



ICE TIMES

PUBLISHED BY THE WAYZATA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



Four board of director positions open

Applications must be in by March 15

Four Wayzata Youth Hockey Association board of director positions will be open as of the end of this season, and the WYHA is looking for dedicated members to fill the positions.

People interested in applying must send in their completed bios, which will be posted online, by March 15. Nominations can be made until the election date, but any bio submitted after the deadline will not be posted online and the candidate's information won't be included in election information mailed to WYHA members.

The bio forms and instructions are on the WYHA Web site. See the Wayzata Youth Hockey Association home page under the heading "Want to get involved in the WYHA?" to link to the nominations form. (www.wayzatahockey.org) The form asks for the applicant's objective, philosophies and the direction the applicant would like to see the program take. Anyone with questions can contact Paul Hahn, vice president of administration, at hahnhouse@usfamily.net.

Voting will take place in the Center Ice Room at the Plymouth Ice Arena between 9:45 and 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, and must be done in person. Each family member 18 years or older can cast a vote.

The annual meeting, also on April 15, will be held from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m., and the candidates will have an opportunity to speak in front of interested WYHA members starting at approximately 10:15 a.m. The winners of the election will be announced around 11:15 a.m.

Jim Fong, Jim Smith, Paul Hahn and Tim Herbert are completing their term in April. Though not entirely decided, Fong is considering reapplying for a position on the board; Smith and Hahn say they will run again. Tim Herbert, an at-large member, says he will not reapply for a board position, but is definitely planning to volunteer within the association.

For the last four years, Fong has been the WYHA tournament director and tournament scheduler. Smith, a board member for six years, has been the vice president of youth travel for three years, and Hahn has been the vice president of administration for the last two years. Herbert was general support to the board this year and the vice president of Mites for two years before transitioning the position to Dan Sorenson.

The board is made up of 13 board positions, 12 of whom are voted into office, and the president of the BlueLine, who is automatically a voting member of the board.

The 12 board positions serve a three-year term; the terms are staggered so that every year four positions are reopened for elections, and there is no limit to the number of terms a member can hold. The board term of the BlueLine president is dependent on the voting schedule of the BlueLine committee.

While a board member carries a three-year term, the board and committee positions are voted upon each year. Greg Gibson, for instance, has been on the board for four years and

has two years remaining until his second term is over. He has been voted into the position of WYHA president each of the last three years.

Once the new members are selected in April, the board president tentatively assigns board members to committee positions according to their qualifications, expertise and interests. (Non-board members can also fill these positions, but do not have voting power.) In May, the new, current and outgoing members elect the president, vice presidents and at-large members, and finalize the president's selections to the various committee positions.

Each of the 13 members has voting power on any topic or issue that is presented to the board. They vote on items such as the number of teams to carry in the association at each level, the coaching staff, the tryout process,

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Board seeks well-rounded, motivated members

the type and level of skill development, and approve the expenditures such as the purchase of new uniforms or the cost of ice time.

Two major issues this past year were the funding for Rink C at Plymouth Ice Arena, and the amount of assessments assigned to WYHA hockey players to cover the shared cost of the Central Sports Complex at Wayzata Central Middle School.

Board members are expected to attend the monthly meetings, which are held the first Monday of every month, and the committee meetings to which the members are assigned.

"We're looking for dedicated volunteers to join the board. People who are willing to give more than a little time," says Gibson. "We need people. We need the commitment."

A background in hockey isn't necessary to become a board member, says Gibson, adding that he has never played the sport. "I barely know how to skate."

Gibson touts the current board with its variety of volunteers whose children play anywhere from Mites to C League to Junior Gold to high-level travel teams.

"Our goal is to serve all 1,100 players, not just one part of the organization," says Gibson.

The board is seeking people who are well-rounded and who can look at the big picture in how to make the association benefit every boy and girl in the program.

"You can be on this board and have a tremendous amount of input," Gibson says. "You don't have to be a hockey expert."

Gibson's son Devon expects to play in the WYHA program one more year. Gibson says that the year after his son no longer plays as a Trojan will be his last year on the board to help transition the new president. Then he intends to seek other volunteer opportunities within the organization.

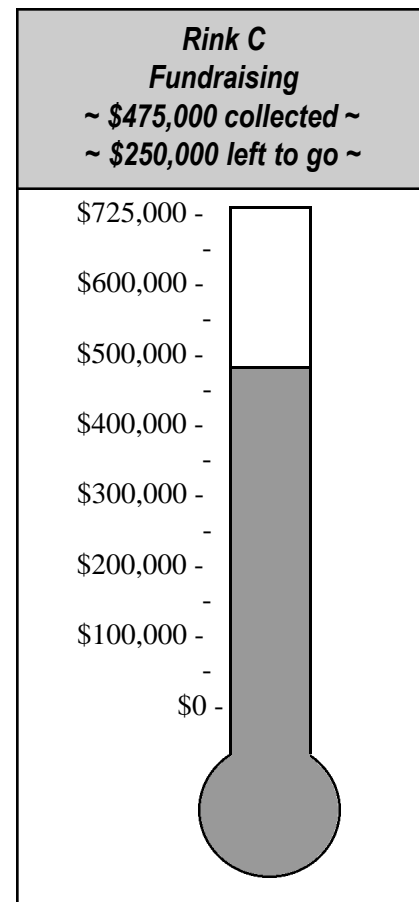
Make a difference

Improving and strengthening the organization is a prime reason to opt for a seat on the board of directors. Herbert ran for the board three years ago when he wanted to make a change in the association's Mites program. He's proud to say that since he's been elected he's significantly increased the number of Mites at every level.

"People need to jump in with the intent of driving a cause ... and then take action to make it happen," Herbert says.

He says the type of person who would be successful in the board is someone who is a go-getter, willing to implement change, is focused and organized.

"They've got to have a little fire. They've got to be motivated to make a change and do the follow-up," Herbert says. "Yes, you can make immediate change."



Student athletes rewarded for good grades

On Tues., March 29, about 375 to 400 WYHA hockey players will be awarded certificates and prizes for their accomplishments—not on the ice, but in the classroom—during the WYHA Academic Awards Program held in the Wayzata Central Middle School auditorium.

The WYHA Academic Awards program is for all students, grades four and up, who carry a 3.0 or higher grade point average in the school year. The program jumped from 100 participants when it first started in the 1990-1991 season to nearly 400 this year.

According to Lynn Brandt, one of the first organizers of the WYHA Academic Awards program, the pro-

gram idea was formulated in 1989 by WYHA hockey mom Dorothy Eggert who was concerned about the slipping grades of some of the older players. The associations at the time were unsupportive of the student athletes who were unable to attend a practice or game because of homework or a school commitment. Some players quit hockey because of their dropping grades.

“All associations at the time were very win-win. If you couldn’t make practice because of homework or school, you didn’t get to play the next game. That was just the mentality of the coaches at that time,” says Brandt.

Thinking that the student athletes

who could participate in sports and still accomplish good grades deserved recognition and praise, Eggert and Brandt designed the association’s first Academic Award program. Prizes and certificates of achievements were handed out to the students during the spring ceremony, and a speaker was invited to talk to the kids about the importance of education.

During the first year, only about 100 of the association’s approximate 700 WYHA players participated in the program. Brandt says the program wasn’t publicized much, and they relied mostly on word-of-mouth advertising.

“At the time, it was so small that we

Continued on page 4

14th Annual WYHA Academic Awards Program



March 29, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Central Middle School Auditorium

Mark your calendars.
Play hard. Study harder.

Academic Awards

had more prizes than we had kids participating,” Brandt says.

After the birth of the Academic Awards, the WYHA association became more supportive of the students, and told the coaches they couldn’t bench players because of school commitments.

“The [WYHA] association started to turn that around by saying hey, school comes first,” Brandt says. “So the whole program really changed the whole mentality, the thinking process of all of [the coaches].”

Growing through S.K.A.T.E.

Last year, WYHA teamed up with the Skaters Keep Achieving Through Education (S.K.A.T.E.) program that was established by the Armstrong

“No question about it. I’ve seen it in my own household,” Fallen says, acknowledging that the positive peer pressure helps the student athletes keep their grades up.

Peer pressure and the cool prizes, that is.

To reward student athletes for maintaining a 3.0 or greater GPA, Minnesota Hockey gives each them a certificate and bag tag. Prizes donated to WYHA by community businesses such as Best Buy, Target and Sports Hut are randomly drawn during the presentation for each eligible child.

This year, student athletes will be awarded prizes such as television sets, stereo boom boxes, Walkman radios, CD players, hockey accessories and

Snuggerud and Bill Butters, former Minnesota Gophers and Northstars player, as well as Doug Woog, former head coach of the Gophers, and Wayzata high school student and Gopher player Judd Stevens. Last year, Wayzata invited Mike Max from WCCO (“Sports to the Max” talk show host).

This year, WYHA will entertain the student athletes and their families with a slide show of the Trojan teams and players, and Lance Pitlick, former NHL player and current coach of the Mite 3C team, will talk with the kids on the value of academics and sports.

“It reinforces the importance of education and maintaining the balance between sports and school,” says Larry

“These youth sports are a mechanism to get [student athletes] to teach themselves about goal setting, performance and everything else.”

—Bob Fallen, cofounder and senior vice president of TPG Sports, marketing agency for Minnesota Hockey, which endorses the S.K.A.T.E. program

Youth Hockey Association (AYHA) and endorsed by Minnesota Hockey in the early 1990s.

S.K.A.T.E. first started when three hockey mothers in the Armstrong Youth Hockey Association (AYHA), were also concerned that too much emphasis was being placed on hockey and not enough was devoted to academics.

At the time, less than 50 percent of the hockey players at AYHA achieved a 3.0 or above average, according to Bob Fallen, president of AYHA. Within a few years, that number increased to more than 80 percent, Fallen says, adding that he’s certain the S.K.A.T.E. program is to be credited for the students’ successes.

gift certificates. WYHA is donating numerous certificates to the summer Wayzata hockey clinics and development programs, valued between \$195 and \$530.

Each student qualifier is then entered into a statewide database through S.K.A.T.E. for an opportunity to win more gifts and certificates, such as \$250 toward the cost of Doug Woog’s summer camp, or \$100 certificates from Acceleration Minnesota.

As part of the program, it’s customary for the associations to invite a speaker to address the student athletes and encourage their ongoing academic achievements through stories of their own. In the past, Wayzata invited former San Jose Sharks player Dave

Foote, WYHA Academic Awards program chair.

Going nationwide

Besides his position as president of AYHA, Fallen is a cofounder and senior vice president of TPG Sports, the official and exclusive marketing agency for Minnesota Hockey. TPG Sports also publishes the Minnesota Hockey Journal and USA Hockey Magazine.

When Fallen first witnessed the success of the S.K.A.T.E. program at AYHA, he promoted the concept to Minnesota Hockey and, with their endorsement, has developed S.K.A.T.E. into a statewide program in just five

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Wayzata Hockey Clinics

2005 Spring & Summer Clinics

www.wayzatahockeyclinics.com

In the Spring . . .

Mite Shiny/Pond Hockey Clinic

(8 days – 8 hours)

Separate clinics for:

- Mite 1's
- Mite 2's
- Mite 3's and 4's
- Girls 1's and 2's
- Girls 3's and 4's

Registrations will be accepted from players outside of WYHA for the Girls Clinics only.

Squirt Overspeed / Pond Hockey Clinic

(4 days – 6 hours)

Checking Clinic (2 Sessions)

(3 days – 4 ½ hours)

All players welcome, regardless of level or current school

In the Summer . . .

Summer Mite Clinics

Beginning Mites (6 weeks/12 hours)

Mite 3 & 4 Clinic (2 weeks/10 hours)

Mite for Girls Only (6 weeks/12 hours)

Squirt Summer Development Program (2 Sessions)

(8 weeks/30 hours)

Girls U10 (6 weeks/12 hours)

Girls U12 (6 weeks/16 hours)

Girls U14 (6 weeks/24 hours *PLUS* 24 hours of dry-land training)

Pewee STP (2 Sessions)

(8 weeks/30 hours)

Bantam STP (3 Sessions)

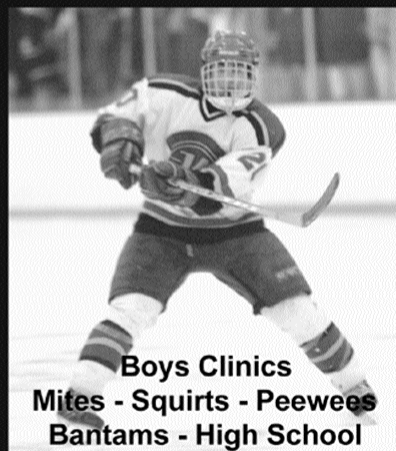
(4 day week format – 36 hours over 6 weeks *PLUS* 40 hours of dry-land training)

High School STP

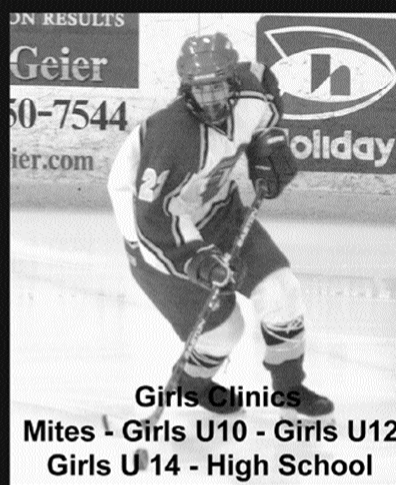
Girls - (6 weeks/24 hours – *PLUS* 24 hours of dry-land training)

Boys – For returning Varsity/JV player only

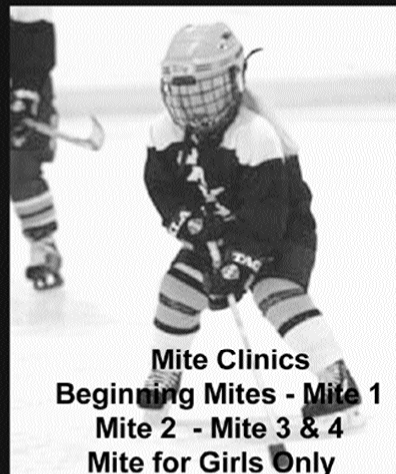
Third Bantam session added



Boys Clinics
Mites - Squirts - Peewees
Bantams - High School



Girls Clinics
Mites - Girls U10 - Girls U12
Girls U14 - High School



Mite Clinics
Beginning Mites - Mite 1
Mite 2 - Mite 3 & 4
Mite for Girls Only

PRODUCING BETTER PLAYERS FOR TOMORROW!

Wayzata Youth Hockey Association

Academic Awards

years. Out of a total of 160 associations in Minnesota, there are currently 15,000 student athlete qualifiers within the 130 participating associations.

"Hockey can be a vehicle to help get [student athletes] to achieve things in their lives. The focus on academics is absolutely paramount in their lives as far as being an athlete," says Fallen. "These youth sports are a mechanism to get them to teach themselves about goal setting, performance and everything else."

Fallen's goal is to eventually introduce S.K.A.T.E. nationwide and he plans to promote the program through USA

Hockey Magazine which reaches .5 million hockey families across the country.

But there are substantial costs in running the program, costs that would exceed TPG Sports' capabilities. To help fund the program, S.K.A.T.E. was recently rolled into a nonprofit organization separate from TPG Sports, which entitles it to accept tax-deductible grants and donations.

The program is currently sponsored by Acceleration Minnesota and the Minnesota Wild 100,000 Rinks Foundation.

Starting from a small unpublicized

program into one that draws nearly 400 participants is a big accomplishment for WYHA and its student athletes.

"I think it's great that the associations and the coaches have started coming around. The big thing is for these kids, hockey isn't their life," Brandt says. "The sooner the kids realize that their education is the most important, the better off the kids and the parents will be."

And if thinking about their future is too far-fetched for some of the young hockey players, the prizes are a great incentive. Hey, whatever works.

Is strength training safe for our youth?

Many parents ask the question "Is it really OK for my child to participate in weight training? If so, at what age is it considered safe to start?"

The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Sports Medicine has endorsed strength training for youth as a way to improve fitness levels and build strength, provided the program is properly designed and supervised.

According to Dr. Avery Faigenbaum, EdD, CSCS, assistant professor in the Human Performance and Fitness Department at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, the best use for strength training is for preseason conditioning prior to sports participation.

The goal for weight training, also referred to as strength training, should be to improve musculoskeletal strength. Our goal for kids should never be to see who is strongest. They should tone muscles with low weights and high repetitions. Kids shouldn't concentrate on adding muscle bulk until they have passed through puberty, according to Michael Axe, M.D., author of "Weight Training: Designing a Program for Children and Adolescents."

Children as young as 5 or 6 can start with body weight exercises such as pushups, abdominal curl-ups and wall-sits. There is no magic age that is considered appropriate for kids to use weights. When kids are mature enough to follow a regimen and the rules of a weight room, they can advance to using resistance equipment such as free weights and weight machines, provided they are under the approval of their physician and the supervising adult has the appropriate knowledge and experience to guide kids safely.

Parents, remember that your personal weight training regimen will be different from your child's. If you choose to guide your child, make sure you have the knowledge to develop a safe and effective routine.

Children should begin with one set of 10 to 15 repetitions of six to eight exercises including the major muscle groups of the upper and lower body. As they become stronger, they may gradually increase the weight and/or add a second and third set for further strength gains. Two to three nonconsecutive weight training days per week is recommended. Additionally, proper speed and form is essential to avoid

injury and to get the full benefit of the exercise.

If you decide to invest in a weight-training program for your kids, ask the following questions:

1. Does the trainer have experience in training kids?
2. Is the trainer able to monitor what the kids are doing? Is the child-to-instructor ratio at least one instructor for every 10 kids?
3. When performing a new exercise, does the trainer have the child do the exercise under close supervision?
4. Are stretching exercises performed before and after the strength training?

Strength training programs can significantly reduce the risks of sports injury and improve sports performance. However, it's important that your child is ready and that he or she enjoys the routines. Kids will not stick with anything if they are not having fun.

—Susan Jensen
ACE Certified Personal Trainer
fit4lifetraining@msn.com

Squirt A focuses on sportsmanship, hockey development and fun

The Wayzata Squirt A team is in the midst of a fun and rewarding season. It started with a highly competitive tryout week full of many good and deserving players for a roster that had to be cut to 17.

After head coach Jim Neary and assistant coaches Derek Gullett and Dan Simcoe made the final difficult roster decisions, the team began the season with a concentration of practices that allowed the coaches and players to get familiar with each other.

The team's first tournament was in Duluth just prior to Thanksgiving. The boys started strong, taking second place, losing the championship game in an overtime shootout against Woodbury.



They've continued their strong play taking two more second-place finishes in tournaments in Bloomington and Grand Rapids. Their overall record currently stands at 20 wins, five losses and one tie. All of their losses have been by one goal and four have come in overtime. They are unbeaten in league play and have two more chances at tournament championships in Woodbury and at districts.

More importantly, the kids have had fun while also developing into better hockey players. The boys have now rotated positions three times and the coaches' emphasis has clearly been on fun, development and sportsmanship.

Head coach Neary is known for his even-handed approach and commitment to improvement as opposed to winning at all costs. He is famous for writing words of wisdom on the white board prior to games and practices to

give the boys a little something to think about. Coach Simcoe manages the forwards and his favorite phrase is "S'up Dawg." Coach Gullett manages the defense and is famous for telling really bad jokes before games during tournaments to try to loosen the team up, but mostly the boys just shake their heads. Other coaches who have helped throughout the season include

John Neary, Marc Sorensen and Mark Nenovich.

The Squirt A roster includes Brady Anderson, Grant Besse, Miles Death, Matt Halverson, Joe Haselman, Brian Jarvey, Mario Lucia, Sam Majka, Dushyant Mehra, Kevin Miller, Sean Mostrom, Grant Opperman, Ryan Peterson, Ryan Poppitz, Jake Steinbach, Kage Tiller and Alex Turtinen.

The team has a loyal following of parents, siblings, friends and family who should also be recognized for their unwavering commitment and support. Bill Anderson has done a great job as team manager and Murray Death has kept track of our finances. Thanks to both.

Finally, special thanks to team sponsor First Data Merchant Services.

—Matt Majka

HELP WANTED

BlueLine Positions Available:

*Academic Awards Purchasing
Coordinator*

*Academic Awards Event
Coordinator*

*Academic Awards Event Volunteer
BlueLine Board Fundraising*

**Contact: Jerry Trapp,
763-509-9117, jkhc5@msn.com**

Volunteer Opportunities:

—sign up via the Web site—
*PeeWee Invitational Tournament
Mite Madness & Silent Auction
Academic Awards
Concessions-Wayzata Arena
Pucks N Stuff (additional
hours added occasionally)
Golf Fundraiser (see page 14)*

March 4-6

Last weekend to visit the concessions stand at

Central Middle School Ice Arena.

Satisfy your taste buds while supporting the

Wayzata Youth Hockey Association.

Whistle blowers

Whether it's because of the coaches, the parents, the roughness of the plays, or just not getting enough games on their schedule, many Minnesota referees are leaving or threatening to leave their posts. District 3 is not exempt.

According to Jim Gates, supervisor of officials for District 3, at the start of the season, about 30 people sign up for the fall clinics. Out of those 30, about 10 to 15 complete their requirements to become referees, but only about five to 10 stick with it after the year's end.

Currently, the district has 90 officials ranging in ages from 14 to 50-plus. While that's considered enough to get by, Gates says the referees get stretched to the limit on some tournament weekends, depending on the number and level of the tournaments held.

"We probably would not be able to function with too many less than what we have," Gates says. "It's definitely a concern."

Technically, there is no minimum age set to be an official, but District 3 prefers incoming referees to be at least 14 years old. No matter the age, however, younger officials cannot work any games at their level or above. A 14-year-old referee, for example, can work only at the Mite, Squirt and PeeWee levels.

For some younger officials who still play hockey themselves, this limits the number of games they can work at after their own practices, games and tournaments. Some of these younger officials get discouraged and quit.

Gates says it's difficult to determine the specific reasons why other officials are leaving, since they oftentimes don't re-register without saying why. But an official himself, he's heard grumblings in the referee locker rooms. And usually those grumblings are about the unruly or disrespectful

behavior of the coaches and parents.

"I don't know necessarily that they have quit, but they have certainly expressed their disgust with it," Gates says. "I'm sure in some situations it's more of venting than anything else."

In the last two years, Gates says, about six officials have stopped officiating at the high school level because of the flak they take from the teams and fans.

Gates doesn't officiate for high school hockey, and he says the youth program is less unruly, but the problem still exists. Personally, he hasn't come up against an intense situation, but he

fair amount of apprehension for a lot of people who might be interested, especially younger ones, because they hear the stories the same as you and I do, and they may be somewhat concerned," Gates says. "I think it takes somebody that has a pretty solid personality to deal with some of it."

Gates is quick to say that the criticism from the bench and the fans isn't always necessarily directed at the officials: "Even the well-behaved benches get wrapped up in the game and they make comments."

In it for the fun

Learning how to work with the coaches and fans is something Matt Nispel feels he has accomplished.

Nispel, who five years ago hung up his league skates to join the ranks as a hockey official, is a Level 3 linesman for District 3. He can work the games up to the Junior Gold level, but isn't experienced enough to be a referee.

As a linesman, Nispel can't call minor penalties, but can call major penalties and watch for offsides and icing. The referees are the only officials allowed to call minor penalties.

Nispel, a senior at Wayzata High School, says the biggest challenge he faced as a rookie official was "to figure out how to deal with coaches, because no matter what call you make, they're not going to agree with it. ... You just have to learn to deal with it."

His methods include either ignoring them or explaining to them the reason for his call. "Then if they disagree with that, you can give them penalties if they don't stop yelling at you," says Nispel. He's only once had to give a

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Photo by Duane Sather

"If I go out there and conduct myself in a professional manner ... then they respect me a lot more for it." —Matt Nispel, referee

expects that's because most of the coaches recognize him as the District 3 supervisor.

He says many coaches tend to focus more on the younger officials who might be more susceptible to intimidation. This is something Gates tries to shield them from through classroom training and partnering the rookies with the more experienced officials. Plus, he says, he tries to select the more confident applicants during the hiring process.

"I'm relatively certain that there's a

Referees

coach a bench minor penalty. While he's never had to eject a coach, Nispel says he probably should have a couple of times.

Nispel agrees with Gates' theory, and thinks coaches and parents tend to regard him differently than older, more experienced officials because of his age. He says officials who are older, but less experienced are also targeted by coaches trying to intimidate rookie officials. But, he says, he's learned how to gain their respect.

"If right away you look like you haven't been reffing a long time and you're not quite sure what you're doing, then they'll try to take advantage of that," Nispel says.

He makes sure to maintain a confident attitude and a professional appearance while officiating.

"If I go out there and conduct myself in a professional manner, and they know that I'm not joking around, that I'm here to do my job, then they respect me a lot more for it."

But most importantly, Nispel sees it his job as an official to keep the game safe and clean. He makes it a priority to call the games fairly and within the rules in order to minimize unnecessary injuries in an obviously physical sport.

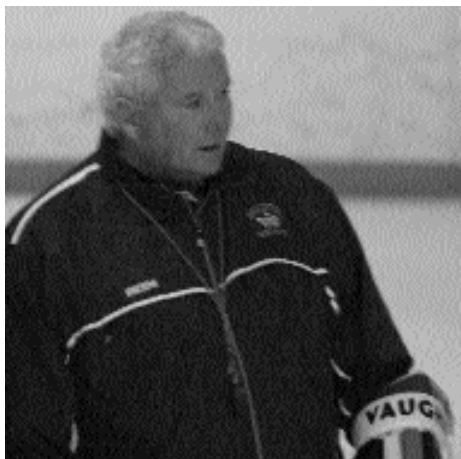
A former traveling and AAA player, Nispel says working games takes care of his hockey craving, and he considers it an exciting job that has already readied him for dealing with many types of adults, even those who are angry.

As a high school student, the money and hours are ideal for Nispel. Depending on the level, an official can earn between \$23 and \$42 for regular league games. He typically works between two and three games a week during the regular season; the amount picks up during playoffs and tournaments. It leaves him plenty of time for homework and socializing.

After he graduates from Wayzata High School, Nispel plans on attending St. Cloud University and is considering getting certified to officiate high school and college hockey games.

One thing's for sure, he has no plans to give up his whistle anytime soon.

"I think I'll probably keep on doing youth hockey maybe until I can't skate anymore," Nispel says.



"People just have to realize that referees are human."

*—Jim Larson,
WYHA PeeWee
assistant coach and
former NHL referee*

Just let it go

Jim Larson has witnessed the reffing issues from both sides of the boards, as a 33-year official and long-standing coach. Plus, his son plays hockey for Providence Academy.

Currently an assistant coach for the Wayzata PeeWee A team, Larson

agrees that the shrinking number of officials is a concern. However, he doesn't limit the problem specifically to hockey, nor does he place the blame so heavily on the coaches. It's the parents who are often the most verbal and unruly at games, he says, and it's apparent in every sport across the board.

"There aren't enough officials," Larson says. "And the reason a lot of people don't get into it is because they don't want to get yelled at."

He adds that the ones who remain are those who played hockey most of their lives and stay because they love the sport. But he sees a new trend of incoming officials: the refs who are in it for the money.

"They're not as good. They don't know the rules. And when that happens, the coaches get mad, the parents get mad, the kids get mad. If you don't know the rules, you shouldn't be out there," Larson says.

With the perspective of a coach who has a long resume of officiating multi-levels of hockey, including four years in the NHL and numerous years in the youth and high school programs, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), Larson contends that the coaches and parents need to treat the officials with more dignity.

"No matter what, if you talk to the referees in a normal sense, they'll listen to you," Larson says. "People just have to realize that referees are human. They are going to make mistakes. Let it go. You can't do anything about it."

"Once he has his arm up, he's going to call the penalty. No matter how hard you scream and yell, he's not going to change his mind."

His advice for referees?

"Just do the game and get out of the arena. Don't listen to people."

For the love of the game

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association fared well in the Junior Gold B/U16 tournament hosted by WYHA at the Plymouth Ice Arena over the January 28-30 weekend.

The Junior Gold B White team took second place after a tough battle against a strong Chaska team, with a final score of 7-1.

Possibly the biggest accomplishment of the tournament was made by the Wayzata U16 White team who played most of their three games without a goalie. Playing a defensive strategy with six skaters working together to keep the puck out of their zone,

Wayzata White won the first match against White Bear Lake Orange. Using the same defensive tactics, the White team was defeated by Osseo-Maple Grove. Then, in the consolation game, Wayzata U16 Blue overtook the Wayzata White team in a tightly fought game with a final score of 1-0.

"These are kids that play because the love the game. They play because they want to," says Bruce Butler, tournament coordinator. "A lot of kids kind of figured that they'd hang it up after Bantams and move onto other things, whether it's work or girlfriends or what have you. But these kids real-

ly enjoy the game and they continue to play because they want to. And they're pretty good teams."

Meanwhile in a tournament at the White Bear Lake Sports Arena that same weekend, the Junior Gold B Blue team faced tough pairings against Osseo-Maple Grove Black in the first round, losing by a score of 4-1. They went on to shut out the Inver Grove Heights team with four goals, and came up one goal short in a tight 2-1 game against the Brookings South Dakota Rangers in the consolation finals.



Donate to Rink C Win a Polaris ATV!

~Don't miss your opportunity~

Each \$500 donation earns a chance at winning a youth-sized Polaris ATV.
(The date to accept qualifying donations has been extended to Sat., March 12.)

The drawing will be held at the
Annual Silent Auction
at Mite Madness
Saturday, March 12th
7:00 P.M.
Plymouth Ice Arena

Contact Paul Hahn at hahnhouse@usfamily.net to make your donation
or bring your checkbook to PIC before the drawing.



**HOCKEY CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHS
SURPRISE SPECIAL GUESTS
SNIPER'S EDGE**

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AT MITE MADNESS

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11 FROM 6. P.M. — 9 P.M.
AND
SATURDAY, MARCH 12 FROM 9 A.M. — 8 P.M.
AT THE CENTER ICE ROOM IN THE
PLYMOUTH ICE ARENA**

Former Gopher Paul Martin will be at the rink for autographs.

AUTION ITEMS INCLUDE: Edgework power skating lessons, jersey and hat signed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., skate with Judd Stevens, Keystone condo, treadmill, iPods, cameras, personal DVD players, STP clinics, Timberwolves tickets, Twins tickets, signed Gopher items, dinners with celebrities such as Don and Joyce Lucia, Record Company New Release Party, pitching lessons with Jim Benson, Springhill Golf Day, jewelry from Terri Larson, and much more.

PLUS THEME BASKETS: Family entertainment, Libby Lu, wine, knitting, World's Best Hockey Mom, Department 56, Spice on Ice, Nintendo, fishing, Tastefully Simple, Spy Kids, Everything Baby, and more.

Baskets and item pick-up: Sunday, March 13 at PIC from 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

For questions or donations, e-mail Michelle Tiller at tviper@aol.com
or Jill Gibbs at gibbs.jill@dorsey.com.

Wayzata boys enjoy chilly trip to Duluth



Photo by Hetti Cekalla

Junior Gold A team in Lake Superior, Duluth

Super Bowl weekend was fun in more than one way for the Wayzata Junior Gold A team when they loaded their gear and headed up the 'pike to Duluth. Their annual trek to the port city for the Kernz & Kompany Aviators Duluth Invitational Tournament became an amusing memory off the ice, more so than on it.

The Trojans' first game was played at Fryberger Arena against the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Flyers team. Wayzata beat the Flyers earlier in the season, but took nothing for granted in this match. After getting up for school at 6:30 a.m. and driving three hours to play, the Trojans finished the 9:00 p.m. game with a mark in the "W" column from a 4-2 final score.

After sleeping in and a 10:30 a.m. team breakfast, the team had a whole day to kill, as their next game was scheduled for 9:00 p.m. Saturday night. This was when the definition of "creative coaching" became stretched a bit. As it happened, the Polar Plunge fundraiser was being held in Duluth that same day. This event triggered a light bulb in the head of long-time coach and Wayzata alumni Sam Schulz. Since the team was staying at a hotel on the shore of Lake Superior, he figured, why not copy the plunge with our own version of the icy bath? He met with some initial reluctance by the otherwise fun-loving group, but in the end, all the coaches and team members decided to join in.

Borrowing towels from their hotel rooms, the team trotted out to the ice-lined shore in the balmy 40-degree weather, and by varying degrees, ran/walked/tiptoeed into the 33-degree water in their shorts. The whole experience took about sixty seconds, ending in screams of "hot tub!" Thus began the story of the "Wayzata Wade," just for fun, with this inaugural dip in icy Lake Superior. So far, no instances of colds or pneumonia have been reported. Would USAH insurance cover that?

After their bracing daytime activities, Wayzata ended their day having much less fun in their game with Champlin Park. The end of this ugly game gave the Trojans a tough 3-1 loss. Leaving the rink with a disappointment, the boys nevertheless slept well that night.

Super Bowl Sunday matched the blue-and-gold up against Eagan—another team they had previously defeated. Determined not to lose (and to cause as few stoppages as possible), the Trojans finished up the game with another win and another 4-2 final score. The good part about having lost the Saturday night game was that this 1:00 p.m. Sunday game ended just in time for efficient drivers to make it back home for the opening kickoff in the Super Bowl.

This year's Wayzata Junior Gold A team members are goaltenders T.J. Death and Patrick Whelan; forwards Devon Gibson, Michael Crow, Brad Wellman (C), Matt Woods, Bryan Frank, Ryan Hohenstein, Jarrod Swierk, Tony Skoglund and Tyler Haerten; defensemen Tom Cekalla (C), Chris Boreen, Jon Olson and Ben Selle; coaches Ted Olson, Sam Schulz, Chris Houser and Jeff Yates; manager and WYHA Board President Greg Gibson; team rep Murray Death; and sponsor Kane Crumley Law Firm.

—Hetti Cekalla

2005 WYHA Tournament Schedule			
Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
PeeWee Invitational Tournament	March 4-6	PIC	Jim Fong 763-551-2536
Mite Madness	March 11-13	PIC	Jim Fong 763-551-2536

Mite Girls 1A and 1B teams: Our future stars

The Mite Girls 1A and 1B hockey teams have been together on the ice since November and will end their season at the Mite Madness event in March.

Every weekend coaches Deno Ransom and Bob Murray, along with their assistant coaches, help the girls improve their skating skills and most of all to make hockey fun. At every practice, coach Murray tells the girls, "Have fun and skate hard."

Both teams have improved greatly over the past few months, not only on the ice but also in the locker room. Putting on all their gear and trying to keep their hair out of their eyes from under their helmet is a feat in itself—but they seem to have mastered it.

The girls lace up their skates (with help from mom, dad or coaches, of course) and head for the ice to learn how to do crossovers, stop, turn backwards and forwards, how to use the inside and outside of their edges, and passing and puck control. In November, most of the girls didn't know what these terms even meant let alone master them.

Some favorite games they play to incorporate these skills while having fun are Cops and Robbers, Sharks and Minnows, Puck Tag, Obstacle Course

Races and Road Racing.

Game days are important for the girls by giving them a chance to show off their skills to their parents, siblings and grandparents. There's nothing better than scoring a goal or stopping one from going into the net in front of a crowd. They've quickly learned that raising the stick after scoring a goal is essential. Not to mention a quick glance into the stands to make sure their family is watching and cheering.

Coaches Ransom and Murray and their assistants have done a tremendous job with both teams. They make skill development fun while instilling in the girls that hard work pays off. The young athletes come off the ice exhausted and sweaty, but with red rosy cheeks and a smile on their faces—a sure sign of accomplishment. They've been taught the skills and ethics that will help them become our future hockey stars.

Girls 1A team: Ashley and Ally Wiitala, Meg Ransom, Bonnie Covart, Brittany Mevissen, Ellie Rod, Nicole Oppenheimer, Shea McGinty, Samantha Meister, Kate Murnane, Linnea Johnson, Sydney Hindrichs, Zoe Finkelstein. Coaches: Deno Ransom, Dave Meister and Wade Wiitala.

Girls 1B team: Colleen Donlin, Darian McCarty, Heather Mostrom, Isabella Shannon, Haley Schmidt, Madeline Wolsmann, Madison Rhodes, Makenzie Orning, Olivia Adams, Sarah Eyer, Sydney Simone, Taylor Murray, Taylor Nelson. Coaches: Bob Murray and Kirt Mostrom.

—Tracy Meister



Mite Girls 1A Honey Bees



Mite Girls 1B

Note of appreciation from WCMS Ice Arena concessions



A big thank you to everyone who volunteered this season at the Wayzata Central Middle School concessions stand. You made our job much easier. We appreciate your early mornings and the spotless clean-up at the end of the day. I want to especially thank Lisa Leininger and Kim Horton for being there to cover on the weekends when we were out of town. Their time was greatly appreciated.

This was the first official season for the concessions stand and it was well-received. Because of all of you, we heard a lot of positive feedback about having the concessions stand open and got many thanks for a hot cup of cocoa or coffee.

Also, thanks to everyone who was at the arena and supported concessions. It wouldn't have been successful had you not been there to purchase something to snack on and something hot to drink. Please provide the WYHA board and BlueLine with any comments or suggestions you might have that can improve the concessions for the upcoming years. Again thanks a ton for all of your support!

Tracy and Dave Meister, Concessions Coordinators

Tired of the cold?

—Think warm thoughts while completing some of your volunteer requirements—

Help is needed to organize the annual Wayzata Youth Hockey Golf Classic to be held June 27 at the Rolling Green Country Club in Medina.

We're also looking for monetary, live and silent auction donations and raffle items. We need the help of all WYHA families to reach our goal amount which is aimed at four times more than last year.

The funds will go to replenish the WYHA scholarship fund and help to meet the financial obligations for the third sheet of ice at PIC. Please help donate to this wonderful cause.

Contact Karen Prieto at karenwayzata@msn.com.



2005 BlueLine Calendar of Events

Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
Team Rep Meeting	March 28 (7:00 p.m.)	Center Ice Room, Plymouth Ice Center	Jerry Trapp 763-509-9117
Annual Silent Auction	March 11-12	Plymouth Ice Center	Michelle Tiller 763-473-0135 Jill Gibbs 763-473-3045
S.K.A.T.E. Academic Awards Ceremony	March 29	Wayzata Central Middle School	Larry Foote 763-551-3539
Wayzata Youth Hockey Golf Classic	June 27	Rolling Green Country Club	Karen Prieto karenwayzata@msn.com
BlueLine newsletter deadlines	March 7		Tess Langfus 763-557-6031 tmlangfus@aol.com

Ongoing Events

Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator
Concessions	Saturdays Sundays Special events ENDS MARCH 6	Wayzata Arena	Tracy Meister 763-745-1186
Scrip	All year		Jerry Trapp 763-509-9117
Pucks-N-Stuff	Saturdays 9:00 - 3:00	Plymouth Ice Center	Andrea Sorensen 763-449-9740

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS

Come for the food,



stay for the fun!

www.medinaentertainment.com

Starting this month, hockey families will celebrate their victories and accomplishments during end-of-year parties and banquets. Many of those families will spend a week-day evening at Medina Entertainment Center where hockey players are treated extra special.

Once they walk into one of the four private banquet rooms at Medina, the hockey players are embraced with a formal and dignified atmosphere. Everything is draped in white linen and the head table where the team sits is draped and skirted. Apodium is available where the coaches can address the team and hand out awards to the players.

"We make them feel really special," says Alice Sizer, sales manager. "The kids love it and the parents love to see their children feel like they are unique. And they are!"

The banquet menus are kid-friendly, and the center also throws in as a raffle item a bowling party for four hockey players. Many teams coordinate the event so the families can bowl after the banquet.

Medina Entertainment Center is located off Hwy. 55 on the border of Medina, Wayzata, Plymouth and Rockford. It has 28,000 square feet on both of its floors and includes a bowling alley, Rascals Restaurant, Patio & Bar, a ballroom that can hold 1,600 people and the four banquet rooms on the main level, which hold up to 100 people each.

The banquet rooms are rent-free—the only cost to the guests is for food and beverages. The center hosts about 50-60 sports banquets a year. Bookings for the rooms are already underway, but teams interested in reserving space can call 763-478-2784 or send an e-mail to medinacatering@aol.com.

Medina Entertainment Center has supported WYHA since at least 1998. Besides sponsoring the Squirt B Royal team this year, Medina has also contracted to have their business name displayed on dashboards at PIC for the next three years.

"We love the children of our community and we feel real strongly that it's important that we support them in all areas, and particularly in sports. And I love hockey!" says Sizer.



www.anchorlink.com

When Winton Jones founded the first Anchor Bank in Wayzata in 1963, his vision was to create an independent bank that was community-focused and built on service. Now, twenty-two years later, after the bank has multiplied into numerous charters and branches, community service remains the banks' vision.

"That's what the bank was built on," says Kristin DeCoster, marketing communications manager. "One of [Jones'] strongest beliefs was that we needed to really be committed to the community."

This commitment is evident in Anchor Bank's priority to remain family-owned, independent and local. Jones passed away two years ago, but

the family is still very involved. His son, Carl, is chairman of all of the charters.

DeCoster says Jones' vision allows the bank to be more flexible in providing services to their customers. It also allows the banks to help the communities they service by being both financially supportive and involved through employee volunteerism.

Duane Sather, commercial loans vice president at the Wayzata branch, has three children in the WYHA program: Emma is a Mite 1 player, Christopher plays wing and defense on the Squirt C Gold team, and Michael is primarily a defenseman for the PeeWee B2 White team.

"We aren't a sponsor just because

I'm here and have some kids in hockey. We're a sponsor because we're basically the lead underwriting sponsor for the Wayzata school district," says Sather. "We're very involved in our local communities. It's one of our values as an organization."

The Anchor Bank, N.A., charter has branches in Wayzata, Eden Prairie, Plymouth and Blaine. The Wayzata branch, located across from the Colonial Mall on Wayzata Boulevard, holds the depository accounts for all the WYHA traveling teams. Since each team has its own signers and specific needs, the bank works to accommodate the teams on a flexible and individualized basis.

Show Your Support to WYHA Sponsors

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association wants to thank all of our sponsors for their support during the 2004-2005 season.
Please visit their place of business to show your appreciation and mention that you are with WYHA.

Accorde Orthodontists	GMAC – RFC	Pillar Homes, Inc.
Advantage Point Group, Inc.	Herb's Servicercenter	Piper Jaffray, Minneapolis
All Star Sports	Iten Chevrolet	Piper Jaffray, Wayzata
Allstate Insurance, Nick Pizano	Kaju Travel	RE/MAX Results—Dean Haagenson
Anchor Bank	Kane Crumley Law Firm	Rider Bennett, LLP
Better Life Media	Knight's Formal Wear	Schwarz Builders, Inc.
Bill and Jennifer Mullin	Lighting Affiliates	Score Sports
Carlson, Lundquist & Company, Ltd.	Luminaire Recyclers	Sexton Printing—Tom Kubinski
Collision Center Inc., Golden Valley	Maynard's Restaurant	Sports Hut
Contemporary Images, Inc.	McDonald's, Medina	Sports Star Photo
Custom Technical Resources, LLC	MDR Construction	State Farm Insurance—Eric Rhodes
Denny Hecker and Holmers Real Estate	Medicine Lake Extrusions, Inc.	Symbology, Inc.
Denny Hecker's Auto Connection	Medina Entertainment Center	The Foursome, Inc.
Denny Hecker's Rosedale Dodge and Hyundai	Metro Millwork	The UPS Store
First Data Merchant Services	Metro Siding, Inc.	Universal Data Corporation
Foley & Mansfield, PLLP	Michael J. Harrison, DDS	Walmart
Forest Lake Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep	Morgan Stanley	Wells Fargo Bank, Wayzata
General Sports	Northwest Insurance Agency	Wells Fargo Investments, LLC
	Oakwood Square	Wiese Law Firm

CORRECTION: All Star Sports, Kane Crumley Law Firm and Sports Star Photo were inadvertently left off of the hard copy of the previous issues. Our apologies for the error.