

2014 Minnesota Hockey Winter Meeting
HEP Committee report
Submitted by Steve Morse-Chair

Coaching Excellence Event: On December 4, we hosted the Coaching Excellence Award nominees from the past two seasons at a Minnesota Wild practice, and a lunch at Tom Reid's. We had about 15 coaches in attendance, and expected more but many were deterred by a huge snowstorm that day.

Those in attendance got to watch the Wild practice and also got to meet Wild Head Coach Mike Yeo afterward. They were then treated to lunch where Dave Margenau, Steve Morse and Dr. Gulon, President of Park Dental thanked them. Park Dental is the presenting partner of the Coaching Excellence Award and they had four representatives at the practice/lunch. They came away very pleased and said Minnesota Hockey "is a great brand to be associated with."

We will make sure that those that were stuck in the snow and couldn't make the event will be invited back next year.

HEP Essay presented by Park Dental: We have selected our three HEP Essay finalists – Joslin Mumm from Coon Rapids 10U A, Owen Faste from Chisago Lakes Squirt C and Cameron Pietrusa from Hermantown Squirt B – for the 2013 HEP Essay Contest presented by Park Dental. The three finalists were at the Wild game on December 17 to record their voiceovers for the essays. Their videos will be shown during the FSN broadcast of Hockey Day Minnesota on January 18, with the winner being announced later that night.

On a side note: Danny Lilya, the 2011 HEP Essay winner, had his Wild "dream day" at Xcel Energy Center with ice time and a 50-person suite at the Wild game on December 29th. Sam Lahl, our winner from last year, had his "dream day" January 2nd.

Education and communication: The HEP committee continues ongoing discussions in an effort to refine our role and mission in the changing ADM and LTAD environment. There is agreement that the committee's primary role has evolved into the development, implementation, and communication of parent education as it relates to participation in Minnesota Hockey programs. Communication of the how and why to parents in support of the mission of Minnesota Hockey, Hockey Operations, and the ADM/MDM programs, etc. Also, providing local associations with the means to educate parents on best practices with young athletes will enhance the positive experience for the players, parents, coaches, referees, and all involved.

We are making arrangements to host USA Hockey representatives with the purpose of sharing ideas and learning how we can avoid duplication of efforts in the development and marketing of educational materials. This meeting is tentatively planned for January 22nd pending travel schedules of USA Hockey reps.