



Top Shelf Tribune

Your Information Source for Rochester Youth, Edge, and Alliance Hockey

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RYH Holds Annual “State of the Union”

In it's 2nd year in a row, Rochester Youth Hockey held its annual “State of the Union” on Monday , February 6th at 7pm at the Doubletree hotel. The meeting is provided as a service to the RYH parents and players and allows them to hear the goals of the upcoming season along with announcing the coaches for the next hockey season.

The RYH Board was introduced followed by a presentation from Jeff Kolcon, RYH President. Jeff spoke to parents about upcoming plans for the 2012/2013 season. Some of the topics covered by Jeff included:



- Mite Major AAA will be played Cross-Ice for the upcoming season and moving forward
- The Formation of a 16U Full Season under the EJHL (see article below)
- ADM Approach Continues to be successful
- The Edge, Girls Hockey, has produced talent that has gone on to schools where they play at the college level. Recruitment continues to

replace those that have left.

- RYH continues to be strong and growing despite the economy
- New rink management under Rory Fitzpatrick and Brian Boll seems to have produced some positive feedback as there is an increased presence of help and cleanliness.
- Dehumidification system was not installed by previous management and is being discussed with the new management for next season.

- Announcement of the 2012-2013 coaches

The turnout was great and parents were able to meet-and-greet coaches asking questions about their coaching philosophy and their plans for the upcoming season.

Overall, the meeting was informative and a great success! If you missed the event, details can be found in this and future newsletters.

RYH Announces 16U Full Season Team

Rochester Youth Hockey in partnership with the Rochester Stars of the Eastern Junior Hockey league are pleased to announce the formation of the Rochester Stars 16U EJHL team.

The 16U EJHL team will provide a full season format for players looking to showcase their skills and exceed at the junior level and beyond. The team will mirror the Rochester Stars Junior A team with 3-4 weekly practices, 24-28 league games, and several major tournaments. League games and showcases will be held at the same

venues and during the same weekends as the Junior A teams.

"We are extremely excited to be able to offer a 16U team that will be competing in a league that is centered in the middle of NCAA hockey" states Tony Maksymiu, Head Coach and General Manager of the Rochester Stars Junior A team. "It only makes sense to play where you can be seen by both elite junior programs and potential colleges."

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"The Rochester Stars and The EJHL are working closely with USA Hockey to offer a high performance option aligned with the American Development Model" states Maksymiu. Players can expect one weekend a month will be dedicated to training with no games scheduled. Off ice training will be conducted at the local Athletic Republic franchises two to three times per week and will include speed training.

Tom Prato, AAA Travel Director for Rochester Youth Hockey thinks that this is a win for the hockey community. "We see many players leave our market to pursue better competition and exposure. This model offers the ability to retain players and offer a product built on a stronger platform than any other 16U models available."

The new 16U league will be comprised of teams

directly aligned with EJHL Junior A franchises and will begin play in the 2012-13 season. The team will travel to and from games in a team bus. Player tuition will include all travel.

The Eastern Junior Hockey League was formed to meet the needs of hockey players in the Northeastern United States who wanted to further their skills in preparation for college or professional hockey. The EJHL has since established itself as a quality Junior Hockey Program, with many of its players realizing success at advanced levels of play. It is one of the top avenues to NCAA Hockey in the country.

The Rochester Stars will announce the head coach and tryout schedule in the next several days. Any questions can be directed to Tony@maksymum.com.

Girls Jr. Hockey Team Announced!

Rochester Youth Hockey in partnership with Maksymum Hockey is pleased to announce the formation of the Maksymum Edge Girls' Junior Hockey team.

The Edge will provide a full season format for players looking to showcase their skills and build a competitive experience with expectations of moving on to college hockey. The team will mirror the development model of both the Maksymum Junior B hockey team and the Rochester Stars Junior A team of the Eastern Junior Hockey league. The team will practice 4 times a week along with off-ice conditioning provided by Athletic Republic.

"Having the ability to offer girls junior hockey in Rochester is both exciting and timely," states Ray Cardella, Director at Large with Rochester Youth Hockey and longtime Director of the Rochester Edge Program. "We have seen a lot of talent leave Rochester to pursue high level competition and exposure. This venue will allow us to effectively compete with the other junior programs and academies."

Morgan Beikirch, Director of Girls Hockey for Maksymum LLC and former college coach adds, "It is extremely important to keep our talent local. Our younger girls need role models to connect the dots to college hockey. If our best girls always leave, it is a disincentive for some little girls."

Although the priority is given on developing local talent, The Edge will also expand their reach to competitive players throughout North America. "We expect to see some players from all over involved in our program. This will be a great stepping stone for high school players and graduates looking to improve their exposure to college hockey scouts."

The Maksymum Edge Girls' Junior Hockey team is exploring affiliation with several junior leagues but will

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Pass The Puck

BRING BACK MY LOCAL HOCKEY!!!

As you know, MSG has increased their costs for Time Warner Cable by 53%. As a result, TWC has stopped broadcasting many NY team games, including the Buffalo Sabres and NY Rangers games. TWC is still in negotiations with MSG to bring back our teams to our television sets. What you may not know, is until then, there are other ways to cheer on our teams!

WGNR—Sports Radio 550 (Streaming audio of Buffalo Sabres), -iPhone/Android Gamecenter—Full stats, scores, and notifications for your favorite team—iPhone/Android

TWC—offering free NHL Package for month of January & February

SiriusXM Radio—Hockey coverage via satellite radio



**Rochester AAA '01 and AAA '02
Invitationals
Provide Great Experience for All**



On January 27-29th and February 3-5th, the Rochester AAA '01 and '02 Invitationals were held. Each tournament was host to teams from all over the US and Canada.

Both tournaments were a great success. Visiting teams commented on how well the tournaments were run and that the organization was excellent. Although both Rochester teams failed to make it to the final medal games, RYH was considered to be excellent hosts and the number of teams attending are proof. Some team comments noted were, “this tournament is always the best” and “it was run better than the Bauer Tournament we attended.”

Some of the highlights from the '02 Tournament included two games ending in shoot-outs with the Gold Championship going into sudden death! Everyone was on the edge of their seats as the Pittsburgh Aviators went up against the South Shore Kings for the Gold. In the end, the Aviators were “flying high” with a win for the Gold and a trophy to bring home! Many teams commented on the fact that they will definitely be back for next year’s tournament which is already set. Winners are as follows:



2001 AAA Squirt Major Results	2002 AAA Squirt Minor Results
Gold Hamilton Bulldogs	Gold Pittsburgh Aviators
Silver Middlesex Islanders	Silver Syracuse Nationals
Bronze Souther Tier Admirals	Bronze South Central Coyotes
Consolation Kitchner Jr. Rangers	

(Girls Jr. Hockey Team Announced—continued from Page 2)

focus mostly on college campus showcases and major showcase tournaments. "We expect that every game will attract college attention," says Beikirch.

Training and development will consist of 4 practices a week along with 2-3 off-ice sessions.

The team will have at least one weekend per month without games and travel. The team will be featuring a new logo and color scheme heading into their inaugural 2012-13 campaign.

The Maksymum Edge will announce the head coach and tryout schedule in the next several days. Any questions can be directed to Morgan Beikirch at morgan@maksymum.com.

Coaches for 2012-2013 Announced

Rochester Youth Coaches

Mite Major AAA Cross-Ice	Joe Richards (HC) & Bill Smith (Asst)
Squirt Minor AAA	Jeremy Nau
Squirt Major AAA	Brian Fedele
PeeWee Minor AAA	Tom McDonald
Squirt Minor AA	TBD*
Squirt Major AA	Mike Lauderdale
PeeWee Minor AA	Leo Roth
PeeWee Major AA	TBD*
Bantam Minor AA Red	Paul Colucci
Bantam Minor AA Blue	Mike Herrnecker
Bantam Major AA	Steve Weisbeck
Bantam Major AA Red	Brett Lawrence
Bantam Major AA Blue	Steve Weisbeck
Midget Minor AA (15U)	Stuart MacKenzie
Midget Minor AA (16U)	Tom Passmore
Midget Minor AA (Mixed)	Tyler Pakis
16U EJ—RYH/Maksymiu	Dave Maksymiu
Midget Major AAA (18U)	Dave Perkins
Midget Major AA	TBD*
Midget Minor AAA (15U)	Brian Guck

Rochester Alliance Coaches

PeeWee Major AAA	Brian Guck
Bantam Minor AAA	Jim Weimer
Bantam Major AAA	Tony Maksymiu

Rochester Edge Coaches

Edge U10	Ned Corbett
Edge U12 Tier I	Morgan Beikirch
Edge U14 Tier I	Jeri Rippon
Edge U16 Tier I	TBD*
Edge U19 Tier I	TBD*

* - Indicates coach selection unconfirmed. Announcement to happen at a later date.



Hockey Weekend Across America will take place Feb 17-19, 2012. The effort is aimed at two major objectives with a weekend of events at the local and national level to promote hockey.

Objectives:

1. To celebrate our game and all involved in the sport throughout the nation using all means possible.
2. Provide opportunities for those who haven't played hockey to try it, resulting ultimately in more people playing our game at all levels.

Locally, the Rochester Amerks are providing a free ticket to all youth and high-school players registered with USA Hockey for the Feb. 19th game @ 5:05pm against the Hamilton Bulldogs. Visit www.amerks.com/promor.asp for more info.

View www.usahockey.com for additional information other Hockey Weekend events and offers!

Online Registration for Travel Tryouts Now Available!

Continuing with the success and ease from last year's online registration process, RYH is pleased to announce that players can register for the 2012-2013 Tryouts online at the RYH Website.



Simply go to www.ryhockey.com and click on the link to the left "REGISTER ONLINE". You can then sign up using a credit card and just show up to tryouts. Fast and easy!

The first set of tryouts for Squirt Travel is being held the week of March 5th, followed by PeeWee the week of April 2nd.

See you then!

Young Hockey Players

Gather for the Cross-Ice Jamboree

This past weekend, young hockey-players came together at the SportsCenter at MCC for the Cross-Ice Jamboree! Hockey players of ages 5 and 6 went head-to-head on the ice playing cross-ice games for a chance to win the gold.

This event was hosted by our House Director, Lisa McCandless. Lisa has been running the Beginner/Initiation hockey program at RYH for several years now. She has been successful in making our younger hockey players enjoy the sport and encouraged them to continue playing every year.



Erin Palmer and Steve Oehliem, managers of our two Pony Teams, helped coordinate the efforts as well, to make sure the kids had a great time. There were a total of 16 teams that participated in this wonderful and fun event!

GOOD LUCK TO OUR

**PeeWee Major AAA,
Bantam Major AAA, and U16 Teams,
who are headed to the
STATE TOURNAMENTS !!**

MAKSYMUM RADIO THE COST OF HOCKEY

On Wednesday, February 1st, Maksyum Radio presented an informative show on the “Cost of Hockey.”

As you are aware, hockey is not a “cheap” sport. If you tally up the cost of equipment, lessons, ice, and time, it is a large investment. Planning ahead will allow you to keep your player in the sport without making you go broke.

Rochester Youth Hockey Treasurer, Peter Szczesniak describes where your money goes and how to save up and prepare for the season.

If you would like to hear the entire broadcast, head over to

<http://maksyumhockeyradio.com/>



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

Squirt AAA/AA Tryouts	March 5—8th, 2012
ROC City Meltdown Bantam AA Minor/Major	March 23-25, 2012
PeeWee AAA/AA Tryouts	April 2—5th, 2012

'01 Squirt Major AAA & '00 Pee Wee Minor AAA Win Breakaway Contests at Bell Capital Cup

An article submitted by Kim Zurat

Blake Humphrey and Alex Zurat (pictured) were “Champions” for the breakaway contest in the skills competition at the Bell Capital Cup in Ottawa this past January for the 2001 Squirt Major AAA in their division. They competed against teams from Canada and the U.S. each scoring 2 out of 3 goals in the first round. They then outscored their opponents in the second round tie breaker with 4 out of 6 total goals to win.

Ryan Coughlin and Kevin Wall were also “Champions” in the breakaway contest for the 2000 Pee Wee Minor AAA in their division. They combined to score 6 out of 7 shots to win and also competed against teams from Canada, the U.S. and Germany.



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('01 and '00 Bell Capital Cup Game Recap)

The Squirt Major AAA 2001 team finished 0-4 in the Bell Capital Cup tournament against very strong opposition including the #1 ranked Canadian '01 team. Despite 4 losses, the team members, Cameron Kuzniar, Keith Kolaczyk, Hunter McDonald, Parker Scholand, Ryan McEvily, Joey Visconte, Taber Monks, Blake Humphrey, James Tilley, Corey Foster, Casey Severo and Alex Zurat, battled hard. MVP players of the game awards included Cameron Kuzniar, Keith Kolaczyk, Joey Visconte and Casey Severo. The Hardest Worker awards went to Hunter McDonald, Corey Foster, Blake Humphrey and Alex Zurat. The All-Star game participants were Casey Severo, Joey Visconte, Hunter McDonald and Cameron Kuzniar. Casey Severo had one goal and one assist in the All-Star game and Joey Visconte had one assist in an 8-6 loss.

The Pee Wee Minor AAA team finished the tournament 3-1-1, going 3-0-1 in preliminary play before losing in the quarterfinals to the Peterborough Petes. One of their victories was a 4-2 win over a very talented group of all-stars from Germany. Adam Kolcon finished 2nd in the tournament in scoring and Kevin Wall was 3rd overall. Dalton Jerzak finished 2nd amongst goalies in the breakaway contest by allowing only one goal on 6 shots.



From the Editor

With the 2011-2012 season entering playoffs and coming to a close, another season of the Top Shelf Tribune will also come to an end. The goal of this newsletter continues to be communicating information and hockey news to the RYH community. The hope was to have more news and information from teams throughout the organization. The challenge has been to get teams and families to provide articles and information to go into the newsletter. As editor, my hope and vision was to create an additional avenue of information for families from coaches, players, and their families.

Unfortunately, there is still a struggle to get people to submit information. It is difficult to be the reporter, editor, and publisher all-in-one. As a result of the lack of articles to produce monthly, The newsletter will be published every two months until the need to provide it monthly is needed again.

Should you have any comments (positive or negative) please send email to: topshelftribune@gmail.com - Philip DeGrandis