

on offense, others on defense, but we work as a unit. I don't

which culminated in an undefeated regular season and a Divi-

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Eight wins, zero losses for Youth Hockey last weekend

Woodstock Youth Hockey had a week to remember. On Monday, the players were joined at practice by members of Dartmouth's national-ranked men's hockey team, including team captain and Woodstock alumnus Steven Townley. The collegiate players always bring out the best in the kids by raising the energy level and engaging on a personal level. Thursday's practice was run by members of the Boston Bruins' youth development groups and former player Andrew Alberts. The young Wasps ran drills and each got autographed pucks, posters, and other "swag" from the black and gold. Stanley Cup winner and Vermont legend Tim Thomas even dropped in for some Q&A with the kids and to sign more autographs. Thank you to both groups for

helping our kids build a love for the game. How did this extra coaching translate to the weekend's games? Eight wins and zero losses! Things kicked off Saturday morning with the 12U Wasps getting the better of Central Vermont's (CV) top team 5-1. Wyatt Underwood scored from Noah Malcolm early in the first before each team's goalie put on a show, holding the 1-0 scoreline midway into the second. The Wasps eventually went up 2-0 on Will Freyer's shot from the blue line, assisted by brother Henry and Isaac Lackey. CV responded immediately to cut it to 2-1, but that was as close as it got. Henry Freyer snapped two wrists shots in the second, and added a third in the third following a textbook breakout with Malcolm. The 5-1 scoreline flattered the hosts, how-



Ava Byrne, Harlow Bennett, Mari Maxham, Fallon Bennett, Rose Hughes, Maegan McGuire, Zella Little, and Liv Beckwith celebrate their 4-3 win against the Barre Black Bears on Sunday.
Courtesy of Jeremy Freyer

ever, and Parker Tapley was first star of the game, making 33 saves on 34 shots to get the win. Tim Thomas would have approved!

Next up, the 10U team clobbered Essex 7-0 to remain perfect in Vermont play. Carter VanZandt had a hat trick while Connor Soos got loose for two, and classmates Jack Kelley and Max Malcolm each had one. Jackson Hall earned the shutout in net.

The 8U Wasps then took the ice to keep the train rolling against the Upper Valley Storm. In the "major" game, Clairra Webster hung tough in net while Malakai Piper led the line. James Hartford, Mason Lombard and Henry Soos also had great games with pinpoint passing and end-to-end hustle. In the "minor" game, first-year player Isaac Hewitt was a beast in goal while captain for the day Winnie Hartford organized the skaters. Chris Matz and Wiley Nightingale brought the boom while George Harris

and Hayleigh Perkins also had strong games.

The 10U team returned for a second game and beat Central Vermont 8-4. Finn Riley took over in net to get the win, and Connor Soos scored three. Carter Hall and Oliver Palazzo also lit the lamp for the home team. The team is now 10-0-0 in Vermont play.

Meanwhile, in Barre, The

Woodstock U12/U14 girls team came out swinging and scored their first big win in an epic showdown against the 14U Barre Black Bears! In a thrilling come-from-behind battle, the girls pulled off a 4-3 victory that had everyone on the edge of their seats.

Leading the charge was Zella Little, who lit the scoreboard up with two impressive

goals. But it was Chloe Mecca who kept the fire burning, scoring the clutch game-tying goal with just five minutes left in the third period. Then, with the clock winding down, Liv Beckwith went bar-down for the game-winning goal, sending the crowd into a frenzy with just over two minutes to go!

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Former Boston Bruin Andrew Alberts, left, prepares Carter VanZandt and Georgia Underwood for a race.
Courtesy of Jeremy Freyer



From left: Colby Carlisle, Tenley Hadley, and Bella White keep their game faces on following Hadley's opening goal.
Courtesy of Jeremy Freyer

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Ava Byrne showcased her incredible hustle, dominating both ends of the ice as she centered the first line with precision. Meanwhile, Rose Hughes and Megan McGuire were gritty as ever, drawing key penalties that led to power play goals. On the blue line, Mari Maxham displayed smooth stickhandling and composure, keeping the Black Bears on their toes.

The Bennett sisters, Harlow and Fallon, were everywhere, seamlessly switching between offense and defense with skill and versatility. And when the pressure was on, Aoife Edmunds stepped up, locking down the Black Bears' offensive threats with perfect timing late in the game.

The victory was sealed by

an outstanding performance in net from goalie Sadie Rowlee, who turned away every challenge with poise and precision. The team's hard work and determination paid off in the most exciting way possible! The girls fell to the same team 8-1 just a month ago, which goes to show how quickly this team is improving and growing as a group.

Sunday found a younger group of 10U/12U Woodstock girls hosting Hanover 12U at Union Arena. Hanover scored first, but as time ticked down in the first, Tenley Hadley broke through and tied it up. From then on it was all Woodstock. Bella White (two), Ava Byrne, and Aoife Edmunds all scored and Woodstock led 5-2 going into the third. Byrne and Had-

ley each scored again in the third to secure a huge 7-2 win. Chloe Micca had a terrific game in goal for the Wasps.

The last game of "the best week ever" came as the 12U team traveled to Rutland and left it late to complete the perfect weekend. The game was 0-0 until midway through the second, when a Rutland player created a turnover and beat Tapley on a breakaway. Midway through the third, the Wasps had started to get going but still couldn't find a breakthrough. Desperation kicked in with about five minutes to play, and Will Freyer controlled a rebounded puck in the high slot and wristed it home to tie the game. Less than a minute later, the puck found Freyer again, this time on the blue line and

he was able to rifle it high past the goalie to take the lead 2-1. Rutland was shell-shocked, but pulled their goalie and poured on the pressure looking for a tie. Tapley stood tall, on his head, and made several saves to close it out. It was a "greasy" win for the Wasps and would have gone the other way if not for the standout performance of Colin Alberty on the blueline.

All told, the Wasp teams went eight wins and no losses for the weekend. For Edmunds and Micca, who played both girls and coed games, victory was extra sweet. Thank you to both the Boston Bruins and the Dartmouth Men's Hockey team for helping us get here!

Provided by the Woodstock Youth Hockey and Skating Association.
