



Celebrate the season-end excitement!

By Dean Frederickson, *President*

It's hard to believe that playoff season is here already! Several of our teams have completed their regular season play and are already in or preparing for postseason play in late February and early March. Visit the District 6 web site at www.district6hockey.net for complete playoff schedules and results, and get out to support our players and the Eastview association.

Board positions open; mail-ballot election in March

Four positions are open on the EVHA Board of Directors for three-year terms that begin in April 2004. No prior experience is necessary to serve on the board, just a positive attitude and desire to help EVHA continue to be a great experience for our children. The board meets twice monthly during the off season and once each month during the regular season.

All interested candidates should send an email to deanfred@charter.net no later than Monday, March 1, with a couple of paragraphs stating qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve on the board. Ballots and candidate information will be mailed to the membership the first week of March and results of the election will be announced at the general membership meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m., at Hayes Community Center. All EVHA members are encouraged to attend this annual general membership meeting.

Season-end banquet set for March 12 at Brianno's

The second annual Eastview Hockey Association season-end banquet is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 6-8 p.m., at Brianno's, 2280 Cliff Rd., in Eagan.



Last year's banquet was a fun and well-attended event. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Bring your team trophies from this season to put on the display tables. We hope to see all of you there!



Greetings from Bemidji!

The PeeWee A team took time out to visit Paul Bunyan and Babe during their January 2-4 tournament in Bemidji. The team took second place in the tournament.

Roundup: Eastview teams finish well in district play and tournaments

By Tony and Jenny Taschner, *Slapshot Editors*

The following team updates were written based on information provided by the team and/or from standings and playoff bracket information on the District 6 Hockey web site as of Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Bantam As beat Apple Valley but lose play-in game

The Bantam A season ended Feb. 15 with a 3-1 loss to Burnsville in the second wild card play-in game to get to the final round of six teams in the District 6 playoffs.

The Bantam As finished seventh in the district with a 6-10 record and defeated Apple Valley 6-3 in the first wild card game. The District 6 Bantam A championship game will be held Sunday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., at Eden Prairie Arena.

The Bantam As brought home hardware in three of their four tournaments this season, including first-place

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finishes at the Hopkins and Shakopee tournaments early in the season, second place at the St. Paul Governor's Cup and fourth place at the Sam Lopresti Tournament in Eveleth in January.

The Bantam As are coached by Buzz Rush, Scott Dobesh and Chris Rush.



Bantam B2s take first at River Falls Tournament

The Bantam B2s were in a tie for fourth place in District 6 with a 6-6-3 record and one game remaining when this issue of *Slapshot* went to press. The district playoffs are scheduled to start Feb. 28 at Apple Valley High School and the Bantam B2 championship game will be played Sunday, March 7, 5 p.m., at Pagel Arena.

The Bantam B2s brought home the championship trophy from the River Falls Tournament Feb. 6-8. The team opened the tournament by defeating Hudson 2-1 on third-period goals from Austin Mayes and Shane Sjostrom. The B2s defeated Lakeville Black 4-0 in the semifinal game, with Ben Wagner getting the shutout, and goalie Michael Lien came back strong in the nets in the team's 3-1 championship victory over Cottage Grove. Jeff Dibble, Sjostrom and Mayes got goals in the championship game.

In other tournaments this season, the B2s took fourth place in Woodbury and participated in B1 tournaments in Hopkins and Cloquet.

The Bantam B2s are coached by Gary Myhrman, Mike Gansmoe, Gordy Christian and Joe Wagner.

Bantam Cs still atop District 6 standings

The Bantam Cs have been at the top of the District 6 standings all season. With one game remaining at the

time of this printing, the team had a 13-1-1 record in the district and is looking forward to a first-round bye in the playoffs. If the Bantam Cs finish first or second in the district, they will play their first playoff game the evening of Tuesday, March 2, at Chaska Arena.

Hat trick and playmaker awards have been earned in district games this season by Casey Sherwin, Luke Darud and Scott Horvath, and goalie Tyler Krob has earned several shutouts.

In tournament play, the Bantam Cs took third place at Edison and earned the consolation championship at Somerset, Wis., and are looking forward to the final tournament of the season in Kasson later this month.

The Bantam Cs are coached by Tom Williams, Ron Krueger, Kevin Mellon and Patrick De Wane.

U14As earned four tournament trophies this season

The U14A season ended Feb. 15 with a 2-1 loss to Rochester in the second wild card play-in game to get to the final round of six teams in the District 6 playoffs.

The U14As finished sixth in the district with a 10-6 record. The District 6 U14A championship game will be played Sunday, Feb. 22, 2:45 p.m., at Braemar West.

In tournament play, the U14As took second place in Stillwater and captured the consolation championship in their three other tournaments – Cloquet, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie.

The U14As are coached by Bob Conley and Mark Melander.



U14Bs finish fourth and begin playoffs February 27

The U14Bs finished fourth in District 6 and are scheduled to play their first district playoff game against Tri-City on Friday, Feb. 27, immediately following the 5:30 p.m. playoff game at Minnetonka Rink B. Check the District 6 web site for the date and location of the U14B

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championship game.

The U14Bs took fourth place in the Woodbury Tournament Feb. 6-8. Kayla Willer's first-period goal and shutout performance by goalie Caitlin Hart gave the U14Bs a 1-0 win over Southwest in the opening game. In the semifinal game, the team played well on both offense and defense but lost to top-rated Woodbury 1-0. The U14Bs took an early lead in the third place game on a goal by Megan Talafous, but lost 3-1 to Lakeville. The U14Bs also participated in tournaments in Mankato, White Bear Lake and Willmar.

The U14Bs are coached by Dan Williams, Rob Talafous and Rod Raslack.

U12Bs finish third and split first two playoff games

The U12Bs finished third in District 6 during the regular season with an 11-5-0 record and were in the middle of a playoff run when this issue of *Slapshot* went to press.

The U12Bs won their opening playoff game 4-1 over Edina Green and lost the second-round game 2-5 to Chaska Purple. The U12Bs were still alive in the district playoffs and scheduled to play Minnetonka on Feb. 18 when this issue went to press. The District 6 U12B championship game will be played Sunday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., at Braemar West.

Seven of the team's 11 regular-season wins in District 6 play were shutouts and the U12Bs outscored their district opponents 46-18 during the regular season.

In tournament play, the U12Bs brought home third-place trophies from the Hopkins and Eastview tournaments, and finished fourth in St. Cloud and Woodbury.

The U12Bs are coached by Keith Clasen and Rob Kleven.

PeeWee As lose double-overtime playoff game

The PeeWee A season ended Feb. 15 with a 2-1 double overtime loss to Burnsville in the second wild card play-in game to get to the final round of six teams in the District 6 playoffs.

The PeeWee As finished sixth in the district with a 5-10-1 regular season record. The District 6 PeeWee A championship game will be played Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m., at Eden Prairie Arena.

The PeeWee As brought home trophies from three of the team's four tournaments this season. The team took second place in the Bemidji Tournament Jan. 2-4, losing

6-4 in the championship game to a team from Arapahoe, Colorado. The PeeWee As defeated Park Rapids 7-2 in the opening game and then beat the eventual champions from Arapahoe 6-3 in game two. Forward Travis Schweiger scored five goals in the second game and tallied 11 goals and two assists during the four-game tournament. The PeeWee As defeated West Fargo 6-0 in the semifinal game, with Andy Freeman getting the shutout in nets.

In the team's other tournaments, the PeeWee As finished third in Hopkins, consolation champions in Hastings and lost the consolation championship in South St. Paul.

The PeeWee As are coached by Eric Strobel and Steve O'Shea.

PeeWee B2s seek top two finish in regular season

The PeeWee B2s were in second place in the district with an 11-3-1 record and could clinch a first-round bye in the playoffs with a win over Kennedy in their final regular-season game Feb. 20 when this issue of *Slapshot* went to press.

If the PeeWee B2s finish first or second in the district, they will play their first district playoff game the evening of Tuesday, March 2, at Bloomington Ice Garden Rink 3. The District 6 PeeWee B2 championship game will be played Sunday, March 7, 1 p.m., at Pagel Arena.

The PeeWee B2s took third place in their division of the Osseo-Maple Grove Tournament Jan. 23-25 by defeating Andover 3-1. The team opened the tournament with a convincing win over Spring Lake Park and lost 3-2 to Eden Prairie in the semifinal, nearly tying the game on a goal that was disallowed with less than 10 seconds remaining.

The B2s also participated in a B1 tournament in Cloquet Jan. 2-4. The team lost all three games, including two in overtime, but had a strong showing against their highly ranked B1 opponents from Stillwater, Blaine and Virginia. In other tournaments this season, the PeeWee B2s took first place in Hopkins and second place in Northfield.

The PeeWee B2s are coached by Ernie Companion, Tony Bauer and Tony Taschner.

PeeWee Cs looking forward to district playoffs

The PeeWee Cs were 9-6-0 in District 6 and could clinch a fifth-place playoff seed with a win over Minnetonka in their final regular-season game Feb. 21 when

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this issue of *Slapshot* went to press.

If they finish in fifth, the PeeWee Cs will play their first playoff game on Monday, March 1, immediately following the 6:30 p.m. playoff game at Bloomington Ice Garden Rink 1. The District 6 PeeWee C championship game will be played Sunday, March 7, 3 p.m., at Pagel Arena.

In their most recent tournament, in Owatonna, the PeeWee Cs opened with a 17-2 win over Albert Lea; Brett Beattie and Kurt Bradley each had a hat trick. In game two, the PeeWee Cs lost to Chaska 2-5. In the third-place game against Edina Green, the PeeWee Cs had numerous opportunities to tie the game in the third period but ran into a hot goaltender and eventually lost 2-3. Less than two weeks later, they had a rematch against Edina in a district game and came out on top 2-1.

The PeeWee Cs took first place in their first tournament of the season, in Rosemount, and also participated in the Rochester Tournament.

The PeeWee Cs are coached by Mark Shonka, Drey Bradley, Glenn Iverson and Jim Reynolds.



Squirt As take third at Moorhead Tournament

The Squirt As brought home tournament hardware for the third time this season with a third-place finish at Moorhead and are scheduled to play their final tournament of the season Feb. 20-22 in Woodbury.

In Moorhead, the Squirt As opened with a 7-0 victory over Grand Forks, with Taylor Branstad, Bryce Gustafson and Ty McDevitt scoring two goals each and goaltender Paul Thompson getting the shutout in nets. Ryan Reger got Eastview on the board in the first period of the second game, but Moorhead pulled away to win 6-1. In the third-place game against Alexandria, the Squirt As fell behind 3-1 late in the second period but came storming back to

score five unanswered goals and win 6-3.

The Squirt As have enjoyed continued success in District 6 play, with recent wins over Edina, Apple Valley and Kennedy, and ties with Burnsville and Edina. The team also pulled out a late “win” over the Eastview High School boys’ varsity team during a New Year’s Day scrimmage.

The Squirt As are coached by Stacy Nelson, Cliff Gustafson, Brooks Smith and Dan Williams.

Squirt Bs win championship at Minnetonka

The Squirt Bs won three one-goal games to win the championship of the Minnetonka Tournament earlier this month.

The first game against Maple Grove was tied 3-3 after regulation on a pair of goals from Clay DeNicola and another from Kevin Havlicek. With less than a minute left in the first overtime, Havlicek sealed the 4-3 win by netting his second goal of the game on an assist from Nick Samsel. In game two, the Squirt Bs defeated Hopkins 3-2 on a pair of goals from Alex Pavlo and another from DeNicola. In the championship game, the Squirt Bs were behind 1-0 into the third period until Alex Cooper tied the score with an unassisted goal and Joey Nelson won it on a goal with less than a minute left to play.

“This team learned in the first game the benefit of gaining the blue line together and working the puck to the net,” said Coach Brian Jacobson. “They progressed with each game and never quit.”

Squirt C Blue takes fourth at Blaine Tournament

The Squirt C Blue team was 2-2-1 in District 6 play in January and finished fourth in a tournament at Blaine Jan. 16-18.

The Squirt Cs opened the Blaine Tournament with an exciting 3-2 victory over West St. Paul led by solid goaltending from Connor Beer. In game two, Eastview carried much of the play in a fast-paced game against Woodbury, but lost 3-4 in overtime. The third-place game went to Minnetonka 4-0.

One of the highlights of district play in January was a 3-4 loss to a Chaska team that had beat the Squirt Cs 11-1 earlier in the season.

The Squirt Cs took third place in the St. Paul Highland Tournament earlier this season and will close out the season with a tournament in Cold Spring Feb. 27-29.

The Squirt C Blue team is coached by Bill Leininger and Mike Gansmoe.

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Fund-raisers net \$38,000 this season

By **Vic Zukanoff**, *Director (fund-raising & apparel)*

The final tallies are in for this year's fund-raising events. A big thank you to all of the players who participated and to all of the parents who volunteered their time and energy to make this year's fund-raising efforts a huge success.

All totaled, our association raised \$38,303 from this year's three main fund-raising events – the pizza fundraiser, steak fry and apparel sales.

The pizza fundraiser brought in \$33,061 to our association. Brianna Zemien won the top prize for individual sales (125 items) and Kyle Robotka finished second with 100 items. The Squirt Bs sold the most as a team, with nearly \$3,000 in combined sales. Jack McDevitt won the fund-raiser drawing for four Minnesota Wild tickets.

The steak fry brought in \$4,299 in net profits and the association received \$943 in apparel sales rebates.

Plans are already being made for next season's fund-raising activities, including possible sponsorships of individual teams. If you have thoughts or ideas for other fund-raising activities, call Vic at 952-423-5336 or tell another member of the board.

Roundup

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U10s post perfect tournament record for season

The U10s finished a perfect 9-0 in tournament play this season, with their most recent championship coming in the Woodbury Sweetheart Classic in February.

The U10s opened the Woodbury tournament with wins over Willmar (10-1) and Chaska (7-1), and then overcame a 4-3 third-period deficit to defeat host Woodbury 6-4 in the championship game. Eight different players scored goals for the U10s during the Woodbury tournament and the team got strong play in nets from both of its goaltenders.

The U10s added the Woodbury trophy to their other tournament championships at the Eastview Classic in December and Buffalo in January. The U10s are 17-2 overall on the season. Coaches attribute the team's success to how well the players stay in position, pass and always go after the puck.

The U10s are coached by John Wilharm, Jay DesLauriers and Joe Schmitz.

Coaching evaluations are coming soon

By **Brooks Smith**, *Vice President (coaches selection)*

As the season wraps up, all EVHA members will receive a coaching evaluation form to complete and return. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation for each coach on your child's team(s).

Hopefully, during the season, you have felt comfortable approaching your child's coach to express your support and/or concerns. It would be unreasonable to think that there are never conflicts that arise during the season. The most important thing is that any conflicts be discussed and resolved, and that the team environment continues to be a great place to build skills, strengthen friendships and have fun.

The completed forms will be reviewed by me and other members of the board. The evaluations are important for the following reasons:

1. to identify whether coaches were effective in coaching your child's team;
2. to help us determine whether that coach should be considered for a coaching position next year, and
3. to help identify unresolved issues.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete these evaluations.

Review of tryout process underway

By **Robert Kleven**, *Director (tryout coordinator)*

The EVHA Board's Tryout Review Sub-Committee is in the process of reviewing the 2003-04 tryouts and is considering suggested changes to improve the process for next season.

Many EVHA members have provided some great feedback this season on how the tryout processes could be modified. Thank you to all that have taken the time to provide positive suggestions on how we can improve the process. The majority of the suggestions from members have centered on skills sessions, player A/B groupings and goalie evaluations. The sub-committee has already taken action to address some of these issues and will continue to work to improve the tryout process for next season.

We Want To Hear From You

Share your ideas and information for a future issue of *EVHA Slapshot* by sending an email to newsletter editors **Tony & Jenny Taschner** at tasch@unique-software.com.

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It's all about the kids ... Really!

By **Sheila Reger**, *Hockey Mom*

Recently, on the long drive back from our Squirt A tournament in Fargo, I reflected on the weekend's events. A good showing for the team (3rd place), good traveling weather, a comfortable hotel and no injuries – a successful trip by any measure!

There are other important measures of a successful tournament. Did the parents have fun? Did the players' siblings have fun? Did the parents take the opportunity to get to know each other, the coaches and the other players? This parent did and I encourage others to do the same.

Our coach and team manager did a great job planning group events where the families ate together, went swimming together and celebrated birthdays together, in addition to cheering on the team together at the games. The result – a greater sense of togetherness and community.

I value the friendships that have formed this season and will continue through the years. We won't all be part of the same team again, but will enjoy cheering for each other's children and sharing warm hellos as our paths cross from arena to arena.

Enjoy these times together and make an effort to get to know all the other families.