

DIRECTOR, HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS REPORT FOR MINNESOTA HOCKEY MTG. 9/20/15

1) 2014-15 Year End Re-Cap

- Set a girl's hockey state tournament attendance record for the 2015 MSHSL Girls Hockey State Tournament with a **paid attendance of 21,365**. This attendance was up 7,500 from the previous year. This was due in part to revising the final day schedule so the Class A and Class AA were played back-to-back in the evening session. Hockey fans were able to watch both championship games for the price of one session. The 2016 MSHSL Girls Hockey Tournament will have the same format.
- The MGHCA awarded **three \$1000 scholarships**. Lauren Topor was awarded the Premier Prep league scholarship. Jade Ye was awarded the Adrenaline Fundraising scholarship and Marina Chapman was awarded the Charlie Stryker scholarship.
- Produced the first ever **U18 Festival** for players who were juniors in high school but were too old for the other High Performance 16/17 programs. Approximately 68 players were selected to participate in the event. Twenty players were then chosen from this pool of players to represent Minnesota U18 team at the National Invitational Tournament at Braemar Ice Arena in Edina. This replaces the former Junior Festival and the High School Showcase that was held during the summer months. The U18 Festival was run in conjunction with the High School Senior Classic.
- The 17th annual **High School Senior Classic** was held at the Super Rink in Blaine. This tournament is a signature event for the MGHCA each spring. These games are well attended with 200-300 people in attendance for each game. No admission is charged for all spectators. The skill level and speed in these games is very exciting to watch. Section 2 beat Section 4 in the championship game 3-2.
- The **Ms Hockey Banquet** was again a year-end highlight for many of our players. There were over 600 people in attendance for the 2015 event. Taylor Williamson from Edina was named Ms. Hockey and Frances Marshall from Thief River Falls was named the LPH Senior Goalie of the Year. Tom Maeckelbergh was awarded the Brano Stankovsky Award for his contributions to the MGHCA and its programs. Steve Guider from Blaine and Whitney Restemeyer from Thief River Falls were named as state coaches of the year for Class AA and A respectively.
- The MN Senior NIT team lost in the championship game for the second consecutive year to Team Wisconsin at the MN Hockey/CCM National Invitational Tournament at Braemar Arena in Edina. The MN U18 team captured 3rd place for the second consecutive year.

2) Important Events and Dates for 2015-16 Season

- October 9-10, 2015 – MGHCA Fall Clinic, Schwan Center, Blaine, MN
- October 9, 2015 – MGHCA Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet
- October 26, 2015 - Girls High School Season Opens
- February 17-20, 2016 – Girl High School State Tournament
- February 21, 2016 – Ms. Hockey Banquet, St Paul, MN
- February 26-28, 2016 – Senior Classic and U18 Festival
- July 2-8, 2016 – MSHSL Coaches No Contact Period

3) Discussion/Action Items

- A. There has been some discussion among high school coaches regarding the new pilot change in age classification from U14 to U15 for girls. A few high school coaches feel that the change to the U15 age format will actually hurt their programs in the long run. The MGHCA has planned to have this as one of their round table discussions at the Fall Clinic. It appears many of the high school coaches are not even aware of the age classification change. It is our plan to report back to MN Hockey after the Fall Clinic with a synopsis of what was discussed and the overall positive and negative impacts on both youth and high school hockey in the state.
- B. The President of MN Hockey asked me to look at the possibility of sending a team from Minnesota to the America's Showcase high school tournament in Pittsburgh next April. After consulting with a number of girls high school coaches, the MN Hockey High Performance and Hockey Op's committees, it was determined that the costs of attending the event outweighed any benefits derived from our attendance at the tournament. One of the biggest factors that came into play was the absences on school days to attend and the overall cost to the participant. Another factor was number of participating teams at the girls level. There were only six teams for the 2015 event.
- C. The number of high school teams and players continues to decrease. For this coming season, the MSHSL will have a decrease in three high school girl's hockey programs. Coon Rapids is forming a co-op with Spring Lake Park, St Louis Park is now a co-op with Hopkins HS, and Lake of the Woods will not field a team this year. The total number of high school programs this season will be 117, down from a high of 127 teams. This is still an upside down pyramid as the number of girl's U14 teams for the 2014-15 season was approximately 56 teams. This quotient of youth to high school teams is not a healthy scenario for the future. The MSHSL data points out that girls hockey had the second largest declines in numbers of participants over the past few years. (For the 2014-15 season there were 245 participating schools that represented 120 varsity programs. There were 3784 total participants last season. That is a decline of almost 10% from the 2007-08 season which had 4156 participants.) On the plus side, Minnesota still leads the nation in the number of teams and players at the high school level. The topic of how to grow the girl's game will be a roundtable discussion item at the fall clinic.
- D. The overlapping dates of the high school state tournament and MN Hockey Region play-offs continues to be an issue with getting spectators to the MSHSL state tournament. It is the hope that the District Directors, Regional VPs and the MN Hockey Tournament Committee personnel continue to work this problem so we can give the younger players an opportunity to attend the state tourney without having to worry about conflicting schedules. This has been done for the boys schedules. It would be appropriate for this to take place for the girls as well.

4. Premier Prep League Update

PREMIER PREP LEAGUE

WEEKEND #1

The first weekend of the 2015 PPL season was extremely positive. North Dakota Elite paced the group, as they raced out to a 3-0-1 record in their first four games. Team Grey led the league teams with a perfect 2-0-0 start. The entire weekend was extremely competitive and the level of play was quite impressive.

There were great crowds and a sprinkling of scouts in the stands as the league kicked off. Britta Curl of North Dakota leads the early scoring race over last year's champion, Jessica Bird of Moose Lake and Emily Ach of North Metro. Madison Fleming of Minnetonka sparked Team Red (U16) to a 1-1-0 start with three points in two games and a nice 4-0 win over their U16 counterpart, Team White. In the net, Molly Scarborough (Black / Anoka), Marit Larson (Purple / North St Paul) and Halley Fine (Gold / Blake) did not surrender a goal in their first weekend of play.

In addition to ten games, the first weekend also included ten team practices. Our coaches pieced together 45 minute training sessions for their squads that included up tempo, competitive drills and small area games.

Our first two goalie training sessions were also a big success. Mitch Baker, Adam Gronlund and the PGD staff led our league goalies through stations for puck handling, net play and other skill work. They are also utilizing the Double Blue Sports video evaluation program so our goalies can have tangible and instant feedback on their training sessions.

Weekend #2 features twelve games at the Schwan's Super Rink as we welcome Team Wyoming and a return visit for North Dakota Elite. For complete schedule and rosters, please visit our website: <http://www.mghca.com/page/show/115691-premier-prep-development-league> or contact League Director Jessica Christopherson: Jessica.Christophers@anoka.k12.mn.us. You can follow the Premier Prep League on Twitter at @PremierPrepHock



PREMIER PREP LEAGUE SCHEDULE



Last revised 08/26/2015

Date	Teams	Practice	Game	Rink
September 12	Gold 2, North Dakota 3	10:45 – 11:30am	11:45 – 1:00pm	Super Rink 5
	Red 1, Black 3	1:00 – 1:45pm	2:00 – 3:15pm	Super Rink 6
	Purple 4, Royal 3	1:15 – 2:00pm	2:15 – 3:30pm	Super Rink 5
	GOALIES	3:30 – 4:15pm	X	Super Rink 6
	Grey 5, Green 3	4:30 – 5:15pm	5:30 – 6:45pm	Super Rink 6
	North Dakota 4, White 3	5:00 – 5:45pm	6:00 – 7:15pm	Super Rink 5
September 13	Black 3, North Dakota 3	9:30 – 10:15am	10:30 – 11:45am	Super Rink 5
	Grey 2, Royal 0	9:45 – 10:30am	10:45 – 12:00pm	Super Rink 6
	GOALIES	12:00 – 12:45pm	X	Super Rink 5
	Green 0, North Dakota 8	1:00 – 1:45pm	2:00 – 3:15pm	Super Rink 5
	Red 4, White 0	1:30 – 2:15pm	2:30 – 3:45pm	Super Rink 6
	Gold 4, Purple 1	4:00 – 4:45pm	5:00 – 6:15pm	Super Rink 6
September 16	Skills Session - RSVP	6:50 – 7:50pm	X	Highland North – St Paul
September 19	Red v North Dakota	X	2:00 – 3:15pm	Super Rink 7
	Royal v Wyoming	X	2:15 – 3:30pm	Super Rink 6
	Gold v White	X	3:15 – 4:30pm	Super Rink 5
	Green v Black	X	3:30 – 4:45pm	Super Rink 7
	Purple v North Dakota	X	4:10 – 5:25pm	Super Rink 8
	Grey v Wyoming	X	4:45 – 6:00pm	Super Rink 5
September 20	Black v Wyoming	X	10:00 – 11:15am	Super Rink 6
	Royal v North Dakota	X	10:30 – 11:45am	Super Rink 7
	White v Green	X	11:30 – 12:45pm	Super Rink 6
	Red v Gold	X	12:00 – 1:15pm	Super Rink 7
	Purple v Wyoming	X	1:00 – 2:15pm	Super Rink 6
	Grey v North Dakota	X	1:30 – 2:45pm	Super Rink 7
September 23	Skills Sessions -	5:15 – 6:15pm	X	Farmington
	Choose one & RSVP	6:30 – 7:30pm	X	Vadnais Rink 1
September 26	White v South Dakota	X	3:15 – 4:30pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 2
	Purple v Grey	X	3:30 – 4:45pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 1
	Gold v Black	X	4:45 – 6:00pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 2
	Royal v Red	X	5:00 – 6:15pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 1
	Green v South Dakota	X	6:15 – 7:30pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 2
September 27	Gold v South Dakota	X	9:45 – 11:00am	Bloomington Ice Garden 1
	Black v Grey	X	10:00 – 11:15am	Bloomington Ice Garden 2
	Purple v White	X	11:15 – 12:30pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 1
	Green v Royal	X	11:30 – 12:45pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 2
	Red v South Dakota	X	12:45 – 2:00pm	Bloomington Ice Garden 1
	NCAA Panel	X	2:00pm	BIG 3 Lobby
October 3	Black v Purple	X	10:30 – 11:45am	Ridder Arena
	White v Royal	X	12:00 – 1:15pm	Ridder Arena
	NCAA Panel	X	1:30 – 2:45pm	Ridder Arena Club Room
	Green v Red	X	3:00 – 4:15pm	Ridder Arena
	Grey v Gold	X	4:30 – 5:45pm	Ridder Arena
October 4	Royal v Black	X	9:00 – 10:15am	Ridder Arena
	Grey v White	X	10:30 – 11:45am	Ridder Arena
Player Appreciation	Green v Gold	X	12:00 – 1:15pm	Ridder Arena
Ridder Club Room	Red v Purple	X	1:30 – 2:45pm	Ridder Arena

October 10	White v North Dakota	10:00 – 10:45am	11:00 – 12:15pm	Super Rink 5
	Black v South Dakota	10:15 – 11:00am	11:15 – 12:30pm	Super Rink 6
	GOALIES	12:30 – 1:15pm	X	Super Rink 5
	Grey v Red	1:30 – 2:15pm	2:30 – 3:45pm	Super Rink 5
	Purple v Green	2:00 – 2:45pm	3:00 – 4:15pm	Super Rink 6
	Gold v North Dakota	4:00 – 4:45pm	5:00 – 6:15pm	Super Rink 5
	Royal v South Dakota	4:30 – 5:15pm	5:30 – 6:45pm	Super Rink 6
October 11	Purple v South Dakota	X	9:45 – 11:00am	Super Rink 6
	Red v North Dakota	X	10:00 – 11:15am	Super Rink 5
	GOALIES	11:30 – 12:15pm	X	Super Rink 5
	Black v White	X	12:30 – 1:45pm	Super Rink 5
	Grey v South Dakota	X	1:00 – 2:15pm	Super Rink 6
	Green v North Dakota	X	2:00 – 3:15pm	Super Rink 5
	Gold v Royal	X	2:30 – 3:45pm	Super Rink 6
October 14	3 v 3 Games -	7:15 – 8:15pm	X	Drake Arena – St Paul
	Choose one & RSVP	8:15 – 9:15pm	X	Brooklyn Park CC
October 17	White v Green	X	5:15 – 6:30pm	Super Rink 8
	Red v Black	X	5:30 – 6:45pm	Super Rink 7
	Gold v Purple	X	6:45 – 8:00pm	Super Rink 8
	Royal v Grey	X	7:00 – 8:15pm	Super Rink 7
October 18	Purple v Royal	10:05 – 10:50am	11:05 – 12:20pm	Super Rink 8
	Green v Black	10:20 – 11:05am	11:20 – 12:35pm	Super Rink 7
	GOALIES	12:35 – 1:20pm	X	Super Rink 8
NCAA Session	Grey v Gold	1:30 – 2:15pm	2:30 – 3:45pm	Super Rink 7
	White v Red	1:50 – 2:35pm	2:50 – 4:05pm	Super Rink 8
LEAGUE TOURNAMENT				
October 24				
	Seed 1 v Seed 8	(Game 1)	11:00 – 12:30pm	Super Rink 6
	Seed 4 v Seed 5	(Game 2)	11:30 – 1:00pm	Super Rink 5
	Seed 2 v Seed 7	(Game 3)	12:45 – 2:15pm	Super Rink 6
	Seed 3 v Seed 6	(Game 4)	1:15 – 2:45pm	Super Rink 5
	L gm 1 v L gm 2	(Game 5)	6:00 – 7:30pm	Super Rink 6
	W gm 1 v W gm 2	(Game 6)	6:15 – 7:45pm	Super Rink 5
	L gm 3 v L gm 4	(Game 7)	7:45 – 9:15pm	Super Rink 6
	W gm 3 v W gm 4	(Game 8)	8:00 – 9:30pm	Super Rink 5
October 25				
	L gm 5 v L gm 7	Friendship	10:00 – 11:30am	Super Rink 5
	W gm 5 v W gm 7	Consolation	10:30 – 12:00pm	Super Rink 6
	L gm 6 v L gm 8	Third Place	11:45 – 1:15pm	Super Rink 5
	W gm 6 v W gm 8	Championship	12:15 – 1:45pm	Super Rink 6

5. Final Thoughts

It is the hope of the Minnesota Girls Hockey Coaches Association that we, the MGHCA and MN Hockey can continue to improve all of girls hockey now and in the future. I have been a MN Hockey Board member since January of 1997 and have been fortunate enough to have seen and been part of the growth and improvement of both the youth and high school programs across the state. This is the result of the many dedicated volunteers, coaches and players. I have been coaching high school hockey now for the past 23 years and I am excited as ever for the season to get under way. Let's Play Hockey!!

Respectfully submitted by Tim Morris, Girls HS Director, MN Hockey