

EJEPL Monthly Review

Issue 5...Playoff Edition

News for the Month of February, 2018

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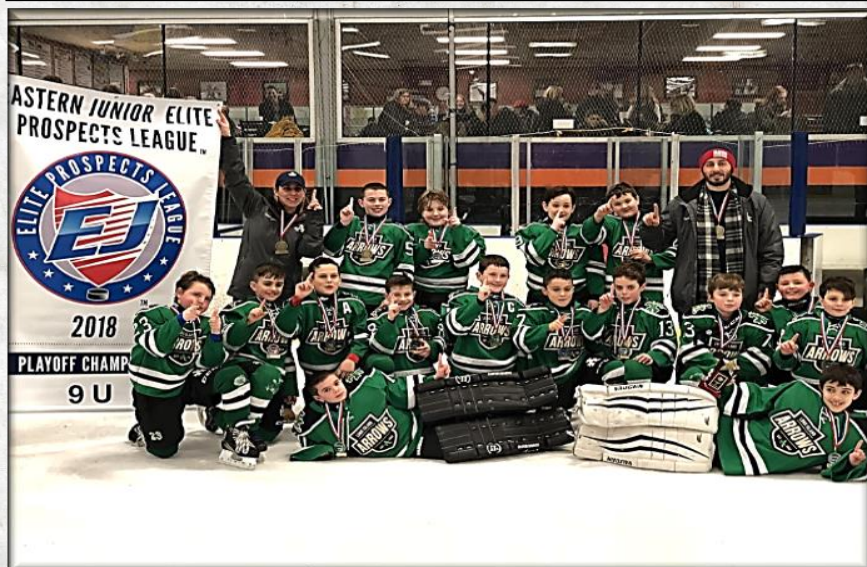
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OUR STARTING LINEUP



The Long Island Arrows are 9u Diamond Division Champions as they defeated the Nassau County Lions in OT on February 3rd by a score of 1-0 at IceWorks Skating Complex

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Sports without Sportsmanship is a Hollow Activity

February represents the stretch run for most high school hockey seasons. In other words, this is the time of the season when coaches tend to get hyper-focused on winning, whether it's simply to make the playoffs, or to get a better postseason seed. Far too often, I've seen coaches lose their composure, and their sense of sportsmanship. And if a coach loses sight of the overriding values that this game is supposed to impart, what can we expect of the players? Last spring, I watched with serious concern and consternation as a local girls hockey coach went on a Twitter rant when his team lost a playoff game, in a shootout, against a lower-seeded squad. The game-winning goal might (or might not) have been hit a second time by the shooter. Hockey fans, coaches and refs know that, in a penalty shot scenario, a player can't touch the puck a second time after its shot. In this case, the refs ruled that the puck wasn't hit twice, which ended the game.



Afterward, the coach of the losing squad took to Twitter to vent. Here's a sampling: "They blew the call and I could tell they knew it."; "The player clearly saw the puck laying there after the initial attempt, instincts tell her to tip it again. Bad bad call."; "Why are the officials out of position? Horrible." Now, I understand in this day and age, Twitter allows people — even our highest-ranking elected official — to go complain publicly whenever they feel like it. But I was clearly disheartened by the obvious lack of class, and the total absence of sportsmanship, on display in the coach's tweets. To make matters worse, some players on the coach's team apparently followed his lead. At least one team captain refused to take part in the handshake line after what had been an outstanding girls high school hockey game. That's such a shame. After all, we're talking a girls hockey game. Yes, the games are important, especially a playoff game. But that's exactly when sportsmanship is supposed to trump bad behavior.

The more important the game, the higher the stakes, the more sportsmanship should matter. That's why Hobart Amory Hare "Hobey" Baker is a genuine hero of mine. Baker, who played hockey and football at St. Paul's School in New Hampshire and Princeton University, was so supremely talented that he drew special attention from his opponents. Many of those opponents took liberties, and at a time (early 1900s) when hockey was incredibly rough, Baker took a beating. But he didn't retaliate. Instead, Baker was the epitome of "letting his play do the talking." After the game, he would visit the opponents' locker room to shake hands with each player. Following his graduation from Princeton, where his team won two national championships, Baker joined the St. Nicholas Club in New York. During the 1914-15 season, when he led the club to a national amateur championship, arenas advertised games by posting "Hobey Baker Plays Tonight," which embarrassed him. Baker would plead with sportswriters to highlight the club, not him.

In 1991, the great Sports Illustrated writer Ron Fimrite said this of Baker: "Through his Spartan example, he imposed a code of behavior on athletes, particularly college athletes, that was accepted, if not faithfully observed, for the better part of four decades. It is now, alas, as forgotten as the dropkick. In the Hobey code, for example, a star player must be modest in victory, generous in defeat. He credits his triumphs to teamwork, accepts only faint praise for himself. He is clean-cut in dress and manner. He plays by the rules. He never boasts, for boasting is the worst form of muckery. And above all, he is cool and incapable of

conspicuous public demonstration." Sadly, the Hobey Baker Memorial Award Foundation has lost sight of what made Baker great. They've ignored his legacy by turning the award into a popularity contest. School sports information offices churn out marketing material for their candidates, an act that would make Baker cringe. It is the antithesis of what he stood for, which is that no one player was any more important than any other. Baker was all about his team, which, somewhat ironically, is what made him legendary.



Teamwork. Dedication. Integrity. Exceptional play. Humility. And, above all, character. These are the values that set the game of hockey, and those who play it, apart from any other. They are also the values that the Hobey Baker Award honors each year to the top NCAA men's ice hockey player each year.

A general lack of sportsmanship not only impacts how we deal with opponents, and officials, but also how we treat our teammates. When there's an overall erosion of the values of the game, the fabric that binds a team can fall apart.

Conversely, when players put the team first — a basic tenet of sportsmanship — great things can happen. Here's an example. I'm not using real names, because I haven't asked for parental permission to tell this story. But it's a great story about a player putting his team's interests before his own. "Jack" has worked with us at Stop It Goaltending for at least eight years. And when I say "worked," I mean he busted his tail, and parlayed that work ethic into a chance to play for a solid New England prep school program. By his sophomore year, Jack appeared to be on track to be the team's starter. But injuries, and the

emergence of one of his goalie teammates, derailed that plan. By his senior year, he was resigned to a spot on the bench. Still, Jack continued to strap on his gear, every day, pushing his teammates in practice, making the team better. It paid off, and his squad made the New England prep school playoffs. That's when Jack was confronted with a gut-wrenching decision. Sitting together in the locker room before the team's first playoff game, the starting goalie confided he had forgotten his skates. The kid was crestfallen, and presumed Jack would take his spot in the net. Jack, though, didn't blink. He knew that he and the starter wore the same skates, and the same size. He also knew the starter had earned this game. So Jack gave up his skates and watched as the starter led his team to a win. But I've never been more proud of Jack, and I'm sure his parents were as well. I'm guessing his teammates, and his coaches, felt the same.

More recently, the NCAA college football championship game served up another prime illustration of selflessness, and sportsmanship. Trailing Georgia at halftime, Alabama coach Nick Saban pulled long-term starter Jalen Hurts, a sophomore. Hurts entered the game having won 26 of 28 games over the past two seasons but was benched after completing just three of eight first-half passes, replaced by freshman Tua Tagovailoa. And the freshman delivered, passing for three second-half touchdowns, including the stunning game-winner in overtime. But what grabbed my attention throughout the second half of the game, and in the celebration following Tagovailoa's heroics, was the dignity that Hurts displayed. "As a team player, you have to do what's best for the team," Hurts told ESPN. "It was important for me to be true to myself and be the team leader I have always been. Don't change because of a little adversity." Novelist James Lane Allen said: "Adversity does not build character, it reveals it." Hurts has character in abundance. That, more than his championship ring, makes him a winner. Just like "Jack." Just like Hobey Baker.

2017-18 EJEPL League Champions



The Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League would like to congratulate all league champions in each division on their banner year. We would also like to congratulate all member clubs on a great regular season and a very exciting playoffs. The 10u and 12u Future Divisions squared off at the Red Bank Armory in New Jersey while the 14u Futures Divisions and 10u-11u Diamond Divisions played their games at Long Beach Ice Arena in New York. The 16u & 18u Diamond Divisions as well as the 16u Futures and Platinum Division games were hosted by the Igloo Ice Center in Mount Laurel, NJ. The largest venue that was used for the EJEPL playoffs was IceWorks Skating Complex in Aston, PA where the 9u, 12u, 13u, 14u, and 15u Diamond Divisions played their games.

Playoff Picture and League Champions by Conference:

Jim Salfi Conference - 9u Diamond

- Nassau County Lions
 - Long Island Arrows
 - Greater New Haven Warriors
 - Connecticut Chiefs
- 9u Diamond Champions**
Long Island Arrows

Herb Brooks Conference - 10u Diamond

- Carolina Eagles
 - Pro Tec Ducks
 - Red Bank Generals
 - Casco Bay
 - Charlotte Rush
 - Maine Gladiators
- 10u Diamond Champions**
Carolina Eagles

Alex Ovechkin Conference - 10u Futures

10u Futures Gold Division

- Long Beach Lightning
- Hunterdon Bears
- Long Island Royals
- Rhode Island Jr. Blues

10u Futures Gold Champions

Long Beach Lightning

10u Futures Silver Division

- Toms River Black Hawks
- Delco Phantoms
- New York Apple Core
- Long Island Ice Cats

10u Futures Silver Champions

Toms River Black Hawks

Mark Bavis & Garnet Ace Bailey Conference 11u-Diamond

- Long Island Rebels
 - Red Bank Generals
 - Ramapo Saints
 - Nassau County Lions
- 11u Diamond Champions**
Ramapo Saints

Jim Prior Conference - 12u Diamond

- Quakers Hockey
 - Exton Kings
 - Palmyra Black Knights
 - Red Bank Generals
 - Delco Phantoms
 - Pro Tec Ducks
 - Montgomery Blue Devils
 - Long Island Rebels
- 12u Diamond Champions**
Pro Tec Ducks

Sydney Crosby Conference - 12u Futures

12u Futures Gold Division

- Long Beach Lightning
- Piedmont Predators
- New Jersey Freeze
- Delco Phantoms
- Hunterdon Bears
- Pro Tec Ducks

12u Futures Gold Champions

Delco Phantoms

12u Futures Silver Division

- New York Apple Core
- Nassau County Lions
- Toms River Black Hawks
- Southern Rhode Island
- Delco Phantoms
- Bayonne Rangers

12u Futures Silver Champions

Nassau County Lions

Dan Esdale Conference - 13u Diamond

- Red Bank Generals White
- Southern Connecticut Stars
- Jersey Colts
- Pro Tec Ducks
- Howard Huskies
- New England Stars

13u Diamond Champions

Red Bank Generals

Phil Coleman Conference - 14u Diamond

- Palmyra Black Knights
- Ashburn Xtreme
- New Jersey Stars
- Maine Moose
- GNY Stars
- Jersey Colts
- Philadelphia Revolution
- Atlanta Fire

14u Diamond Champions

Palmyra Black Knights

Connor McDavid Conference - 14u Futures

14u Futures Gold Division

- Piedmont Predators
- Delco Phantoms
- Long Beach Lightning
- Palmyra Black Knights
- Charlotte Rush
- Howard Huskies

14u Futures Gold Champions

Delco Phantoms

14u Futures Silver Division

- Long Beach Lightning
- Bowie Hockey Club
- Long Island Arrows
- Long Island Royals
- Delco Phantoms
- Greater New York Stars
- Bayonne Rangers
- Hatfield Ice Dogs

14u Futures Silver Champions

Delco Phantoms

"Badger" Bob Johnson Conference - 15u Diamond

- Atlanta Fire
- Howard Huskies
- Northern Cyclones
- West Coast Renegades

15u Diamond Champions

Atlanta Fire

Gary Dineen Conference - 16u Diamond

- Delaware Ducks
- Red Bank Generals
- New Jersey Bandits
- Maine Moose
- Hatfield Ice Dogs
- Igloo Selects

16u Diamond Champions

Maine Moose

Johnny Gaudreau Conference - 16u Futures

16u Futures Division

- Piedmont Predators
- Long Beach Lightning
- Philadelphia Revolution
- Hollydell Hurricanes National
- Long Island Ice Cats
- Pro Tec Ducks
- Long Island Arrows
- Delaware Ducks

16u Futures Champions

Piedmont Predators

16u Platinum Division

- Westchester Express
- Ashburn Xtreme

16u Platinum Champions

Westchester Express

Paul Gilmartin Conference - 18u Diamond

- York Devils
- South Florida Golden Wolves National
- Montgomery Blue Devils
- Long Island Edge
- Valley Forge Selects
- Long Beach Lightning
- Delaware Ducks
- Igloo Selects

18u Diamond Champions

York Devils



Jim Salfi Conference – 9u Diamond Champions Long Island Arrows



On February 3rd, the Long Island Arrows defeated the Nassau County Lions by a score of 1-0 in overtime to become the 2018 EJEPL 9u Diamond Champions

ensue. Being in the penalty box getting ready to distribute the banner to the winning team, I was able to witness the intensity both teams had as they geared up to finish the game. With just over seven minutes remaining in the overtime period, Lucas Lucchi would score an unassisted even strength goal clinching the 2017-18 9u EJEPL Championship. Sticks flew up in the air, gloves came off, and all the Long Island Arrows players would storm off the bench and skate toward Lucchi, who had put in the game winning goal to get his team a championship banner to hang up at the Freeport Recreation Center.

This was a hard fought game between both the Long Island Arrows and the Nassau County Lions where either of these teams could have won. Nate Pitman, who would be awarded as the game's MVP helped to backstop his team to victory as he pitched a shutout stopping all 27 shots he faced. This game kept him busy as his team would be down a man on five different occasions in regulation play, but with a little help from his defense and the enormous amount of key saves that Pitman made, collectively as a group they were able to fend off the Lions on their power play opportunities and now they can raise their new EJEPL championship banner at their home rink in New York.

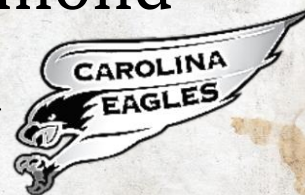


Long Island Arrows goaltender Nate Pitman #30 wins the 9u EJEPL MVP Award as he shut out the Nassau County Lions on Saturday February 3rd stopping all 27 shots he faced

Long Island Arrows celebrate on the ice as Lucas Lucchi scores the game winning goal to win the 2017-18 EJEPL 9u Diamond Championship



Herb Brooks Conference – 10u Diamond Champions Carolina Eagles



The 10u Diamond Championship game was played at Long Beach Municipal Ice Arena and featured the Pro Tec Ducks and Carolina Eagles. During the regular season, Carolina finished first in the KRACH ratings system while leading the conference in goals, scoring 91 while the Pro Tec Ducks finished in second place in the KRACH ratings system once again



The Carolina Eagles defeat the Pro Tec Ducks by a score of 7-6 in overtime at Long Beach Municipal Ice Arena on Sunday February 11th to win the 10u Diamond EJEPL Championship

featuring the top two teams in the conference squaring off against one another in a high scoring championship game, where thirteen goals would be scored.

Pro Tec was fortunate enough to receive a bye into the championship game as they defeated Charlotte, Maine, and Red Bank. Carolina had a larger hill to climb to get into the championship game when they lost to the Charlotte Rush in the third round, leaving them in second place after all three rounds were completed. They would have to play Charlotte again in the semi-final game to start their Sunday morning in which they would go on to win 4-2, moving them into the championship game at 12:30pm against Pro Tec. The matchup between Carolina and Pro Tec

generated a lot of offense in what would turn out to be a “down to the wire” game. Five goals would be scored between both teams in each of the first two periods and throughout the game, special teams did not play a crucial role as both Pro Tec and Carolina each had just one power play goal. After the first period, the Eagles had the lead 3-2 with Ryan Hedley scoring two even strength goals just 1:34 seconds apart. Hedley would also assist on the goal scored by Noah Fitzsimons collecting three points by the time the first period was over. The Ducks started out the first period strong as George Roland scored the game’s first goal, with another goal coming from Louis LoCricchio, but that wasn’t enough to halt the offense that Hedley and his Eagles were able to produce. The second period also showcased some more offense with Deryk Jones netting two goals for the Ducks while the duo of Hedley and Fitzsimons also chipped in another goal each, giving Hedley a Hatrick. By the time the second period was over, the score was tied at five. The third period brought on a higher level of intensity and the Ducks would score the first goal off the stick of Louis LoCricchio, giving him his second of the game. The Eagles would fight their way back though and just 2:07 after LoCricchio’s goal, Ryan Hedley scored his fourth goal of the game to tie the score at six.

The game would need an extra period to be completed and the game winning goal was scored by Ryan Hedley giving him his fifth even strength goal of the game but more importantly, giving the Carolina Eagles the 2017-18 10u Diamond Championship banner. The MVP of the game was Ryan Hedley as he collected 6 points, leading his team to a championship.

Carolina Eagles forward #66 Ryan Hedley wins the 10u Diamond EJEPL MVP award as he scores five goals and assists on another for 6 points guiding his team to a championship



Alex Ovechkin Conference – 10u Futures Champions

10u Gold Champions – Long Beach Lightning



On Sunday February 11th, the Long Beach Lightning faced off against the Long Island Royals in the 10u Futures Gold Championship game at the Red Bank Armory in New Jersey in which they would go on to win by a score of 6-2

The 10u Gold championship game featured the Long Beach Lightning, who led the division in goals against as they just let up 37 goals in 16 games played while finishing in first place in both the KRACH ratings and in the standings; and the Long Island Royals who beat the higher seeded Hunterdon Bears in the semi-final game to make it into the championship game. Long Beach heavily outshot the Royals 44-19 barely giving goaltender Brett Kostor a chance to breathe as he turned away 38 shots in a 6-2 loss. The Lightning had contributions from five different players with putting the puck in the net while Dylan Weinman scored two goals both in the second period of the game extending their lead to 5-2 by the time the third period started. Michael Calvi would score a power play goal late in the third period giving the Lightning a nice insurance goal, securing their victory. Jack Petrone would go on to win the MVP award scoring a goal in the first period, playing a role in the offensive push to get the Lightning started.

The 10u Silver championship game was played between the Toms River Black Hawks and the New York Apple Core. The Black Hawks finished in first place in the standings and led their division in goals against giving up just 30 during the regular season. The first period of the game would end scoreless but the flood gates opened up for Toms River as they scored all three of their goals in the second period with Dylan Vowter as scoring both of them while on the power play. Apple Core would not go down without a fight though and would come up just short of mounting a comeback as they tallied two goals late in the third period. Goaltender Ava Pirrello of the Black Hawks would be the winner of the MVP award.



Jack Petrone of the Long Beach Lightning wins the EJEPL 2017-18 MVP Award as he helped to lead his team to the 10u Gold Championship, scoring a goal in the first period in the 6-2 win over the Long Island Royals

10u Silver Champions – Toms River Black Hawks



The Toms River Black Hawks squared off against the New York Apple Core during the 10u Silver Championship game and would skate their way to victory as they defeated the Apple Core by a score of 3-2 in regulation time at the Red Bank Armory on Sunday February 11th



Ava Pirello of the 10u Silver Toms River Black Hawks backstops her team to a 3-2 championship win over the NY Apple Core, being awarded the MVP for her effort

Mark Bavis & Garnet Ace Bailey Conference 11u Diamond Champions – Ramapo Saints



The 11u Diamond Ramapo Saints win the 2017-18 EJEPL 11u Diamond Conference championship on Saturday February 3rd defeating the Nassau County Lions 7-0

IceWorks Skating Complex in Aston, PA hosted the 11u Diamond Conference championship game between the Ramapo Saints and Nassau County Lions. During the regular season, Ramapo led the league in points with 34.5 and gave up just 34 goals leading the league in goals against. Ramapo would look to continue their great defensive play going into the game against Nassau, and they were able to do just that. After the first period concluded, the Saints were up 2-0 with goals scored by Sean McCarthy and Nick Bonanno. The Saints would again net two more goals in the second period extending their lead to 4-0 as Bonanno put in his second even strength goal of the game while also

assisting on the goal scored by Jake Baratta. In the third period, Ramapo would score three more goals, giving them a 7-0 lead. Zach Freeman scored Ramapo's fifth goal of the game and Cole Tyrell scored just over a minute later to widen their lead to six goals. To end the game, Nick Bonanno was able to complete the Hatrick as he scored with just over nine minutes left in the game. Bonanno would go on to win the MVP for the 11u Diamond Conference as he helped lead his team to a 7-0 victory over the Nassau County Lions.



Sean McCarthy opens up the scoring for the Saints in the first period as he scores the game winning goal



Goaltender #30 Lukas Cohen of the Ramapo Saints shuts out the Nassau County Lions stopping all 18 shots that he faced



Captain Nick Bonanno #36 of the Ramapo Saints completes the Hatrick to help his team defeat the Nassau County Lions 7-0 to win the 11u Diamond EJEPL Championship on February 3rd at IceWorks Skating Complex

Jim Prior Conference 12u Diamond Champions – Pro Tec Ducks



The Pro Tec Ducks faced off against the Delco Phantoms at IceWorks Skating Complex during the 12u Diamond Championship game. In a close game, Pro Tec was able to take the edge and defeat Delco by a score of 4-2 winning the 2017-18 EJEPL championship

The 12u Diamond Championship game featured two teams that each one won all three of their round robin games, the Pro Tec Ducks and Delco Phantoms. The Phantoms, who were great defensively throughout the entire playoffs only giving up four goals in four games, would go on to defeat the Palmyra Black Knights before reaching the championship game against Pro Tec. They would look to continue their strong defensive efforts into the championship game, which would be held at IceWorks Skating Complex in Aston, PA at 9:00am.

Delco would open up the scoring in the first period with an even strength goal scored by Kain Walker, a 2017-18 EJEPL All Star. Walker's goal put the Phantoms up 1-0 and was the only goal scored in the first period. At nearly the same time as Walker's goal in the first period, Pro Tec would tie the score at 1 with a goal from Jimmy Hathaway in the second period. Protec would go on to score two more unanswered goals in the second period making the score 3-1 in their favor, taking a nice two goal lead in to the third period. Jimmy Hathaway would put Pro Tec up 4-1 as he netted his second even strength goal of the game being set up again by Joseph Marks, another 2017-18 EJEPL 12u All Star. Marks also assisted on Hathaway's first period goal. Delco would try to mount a comeback when they scored a goal with just over five minutes left in the game, but it just wasn't enough time and Pro Tec would go on to win the 12u Diamond EJEPL Championship. At the end of the game, Pro Tec goaltender Joseph Auletti would make some big saves to preserve his team's two goal lead and when the final buzzer rang, Pro Tec celebrated as they became champions. Auletti would be awarded the game's MVP stopping 15 of the 17 shots he faced.



Pro Tec goaltender #32 Joseph Auletti stops 15 of 17 shots that the Delco Phantoms threw his way and helped his team win the EJEPL 12u championship on February 4, 2018 at IceWorks Skating Complex in Aston, PA

Sydney Crosby Conference 12u Futures Champions

12u Gold Champions – Delco Phantoms



The 12u Gold Division Delco Phantoms defeat the Piedmont Predators at the Red Bank Armory on February 11th, 2018 to capture the EJEPL Championship

The 12u Futures Gold Championship game was played at the Red Bank Armory in Red Bank, New Jersey. This game would feature the Delco Phantoms and Piedmont Predators. The Predators finished in first place in the standings only losing one game during the regular season when they played the Red Bank Generals in the October Philadelphia Area Showcase. Piedmont led the 12u Gold division in scoring with 116 goals during the regular season while their championship game opponent Delco Phantoms led the league in goals against, only allowing 25 goals which would make for a great matchup between one stellar offensive team and a just as equally impressive defensive team. Some would say that a great defense leads to a great offense, or that defense wins games, but whatever the case may be, a strong defense proved to be the difference maker in this game as the Phantoms were able to defeat the Predators by a score of 5-1, winning the 12u Gold EJEPL Championship. Goaltender Sarah Dobrynski would go on to win the MVP Award because of her outstanding play.

The Red Bank Armory would also host the 12u Silver Division Championship game which featured the New York Apple Core and the Nassau County Lions. Nassau led the Silver division in scoring putting in 152 goals while also leading in goals against as their squad only let up 17 goals in 16 games played. The Apple Core were right behind them though in both categories as they scored 138 goals while only letting up 18. The game between these two clubs was expected to be a great evenly matched bout. and that is exactly what we saw.



Delco Phantoms goaltender Sarah Dobrynski backstops her team to victory over the Piedmont Predators only allowing 1 goal in the game at the Red Bank Armory on February 11th and won the game's MVP Award



Keegan Groom of the Nassau County Lions makes 37 saves in his championship win over the New York Apple Core, defeating them 5-4 in overtime

12u Silver Champions – Nassau County Lions



12u Silver Division Nassau County Lions defeat the New York Apple Core 5-4 in overtime to win the EJEPL Championship on February 11th at the Red Bank Armory

The Apple Core would lead off the scoring in the first period as Henry DellaPenna scored a shorthanded marker. Nassau would quickly come back with an answer though and score one goal on the power play while adding two even strength goals to take the lead in the game 3-1. The second period would bring a goal scored by each team making the score 4-2 in favor of the Lions. In the third period, DellaPenna would score his second goal of the game cutting his team's deficit to just a goal. Bryce O'Brien would be the hero in the third period for the Apple Core as he was able to tie the game up and give his team a chance to win in overtime. Every youth hockey athlete dreams of the moment where they can either make the save or score the goal that wins their team a championship. That moment happened in the first overtime period for #98 Joe Marrone of the Nassau County Lions. After he scored, his Lions team would be the 12u Silver division EJEPL champions. Goaltender Keegan Groom would go on to win the game's MVP award making 37 saves in the game.

Dan Esdale Conference 13u Champions – Red Bank Generals



The 13u Diamond Conference championship game was held at IceWorks Skating Complex. This game would feature two teams from New Jersey, the Red Bank Generals White team who finished first in their KRACH ratings and the Jersey Colts who finished in third in the KRACH ratings system. Red Bank had a great start in round robin play as they won all three games beating the New England Stars, Pro Tec Ducks,



The Red Bank Generals defeat the Jersey Colts 3-2 in double overtime to win the 13u Diamond EJEPL Championship

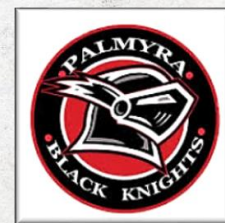
and Howard Huskies, outscoring their opponents by a remarkable margin of 18-1. With Red Bank and the Jersey Colts each winning all three round robin games, they would be tied in first place with nine points each but the tie breaker would go to Red Bank because they had the least amount of goals given up. This allowed Red Bank to have a bye into the championship game leaving the Jersey Colts to play the New England Stars in a semi-final game on February 3rd. The Colts would come out on top 3-1 in this game moving them into the championship game against Red Bank.

The Jersey Colts would open up the scoring in the first period with a goal from Caz Kotsen assisted by Kyle Thornton. Will Thygeson would score the next goal of the game for Red Bank making it a 1-1 game. With under a minute left in the first period, the Colts would answer right back with a goal from Thomas Martine as the Colts would take the lead 2-1 going into the second period. In the third period, we would see a goal scored by Brett Pritchard assisted by Will Thygeson giving him his second point of the game and evening the score with the Colts at 2-2. We would see no more goals scored in the third period which forced the game into overtime to determine the winner. After an action packed first overtime period, no goals were scored increasing the intensity of the game as another overtime period would have to be played. With just under seven minutes to play in the second overtime period, Colin Delanzo of Red Bank would be the hero as he was able to slide in the game winning goal sending his team into a frenzy on the ice as all of the Generals stormed toward him to celebrate their championship win. The MVP of the game was #43 Aidan Guinnesssey and he could not have looked more excited to receive that honor.

Aidan Guinnesssey celebrates with his team as he receives the MVP Award and his team receives the 2017-18 EJEPL 13u Diamond Championship banner



Phil Coleman Conference 14u Diamond Champions – Palmyra Black Knights



The Palmyra Black Knights faced off against Ashburn in the 14u Diamond Conference championship game held at IceWorks Skating Complex on February 4th. Palmyra would go on to defeat Ashburn by a score of 6-1 to capture the championship banner

The Palmyra Black Knights and Ashburn Xtreme squared off in a heated battle as they competed for the 14u Diamond Conference EJEPL championship held at IceWorks Skating Complex on Sunday February 4th. Palmyra and Ashburn were the top two teams in the KRACH ratings system with Palmyra finishing in first place. During the regular season, Palmyra led their conference in goals scored with 122 while only giving up 20 goals in just sixteen games played. Ashburn was right behind them in both categories as they scored 89 goals while only giving up 27. Jesse

Horacheck of Palmyra enjoyed a great season producing 13 goals for his club and assisting on 23 of his team's goals racking up a total of 36 points, good for second in the conference. One of the top players from Ashburn was Jonathon Ryerse as he finished his regular season scoring 12 goals and collecting 16 assists for 28 points, finishing fifth in the league in scoring. These were two key players to watch during this championship game.

Palmyra came out strong this game and were able to get their offense going early, receiving contributions from all four lines from players including Jesse Horacheck, Kyle Kerrigan, Isaiah Croft, Caleb Turner, and Vance Walcott. These players were able to play a very dynamic game while both Palmyra goaltenders Conner McCaffrey and Evan Petras split time between the pipes to earn the 6-1 victory together. The effort put forth by both teams did not go unnoticed during the game, and the collective determination of Palmyra is what helped them to earn this 6-1 victory over Ashburn in this championship game. Jesse Horacheck picked up two goals in the game and added an assist for three points and received the MVP Award for his club.

#88 Jesse Horacheck of Palmyra recorded three points in the championship game against Ashburn scoring two goals while assisting on another. Horacheck earned the MVP for the 14u Diamond Conference



Connor McDavid Conference – 14u Futures Champions

14u Gold Champions – Delco Phantoms



On February 11th at Long Beach Ice Arena, the Delco Phantoms 14u Gold Division team defeated the Long Beach Lightning 3-2 in an exciting overtime period to capture the EJEPL 2017-18 championship



14u Silver Champions – Delco Phantoms



Just before the Delco Phantoms Gold Division team took the ice at Long Beach Ice Arena, the Phantoms Silver Division team was able to shutout the Long Island Arrows to win the EJEPL 14u Silver Division championship

The Delco Phantoms Gold Division team finished in second place in the KRACH ratings system with the Long Beach Lightning finishing right behind them in third place. During the regular season, Delco and Long Beach would play each other two times, with both teams each winning a game making for a great even matchup in this championship game. Matt Harris of the Phantoms led both his team and the Gold Division in points scoring a remarkable 23 goals in just sixteen games played while assisting on 13 of his team's goals for a total of 36 points. Four of his goals would be game winning goals during the regular season and Harris would look to continue his clutch performance during the EJEPL playoffs. In the first period, Delco would open up the scoring with an unassisted even strength goal from Justin Chiango but Long Beach would answer right back with a goal of their own scored by Nicholas Solarino. At the conclusion of the first period, the score would be tied at 1-1. In the second period, we would see a power play goal scored by Richie Specht of Long Beach, the only power play goal of the game. Long Beach would head into the third period looking to build upon their lead while the Phantoms would look to even up the score. With just over a minute remaining in the third period, Logan Downs would score Delco's second goal of the game tying the score at 2-2. Overtime would be needed to settle this game and after the third period ended, each team would head back to their respective benches to prepare for the overtime period, hoping that there would be a hero on their team to score the game winning goal. After a long battle in overtime, Logan Downs, who had scored the game tying goal in the third period to give his Phantoms team a chance to win in overtime, would score the unassisted goal in overtime to help his team clinch the 14u Gold division EJEPL championship. Harris would go on to win the MVP award as he and Logan Downs helped guide their club to a banner season.

In the 14u Silver division, we would see another Delco Phantoms team fight their way into a championship game in which they would take on the Long Island Arrows. In the quarter finals, the Long Island Arrows went on to defeat the Greater New York Stars 8-0 and the Phantoms would also beat their opponent, the Long Island Royals by the same score. With great offense by both the Arrows and Phantoms in their first games, the two teams would each play their semi-final game the next evening on Saturday to determine who would play

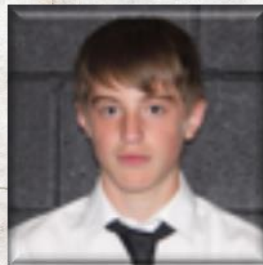
in the championship game. Delco played the first place Long Beach Lightning in what would turn into be a huge upset when they won the game 3-1. The Arrows would also play a higher seeded opponent in their semi-final game when they took on Bowie Hockey Club. This was a great defensive game played by both teams and each goaltender kept their respective clubs in the game as they each posted a shutout through three periods of play. The Arrows would eventually score in overtime to win the game and set themselves up to play Delco for the championship.

This championship game brought together two underdog teams in the Phantoms and Arrows when each team eliminated the top seeded teams Bowie and Long Beach in the semifinals. On Sunday February 11th, the hard work and resilience that Delco and Long Island had during the season and through the playoffs had paid off and the two would now compete for the championship. Delco opened up the scoring in the first period when Nate McGinnis scored the game's first goal being setup by Christian Rapattoni and Antonio Dileggi. The period would end with Delco up 1-0. In the second period, Adam Omrod of the Phantoms would put his team up by two goals when he recorded an even strength goal a little over the midway point of the period. This period would end with Delco up 2-0. The Arrows would need to somehow generate more scoring chances if they had any hope of winning the game and had a great opportunity to do just that when Brendan Pedisich scored to cut his team's deficit in half making the score 2-1. This would not be enough to win the game however, and with just over three minutes left, Matt Klinewski scored a great insurance goal for Delco as he was set up by Rapattoni, who recorded his second assist of the game for his second point. This made the score 3-1 in favor of the Delco Phantoms. The Arrows would continue to put pressure on Delco but it was not enough, and Delco was able to hang on to their lead for the win, and capture the 2017-18 EJEPL 14u Silver championship banner. Goaltender Jacob Kopelman, who turned away 16 of the 17 shots he faced went on to win the MVP award for his team.



Team captain Matt Harris wins the MVP award for his 14u Gold division Delco Phantoms team as he led the team in game winning goals during the regular season, helping to guide his team to victory during their championship win over Long Beach

Logan Downs of the Phantoms 14u Gold team scores the most important goal of the season in overtime against the Long Beach Lightning to help his team win the EJEPL championship



Goaltender Jacob Kopelman stops 16 of the 17 shots he faced to help backstop his 14u Silver division Delco Phantoms team to a championship

“Badger” Bob Johnson Conference 15u Diamond Champions – Atlanta Fire



On Sunday February 4th, the Atlanta Fire would compete against the Northern Cyclones in a tight battle in which they would go on to win 3-2 in overtime and capture the 15u Diamond EJEPL championship at IceWorks Skating Complex

After a very competitive weekend of hockey, the Fire 15U elite team has captured both the regular season, and the playoff championship with a 3-2 overtime victory over the Northern Cyclones. The playoff weekend started Friday night, with a best 2 of 3 series vs the 4th seed West Coast Renegades 15U AAA.

The fire dropped the first game by a score of 2-1. Starting Saturday needing two victories the Fire started fast, and took a commanding 3-0 lead. The lead shrunk, but the Fire held on to win 3-2.

Game three, the Fire again had to play tight, and won by a score of 1-0 to set the stage for the 1 game final versus the Northern Cyclones. Jumping up 2-0 in the Championship game, the lead was cut when the Fire got into some penalty trouble late in the final period. The Cyclones scored on a point shot to tie the game, and take it into overtime. In overtime, the Fire capitalized on a power play when Miles Harrington scored off a goal line net drive, to capture the title. He was named MVP of the playoffs. With a flight to catch back to Atlanta just a little over an hour after Atlanta's championship win, they would be taking along with them the 15u Diamond championship banner to raise up at The Alpharetta Family Skate Center also known as “The Cooler.” The 15U Fire finished the season 18-1-1 in league play, and now set their site on the State Championship weekend.



Miles Harrington of the Atlanta Fire scored the game winning goal for his team to capture both the EJEPL championship and the MVP award. Presenting the award was EJEPL commissioner Henry Lazar (right) and Vice Commissioner Larry Nastasi (left)

Gary Dineen Conference 16u Diamond Champions – Maine Moose



On Sunday February 4th at the Igloo Ice Center, the Maine Moose defeated the Red Bank Generals 7-5 to secure the EJEPL 16u Diamond division championship title

The Maine Moose 16U team left on Thursday to participate in the EJEPL Playoffs which was narrowed down to 6 teams from the regular standings. The Moose headed in with the 4th seed and knew they had a tough weekend ahead of them down in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey but ended up knocking off Red Bank Generals in the Championship game 7-5 to secure the league title.

On Friday the Moose squared off against the New Jersey Bandits for the first game of the day with the Bandits beating the Moose 4-3 in overtime. Joe Clark registered 2 goals and Andrew Bertolini had the other goal for the Moose in the loss. Friday evening the Moose had to play the number one seed Delaware Ducks and the Moose escaped with a 4-3 win over the Ducks while outshooting them 52-24. The game was a must win for the Moose in order to move on and saw Matt Poirier, Zach Whitney, Joe Clark and Andrew Bertolini each tallying a goal in the Moose win.

On Saturday the Moose faced off against the Igloo Jaguars in once again a must win game in order to move on, the Moose came out on top with a 3-1 win. Joe Clark, Andrew Bertolini and

Dylan Cunningham each scored for the Moose while Brenden Gasaway put on a clinic in net stopping 35 out of 36 shots he faced. With the win, the Moose moved on to the semi-final game to face Delaware again for a rematch from the previous day. Once again the Moose came out on top winning 3-1 pushing them in to the Championship Game on Sunday. Joe Clark, Rece Poulin and Andrew Bertolini each scored a goal while Brenden Gasaway followed up his stellar performance in the morning game by stopping 46 of 47 shots.

In the championship game the Moose faced Red Bank Generals and skated away with a 7-5 win. While the Moose went down 3-1 early on in the game they stormed back to take the lead and never looked back. Joe Clark and Cody Ivey each picked up 2 goals while Rece Poulin, Matt Poirier and Nate Newgard each tallied a goal. Brenden Gasaway picked up his 4th win in five games to help his team capture the title. Coach Gray said he was very impressed with his team's efforts, we were outshot 4 of the 5 games with multiple times we were losing games and had to bounce back to win. Gasaway was fantastic all weekend in net and our defenseman really stepped up as well. Coach Gray noted he had several players that deserved to be named Tournament MVP and narrowing it down to one was going to be difficult. Joe Clark was named Tournament MVP while he picked up 14 points in 5 games helping his team win the EJEPL Championship.



Joe Clark of the Maine Moose led the pack during the playoffs racking up 14 points in 5 games helping his team win the EJEPL championship for the 16u Diamond division

Johnny Gaudreau Conference 16u Futures Champions

16u Futures Champions – Piedmont Predators



The Predators would take on the Philadelphia Revolution in their championship game in which they would go on to win by a score of 5-1 to capture the EJEPL championship



16u Platinum Champions – Westchester Express



The Westchester Express defeated Ashburn in a close game by a score of 4-2 to win the 16u Platinum division EJEPL championship

The 16u Futures/Platinum divisions would play all their games at the Igloo Ice Center in Mount Laurel, NJ. For the Futures division, there was an elite 8 format, single elimination system putting pressure on all teams right away to win their games. Piedmont would start the weekend off on Friday going into a double overtime period against the Delaware Ducks, winning the game 5-4. As both the Predators and Revolution skated their way to face one another in the championship game on Sunday February 4th, we would see a game between two teams who finished with just half a point separating them in the standings during the regular season. In the first period, the Revolution would take an early lead scoring the game's first goal coming off the stick of Kevin Rue. Piedmont would have a quick answer though as Lance Colet netted a goal just 39 seconds later to tie the game at 1-1. The flood gates opened up for the Predators in the second period as they were able to muster up 24 shots recording 4 more goals to make the score 5-1. The score would remain the same through the third period and the Predators would go on to win the championship game. The MVP of the game for the Predators was goaltender Alex Aracich as he stopped 29 of the 30 shots he faced, anchoring his team to victory.

In the 16u Platinum division, the Westchester Express and Ashburn Xtreme would square off against one another in a best 2 of 3 series. Westchester would come out strong in the first game as they beat Ashburn 6-2 on Saturday February 3rd. In the next game Sunday morning, Westchester would have the chance to win the championship, but Ashburn was determined not to let that happen and would go on to win the game 4-2 forcing a third game in which the winner would be crowned as the champion. With the intensity level at the highest point for this game, both teams would battle hard but Westchester would come out on top and win the game by a score of 4-2 becoming the Platinum division champions. The MVP would go to their goaltender Ryan Goodliffe.

Anchoring his team to an EJEPL Championship, Alex Aracich would go on to win the MVP award stopping 29 of the 30 shots he faced when the Piedmont Predators defeated the Philadelphia Revolution 5-1.



Goaltender Ryan Goodliffe of the Westchester Express won the MVP for his efforts during his team's championship win against the Ashburn Xtreme

Paul Gilmartin Conference 18u Champions – York Devils



The York Devils battled their way to the 18u Diamond division championship where they would face off against South Florida. In an exciting game that would go into overtime, the York Devils would win by a score of 3-2 to capture the EJEPL championship

another EJEPL championship game go to overtime, the seventh championship game to be decided in overtime this year. The hero would turn out to be from the York Devils as Jiri Nagy would send the puck into the back of the net helping his team win the EJEPL 18u Diamond division championship. His goal would be assisted by David Lundy who recorded his second assist of the game on the most important play in the game. The MVP of the game would be the York Devil's goaltender Nick Kreiser as he stopped 19 of the 21 shots he faced, including 5 shots in overtime.

On Sunday February 4th at the Igloo Ice Center, the York Devils and South Florida would battle their way into the championship game to face one another in what would be the last game of each of their seasons. The York Devils would take control of the first period scoring the game's first two goals with a midway mark scored by Jordan Kline followed by a shorthanded goal from Nate Mathews. York would head into the second period up 2-0. South Florida would fight their way back though and even up the score at 2-2 late in the game, forcing a winner to be determined in overtime. The York Devils would outshoot South Florida by a large margin, 30-16 but could not seem to find the back of the net the way they wanted to through three periods of play. With South Florida battling hard and capitalizing on the chances they had, we would be able to see yet



Nick Kreiser wins the MVP for his York Devils in their EJEPL 18u Diamond division championship backstopping his team to victory

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USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. Its cutting-edge American Development Model, which was launched in January 2009, provides associations nationwide with a blueprint for age-appropriate athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey furthered the enhancement of those efforts by advancing the USA Hockey SafeSport Program in June 2012.

While youth hockey is a main focus, USA Hockey also has vibrant junior and adult hockey programs that provide opportunities for players of all ability levels. The organization also supports a growing disabled hockey program.



Erik Nates Euro Hockey helps players of all ages develop their individual skills and improve in all aspects of the game. Based in Rye, NY, we offer summer camps and clinics throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Through structured drills and innovative equipment like parallel bars, our intense on-ice instruction challenges each student to the best of his or her ability. We draw on traditional European methods to help students improve their game, and we strive to create an exciting and productive atmosphere where they can both learn and have fun. We're also committed to maximizing the time students spend on the ice at each session.

To us, Sport is about the qualities that every athlete learns as they participate in organized sports activities. They learn about teamwork, respect, and discipline. They create lasting friendships. They build leadership skills. They learn how to win with humility and graciously tip their cap in defeat.

Many of us were taught these qualities by coaches and volunteers of sports organizations that we were a part of growing up. We are forever grateful for their impact in our lives. They were, and often still are, our heroes.

At SportsEngine, we build applications and services to help the heroes of today spend less time on the administrative



activities of their organization and more time teaching the qualities of Sport to their athletes. They are our future leaders, doctors, firemen, policewomen, teachers, fathers, mothers and friends.

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