

Disabled Hockey Section Report
September 1st, 2010

USA Hockey Disabled Section:

Junior National sled team to scrimmage Junior Canadian team:

Conversations are currently in the works to bring the Junior National Sled Team to Minnesota in March of 2011 for a weekend scrimmage against the Junior Canadian Sled team. The proposed site will be the Schwan's Super Rink as a pre-cursor to the USA Disabled Hockey Festival being held in that same location.

2011 National Sled Championships:

The USA Disabled Festival in Blaine will be host to the first USA national Sled championships. 8 teams will play in 2 tiers, based on league play and committee rankings. One championship will be awarded in each tier. There will be a third division, the USA division, for those teams who wish to participate in the disabled festival in tournament play at an open level.

USA Disabled Hockey Sled Classic sponsored by the NHL:

In October 2010, the Pepsi Center and the Colorado Avalanche will host the first sled classic sponsored by the NHL. Teams must be affiliated with their NHL team, must wear their jerseys and use their name. Sponsorship will be determined on a team by team basis. Only teams with NHL affiliation will be allowed to play. More information will be available once the 2010-11 season schedule is released. Minnesota will not be participating this year due to funding but will look to join the event in 2011.

How to start a new program manual:

USA Disabled section is completing a manual and accompanying DVD on how to start a program. The project should be completed by the end of the summer and ready for the upcoming season.



2011 Disabled Festival:

The committee for the 2011 Disabled festival continues to meet to prepare for next years event. The festival will take place at the Super Rink in Blaine, MN, April 1-3, 2011. Anyone interested in assisting with this

event (before we call and ask you) can send an e-mail to tonio@dakcom.org.

Sled hockey rules:

New rules for the National Sled Hockey Championships, league play and the youth festival were created at the June Congress. These will be made available to all teams in the next month. Many of these rules will effect the registration process so it is important to get these out to teams prior to the start of the season.

Steve Cash receives ESPY award as Disabled Athlete of the Year:

For the uninitiated, sled hockey is exactly what it sounds like. The players strap their legs into a sled and propel themselves with their arms, using two shortened sticks rather than the single stick ice hockey players use. These athletes have the otherworldly upper-body strength that only hosses like me possess.

They didn't just win. They dominated. Steven was the starting goaltender for a team that didn't allow a goal in the entire damn tournament, outscoring the opposition 19-0. And for his efforts, Steven earned the ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) award for Best Male Athlete with a Disability.

Steven's been skating ever since he was five and playing inline hockey since he was ten, but he didn't start sled hockey until he was 14. "I was at a local inline hockey tournament when the local sled hockey coach, Mike Dowling, approached me asking me if I wanted to try out sled hockey. I came out to the Wentzville Ice Arena that weekend and fell in love with it," he says. After a tournament in Detroit, the national coach approached him and offered him a tryout. By June 2005, he was the backup for the U.S. national team, in time to make the trip to Torino for the 2006 Paralympic games, where the team earned a bronze medal.

Entire article can be found at <http://www.reviewstl.com/reviewstl-talks-to-steven-cash-2010-espy-winner072010/>



Sled hockey:

Midwest Sled Hockey league-adult program

The dates are set for the second year of the Midwest Sled League.

Nov 19-21 – Austin, Tx

Jan 7-9 - St Louis

Feb 11-13 - Minnesota

Mar 4-6 - Chicago

The team has been practicing over the summer and will have almost double the players they have had in the previous year. For one year only, the Midwest League will include teams from Colorado, Utah and Arizona to assist them with re-energizing their own league.

Sled Hockey-youth program

The youth season starts November 7th. They are looking for first year squirt teams to play our youth team. They will provide sleds for the visiting team to use.



Special Hockey:

Two new programs to be added for the 2010-11 season

Minnesota Special Hockey will be adding another metro area team along with a team in the Moorhead area. Our teams continue to grow and we are hoping to continue to expand to meet the needs of our players.

Minnesota Special Hockey Kick off skate

Again this year, Minnesota Special Hockey will hold a kick off skate for the season at Marriucci Arena. This open skate will be held on Sunday October 17th at 2pm. More information will be available on their website.

Section 108 Golf Tournament:

The Section 108 Golf tournament was held the last weekend in August, with all proceeds going to support Minnesota Special Hockey. Over \$7000 was raised at this years event.

Stand up-amputee Hockey: No report from this program at this time.

New initiatives:



Minnesota Warriors program

Home ice secured: The City of Vadnais Heights has welcomed to Warriors to their new rink, and have generously donated 3 hours of ice time each week for the program. The new rink, to open in November, will have 2 sheets of ice, one that will be permanently sled accessible. We are honored to have Vadnais Heights as our home rink!!!

Fundraising: The Minnesota Warriors are thrilled to announce that they have received 2 grants. The first comes from USA Disabled Hockey for \$5000 and will be used to purchase jerseys and socks for our newly formed team. The second comes from the International Paralympic Committee for \$13,000 and will purchase equipment for our program. We continue to vigorously pursue funding as the goal of the Warriors program is to provide FREE hockey to our returning vets in thanks for the service they have selflessly given to our country.

Minnesota Wild Disabled Hockey Night

Once again, the Wild will be hosting Disabled Hockey this year to highlight Disabled Hockey in Minnesota. This will occur at the Sept 22nd game against the Blues. Players will be selling programs, skating the flag to center ice, announcing the Let's Play Hockey and skating between each intermission. Alexi Salomone from the USA Gold medal sled team will be there to assist with the evening. We will be highlighting the Disabled Festival during the night.

Respectfully submitted;
Antonia O'Brien

USA Disabled Hockey Representative
Minnesota District