

2022-2023 NBAHA President Report

As we close the chapter on this past year, it's time to reflect on the many accomplishments that happened.

Mites

This past season, we had 4 mite teams; B, C & 2-D mite teams. We transitioned back to traveling at the mite level instead of in-house as the year before. Besides both the B & C mites playing several games, the B mites also played at an intermission at a Wild game. Both B, C & Ds played in jamborees this winter too. The mite teams were able to use the outdoor shack as much as possible (depending on weather) for additional practices and pond hockey during weeknights this winter. I would also like to thank Rachel Paavola (whose term is up) for her dedication as our mite director. She worked hard to make sure our newest skaters had a positive and fun experience with North Branch Hockey.

Shack

This past season, we had an agreement with the city to keep the rink prepared and flooded. We utilized the shack as much as possible for the mite teams. Sunrise Landscaping through Matt Paavola always ensured the ice was cleared and ready for the kids to use. We appreciate and want to thank Matt for his dedication to keeping the shack going. We also had some vandalism before the start of the outdoor season. With the generosity of Huot Construction & Services donating labor to help fix, clean the floors, carpentry work and paint; we were able to get it back on track. We opened the "Shack" in time so that the skaters didn't miss any time on the outdoor ice. Thank you, Hout Construction & Services!

CO-OP Boys

This last season, with St. Francis we were able to make 2 bantam, 3 peewee, and 3 squirt teams for Northern Edge. The D10 executive committee over the past summer came up with the requirement that any co-op teams playing in D10 must create a team to play at the top A team level. We were able to get an exception from D10 to not force us to have an A team. We did reach an agreement with St. Francis to renew for another 1 year with our co-op for the 2023-24 season contingent on not forcing the A team rule. We will need to have this signed off from D10. Our team records last year:

Bantam B1 15-3-4, Bantam B2 2-17-1, Peewee B1 17-4-1, Peewee B2 9-8, Peewee C 6-7-3, Squirt B1 6-13-1, Squirt B2 2-13-1, Squirt C 2-11-3. Both Bantam B1 and Peewee B1's made it to the state regional tournament this year. It was a great accomplishment for both of those teams.

CO-OP Girls

During this last season, North Branch along with St Francis, and Cambridge-Isanti were able to make 1-U15, 2-U12, 1-U10 teams. Most of our girls' teams struggled this season. We had several girls that skated co-ed which hurt our girls' program. I understand if it's a need, but when several players go to co-ed it really affects these teams. Our team records last year: U15 B 7-6-5, U12A 1-15, U12B 0-18, U10 B1 0-17-1. Our Northern Tier Stars co-op agreement is up, and we are in the process of renewing. We will analyze the issues from this previous year and try to prevent them in the future. Our bright spot was the U15B team that made it to the state regional tournament this year.

Fundraising

Shannon Schmeling, our fundraising coordinator decided this year to have a cash raffle as our primary fundraising effort this year. It was extremely successful. Our net from the raffle was \$11,740. We put these earnings to use at our arena in Stacy. Great job Shannon at your first fundraising event!

Gambling

Gambling is still going strong at our sites. We are excited to get the Muddy Cow site back. We are sad to see the Fort moving to Stacy from the North Branch location. The Fort has decided to go with Stacy Lions for gambling at their new site. Tom Garin, our gambling manager, and his team have done a remarkable job this year at all our sites. Great Job to all of them!

Arena

We are making progress at the arena site. It's very exciting to see all the work being done at the site. Work will continue this entire upcoming year. I can't wait until we are able to hold our meetings there.

What a year, Skol Vikings!



Jason Zerwas

President NBAHA