

2023-2024 Season Recap

Teams

Overall, most all Dodge County teams finished in the middle/top half in District 9. Hearing positive things from District 9 about how youth hockey in Dodge is trending in the right direction. We will continue to work hard and continue to provide the best opportunities for our youth hockey players to succeed. This takes a joint effort between board members and HOC members.

Bantam A-Finished 3rd overall in D9 with a 9-5-2 record- Happy with how the team performed, exceeded expectations, finished top 20 in state, lots of first year players, received multiple feedback that was surprised at level of talent.

Finished in 4th Place EOY

Bantam B2- Finished 3rd overall in D9 with a 14-5 record-improved lots through season noticeable improvement with non-vested young coach. **HOC needs to consider a more experienced coach at this age group.**

Won End of Year Tournament

Peewee A-Finished 5th overall in D9 with a 5-9-1

Tournaments that they recommend-Marshall, Rock Ridge, Thief River and Detroit Lakes (Heard this was a fun tournament)

Eric Peterson grew as coach, began to understand that the little things make a big difference in development, instead of big picture win/losses. Selected Levels of play will be important at this age group next year.

Peewee C-Finished 2nd overall in D9 with a 18-3-3-record- 2nd year in a row won EOY, didn't plan on having goalie, end of having a good goalie which helped.

Won End of Year Tournament

Squirt A-Finished 6th overall in D9 with a 3-13 record

Up and down season-Team was young

Squirt B-Finished 2nd overall in D9 Carlson Division with an 8-13-1 record. Le crescent, Owatonna and Redwing Tournaments we would not recommend. Consider opting out of Year End Tournament at this age group. It's the same teams and should consider a Final Year End Tournament somewhere else.

Squirt C-See End for Rorys Summary

12uB- Finished 3rd overall in D9 with an 8-5-1 record-Girls had an outstanding year. They grew as a team and improved a ton throughout the season.

1st place District Tournament –Qualified for Regionals 2-2 record.

3 Tournaments: Wisconsin 4th, Owatonna 1st, Rochester 1st

10uB- See End for Chris's Summary

10uB2-See End for Matt Summary

Supermites- The supermites and termites had a successful year of skating and skill development. Practices were based on USA ADM Model for development of 6u and 8u players. The supermites practiced Saturday Mornings and Wednesday evenings. And after January 1st added Sunday Mite games. Teams were broken up into 4 teams Blue, Black, Grey and White. DCYH held its own jamboree for all teams.

Jamborees: Winona, Owatonna, Waseca, Mn River, MN Wild, DCYH

All jamborees were well organized except for Owatonna. Mn River was a long way but was well organized. Waseca and Winona are always fun. Waseca and MN River had lots of time between games parents didn't love that, but didn't complain about it either. Winona, you played 3 in a row and then done.

Mite Director needs to do a better job of placing the kids in their appropriate level of play at jamborees.

Board should consider more Team Managers at the level.

Termites-Practices were held on Saturday mornings from 9am to 10am. **Probably needed to have 6 teams, instead of 4.** This year we added 15 minutes to the termite's ice time. In past years they were only on the ice for 45 minutes. The extra 15 minutes allowed me to focus more of skating along with station-based practices. Termites did not participate in any Jamborees. Termite numbers included 14 girl participants. **I felt the ages were more appropriate having 5- and 6-year-olds.** They did not participate in any Jamborees or games with other associations.

I would consider going back to 45 minutes and 1 hour for supermites if ice hours are an issue. I would like to keep the Saturday/Wednesday Practices for supermites. Also, could drop Sunday mite games and work that into Wednesday nights, every other week after January 1.

We had great turnout for coaches at the Mite level. We need to continue to recruit and develop young coaches. Being able to show coaches how to teach young players and showing them what the elements of a practice at this level should look like, is very important to equipping them with what they need.

HOC

(Descriptions on Website)

-Director of Hockey-Keith Stanich

-Director of Player Development-Nick Davidson

-Director of Coaches-Nick Worden

-Directory of Goalie Development-Tim Brennan

-Boys Coordinator-Travis Beebe

-Girls Coordinator-Jessica Stanich

-Mite Director- Currently unfilled (Keith Stanich)

HOC Board Liaison- Summer Cano

HOC achievements

Changing of the move up policy to allow players to play at the appropriate level of play and Mite Move Ups to attend tryouts

First time doing a 10uB2 team, overall successful

Mites-added time to termite and changed days. Should consider more full ice games.

Bringing back Goalie skills night was a huge success

Board supporting funding for goalie equipment and goalies took advantage of that. Goalies had good equipment and felt safe.

Went through and got rid of all old equipment, took most to Sports Headquarters and received approximately \$1,200 credit to use of other items.

Removed wooden structure holding equipment bins and moved bins to south end of rink. Purchased new metal structure for holding bins. This will allow more area for off Ice Training.

HOC Goals

Develop Off Ice Training at the rink-Shooting area

Hold Coaches meeting to give coaches tools to succeed

Mentor Coaches

Drill of the Week-All Coaches

Continue to grow the program

Continue Skills nights development/Tweak format

Work directly with teams more

Learn to Skate Program

Off Ice Training at all levels

Get Boy and Girl High School help at mite levels

Projected Registration Numbers for Girls 2024/2025

U13 - 5

U12 - 16 + 2-3 Goalies

U10 - 18 + 3 Goalies (2 goalies skate out too)

Projected Registration Numbers for Boys 2024/2025

Bantam: 27 Skaters, 1 Goalie

PeeWee: 24/25 Skaters, 2/3 goalies

Squirts: 34 Skaters, 2 goalies

***Need boards help with recruitment and retention: parades, party on the playground, Byron good neighbor day, Dodge County Free Fair, etc. Learn to Skate recruitment, No Little Wild this year, so it might affect numbers**

See below additional Team Summaries

Squirt C Recap-From Rory "Overall, I feel like it was a good and successful year. At the beginning of the season I told the players and parents that my number one goal at the end of the year is that all the players had a great time and want to come back to play hockey next year. Sounds like that should be the case and many are trying summer hockey for the first time this summer. The coaches feel that all players developed throughout the year with some taking huge strides. Commitment level from the players was pretty good for a squirt C team. Most practices had almost all if not all players attend (some absences for school related activities and family vacations). Coaches felt that players truly enjoyed being at practice and looked forward to getting on the ice and working hard. Of course, as a squirt C team some players are more focused on the ice then others. Jared, Ryan, and Matt did a great job helping me to get these players refocused at different times and making sure they were engaged. We had a large range of size, skill, age, and maturity level on the team. Sometimes the maturity level of the younger kids (lack of attention span, drive to work hard during the entire practice, etc) made practices hard to complete the practice plan and I had to change things up to re-engage those players. It did limit some of the skill development that we wanted to focus on. Greg tried to focus a lot on goalies and utilized video review even on the ice early on. I think this is a lot for new goalies and more reps might be more beneficial than stopping them a lot to have them review what they are doing. He did try to really focus on correct technique which is important.

Tournaments:

Overall good placement/parity at the tournaments. Recommend continue to not go to large metro area tournaments or northern Minnesota Squirt C tournaments unless we know we have a really strong and older squirt C team.

Tournaments pre-signed up for:

Eau Claire: very early tournament that was on the 2nd weekend after teams were formed/started practicing which was tough for a squirt C team that was very young. Might not be the best for a squirt C team with many first-time full ice/travel players and parents. Some better Twin Cities teams but also lower end teams that can match up with. Facilities were good and tournament ran well. Our Squirt A team went as well and I think it is a good one for them. If doing again next year, please have hotels booked in advance with a release date one week prior to ease frustrations from parents (board could help if needed).

Mankato: Another well ran tournament with no issues. Later in the year (Feb 2-4) so good for challenging the team as there are typically some decent Twin Cities teams that come down. Mankato is normally decent as well.

End of Year D9 in Owatonna: Always good to attend the district end of year tournament for this level. Well run tournament despite issues that Squirt B may have had at the scheduling issue with refs at our 7 am Sunday game. Personally, one of my kids have had an Owatonna ran tournament each year for the last 4-5 years, ran nice, on time, and teams have had to supply a worker for the penalty box (a complaint that some others had with the tournament, but this also occurs for tournaments in Winona and other places).

Additional tournament:

Redwing: reached out to parents about an additional tournament choice of Redwing or La Crescent (same weekends). Redwing chosen. Good parity with some lower end Twin Cities teams: Redwing, Forest Lake, Farmington, Chisago Lakes, Eagan. Nice 4 game guarantee for cheap (\$750 I think). Drivable so parents are not forced to get hotels but the option is there. We would recommend going again.

10UB- District games were evenly matched for the most part. When our team showed up to play, we could compete with any team in the district. We had a strong group of veteran 10u players that moved into and excelled in a leadership role, both on and off the ice. Our first year girls really improved throughout the season and became more and more confident with and without the puck and should see success next year in a veteran role.

District Tournament-(Winona Host)

I was initially disappointed with how the teams were seeded. We were placed in the bracket to play the top 3 seeds, potentially playing the top seed twice. However, our girls came to play and we competed hard and ended the season proving that we belonged near the top of the district.

Season Tournaments

Albert Lea

This tournament was added as an extra tournament that our families paid for out of their own pocket

It was early in the season and I feel this was great timing for the girls to get to know each other bond. Competition was strong and there was some teams from the district as well as teams outside of the district.

Took 4th place

I would recommend this tournament for the 10U girls next year

Minneapolis Tournament

Great tournament! Tournament organizer was awesome to work with. We had a goalie situation come up and they were happy to accommodate, even going above and beyond with contacting other teams to set up an emergency goalie if needed. We also had an injury and sick kids so we played a game with 8 skaters. The girls stood up to the challenge and represented Dodge County with pride that did not go unnoticed by other teams. A great experience. We got to play 4 games and competed.

Took 4th place

I would recommend this tournament again

Waseca Tournament

If there was a tournament I thought we could change up, it would be this tournament. It was 4 teams, 3 from the district (Mankato, Waseca, and us) and 1 from the cities. Waseca claimed that it was "luck of the draw" that we were scheduled for the first games Friday and Saturday and Sunday morning. The girls did not play up to their capabilities and struggled to compete

Placed 4th of 4

I would suggest looking for an alternative tournament for next year

Season Highlights

Beat Mankato (9-1-1) away game for our final regular season game, giving them their only district loss

Tied Waseca (11-2-2) who has only lost or tied to Mankato

Played both Mankato and Waseca down to the wire in the district tournament

Competed and fought through adversity in Mpls

Beat Cloquet, was trailing with 1:30 left in the game and scored 2 goals to win

I thoroughly enjoyed coaching these girls and appreciated the help from assistant coaches, Heidi Wightman and Alex Skogerbo as well as the great job by team manager Heidi Skogerbo. The girls were eager to learn and easy to coach. I look forward to watching these girls continue to improve and have success next year.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Finished 3rd overall with a 6-7-3 record

10uB2-

Overall, Team Record 3 Wins -20 loses

District Record 3 Wins -11 Loses

Tournament Record – 0 wins 8 loses – We were outscored by our opponents 69-2 in tournament play. New Hope tournament and Spooner and 1 District tournament.

Tournament play is difficult to control what teams you play.

2 control Scrimmages

Coaching Staff: HC Matt Cano, AC Corey Knauss, AC Tony Gibson, AC Kristi Swanson

All staff was really great this season. All came prepared to each practice and were positive with the kids.

My goal for the year, as I explained to the parents at the parent meeting, was to develop the individual skill set of each girl. This was the first time any of our girls played full ice. We had 2 first yr skaters, 3 other first time 10u girls and the rest were pulled up from mites. I back loaded the schedule to have most of the games in Dec, Jan and Feb. I wanted to try and focus on development and get as many practices in place before the meat of the season schedule.

Despite the record of the team, I would consider the season as a success. The girls developed tremendously over the season. The girls always came to practice and games with positive attitudes and worked hard. My focus with this team was to continue improve the individual skills (Skating, Speed, Agility, Stick Skills) of each girl so that they can have success in the future. We still have a lot of work ahead, especially in the stick skills but they improved significantly throughout the season.

This year was a good step in helping these girls develop and step into playing full ice. Most of the younger girls will benefit from this season and will continue to develop at the 10u level next year and some over the next two years. It will be important for them to start to experience success and I believe they will.