



## The Pace Quickens

It is mid-February and the end of regular season play is fast approaching. The first year players are now “seasoned” veterans of their current levels and the teams are gelling together. It is fun to see how much the players have learned and grown just since last October.

As coaches we are just starting to get to know the first year kids as individuals and all of the players as a team. This is when a few minor adjustments might be in order to balance things out. A pee wee B1 parent from Eden Prairie remarked to me at the Osseo tournament that he was pleased to see that his son’s coach was having the kids play different positions and his son had recently been moved to defense.

With play offs approaching our adult reasoning is to get the team ready to win. For some youth coaches they mistakenly believe that the justification for a short bench is winning. This of course is not particularly true but many hang on to this misconception. Please see the game from the eyes of your third line and you will do the right thing.

There are several really good articles with this issue:

Dave Conti, Director of Scouting for the New Jersey Devils, addresses the issue of the importance of off-season “must attend to be seen” tournaments.

Don Lucia is right to the point regarding his thoughts for mite hockey programs.

Tom Malloy – Tom is the author of the ABCs of Coaching Hockey. There is an excellent excerpt from his book that is a must read for serious coaches. His website is also very interesting. The link is;

<http://www.hockeycoachboards.com/bbs/forum2/posts/7757.html>

Tom has lots of drills, diagrams and sound advice for youth hockey coaches and players.

From the USOC- Rick Aberman & John Anderson (U of M Baseball Coach); **Why Good Coaches Quit**. This is an excellent piece and quite thought provoking. Please take a few minutes to read this article.

Tag Up Off sides: I share some thoughts about this subject. Please read it and then give us your opinion by going to [www.minnesotahockey.org](http://www.minnesotahockey.org) and taking the survey question. We really would like your opinion.

Coach feedback: I received several emails with suggestions and comments after the last E-Newsletter. Read what other coaches have to say and feel free to reply if you wish.

Good luck to all of you in the final stretch. The next issue will address some off season ideas, team party ideas, and maybe more comments from you, the coaches.

Remember: *We have to coach the team we have, not the one we wish we had*

Past issues are now archived on the Minnesota Hockey website in the coaches section. Please feel free to send suggestions, comments or ideas. If you wish to submit an article please send it to me at [halt@minnesotahockey.org](mailto:halt@minnesotahockey.org)

See you at the rink,

Hal Tearse  
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