



2018-19

Player Development Year-end Report

June 16, 2019

Committee Co-Chairs:

Steve Rizzo, 3rd Vice President

Jim Maimone, District 10 Director

I) Introduction

a) *Mission Statement*

The mission of Massachusetts Player Development is to create and manage development and instructional programs for all ages of boys and girls in Massachusetts Hockey.

The High-Performance Program is designed for boys and girls – ages 15, 16, 17 – who are the most elite players and will participate at the highest levels and at the festival tournament for the opportunity to advance to the USA Hockey National Development camps and other national programs representing Massachusetts Hockey.

The program is designed to:

- Improve the quality of the hockey experience for high-end players in Massachusetts by utilizing the vast resources of the state and USA Hockey
- Increase the resources available to goalies, their parents and coaches
- Identify and develop the best male and female players in Massachusetts
- Provide an opportunity to develop and play with and against the best players in Massachusetts and the United States
- Create educational opportunities for players to have instruction with highly respected and skilled instructors

b) *Immediate and Short-Term Goals*

i) Immediate Focus

This year's goals were to continue providing a shining example to our members that Mass Hockey is a leader in organizing events and providing a quality program that players and parents will be proud to attend.

ii) Longer-term Focus

The purpose of the committee is to bring the best practices of player development to every participant of Mass Hockey. The combination of the ADM and Player Development committees was an attempt to do that. Our longer-term goals need to focus on bringing this same quality to local events and provide instruction and examples for parents, coaches, and players that will raise everyone's hockey ability.

II) Coordinators



Paul Pearl, a 28-year Division I coaching veteran, joined the Boston University men's ice hockey staff as the associate head coach on June 22. Most recently the associate head coach at Harvard for four seasons, Pearl joined the Crimson after a 19-year stint as the head coach at his alma mater, Holy Cross. Pearl replaces Albie O'Connell, who was promoted to head coach of the Terriers on June 5.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Paul join our staff," said O'Connell. "Paul is one of the best coaches and recruiters in all of college hockey. He has a great experience developing high level student-athletes both on and off the ice, and his passion, personality and experience will allow him to hit the ground running."

"I am excited and humbled to become part of the Boston University men's ice hockey program," said Pearl. "Having the opportunity to working with Albie, Len and the rest of the staff here is truly exciting and I can't wait to get started. BU's tradition of excellence is something I have always admired."

During Pearl's four years at Harvard, the Crimson made three straight NCAA tournaments (2015, 2016, 2017) and reached the ECAC championship game all three of those seasons, winning twice (2015 & 2017). Harvard also shared the 2017 Cleary Cup as ECAC regular-season champions. Crimson players accumulated six All-America honors – five first-team – while Pearl was on staff, including Jimmy Vesey, who won the 2016 Hobey Baker Award.

The 2016-17 campaign was one of the best in Harvard's storied history as the Crimson claimed their first Beanpot title since 1993 in addition to their ECAC crowns and advanced to the NCAA Frozen Four for the first time in 23 years. Harvard posted 28 victories that season, the most since winning the national championship in 1989.

Pearl is the all-time winningest coach in Holy Cross history, accumulating 297 victories during his 19 years as head coach, and was behind the bench for nine of the 11 most successful seasons in program history. He led the Crusaders to both of their NCAA tournament appearances in 2004 and 2006 with the latter resulting in one of the biggest upsets in college hockey history, a 4-3 victory over Minnesota in the first round.

He guided the Crusaders to five 20-win seasons and tabbed the ECAC East and New England Writers' Association Coach of the Year in 1998. He collected MAAC Coach of the Year honors in 2002 and was twice named Atlantic Hockey Coach of the Year (2004 & 2011).

A native of Wakefield, Massachusetts, Pearl began his coaching career with a two-year stint at UConn followed by two years at Holy Cross as an assistant from 1994-96. He spent the 1996-97 campaign as an assistant at Brown before returning to Holy Cross to take over the program. As a player, Pearl skated in 125 games for the Crusaders, compiling 77 points on 14 career goals and 63 assists.

Pearl graduated from Holy Cross in 1989 and earned his MBA from UConn in 1994. Additional Staff Members can be seen on the Mass Hockey Boy's Development website: <http://www.mahockey.org/page/show/2852873-boys-player-development-staff>.



ED BOURGET– Girls' Player Development Coordinator:

This is Bourget's fourth season as Massachusetts Hockey's CCM Hockey High Performance Girls' Player Development Coordinator. Bourget is currently in his fourth season as head coach of BB&N girls' varsity hockey team.

In 2014, he served as intern coach at the U18 National Camp for Team USA. Bourget was the 2005-06 interim head coach for the BB&N Girls' Varsity Hockey team, and in 2002-03 season he was the head coach of Sacred Heart University Women's team. He has also worked with the East Coast Selects hockey program.

After Graduating from Sacred Heart, Ed played briefly in the French Elite League with ASG Tours and then was invited to the Greensboro Generals (Toronto Maple Leaf's East Coast Affiliate) training camp. Bourget played Division I college hockey while at Sacred Heart University and was a 3-time MAAC All-Academic team member; ECAC Medal of Merit award winner his senior season; and was nominated for the Hockey Humanitarian Award in 2001. He graduated from BB&N in 1996.

Additional Staff Members can be seen on the Mass Hockey Girls' Development website: <http://www.mahockey.org/page/show/745456-girls-player-development-staff>.

III) Introduction Series – Boys



The Introduction Series, in its third year, was designed to introduce players from the 13U (2005) birth year to Mass Hockey Player Development. This is an “invitation only” event to reach out to the premier players within that birth year. This year’s events were held at UMass Amherst, Bentley College and Boston College. Johnny Leonard, UMass Captain, 2015 USA Select 17 Camp and Hlinka Tournament team member, spoke to the parents and players during the off-ice session at UMass.

The events organized by Roger Grillo and USA Hockey consisted of both on-ice and off-ice sessions. The players were divided into 2 groups. One group attended a 50-minute on-ice session while the remaining players and their parents attended an off-ice session hosted by university staff. 114 players were invited with 107 registered and an average of 97 players attending for the three events. The players registered for the event at \$40 per player for all four sessions.

The on-ice sessions were designed to introduce players and parents, if they haven’t already been, to the American Development Model (ADM) practices with age-appropriate stations and small area games. The off-ice sessions focused on preparation for practices and games, highlighting the need for proper warm-up/warm-down; the Long-Term Athletic Development (LTAD) model informed the players about the ages of trainability with a focus on their age group, and a session from College Hockey, Inc. on the college recruitment process. Each session was followed by a Q&A session. All the sessions were well-attended.

The results from last year’s 2004 birth year Intro Series were truly insightful. This year’s 2004 Final 40 consisted of significant number of Intro Series attendees. 1 of 24 forwards, 12 of 12 defensemen, and all 4 goalies attended the intro series. That’s a total of 31 of 40 players that made it to the end of our process after attending our intro series.

In addition, we invited over 50 Town Program players from the 14U group to participate in a similar session at the Final 40. Paul Pearl ran the on-ice practice and Jared DeMichiel, UMass Amherst, performed the off-ice session. The point of the session was to introduce high-level town talent to the USA Hockey American Develop Model and the USA Hockey path to National Camps, etc.

IV) Introduction Series – Girls



BROOKS
SCHOOL



Middlesex



The Massachusetts Player Development Program invited girls from the 2005 and 2006 birth years to participate in the skill development series developed last season. Three skill sessions each for the and a combined jamboree at BU were offered throughout the 2018-19 hockey season that included on-ice skills and off-ice education. The goal of the program is to provide players with an elite experience that

includes on-ice and off-ice training from coaches that have experienced playing in the national program.

Skills Series Dates for the 2005 and 2006 birth years

2006 skills #1 Sunday, October 28, 2018 6-8 pm at the Brooks School

2005 skills #1 Sunday, November 18, 2018 6-8 pm at Boston University

2005 skills #2 Sunday, January 27, 2018 6-8 pm at Boston University

2006 skills #2 Sunday, January 27, 2018 6-8 pm at Middlesex School

2005 skills #3 Sunday, February 10, 2019 6-8 pm at Boston University

2006 skills #3 Sunday, February 17, 2019 6-8 pm at BB&N

2005-06 Sunday, February 24, 2019 Jamboree at BU 6-8 pm

V) Festivals (Boys') – National Development Camp (NDC) Tryout

The boys' festival was broken down into three sections: 1) the regional tryouts, 2) the Festival, and 3) the Final 40. The focus was to continue to improve upon a best-in-class experience for the players and make the Festival the "flagship" event of Player Development. The addition of the Final 40 concept was implemented to provide a future opportunity for the best 40 selected and keep the interest of the remaining players that do not get selected to the USA Hockey Select camps.

This year the 2003 players will have an opportunity to attend either the National 15 Select Camp or the regional Mid-Am Select 15 Camp at Kent State University. It is important to provide these players an opportunity to practice and play at a high-level because at this age players maturity differently both mentally and physically, and we need to keep their interest in their own development.

The Boy's Festival Try-out Program: Try-outs were held on March 24th at Rodman Arena in Walpole, March 31st at NESC in Marlborough, and April 8th at Ristuccia Arena in Wilmington. The three locations are to provide a variety of times and locations. These events continue to be well attended with 278 '04 players; 243 '03 players and 172 '02 players trying out.

The Final 40 Program:

The Final 40 event was held Saturday, May 20 and Sunday May 21, 2017 (schedule included in the Appendix) at NESC. This event included two games (one each on Saturday and Sunday evenings) with a practice session for each age group on Sunday morning. During these practice sessions, the evaluators ran the players through a few skill stations and small area games. These practice sessions, which were run by the evaluators of each age group, provided the evaluators an opportunity to see the players up close, and provided the players with a first-class practice session and the chance to further demonstrate their skills. After the practice session, the players were introduced to the CCM High Performance team and allowed to test out CCM skates and sticks and have 30-50 minutes of unstructured play.

The Final 40 continued to take on a National Camp flavor. During the weekend, the teams were assigned their own locker rooms where they kept their gear throughout the weekend. Each team was assigned a team leader, which was selected from the best of the Festival team leaders, and were coached by former NHL players, Division 1 and Junior coaches, and top Prep School coaches. The event was structured to provide the players the best opportunity to show their abilities and make it to the National Camp.

From the Final 40 at each age level, the players were selected for the USA Hockey Select camps.

Boy's 2019 NDC Allotment:

- i) 2004 (15's): 2 Goalies, 10 Forwards, 5 Defense
- ii) 2003 (16's): 1 Goalie, 7 Forwards, 4 Defense
- iii) 2002 (17's): 1 Goalie, 7 Forwards, 5 Defense - +1 from 2018

In addition to the allotment, a few at-large spots may also be provided to Mass Hockey players.

VI) Festivals (Girls') – National Development Camp (NDC) Tryout

In its Fourth year, with Ed Bourget's and Amy Zappen's leadership the Girls Festival continues a path to identifying the top talent in Massachusetts.

VII) Girls' 2019 Massachusetts Hockey Select Camp - June 7-9, 2018

Once again, a Mass Hockey Select Camp was provided for those female athletes destined for the national camp to introduce the expectations and rigors of the national camp. The intention is to help better prepare the female athletes and increase their chances for success at the national camps.

VIII) Conclusion

Our program remains strong with solid attendance at both the Girls' and Boys' events. Our events are organized and well run by a number of college, volunteer and USA Hockey representatives. With the addition of the Mid-Am Select 15 camp we are trying to keep those maturing players interested in their prospects for a future in hockey.

One area of improvement is bringing education to Town programs and raising the bar on the abilities of all players in Mass Hockey. The grades provided to our boy's were a majority of Bs, with a few As, and only 1 C. However, we only had 4 players make either the Five Nations (16U) or the Ivan Hlinka/Gretzky (17U) International team. Although great progress has been made, there is still work that needs to be done.

More information on both the boys' and girls' CCM High Performance Program can be found at:

<https://www.mahockey.org/highperformance>