel.

Each member in good standing at least 18 years of age is entitled to run for election and eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Visit www.TopekaYouthHockey.org for more information. The position descriptions and requirements are found under the By-Laws, which are saved in the 'Documents' tab on our website.

Eligible positions:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice President
- ⇒ Treasurer and Registrar
- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Director of Marketing
- ⇒ Director of Publicity
- ⇒ Director of Fundraising
- ⇒ Director of Corporate Sponsorship
- ⇒ ACE Coordinator
- ⇒ High School Division Director (if necessary)
- ⇒ Bantam Division Director
- ⇒ Pee Wee Division Director
- ⇒ Squirt Division Director
- ⇒ U8 Division Director
- ⇒ LTPH Division Director



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TYHA is a non-profit organization operating amateur hockey programs for the benefit of the people in the greater Topeka metropolitan area and surrounding region.

The purposes of TYHA are:

- ◆ To develop character, sportsmanship, and physical fitness among its participants
- ◆ To promote, encourage and improve the standard of amateur hockey
- ◆ To associate with other hockey associations
- ◆ To conduct an amateur hockey program consistent with the rules and regulations of the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States
- ◆ To perform or participate in other activities that will aid in reaching these objectives