



The Vipers Pit...

JANUARY, 2010

Here's to a Safe and Healthy New Year

Dear Viper Families,

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

I hope all of you have a healthy and prosperous 2010.

We begin the new year by sending 3 of our teams to the *Silver Stick International Finals*.

Our Midget A's

head to Pelham, Ontario Canada this week

Our Squirt A team

are off to Sarnia, Canada Jan 14-17

and our mighty

Mites

compete in Michigan Jan 21 - 24.

Good Luck

to all of our players and Coaches!

Our fundraising Committee has been working hard on a number of events. The Raffle was a success. Congratulations to the Winners!

The Tag Sale will be held Jan 23-24 at WSA. We thank all who have donated to date. Keep checking those closets! Proceeds

from this event will help defray the cost of the end of the year celebration. The Super Bowl Party and our Wine Tasting Gala are two events which will be held in February.

Our program is continuing to grow and to be recognized on both the State and National level. *This growth is due to YOUR commitment to our program.*

Practice and Game attendance is the key to a successful program. Please be sure you are keeping to your schedules and participating in all activities that your team has each week. Our coaching staff is always present and available teaching this great game of hockey. If at any time you have questions or concerns please speak with your team manager so that they can reach out for me. I and the members of the Board are here to make the Viper organization the best that it can be.

Good luck to our Silver Stick teams once again, and good luck to all of our teams as they continue their league or State Playdown schedules.

Here is to a great 2010!

*Dave Mensi
President
Vipers Hockey*

You know you have been bitten when...

Instead of sitting on some sandy beach in the 92^o sun, of a very nice Caribbean or Mexican resort.

You are sitting in the stands of a drafty, old ice rink (yes, it is 38^o, INSIDE),

watching your son carving up the ice at a "Winter Skating Clinic".

One that he specifically requested as his Holiday Present...

How can you say NO, to that!

Westchester Vipers Hockey Association

of Elmsford, New York

The Wine Gala!



Viperpix.com
for over 1000 images
of our Skaters



As part of our fund raising activities we have selected a Wine Tasting, themed night to attract the parents, friends and extended family members of our skaters. And we have selected just the right place for it!

The Sleepy Hollow Golf Course was voted as one of the top 100 most prestigious country clubs in the country, and it certainly is one of the most picturesque.



Join us for the opportunity to party with Viper friends - old, new and those yet to be made - while learning about selected wines from around the world. To taste test these wines, and compare them to what you may have experienced in the past. Then if you find a particular wine you love, you can make arrangements to purchase it right there, and either take it home, arrange to have it picked up, or have it delivered.

The night will also feature an elegant buffet, and if you are not a wine aficionado, we will also offer an open Cash Bar.

In addition to the wine tasting, we will be offering some unique Silent Auction items as well as hand-selected Sports Memorabilia (not just Hockey items).

Here is a chance to try some new wines, have an enjoyable evening out with friends, and at the same time help us raise money for the Viper Program.

The invitations will be mailed later in January, but we are expecting a large turnout so please make sure you return your invitation early, and save the date now.

Friday February 26, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Sleepy Hollow Country Club!

If you can donate Silent Auction items for this event such as; sport tickets, sports memorabilia, theater or concert tickets, time shares, one of a kind items, and other creative silent auction items, please let us know at joekelly318@aol.com



Ref's Corner



Can you answer this correctly?
(Answer is on pg 7)

For a face off to be considered proper, the two players facing off are expected to be stationary and standing squarely facing their opponent with their stick blades on the ice. Other players are prohibited from being in the face off circle.

Even if not in the face off circle, players may not be closer than how many feet away from the players facing off:

- 10 feet,
- 15 feet,
- or 20 feet?



A Short Hockey History

Canada has always taken special pride in its hockey tradition and in the success of its teams. And why not! Ice hockey as we know it was truly born in Canada.

The distant origins of the sport are somewhat in dispute. Some believe the game of ice hockey derived from English field hockey and Indian lacrosse and was spread through Canada by British soldiers in the mid-19th century. Others believe that the game was first played in Nova Scotia in the early 1800s by the Micmac Indians and was influenced by the Irish game of hurling.

No one disputes that the first rules of ice hockey were issued by students at McGill University in Montreal in the late 1870s. The rules provided for 9 players on each side and the use of a wooden puck instead of a ball.

Several amateur clubs and leagues were established in Canada in the late 1870s and 1880s. The first “world championship” of hockey was held in Montreal in 1883. The number of players was reduced to 7 per side. In 1892, *Lord Stanley*, the Gov-

ernor General of Canada, purchased a decorative bowl to use as a trophy to celebrate the best team in all of Canada. The first winner of the “**Stanley Cup**” was the Montreal HC in 1893. Lord Stanley’s daughter Isobel is recognized as being the first woman to play ice hockey.

The first game of “ice polo” in the United States was believed to have been played in 1893 between Yale University and John Hopkins University. The first U.S. ice hockey league was founded in New York City in 1896.

The National Hockey Association was established in Montreal in 1910 and was later reorganized in 1917 and named the National Hockey League. The league expanded into the United States in 1924. The National Hockey League consisted of six teams from 1942-43 until 1967-68 when it grew to 12. The League now consists of 30 teams in the U.S. and Canada. Ice hockey is now played in over 30 countries around the world and has been an Olympic sport since 1920.

The Winter Classic



"It kind of felt like we were kids again," Chris Pronger said. "Those days, you got to the rink in the morning when the sun came up and left when it got dark."



**Hurry, there's
still time**

**New deadline
Jan 8th**

Vipers Hockey Contest

Win a new
Hockey Stick
or other great prizes

Entries must be **Received by Friday, Jan 8th (7pm)**

1st place - A Hockey Stick of your choice
2nd Place - Xbox, PSP, or Wii game of your choice (\$50.00)
3rd place - \$25.00 Pro-shop credit

We are offering all our Viper Skaters
the opportunity to win an exciting prize
in a contest that shows how much you
enjoy the sport of Hockey.

The contest is open to all Viper Skaters
and you may enter the contest with either a
Drawing or a short Essay.

Topics might include, but are not limited to;
What I love about Hockey
Teamwork and why it matters
A funny hockey story
An essay or drawing about a tournament you were in
The USA Hockey team and the Winter Olympics
Sportsmanship

Each entry will be judged by the Executive Committee based upon its originality, content and the age of the participant. All entries must be submitted **by Jan 8th (7PM)** and will be judged and prizes awarded by Jan 10th.

Drop your creation in the Vipers Hockey Contest Box at the rink,
or have a parent email your submission to Vipernewsletter@optonline.net.
Make sure your name and skate division is on it somewhere.



**Good Luck,
&
GO VIPERS!**



The Game Page



Hockey Trivia

So you think you know Hockey? Lets see...

Can you answer these correctly?
How did you do last month?

This defenseman won the Norris Trophy as the most valuable defenseman 8 times. Who is he?

This defenseman won the Norris Trophy 7 times. Who is he?

This defenseman won the Norris Trophy 6 times. Who is he?

Last Month's Trivia....

1. Name the three teams that Pat LaFontaine played for during his NHL career (Islanders, Sabres, Rangers)
2. Wayne Gretzky broke Gordie Howe's career point record. What team was he playing for when he did so? (Los Angeles Kings)
3. The ice surface of an international rink is wider than a regulation NHL rink. Is it wider by 10 feet, 15 feet, or 25 feet? (15 feet)

JUMBLE

Can you unravel the Jumbled

Can you unscramble these NHL defensemen?

endzo haarc
rabIn thecle
ulpa fyeofc

As always, a special thanks to
Dan Feliu
for his contributions!
(Answers on Pg 7)



Not getting enough Hockey?

If you are an Optimum Cable TV Subscriber, you can access Hockey Drills and Strategies on Channel 500 (its Free On Demand).

Go to; Channel 500, Free On Demand, Sports, Sportskool, Hockey and then chose from; Backward Skating, Checking, Winning Face Offs or Shooting this month



Remember this is your Enewsletter
and it's success means making it relevant
to all the Skaters
and their Families.

If you have contributions, send them to us at;
vipernewsletter@optonline.net

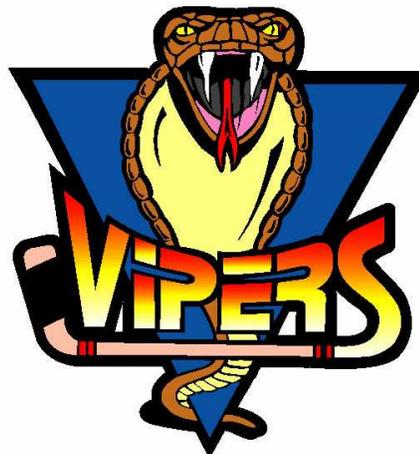
Want to
Unsubscribe
to the Vipers Pit?
(Or help clean up
our email listing)

Do so with an
Email to

vipernewsletter@optonline.net

Please place
UNSUBSCRIBE
in the "Subject
field"

That's all!



The Tag Sale

Gently Used Sports Equipment Sale.

**January 23-24,
at WSA**



All proceeds of the sale go directly to defray the costs of the Westchester Vipers.



**To drop off your
donations
or if you have any questions,
please contact**

**Suzanne or Laura
at the numbers below.**



**Suzanne Augustin
914-907-7676
ccjz@optonline.net**

**Laura Pugliese
914-939-7130
laurapugliese@aol.com**

Why Hockey?

By John Buccingross ESPN

Why you should one day sign up your young son or daughter to play youth hockey at a local rink near you. If nothing else, it gets them away from electronics and teaches them a small slice of humanity that they can take forward through life, a life with more heart and less battery power. The rink's cold robs electronics of their battery power and signal reception, anyway.

If you are a first-time hockey parent, or dream of one day spending more than \$10,000 and sacrificing weekends for a decade of glamorous youth or "minor" hockey, ***here are 13 important things you need to know about the youth hockey universe -- and hockey in general.***

1. Under no circumstances will hockey practice *ever* be cancelled. Ever. Even on days when school is cancelled, practice is still on. A game may be cancelled due to inclement weather because of travel concerns for the visiting team, but it would have to rain razor blades and bocce balls to cancel hockey practice at your local rink. It's good karma to respect the game.

2. Hockey is an emotional game and your child has the attention span of a chipmunk on NyQuil. The hockey coach will yell a bit during practice; he might even yell at your pre-

cious little Sparky. As long as there is teaching involved and not humiliation, it will be good for your child to be taught the right way, with emphasis.

3. Hockey is a very, very, very, very difficult game to play. You are probably terrible at it. It takes high skill and lots of courage, so lay off your kid. Don't berate them. Be patient and encourage them to play. Some kids need more time to learn how to ride the bike, but, in the end, everyone rides a bike about the same way.

Your kids are probably anywhere from age 4-8 when they first take up hockey. They will not get a call from Boston University coach Jack Parker or receive Christmas cards from the Colorado Avalanche's director of scouting. Don't berate them. Demand punctuality and unselfishness for practice and games. That's it. Passion is in someone, or it isn't. One can't implant passion in their child. My primary motive in letting my kids play hockey is exercise, physical fitness and the development of lower-body and core strength that will one day land them on a VH1 reality show that will pay off their student loans or my second mortgage.

Continued on page 7

4. Actually, I do demand two things from my 10-year-old Squirt, Jackson. Prior to every practice or game, as he turns down AC/DC's "Big Jack," gets out of the car and makes his way to the trunk to haul his hockey bag inside a cold, Connecticut rink, I say, "Jack, be the hardest, most creative and grittiest worker ... and be the one having the most fun." That might be four things, but you know what I mean.

5. Your kids should be dressing themselves and tying their own skates by their second year of Squirt. Jack is 67 pounds with 0 percent body fat and arms of linguini, and he can put on, take off and tie his own skates. If he can, anyone can. I don't go in the locker room anymore. Thank goodness; it stinks in there.

6. Do not fret over penalties not called during games and don't waste long-term heart power screaming at the referees. My observational research reveals the power-play percentage for every Mite hockey game ever played is .0000089 percent; for Squirts, .071 percent. I prefer referees to call zero penalties.

7. Yell like crazy during the game. Say whatever you want. Scream every kind of inane instruction you want to your kids. They can't hear you. In the car ride home, ask them if they had fun and gently promote creativity and competitiveness, but only after you take them to Denny's for a Junior Grand Slam breakfast or 7-Eleven for a Slurpee. Having a warm breakfast after an early morning weekend game will become one of your most syrupy sweet memories.

8. Whenever possible, trade in your kids' ice skates and buy used skates, especially during those growing years and even if you can afford to buy new skates every six months. Your kids don't need \$180 skates and a \$100 stick no matter what your tax bracket is. They will not make them better players.

9. Missing practice (like we stated above) or games is akin to an Irish Catholic missing Mass in 1942. We take attendance at hockey games *very* seriously. Last week, the Islanders' [Brendan Witt](#) was hit by an SUV in Philadelphia. Witt got up off the pavement and walked to Starbucks for a coffee, and then later played against the Flyers that night. Let me repeat that: **BRENDAN WITT WAS HIT BY AN**

SUV ... AND PLAYED THAT NIGHT! Re-read that sentence 56 times a night to your child when they have a case of the sniffles and want to stay home to watch an "iCarly" marathon. By, the way Philadelphia police cited Witt for two minutes in jail for obstruction. Witt will appeal.

10. Teach your kids not to celebrate too much after a goal if your team is winning or losing by a lot. And by all means, tell them celebrate with the team. After they score, tell them not to skate away from their teammates like soccer players. Find the person who passed you the puck and tell him or her, "Great pass." We have immediate group hugs in hockey following a short, instinctive reaction from the goal scorer. I am proud of my boy for a lot of things, but I am most proud of how excited he gets when a teammate scores a goal. He is [Alex Ovechkin](#) in this regard.

11. There is no such thing as running up the score in hockey. This is understood at every level. It's very difficult to score goals and unexplainably exhilarating when one does. Now, if we get to 14-1, we may want to take our foot off the gas a tad.

12. Unless their femur is broken in 16 places, Mites or Squirts should not lie on the ice after a fall on the ice or against the boards. Attempt to get up as quickly as one can and slowly skate to the bench.

13. Do not offer cash for goals. This has no upside. Passion and love and drive cannot be taught or bought. I do believe a certain measure of toughness and grit can be slowly encouraged and eventually taught. Encourage your kid to block shots and to battle hard in the corners. It will serve them well in life.

Enjoy the rink. Keep it fun, keep it in perspective and enjoy the madness. In this digital world of electronics, you may find hockey to be the most human endeavor you partake in. Cell phones run on batteries. Hockey players run on blood. Blood is warmer. Welcome.

Visit John's Website at the following:

http://espn.go.com/nhl/notebook/_page/buccigross_091215/my-13-simple-rules-hockey-parents-

All The Answers!

Jumble Answers

Answers:

Can you unscramble these NHL
defensemen?

e n d z o h a a r c (Zdeno Chara)
r a b I n t h e c l e (Brian Leetch)
u l p a f y e o f c (Paul Coffey)

Refs Corner...

The answer is;

Even if not in the face off circle, players
may not be closer than how many feet
away from the players facing off, 10 feet,
15 feet, or 20 feet?

15 feet is correct!

