

New Trier Girls Hockey  
President's Letter

It is with pleasure that we welcome all the fans of high school hockey who support the New Trier programs. This season marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the girls program. We are very lucky to have a rich legacy to draw upon that provides us with a strong foundation on which to adjust to the changing needs of the players and families we serve. From the onset, our goals were primarily twofold: (1) to provide an additional skating opportunity for the strongest players to further develop their skills in a low-risk atmosphere, and (2) to create a comprehensive high school program, as similar to a school sport as possible, where girls could continue to play the great game of hockey that we love.

We are very fortunate to live in communities where ice hockey is an integral part of the youth sports tradition. But simply the availability of girls who have had exposure to hockey doesn't ensure the success of the program. A key ingredient from the very beginning has been to have *FUN*. Without it we would have fallen short of our objectives. Every effort is made to make available a full and well-rounded experience to enable the student athlete to achieve her highest personal and athletic potential by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to competition, integrity, and self-discipline.

The Varsity team last year was fortunate to be able to win the Illinois Girls High School State Championship at the United Center, an event that they will remember for the rest of their lives. While our teams have enjoyed many successes on and off the ice over the years, the real accomplishment is how NTGH has contributed to the development of so many young women. We take pride in helping to prepare these young women for success, not only in athletic endeavors, but in all aspects of their lives. Our alumni have included many individuals fortunate enough to play Division I, Division III and Club hockey as well as other sports in college, and participate in women's and coed hockey leagues after that. But our alumni do far more than just continue to play hockey and enjoy other athletic activities. They excel in a broad range of careers and endeavors, providing a significant contribution to the communities they live in.

This year has presented us with significant challenges. The growth of girls hockey in Illinois, particularly in the northern suburbs, has encouraged more Tier II organizations to field girls teams that also serve high school aged players. These additional teams provide more options for many of the girls that we have traditionally served, particularly at the 16U and 19U levels, and for girls living in communities where there is no high school affiliation for girls ice hockey. This is a natural evolution as the number of girls playing hockey in the area increases, and factored prominently in our difficult decision to field only one team this year.

NTGH would not be what it is without the significant contribution of time, effort, and talent by all of the players, parents, and volunteers over the years who have kept the program alive, growing, and changing to meet the needs of the players. We are especially grateful to all the coaches who have worked with the girls, helping to teach them not only the game of hockey but also the values and skills to enable them to excel in all they do.

May all the New Trier hockey teams have a great season! I hope everyone will follow the activities of our Varsity girls team on our website at [www.newtriergirlshockey.com](http://www.newtriergirlshockey.com) and bring a friend to a game. If you have questions, concerns or comments about the program, please do not hesitate to bring them to my attention as it is the most productive way to help us improve what we are offering.

***Go Girls!***

**Ned Forsberg**

President, New Trier Girls Hockey