



## IYHA Update January 24, 2007

Hello again out there in IYHA Hockey Land! Are we having fun this season or what? From Initiation to Midgets, we're playing lots of hockey and traveling all over Central NY, drinking gallons of rink coffee and cocoa. How many of you Initiation/Mite parents have calluses on your pinky fingers yet from tying skate laces?

Here's our report for this week.....

### Travel and UNY Reports



**Pee Wee Travel** picked up three wins over the weekend. The team beat Skaneateles at home 5-1 on Saturday. On Sunday, the team went on the road to overwhelm Skaneateles 11-1, and then ventured up to Syracuse to take a tough match with Syracuse AAA '95 6-4.

In Saturday's victory, Teo Camadella led the way with 2 goals and 2 assists, while Chuckie Benedict contributed 2 goals and an assist. Kengo Onishi added a goal and Jeffrey Kirkwood, Michael Abdulky and Kevin Bilinski each dished out assists. In the goal, Danny Leonardo blocked 9 shots.

Sunday's rematch with Skaneateles was also led by Camadella with 4 goals and 2 assists, and Benedict with 2 goals, 2 assists. Dan McGill also had a big game with 2 goals and 4 big assists. Adding to the scoring were Ryan Emerson (1 goal), Bilinski (1 goal, 1 assist), Keenan Hughes (1 goal, 1 assist) and Sam Currie (1 assist). Leonardo tended the nets again and recorded 20 saves.

In Sunday's second game, it was the Dynamic Duo again with Camadella's 2 goals, 3 assists and Benedict's 3 goals. Emerson chipped in a goal while Onishi and Kirkwood added assists. Wes Feeney picked up the victory in goal (sorry, didn't get a save count).

*Thanks to Marsha Emerson for the report.*

## Mite/Initiation House Report



Here's the results from another exciting weekend of Mite House League play.

**Certified Properties of Tompkins County** edged **Reamer's Recycling** 2-1 in a hard fought battle that went down to the wire. Collin Case and Nick Miller scored for CPTC. Bailee

Brekke finished off a rebound from a Jaeyoon Shin shot for Reamer's only goal. CPTC received some strong offense from Jack Salmon and Nick Pagliaro who just missed on a couple of shots. Julie Miettunen, Madison Gneo and Griffin Varricchio also played excellent two way hockey for CPTC. Once again Devon DiMarco was solid in goal for CPTC with 10 saves.

Reamer's featured some great efforts from forwards Brian Conuel, Jack Travis and Alex Zavaski who each had scoring chances during the game. Connor Thayer made several great saves in goal for Reamer's.

In a well matched game, **Papa John's** managed to outscore **McCarthy Builders** 5-2. Sam Roach had sharp heads up play with an assist to Scott Partington on PJ's first goal and Andrew Troy on PJ's third goal. Sam put the puck in the net himself for PJ's second goal (that one assisted by Scott). Andrew had a beautiful centering pass from the left corner to Scott for PJ's fourth goal. Drew Goldberg was credited with his first goal of the season after a fast break up the left side of the ice. Sophie Partington played a strong game at center and had the fans on the edge of their seats with a "ping" just on the outside of the goal post in the second period. Nick John was especially quick on offense (thanks to his hard work and nice new skates!). Walker Gruen put in an excellent showing in his debut in goal for Papa John's.

On Sunday, the **Mite B/C Team** traveled up to Onondaga to play at the Nation Rink. Ithaca's Bears overwhelmed the Red Hawks 9-0. During the game, Ithaca forward Bailee Brekke replicated the NHL's Bill Mosienko's historic feat by scoring three goals on one shift! Brekke finished the game with a total of four goals while Graham Mandl and Collin Case added two each and Walker Gruen chipped in one. Devon DiMarco blocked everything that came his way to pick up the shutout in goal. Other players contributing to the team's success included: Alex Bahar, James Cronin, Madison Gneo, Daniel Halpern, Cameron Hartman, Richie Kuhar, Duncan McAllister, Keane Niday, CJ Smiley and Griffin Varricchio.

Here's a word from **Initiation Program** Head Coach Walter Hang:



While coaching youth hockey the last eight seasons, I have witnessed incredible goals, diving saves and games won in the final seconds. Yet nothing has been more thrilling than seeing our youngest IYHA players jump on the ice each week to skate their hearts out. At our first Initiation practice, dozens of skaters clung to coaches or chairs as they inched along the ice. Now practically every player skates from end to end, launches into Superman dives, jumps the blue lines and skips over sticks while busting out of Turtle Island Jail. For the first half of the season, players worked in three skill groups. They were just divided into four balanced teams and now use a quarter sheet of ice for 40 minutes, working on forward and backward skating, stopping and stick handling. Teams scrimmage the last 20 minutes from the blue line in. Those



who are not playing work on skills at center ice. This Saturday, pictures were taken of our teams looking invincible in their new jerseys. In the years ahead, parents will gaze upon these photos of their impossibly young, earnest hockey players and fondly recall their first practices. I know that I will. Thanks to everyone who has helped make our season so much fun.

### IYHA Team Fundraisers



Hey IYHA parents, friends, coaches and players: So what's your favorite IYHA news reporter wear when he wants to go out "styling"? Why an official IYHA Hockey Scarf ----- of course! This is a great way to show your IYHA Team Spirit....at home and on the road. And it makes a great accessory when you're wearing your IYHA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary apparel.

The IYHA Scarf is a bargain at \$5.00 each....buy one for every member of your family! The scarves are a fundraiser to benefit the IYHA Pee Wee Snowbelt #1 Team. They are on sale at selected home IYHA and CU games, or contact: Beth McKinney ([bm20@cornell.edu](mailto:bm20@cornell.edu) or 607-277-3830)

## Photos



Any **Mite** or **Initiation** player that missed photos last week, the photographer will be available to take your photo Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00am @ The Rink.

And for anyone that has already had their photo taken, your photos are ready to be picked up. Please see Tim McKinney Saturday morning. Cost for the individual and team photo is \$12.

For the **Recreation League**, Tim and Myra will show up at the game on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, to take your team photo.

## IHYA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala - Save the Date!



The Ithaca Youth Hockey Association will wrap up its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a gala celebration on Friday, March 30, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Ithaca Beer and Soda Company on



Elmira Road. Our host for the evening will be IYHA coach and Ithaca Beer owner Dan Mitchell, and we will have the opportunity to sample a variety of Ithaca Beer and Soda products, paired with terrific food that will please all palates. It promises to be a celebration to remember, so be sure to save the date - Friday, March 30. Additional details will be coming soon!

## Wrapping It Up

Forgive me for getting a little sentimental here.... Last weekend, I got a chance to skate in an adult hockey game with my oldest son Robert for the first time ever. Reading Walter Hang's comments on Initiation hockey brought back some great memories of our introduction to youth hockey when as a novice parent helper I played lots of Freeze Tag and Turtle Jail with

five year old Robert and his friends. Helping these kids learn how to take their first strides, stops and crossovers.

After all these years of development, it's really cool to have your child play alongside of you as a peer. It gives me great satisfaction to have hockey as a common bond between us, something we do together, father and son... coach and player... team mates. There are so many IYHA coaches and parents who play a little hockey. I hope you get a chance to play the game with your child someday. I think you'll understand what I'm talking about.

See you around the rinks ----- Rick Kuhar