

Nearing the Finish Line

While its starting to feel more like its time to be gearing up for baseball, softball and other spring sports we are still right in the thick of things across the board. Our Bantam, U15, PeeWee and U12 teams will enter district tournament play in the next couple of weeks as they set their sights on the post-season. Our Squirts and U10's are in the middle of their season and rounding into form, and the mites and U6/U8 teams are putting in the work each weekend to get better. We have had great successes this year including the Wild Youth Spotlight game that we hosted on 1/24. What an amazing show of support from the hockey community - we estimate somewhere between 1000-1200 people came out to Thaler to support our PWB1 team as they skated to a win. There was an electricity in the rink that was exciting, and of course everyone had to get autographs from Nordy.

We continue to see buy-in from players, parents, and coaches as we work to build a positive and competitive hockey program that turns out both great players AND great people. Support for the game of the week has been awesome, and that is for sure something we will lean into next year. The Fire and Ice event and raffle drawing was an awesome event, and with your help we crushed it on the raffle this year. Look for the annual parent and player survey to come out mid-February. It is your opportunity to let the leadership team know how things are going and we appreciate the feedback. Keep your skates sharp, and your sticks on the ice.

See you at the rink,
CR Childers MWHA President



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WARRIOR GIRLS UPDATE

Jan. 11th was youth night for the Warriors. Our 8u6u girls got to skate with between periods of the Varsity game and have their names called during the lineup.



STP registration will be out soon! The girls and boys will be skating together this summer. This will help align the youth with their level of play. Goalie only sessions will be back this summer.



Good luck to the travel teams as we head into District tournaments!



The Mound Westonka Warriors Co-op consists of the following members:

Tina O'Shea - MW Girl's Director

Doug Runke - Player Development Director

Shane Olsen

Casey Burns

HOME OF THE ORONO-WESTONKA WARRIORS

We sat down for a video chat with Charlie Curti, former Mound Westonka player/coach, USHL player, Yale Collegiate player, ECHL, AHL and now British Elite league player.

Charlie helps with youth and high school STP programs over the summer and runs small-group and individual training sessions with his Balanced Athlete program.



Back to Mound... Back to your youth days. As a youngster were you always playing on the top teams?

Charlie: Yeah, I made the A-teams growing up. There were probably 5 or 6 guys that always played together on the same teams. Then the same B/A players alternating years, so the same group of guys every other year almost. If you count high school, probably the same group of guys for 14 years!

(Cont next page)

Charlie Curti Interview Con't...

That's what I always say to kids who are looking to move around and switching schools to look for better opportunities. I had the chance my senior year to switch schools and look for something else and I gave it quick thought, and was like "no way!" I've been with these guys for 14 years.... And now I look back at it, I don't regret a single thing.

When you look back at your playing time in Mound, do you think you did anything differently from anyone else to keep playing at a higher level?

Charlie: Not too much. Up till high school it was all playing time on the outdoor rinks. We always had an ice sheet, or my buddies had an ice sheet so there was no shortage of ice time, and we were always out there dreaming about playing at the next level.

In high school I realized how much I needed to do off the ice. I was probably always one of the top 3 guys on the team, but it wasn't until I got cut from HP 15's [High Performance] in St Cloud, then HP 16's I got hurt, and then HP 17's I had no excuse, but I got cut from the final 54. I always thought I was good enough to make the cut, but that was a wake up call for me to do the extra stuff - So I started training harder.

I would do HS STP in the summer plus 2 more times a week on ice; and then work out with a family-friend trainer. In the summer the [weight] workouts became 5 or 6 days a week before my senior year. That ended up propelling me forward and I had a really good senior year. I signed a tender in the NAHL right after that and was drafted as a "throw away" pick in the USHL. I worked my butt off that summer to put on 10-15lbs of muscle and made that team [USHL].

Charlie's full interview will be emailed to all MWAH members soon!



GET TO KNOW OUR GIRLS DIRECTOR TINA O'SHEA

Do you have a skater?

I have one skater at 12U and one at high school

Why did you get involved?

I was asked to be a level rep at 10U and just kept being asked to do more things. As I started doing more, I decided to just jump in and get more involved and help be a voice for the girl's program.

How long have you been involved?

I have been involved since my oldest started skating, so 8 years!. I started out managing and coordinating scrimmages at the 8U6U levels.

What are a few things you are proud of?

I am proud of how the girls program has evolved over time. It is challenging working with two associations for the girl's program. The coop puts in a lot of time trying make a solid program for the girls.

I am also excited to have our skills nights run by the Os program. They provide an awesome group of women coaches running drills for our girls.

MITE CORNER



On February 3rd, 2024, Thaler Arena witnessed a remarkable convergence of young talent as 212 enthusiastic boys and girls, representing both the White Hawks and Warriors, took center stage at the Mite Olympics. This joint event marked a significant milestone, a collaborative effort bringing together the two programs for the first time since the pre-COVID era, showcasing a united passion for the game.

The Olympic-style competition showcased the skills of our young athletes across four exciting events: the fastest skater, stick handling, longest superman, and shooting. Each pod of 10-12 kids across both programs displayed remarkable skill and character throughout the day, with a final award recognizing outstanding sportsmanship presented to one exceptional participant.

Association	Participants	Medals	Percent
White Hawks	130	76	58.46%
Warriors	82	44	53.66%
Total	212	120	56.60%

