



Hockey Talk

Q&A with the Blackhawks Director of Hockey Operations



Poinsettia Fundraiser

Poinsettia sales went very well - we ordered over 1700 plants this year! Bantam A sold the most plants with over 300. Bantam A sales were led by Logan Baer who sold 138 plants. Logan, wearing #90, is a defenseman with an "A" on his jersey. Logan is a freshman at Liberty High School in Brentwood where he earns straight A's. Nice work Logan! Next years club goal is to exceed 2000. Many thanks to ex-Hawk Vince-the-Plant-Guy for making it happen again. Thanks to Mike Serverian for coordinating, and to those who helped with the distribution: Frank Castronovo, Joyce Takahashi, Mike King, Dallas Baer, and Cindy Roth.

One Timers



The **Bantam AA's** took team travel to a new level and headed to Anaheim for CAHA weekend #2 in style. The team rented a 52 passenger bus, loaded with players, coaches, parents and hockey gear, and headed down to Anaheim....

The Blackhawks welcome **Karl Schoech**, the new **Midget 18** coach...

We have **6 teams** participating in the Pacific District US Regional **Silver Stick Tournament** in San Jose over Thanksgiving weekend! Check out the schedule at <http://stats.liahl.org/display-stats?league=19>

On November 8, our **Mites** (below) played in their first Norcal Jamboree! The Mites fielded 2 smaller teams, one team of 6 and 7 year olds, and another with 7 and 8 year olds.

Q: What are some gift ideas for the hockey enthusiast?

A: Holiday gift giving can be about cool hockey toys! For the Mites and Squirts, a knee hockey set is essential. Two plastic (2' x 3') nets and a couple of sticks and balls will get you hundreds of hours of indoor fun and, believe it or not, some pretty good training of the hands, the wrist muscles, and the timing and coordination needed to stick handle and shoot well on the ice. And if your little winger has been good all year, you can even upgrade to the knee hockey sticks in the "pro style", like a miniature little version of a pro Bauer Vapor stick with a P88 Patrick Kane curve! And don't be surprised if your PW doesn't get some life out of this set-up, too.

For PW and Bantams, you want to try to make the necessary reps of stickhandling and shooting more fun at home! I'd suggest the Fast Hands stickhandling trainer. It's a pretty cool looking half of an octagon made out of red steel tubing that sits on short feet about 3 or 4 inches off the ground. The feet, combined with the horizontal tubing gives you a series of connected "gaps" between the feet that you can stickhandle a ball or puck through. You stand in the opening of the half-octagon with your stick-handling gear and let it rip. Each gap is numbered sequentially, so there's a high level of creativity and novelty involved in stickhandling in and out of the numbered gaps in all kinds of numeric patterns.

And if your player does a lot of shooting in the back yard or garage, I'd recommend the Millenium Pro Pucks. A bit expensive, but usually very durable and very practical. Shooting a regulation black puck off a low-friction surface (smooth concrete floor, or piece of linoleum, etc... that you lay down) is OK, but in my experience the added friction (very few things are as slippery as ice!) makes the pucks feel heavy and clunky when you shoot them. Particularly with the younger players. The Pro pucks are a bit lighter (4 oz vs. 6 oz), and have a soft rubbery, real-puck feel to them, not like the hard plastic clacking of some roller pucks. I've found that the combo of a Pro-puck off a smooth concrete floor, or a low-friction board is very similar in feel to shooting a real puck on the ice. Plus they come in a range of pretty cool colors!



Holiday Soft Goods Sales

The club will be selling soft goods on December 10 and 11 from 5:30 – 9:00pm at the Fremont rink. Pick up some Blackhawks gear for the holidays! We will have shorts, black sweatshirts, pajama pants, cinch sacks, t-shirts, embroidered sweatshirts, and hats.

What's the Call



Q: When I see the referee make the following call, it looks like the referee is holding an invisible stick over his head. I assume it is a high sticking call. But sometimes a player goes in the penalty box and other times the ref just whistles the play dead. What am I missing?



A: High-sticking is called for 2 different infractions when a play is made with the stick is in an elevated position (e.g. above the shoulders or the cross-bar). A penalty is assessed if a player makes contact with another player with a high stick. The high-sticking player serves 2 minutes for that penalty. A stoppage in play results when the stick is in an elevated position and the player makes contact with the puck and the team who touched the puck gains control of the puck. However, play will continue if a player touches the puck with a high stick but the opposing team gains control off the puck.



In our next issue..... What is Junior Hockey?

Dr. Ron's Dining Digs

The annual Silver Stick tournament is upon us, and Blackhawk teams will be battling in both San Jose and Fremont for the coveted Silver Stick banner. Here are a variety of local dining options to get you through the tournament.



Best Seafood: The Boiling Crab: 71 Curtner Ave. San Jose. Try the fresh Dungeness Crab, shrimp and clams with the Whole Sha-Bang sauce. Wait can be long so call to check.



Best Donuts: Psycho Donuts; 288 S. Second St., San Jose. The Canadian Morning Squeal Meal - a buttermilk bar topped with maple icing, bacon bits and chocolate drizzle.



Best Coffee: Philz Coffee: 118 Paseo de San Antonio Walk, San Jose. Simple coffee, worth the wait.



Best Ramen: Ramen Taka: 2219 The Alameda, Santa Clara. Don't forget a side order of the gyoza.



Best Authentic Vietnamese Chicken: Com Ga Nam An: 348 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose. Grilled chicken with rice. Simple and super tasty.



Best West Coast version of Poutine: Little Chef Counter: 87 N. San Pedro St., San Jose, at San Pedro Square. Pork Belly Poutine - pan roasted pork belly, spicy cheese curds, with house gravy.



Best Brewery close to rink for quick craft beer during dryland: Hermitage Brewery: 1627 S. 7th St., San Jose. For the hop lovers, try the Single Hop IPAs.

Good luck to all the Blackhawk teams and get out and explore the local eateries.



Happy Thanksgiving

From your SCVHA Board
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