



IYHA Update
January 5, 2007

Happy New Year IYHA families. I hope everyone had a great holiday break. My family took a break from the ice, so we had a little bit of rust to shake off this week. But hey the good news is that I've been outside doing yard work while wearing shorts! Isn't the weather here in Ithaca Gorges!

IYHA swings back into full action this weekend. Not a lot to report on over break, but Pat Musa did send me a good story on the exploits of the Midget Snowbelt team over the past couple of weeks. Hope you enjoy it.

Snowbelt Report



The **Midget Snowbelt** team competed successfully in the annual 2006 "Maggie" Mulkerin Invitational tournament in Oswego December 1-3. In a team effort that included balanced scoring, awesome goaltending and strong defensive play, Ithaca defeated teams from Perinton, Rochester and Oswego, avenging its only opening round loss with a double OT win (7-6) over Webster in the championship game. The championship was the first youth hockey game to be played in SUNY Oswego's new facility. In the championship game, Jed Faessler scored two early goals and Matt Zapala followed suit with two goals. Ryan Musa's second goal tied the score with two minutes remaining in regulation play and Dillon Shults notched the win with his third goal, scored with a minute remaining in the second overtime.



Team members include Travis Christie, Ross Conlon, Geoff Dunk, Jed Faessler, Lance Gaines, Ross Grippin, Jim Hays, Robert Jackson, Mike Kasel, Jared Kennedy, Austin Moore, Ryan Musa, Dan Pine, Dillon Shults, Nick Tien, Noah Traunstein and Matt Zapala. The team is coached by Chris Grippin, assisted by John Gaines, Dan Rapaport and Russ Traunstein.



The team continued its undefeated record in league play the next week, tying Geneva 3-3 and beating Oswego 5-3 in a rematch of their crossover game in the previous week's tournament. In the Geneva game, Ryan Musa, Robert Kennedy and Noah Traunstein scored, with Dillon Shults assisting Robert. In the Oswego game Ross Grippin had a goal and two assists, Dillon Shults two goals and one assist. Mike Kasel and Ryan Musa each contributed a goal, with Jared Kennedy adding an assist. Jimmy Hays was selected by the Skaneateles coach as MVP.

The weekend before Christmas, the Midgets played two Q games with Camillus 1 and a strong Skaneateles team. The team beat Camillus 7-1 with another balanced scoring effort. Geoff Dunk led the team with two goals, Robert Jackson, Nick Tien, Travis Christie, Mike Kasel and Ryan Musa each contributed a goal, with assists from Ross Grippin, Matt Zapala and Jared Kennedy. On Sunday Ross Grippin celebrated his birthday with a hat trick; Ryan Musa added two goals and Matt Zapala one as Ithaca beat Skaneateles 6-4; Geoff Dunk and Nick Tien had assists.

The Midget Snowbelt team also competed in the one day Midnight Madness tourney (45 minute running time games) hosted by Skaneateles on December 28th. The team played its first game at 11am and finished the champ game at 11:30pm that evening. During the long day, they tied a C travel team from Batavia 1-1 on an unassisted goal from Mike Kasel. They beat a Webster team 8-1; Matt Zapala scored a hat trick, Nick Tien contributed two goals, with Ross Grippin, Robert Jackson and Jared

Kennedy each supplying a goal. In a very exciting game the Snowbelt team bested the Ithaca UNY team with Dillon Shults, Jared Kennedy and Nick Tien supplying goals. The Snowbelt team had enough left to overcome the Skaneateles team 2-1 in the champ game, with goals from Nick Tien and Ryan Musa. The team lost Ross Grippin to an injury during the tournament; he will be out for 6-8 weeks, recovering from a broken arm.



The Midgets closed out the month with an 8-4 Q game victory over Clinton on the 31st. Travis Christie, Jared Kennedy and Matt Zapala each had two goals, with Robert Jackson and Nick Tien contributing goals, with assists from several teammates, including goalie Austin Moore.



IYHA Midget Snowbelt

Thanks to Pat Musa for the report.

Mite/Initiation House Report



The Mites and Initiation return to the ice this weekend. Big news for this group: Our Jerseys Are In!!!!
Coaches will distribute jerseys to the players at practice.

IYHA Team Fundraisers

If your family is like mine, the weekends are just crazy driving your kids all over Ithaca and central NY to their various activities. No time to cook a good meal and you'd rather not go to the fast food joints.

Not to worry, our IYHA players have got you covered. Next weekend, the Bantam Snowbelt team has got your breakfast and the Pee Wee Snowbelt #2 team has got your dinner.



IYHA Bantams host Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 13

Sit down and "syr-up" delicious flapjacks: The IYHA Bantam Snowbelt team will host a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the new Elks Club, located at 124 Coddington Road in Ithaca. (It's the site of the former Angelina Centini's Restaurant.) Proceeds go to support the Bantam team. All tickets are \$5. For information, contact Yvonne Everhart at (607) 227-1677 or Blaine Friedlander at (607) 227-8155.

Eat dinner with the Big Red Hockey Team on Sunday, Jan. 14

The IYHA Pee Wee Snowbelt #2 hockey team will host a benefit Spaghetti Dinner at the Eagles' Club on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The dinner will feature special guests the Cornell Big Red hockey team. The Pee Wees will raffle a signed Cornell Big Red hockey stick and one week of Cornell hockey camp. Dinner Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 under 12, and those age 3 and under eat free. The Eagles Club is located behind Wegmans at 161 Cecil Malone Drive. Order dinner tickets from Blaine Friedlander at 227-8155 or from Tina Gourley at 539-7368.



I'll send out another notice on both of the benefit meals next week. But mark your calendars to come on out, get a good meal and help support our IYHA teams.

IYHA Board Meeting



The next monthly IYHA Board meeting is this Monday, January 8th at 6:00pm, at The RINK. All Association members are invited to stop by and participate. We'd really like to promote and build an inclusive, participatory youth hockey community.

Attending the meeting doesn't mean you're going to end up on a committee! But it's very helpful to the Board members to have hockey parents in attendance to hear the planning discussions and to offer input and feedback. So come on out and get involved in your child's youth hockey program.

Wrapping It Up

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Ross Grippin. Ross has been a terrific IYHA player, a great team mate and a fun guy. We all look forward to seeing you back on the ice.

Once again, welcome back everyone. We've got a lot of hockey ahead of us with league play in full swing and plenty of tournament action coming up. See you around the rinks ----- Rick Kuhar