



APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Player of the Month:

Congratulations:

#12 Christopher Chipchak

Head Coach: Mike Melisi



Reason Coach Melisi has nominated & The CHA POM committee has selected Chris as the player of the month:

I would like to nominate Chris Chipchak for this month's POM. Chris has actually been a POM in the making. He is a player month over month that has noticeably improved all aspects of play. Chris is a great kid and truly listens to what you tell him. He then takes that and applies it on the ice. He

recently scored his first goal of the season which was the culmination of all his hard efforts. Lately, he has been a force on killing penalties, always keeping himself in the play and keeping the opponents out of our zone Bantam 2 Team. ~Coach Mike Melisi~

Prizes donated by CHA sponsors:

Play it again Sports

www.playitagainsportschelmsford.com

Center Sports

<http://centersportschelmsford.net>

R&R Trophy and Awards

www.rrawardscorp.com

Sports-Wash

www.sports-wash.com

Honorable Mention to Runner ups:

Julianne Sheehan – Girls U-14

Jack Adamson – Squirt 1

Matt Gallagher- Squirt 4

Upcoming Events:

Annual Board Meeting

4/11/2011

Chelmsford Country Club 7:00PM



CPAL – Street Hockey Program

Chelmsford Police Athletic League's Street Hockey program.

Those who are interested in signing up their child should go to <http://www.chelmsfordpal.com> for more information and download a waiver form.

Questions should be directed to Officer Jennifer Bellissimo at jenniferbellissimo@chelmsfordpal.com.

Chelmsford Hockey Association wants to thank the following sponsors for donating the Player of Month prizes each month.

Center Sports ~ \$25.00

Play it Again Sports Chelmsford ~\$25.00

Sports Wash ~ 1 complete equipment wash

R&R Trophy & Awards ~ Player of the Month

Plaque

Thanks Ralph DiBacco

secretary@chelmsfordhockey.com



From the President

Elmore Scholarship Winner Announced!

Congratulations to Chelmsford High School senior Emma Hickey, the recipient of the 2011 Jacob M. Elmore Scholarship. The Elmore Scholarship is funded by the Elmore family and awarded by Chelmsford Hockey to the student who best embodies the spirit of the Association and who possesses the skills and traits we collectively value. One of the primary reasons her outstanding application was chosen was her commitment to helping others and her determination to reach for higher goals. Emma will receive \$1000 and will be pursuing a degree in foreign languages at George Washington University in the fall. She is a CHA Learn to Skate graduate and played goalie for the CHA U19 and Chelmsford High School teams for four seasons. While she has most assuredly left her mark on CHA and on the ice, please wish Emma Hickey the very best as she seeks to make her mark on the world.

Congratulations Emma!

Scott Millin

President CHA



Sponsor Spotlight

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My Dear Watson Plumbing Heating & Cooling
Play It Again Sports Chelmsford
R & R Trophy
Sears Hardware Chelmsford
Sports-Wash
Sullivan & Gannon, LLC
1st Rate Plumbing & Heating

These are just a few local businesses that are supporting Chelmsford Youth Hockey. If you would like to help support youth hockey and have your business featured on the CHA web site, please download the sponsor form on the CHA web site, and email your graphic to Ralph DiBacco, CHA Secretary:

Secretary@chelmsfordhockey.com



Chelmsford Team News

U14 Lady Lions Middlesex Yankee Conference Girls League Champions!

On Saturday, April 2nd, the Lady Lions defeated the Natick Comets to secure the Division Championship in the Middlesex Yankee Girls League. Chelmsford came out skating hard and scored two quick goals in the first three minutes of the game. First goal by Julianne Sheehan assisted by Ellie Farrell and the second by Hannah Farley assisted by Sophie Eppolito. Natick fought back and scored two quick goals toward the end of the first leaving the score tied at 2-2. The tie was broken five minutes into the second period when Shannon Nagle found the back of the net; unassisted. Julianne Sheehan helped the fans breathe a little easier by putting another one away unassisted at the end of the second period to make it 4-2, Chelmsford. The third period remained scoreless until Caitlyn McCabe put one away with the help of Siobhan Bowser. Natick feeling the pressure netted one just thirty three seconds later making the score 6-3. With just a few minutes left in the game, the Natick coach pulled the goalie and put six skaters out hoping to score some quick goals. This strategy would not pay off as Julianne Sheehan got hold of the puck and scored on the empty net to make it 7-3. Two minutes later, Zoe Wagner passed the puck to Shannon Nagle and she nets another empty netter. Sorrell Bourgeois made some nice passes and had great positioning throughout. First years Emily DiBacco, Kaitlyn Sylva and Natalie Turner looked great clearing the puck out of the defensive zone. Mary DeMoulas played stellar defense and rushed the puck a few times and made some great shots. Julia Maybury also played great defense continuing to clear the puck out whenever she was called upon. Rachel Peacock, one of our star forwards, was unable to play in the game but played a key role in getting the Lady Lions to the Championship game. Last, but certainly not least, is our goalie, Carissa Gordon, who made us proud in net. She made some great saves in net. Natick fought hard but the Lady Lions proved themselves champions. The final score was 8-3. Hooray for the Lady Lions!!!

Coach Mike Bowser thanks his Lady Lions, their families and the Assistant Coaches, Jim Turner, Larry Eppolito and Mark Gordon for an unforgettable season.



Lady Lions 2010-2011 League Champions!

Chelmsford Hockey Lady Lions U14

Lady Lions participate in Dover Tourney, Take home Silver Medals

The CHA U14 Lady Lions are wrapping up a very successful season with only the Middlesex Yankee League Division Championship game left to play on April 2nd. The team made the most of its deep roster that included three (3) first year players and some very talented top end players. Anchoring the defense were Mary DeMoulas, Sophie Eppolito, Siobhan Bowser, Zoe Wagner, Julia Maybury and Ellie Farrell. This group of defenders also contributed in the offensive zone with quite a few goals scored from the point position. Carissa Gordon developed her skills to become a dependable puck stopper during her first year as a full time goaltender. Julianne Sheehan and Rachel Peacock shared the scoring spotlight with tremendous puck movement, skating and thunderous shots throughout the season. The two playmakers were also able to distribute the puck to set up a number of teammates for scoring opportunities. Caitlyn McCabe and Shannon Nagle continued to improve with each game, bringing intensity, grit and hustle to every shift. Sorrell Bourgeois and Hannah Farley were solid contributors, skating the wing position and filling the slot to bury a few goals. The most improved players were Natalie Turner, Emily DiBacco and Kaitlyn Sylva. These new skaters grew into hockey players before our very eyes, their hustle and heart an inspiration to their teammates and coaches.

Coach Mike Bowser wishes to thank his assistants Jim Turner, Larry Eppolito and Mark Gordon for their countless hours of instruction, encouragement and support. This great group of girls is truly a reflection of their respective parents. A wonderful group of hockey moms and dads.

The team is again honored to receive the sponsorship support of the DeMoulas Family and Market Basket.

The U14 Girls "Lady Lions" advanced to the championship game and finished second among six teams in the Silver Division of the Bay State League Tournament in Dover, NH. The girls faced competition from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Team includes players from Chelmsford and surrounding communities.

Pictured below, front row left to right: Kaitlyn Sylva (Chel), Natalie Turner (Chel), Julia Maybury (Chel), Emily DiBacco (Chel), Julianne Sheehan (Chel), Zoe Wagner (Chel), Siobhan Bowser (Chel) Head Coach Mike Bowser, Sophie Eppolito (Chel), Hannah Farley (Low), Sorrell Bourgeois (Tyng), top row left to right: Asst. Coach Jim Turner, Caitlyn McCabe (Chel), Ellie Farrell (Chel), Mary DeMoulas (Low), Shannon Nagle (Chel), Rachel Peacock (Bill) and Asst. Coach Larry Eppolito. Missing from photo is goalie, Carissa Gordon (Bill).



Squirt 4 Lions Champions In Newburyport!

The Chelmsford Squirt 4 team just completed a thrilling triumph in the 24th Larry Fournier Memorial Tournament in Newburyport. The tournament is made up of 64 teams in 15 divisions with approximately 1000 players from Mite Instructional (5-6 years old) through Bantam (13-14). Larry Fournier was a hockey legend at Amesbury High School and was inducted into the Massachusetts State Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his work with 3 Cape Ann League schools. He lost a one month battle with cancer at the age of 33. This tournament raises money for scholarships in Larry's name to be presented to students at each of the 3 schools he coached at. The event has been run by his family and friends for all 24 years. It was a first class event from our first contact with the organizers through the second we skated off the ice for the last time. The team was honored to be invited and compete in such a great event. I don't think anyone will ever forget the energy in that building for every single game of the tournament. Players would show up 45 minutes early just to stand along the glass to watch other games because it was so exciting to be there.

It is tough to get a group of people to agree on anything. But, there is something different about a hockey family. The Squirt 4 team was presented with the opportunity to play in this tournament and all 14 families on the team signed on. It didn't matter that it would require playing league and tournament games on the same day for two consecutive weekends. The players and families relished the chance to play in this event. Through February the team's record in league play had been below average, but players didn't let this deter their goal of constantly improving. From the moment the team agreed to play in the tournament there was an increased excitement in the locker room and it started to show in game results. The team recorded their first shutout of the season led by the goalie Matt Gallagher. He was responsible for keeping the team in many games this season with his fearlessness and acrobatic play between the pipes. On more than half a dozen occasions opposing coaches have said he's the best goalie they saw all year. After the shutout the coach for Winchester was impressed with the total team effort all over the ice and remarked, "How do you guys ever lose?" This effort propelled the team on a 6 game unbeaten streak that took them into the tournament.

The first game in the tournament was against the North Shore Vipers S2 team. The team was buzzing 30 minutes before the game in the locker room. They carried that energy onto the ice and overwhelmed the Vipers in the first period. The relentless pressure helped Chelmsford build a 3-0 lead on two goals by CHA player of the month and tournament MVP Michael Brogdon and one by faceoff ace Colin O'Neill. Stellar two way play by Michael DiBacco enabled him to get assists on two of the goals. Each player on this line would have had multiple goals as well if it weren't for the North Shore Viper goalie who was voted MVP for their team in the final. The Lions had their best game of the year smothering their opponent and playing lock down defense. Matt Gallagher anchored the top defense in the tournament with only 4 goals allowed in 4 games. He had his second consecutive shutout turning away every shot. Throughout the game defensemen Jake Harrison and Sean Vredevoogd never allowed the Vipers to get much going on offense. The other defensive pair of Mark McGaughey and Steven Lubinger completed the top defense in the tournament by continuously breaking up plays in the defensive zone and immediately rushing the puck up the ice turning defense into offense and creating many scoring opportunities. With the defensive end under control the offense was able to put immense pressure on opposing teams. Teams in this tournament had to deal with a relentless attack from all three lines. Shannon Curran, Kaitlin Ervin and Joe Caruso produced more than their fair share of excitement peppering opposing goalies with shots and pressuring the puck carrier all over the ice never letting up. Bobby Lee, Joe Belanger and Kevin Silva rounded out the attack with great work along the boards and in the corners. Their grittiness kept opposing teams on their heels which prevented them from developing any sustained attack. The second game was against a very fired up team from Cape Ann. They tried to intimidate the Lions with painted hair and a fog machine in their locker room before the game. Yes, a fog machine, you don't see that in locker rooms very often. Once the game started the Lions continued their trademark pressure all over the ice. The line of Bobby Lee, Joe Belanger and Kevin Silva set the tone early by forcing turnovers and getting scoring chances to keep Cape Ann on their heels. Michael DiBacco broke the ice to put Chelmsford on top 1-0. The lead looked like it was going to hold up until Cape Ann somehow managed to slide in the tying goal with just over a minute left. Chelmsford was a little stunned and Cape Ann seized the opportunity and appeared to score

again with 35 seconds left. The officials quickly waved off the goal because they had interfered with the goalie. The team composed itself and was able to finish off the last few seconds to secure the tie. Chelmsford had dominated play throughout the game. The Cape Ann coach said that it was their best game of the entire season. It was clear that teams were going to have to be at their best to challenge the Lions in this tournament. The final round robin game was against tournament host Newburyport with Chelmsford only needing a tie to clinch a spot in the final. Newburyport struck first with a goal 60 seconds into the game off a rebound. Michael Brogdon tied the score at 1 mid way through the 1st period. The line of Shannon Curran, Kaitlin Ervin and Joe Caruso stepped up in this game and nearly had the go ahead goal on multiple occasions. If it weren't for the brick wall known as the Newburyport goalie as many as 5 or 6 players could have scored. The defense had been so fantastic and play had been in Newburyport's end most of the game this result seemed almost assured. But with 3:34 to go Newburyport took a shot through a crowd in front of the net that trickled past the Matt Gallagher when his glove and pad got stuck on the ice. The puck barely made it over the goal line, but it made the score 2-1 Newburyport. The team was devastated as their championship dreams appeared to be melting away. The coaches called a 30 second timeout to calm everyone down. The next 3 minutes included 2 Chelmsford breakaways and a barrage of shots with lots of heart-stopping action around the Newburyport net. It seemed like nothing could get through. Newburyport cleared the puck into the Chelmsford zone with 45 seconds left. Jake Harrison went to retrieve it and from behind his empty net started one last rush up the ice. There was another mad scramble in front of the net and somehow, with 22 seconds left, Michael Brogdon managed to find a small window to get the tying goal past the Newburyport goalie. The entire Chelmsford bench erupted; even people from the next game had lined the glass along the length of the rink to watch the game got caught up in the excitement and joined in the celebration. The team had come from the brink of elimination to a berth in the finals. Skip Harrison, one of the Chelmsford parents said after the game, "I don't have to do cardio for a week now!"

North Shore beat both Cape Ann and Newburyport to set up a rematch in the finals. Chelmsford was flying in the locker room before the game. The pregame introductions and playing of the National Anthem may have taken a bit of the starch out of the Lions in the first period. The Vipers are an extremely well coached and disciplined team that wasn't going to be bothered by the 3-0 loss to Chelmsford a week earlier. There's a reason they are 9-1 in the division. They showed they weren't going to be pushovers right from the opening faceoff by scoring one minute into the game. The Lions played a bit tentative through the first half of the game. They finally broke through late in the 2nd period to tie the score which breathed new life into the team. Soon after the first goal Michael Brogdon scored his 2nd goal of the game to put the team ahead. Now it was a matter of doing what got the team here, play defense. North Shore turned up the pressure in the 3rd period and carried the play, but the Chelmsford defense stepped up its play as it had all tournament. Matt Gallagher stood on his head in the 3rd period with countless big stops to keep the puck out of the net. With 90 seconds to go Chelmsford called its 30 second timeout to set its defense. The Vipers pulled their goalie to bring on an extra attacker to turn up the heat on the Lions. The defense of Jake Harrison, Sean Vredevoogd, Steven Lubinger and Mark McGaughey did all they could to keep pushing the puck out of the zone to force the Vipers to regroup. Then with 45 seconds to go the Vipers caught a break when Chelmsford was called for a penalty which put Chelmsford shorthanded. This meant the last 45 seconds would have to be killed off down 6 skaters to 4. The seconds seemed like minutes as the puck never left the Chelmsford defensive zone. Matt Gallagher gobbled up every loose puck around the net to force multiple key face-offs. Finally, with 2.6 seconds left Michael DiBacco controlled the final faceoff to run out the clock and send the entire Chelmsford Squirt 4 team rushing onto the ice throwing equipment everywhere to celebrate their championship!

The team really came together to perform their best over the course of the tournament. The atmosphere at this event was second to none. In a game later in the day after winning the championship Steven Lubinger scored a goal and came back to the bench and said, "It's so quiet". The players and families were so physically and emotionally drained from the tournament. Later that night the team gathered at Piccadilly Pub in Tewksbury to swap stories and parade around the restaurant with their trophy to show off their Chelmsford Pride.

Joe Caruso,
Head Coach Squirt 4 Team!



2011 - Larry Fournier Memorial
Tournament Champion - Squirt 4 Lions