



THE FACTCAT

December 2009

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Novi Youth Hockey Association

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Mailboxes for every team and all NYHA Board Members are found on the main level next to the Blue Rink windows.

'Tis the Season

By now the season is rolling along. Coaches are working on perfecting their lines; players are starting to "find" their line mates on the ice; and parents are pushing the heater buttons on a regular basis. Yes sir...nothing like a hockey season in full swing.

Whether your player is a Mini Mite, Pee Wee or travel player, there's a right way and a wrong way to go about enjoying the great sport of hockey. Consider the following to ensure a positive experience for you and your player:

- **Always be positive.** The game looks a lot different from the stands than it does while you are skating. Your player is going to make a mistake or two and the team is going to lose a game they "should have won". Let the coaches handle the real commentary, and give them space in the locker room to do so. Our job as parents is to encourage them to listen to their coaches and learn from each and every on ice experience. And please, limit your comments about on line performance to your own player and no one else's. Commenting on other players only leads to discord.
- **Get invested in the season.** With a draft to pick teams, house players end up all over the place. So every year can mean a new coach and a fresh batch of players. Embrace the change! We have great coaches here so it's natural to miss a former coach who was good to your kid. But you have to give your new coach full support...some day you'll miss him (or her) as well!
- **Play a support role.** Get involved in helping the coach and manager execute the season. Running the clock and learning to score a game is a great way to help. Or with direction from the coach, helping with a team party or tournament activities is great too.

It's a long season, filled with high energy and tough challenges. But in the end, your player will be stronger and have a greater sense for the sport. Take a minute to ask them why they play. It might remind you why you are spending so much time at the arena! Also, it's a great time of year to take a minute to thank your team volunteers for their hard work!

*Happy Holidays to all and Best Wishes for
Health and Success in 2010!!*

Novi Game Day 2009!



The NYHA's 8th Annual Game Day was a Great Success!!!

The scene was familiar...a decked-out motor home parked in the lot...Shooter, the Plymouth Whaler's mascot gliding across the ice, vendors teaming the hallways, and a sea of black and red spirit wear. Over 750 players, guided by 160 coaches and managers and supported by 144 Score-O-Moms took part in 24 games within a 14 hour period on Saturday, November 7th, 2009.

It was an exciting day for the NYHA. We have found no other association within the United States who hosts an event like Novi Game Day – our annual tradition is truly unique.

Our dignitaries were:

Novi City Manager, Clay Pearson

Novi Parks and Recreation Manager, Randy Auiler

Novi Arena Manager, Kris Barnes



Volunteers Make it Happen

Game Day is the product of scores of volunteers which make this all possible. Coaches, Managers, Parents, Board Members, Shoot-Out Assistants, Rink Captains, High School Volunteers, and many others bring Game Day to life.

Special thanks to Angela Petty, our program administrator; Dawn Peters, who organized the vendor tables; and our event Co-Chairs Jeannine Makowski and Michael Robinet.

There are hundreds of hours over several months devoted by many to bring this event to life.

Also, thank you to the Novi Ice Arena and the City of Novi for being a great hosts and being instrumental to Game Day.

Coca-Cola was a sponsor. Play It Again Sports and All-American Embroidery both contributed funds or products for the 8th Annual Game Day.



Banner Raising

Last year, the Squirt AA 1998 Novi Ice Cats won the MAHA District 4 Squirt AA championship and reached the State Championships. Last year's Ice Cats, were coached by the Wade Stevenson.

Last year, the Squirt B Novi Firecats won the MAHA District 4 Squirt B championship and reached the State Championships. Last year's Firecats, were coached by the Troy Isaacson.

Look for their banners on the blue rink toward the front of the building.

2009 Top Cat Award Winner Bernie Crowley



Last year, the NYHA Board started honoring those who have displayed a history of making significant contributions to the advancement of the Novi Youth Hockey Association. Our first award went to Jim Lewis, a long serving Board member, coach, and the NYHA's first president.

This year, we honored Bernie Crowley. Bernie borrowed an experience from his childhood playing hockey in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada and turned it into our annual signature event – Novi Game Day. Starting from humble beginnings in 2002, Game Day is highly anticipated by you the players, coaches, and families of our Association – we are truly unique within the State and USA Hockey.

Bernie's contributions to the NYHA extend well beyond Game Day. He was a long-serving Board member and House Program Director –working tirelessly to build our house program to the level it is today. Other initiatives include the formation of the 'Battle Over I-275' (Mini-Mite/Mite Divisions) league and other activities within the Board during our formative years. Bernie's enthusiasm and love of the hockey is obvious in his years of work with the NYHA. His contributions to our Association and the youth hockey experience in Novi will be felt for years to come – he has left a legacy.

Silent Auction Results

Thanks to everyone who bid on the silent auction items. The following are the highest bidders:

Holmstrom Jersey - Vipal Sharma
 Holmstrom Hockey Puck - Vipal Sharma
 Lidstrom Jersey - Dave Eastman
 Lidstrom Jersey - Mark Berke
 Lidstrom Jersey - Chris Mitchell
 NYHA Sport Jacket - Bill Vertes
 4 Executive tickets to Plymouth Whalers - Nick Loewer

How many pucks were in the mini net? 119 pucks

Hockey net, sticks and balls
 - Kendall Gulau
 Hockey net, sticks and balls
 - Lorraine Gower

Coaching Certification

A reminder that coaches, regardless of whether or not they are listed on the roster, must have the appropriate level of certification for the age they are coaching by December 31, 2009. Failure to do so will result in removal from the bench! Also too, only 4 coaches on the bench at a time and game stickers should be updated with CEP numbers and expiration dates. Thanks!

First Aid Clinic Success



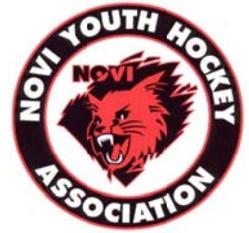
On October 22, 2009, the NYHA sponsored a First Aid Clinic. Invited to attend were the coaching staffs from all the House and Travel NYHA teams. The American Red Cross conducted the class.

Highlights of the class were demonstrations on how to attend to cuts and choking along with a review of the fundamentals of first aid. The coaches were also given a hands on overview of how to use the defibrillator.

In attendance was Jiri Fischer, Leader of the Detroit Red Wings Player Development. Jiri spoke to the coaches on the importance of leadership in critical situations and knowing the fundamentals of first aid. When addressing the topic of nutrition, Jiri stated "if the food is not capable of growing mold, then don't eat it." This comment was directed at the fact that we need to be able to digest foods and this is a way of measuring food types and that players should not be playing with undigested food in their stomachs. Also addressed was the importance of eating correctly. Jiri told the coaches that they are the leaders and role models. He pointed out that kids note what they are eating and drinking and will emulate them. The importance of hydration and electrolyte content was also talked about. The clinic was a good combination of knowledge imparted with fun interactive demonstrations.

ICE CHIPS

Little tidbits of great information—for parents!



Professional Education Dollars for House Teams

Did you know that the NYHA budgeted to provide up to \$300 in reimbursement for professional training? That's right. House teams from Mini Mite through Bantam have \$300 to spent on training. Your coach can invite an approved instructor to work with your team and submit a request to be reimbursed. If you haven't seen new faces on the ice, be sure to ask your coach about using this awesome benefit.

Neck Guards & Mouth Guards Required

Notice the signs? How about the e-mail blasts or the message through the coaches. All NYHA players are **required to wear a neck guard** whether they are at the Novi Ice Arena or some other rink. Enforcement starts with parents. No neck guard, no ice...games or practices! Join us please in keeping our kids safe on the ice. The USA Hockey **required mouth guards** make great stocking stuffers!

Monthly Team Financials

Have you seen the monthly financials for your team? You should have by now. Each team manager is required to submit the prior month's financials by the 7th of the month to the NYHA treasurer. At that same time, they are to submit them to you. This is the account that you and other families on your team funded separately from dues to pay for tournaments and team related expenses. You should know where that money is and what it was spent on!

Hillers and Kroger Points

Have you signed up for a Hillers prepaid card? Or have you tied a new or existing Kroger card to your player at the NYHA. If the answer to either one of these is "no", then you aren't saving for your 2010-2011 dues. But someone is! We just received \$315 from Hillers to be applied to participating players' dues next season. Need a refresher? Go to our site at www.noviyouthhockey.org or ask your manager how to take advantage of this opportunity. You could be paying next season's dues simply by shopping for food!

Expert Advice

Visit our website on mentally preparing your player for the game. Click on Players, Library from the NYHA website- www.noviyouthhockey.org to read articles on:

"Our Worries Can Distort the Reality of Our Game", "Do Not Stress Over the Competition", and "Do Not Let Fear Affect Your Game of Hockey".

Looking for a Holiday Clinic

Are you looking for a training opportunity during the holiday season? These opportunities are available:

Next Level Hockey Clinic: Dec 28, 29, 30. \$115 at Novi Ice Arena.

PowerShot Hockey Clinic: Dec 21, 22, 23. \$195 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Sticks and Pucks: weekdays at Novi Ice Arena.

Visit the NYHA website home page for more details.

Scorekeeping at the NYHA

Did you know the scorekeeper is the "third official"? We encourage moms, dads, aunts and uncles to learn how to run the clock and keep score. But if a sibling or friend asks to help, please no kids running the clock. Maybe a penalty box door with approval of your coach!

More Website Resources

Have you checked out www.noviyouthhockey.org lately? There's information on the home page regarding funding available to help pay for hockey through **Score4Kids** and information about **Locker Boxing**...a very dangerous game your player or his/her teammates might be playing when left unattended. Curious? You should be!

NYHA Mission Statement

The NYHA Organization is committed to cultivating and developing youths in the sport of Ice Hockey. This is achieved through dedicated volunteers teaching and improving hockey skills in an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship. This model provides each and every person within the Novi Youth Hockey Association, the opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy the game of hockey.

The NYHA 2009-2010 Board

The NYHA Board consists of the following elected volunteers:

Bob DeSpirt (<i>President</i>)	Todd Martin
Michael Robinet (<i>Vice President</i>)	Dave Maxwell
Mark Kubitskey (<i>Secretary</i>)	Dave Mueller
Chris Mitchell (<i>Exec. Treasurer</i>)	Amy Smith
Jeannine Makowski (<i>Assoc. Treasurer</i>)	Bob Tripi
Mark Berke	Harry Youmans



The NYHA Has Spirit!

On November 23, 2009, the Novi Youth Hockey Association received a prestigious award from the City of Novi.

The City of Novi has an annual award to honor organizations who exemplify the Novi spirit and serve as models for other community partners. A committee of community representatives reviewed all nominations and selected the Novi Youth Hockey Association as the winner. Winners are acknowledged through council presentation to celebrate the winning organization successes and continued commitment to Novi.

"The Novi Youth Hockey organization was the winner in the Small Business category. Founded in 1998, the Novi Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) is a non-profit, volunteer lead organization committed to cultivating and developing youths in the sport of ice hockey. This is achieved through dedicated volunteers teaching and improving hockey skills in an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship. This model provides each and every person, within the Novi Youth Hockey Association, the opportunity to learn, grow, and enjoy the game of hockey. To accommodate players of all levels of play, both house and travel teams are offered to support players ranging from ages 4 to 18. 500+ players are active in the house program with another 120+ travel players, supported by 150+ coaches and managers, making the Novi Youth Hockey Association one of the largest in Michigan and the United States. The Association also runs a Learn to Play Hockey program to introduce younger players to the game. Over the years, the NYHA teams have won state and district championships and numerous invitational tournaments in and out of state."

House Hockey's Ten Commandments

Here are a couple of thoughts to consider as you progress through the season.

- 1) Thou shalt not gripe about any of the players on your team besides your own.** Unless you didn't realize...that IS someone's son/daughter; show some respect and consider others feelings. How would you like it if that was YOUR son/daughter and you had to hear that complaining? If you can't restrain yourself, go upstairs behind the glass, or go along the boards, or to an area where you will not be heard.
- 2) Thou shalt not gripe about the goalie.** The alternative is that your son/daughter, might be asked to play in goal the next game. A lot of errors occur by forwards and defensemen before a goal is scored.
- 3) Thou shalt not assume that anyone wants to hear who your son/daughter's coach was last year or how things were done.** Let the current coach run the program and place your son/daughter in a position to best help the team. Coaches often spread the talent out so the better players will lead by example and the weaker ones will push themselves to keep up...leadership and work ethic skills are attained that way. Every coach is different and there are many ways to be successful and many versions of "Success".
- 4) Thou shalt get your son/daughter to practices and games on time.** Coaches can restrict ice time based on previously established team rules.
- 5) Thou shalt call and let the coach know when you will not be able to make the game** (for lineups) or practice (for practice plans).
- 6) Thou shalt have all player's equipment with them at practice/games.**
- 7) Thou shalt understand that players will not make progress unless they do attend practice regularly and that they try hard to do what the coaches are telling them to do in said practices.**
- 8) Thou shalt accept that the amount of ice time the other team gives to certain players is THEIR concern not ours.** Let their parents voice their displeasure with their coach. We can not control what the other coaches do. We can control how hard we play. If we possess the puck and dictate the play and play in their end it doesn't matter who they play or what they do.
- 9) Thou shalt realize that this is HOUSE and not TRAVEL hockey and this is recreational and the score DOES NOT MATTER.** I have yet to meet a kid who gave a rip about the score five minutes after he left the arena unless his parents griped about it in the car on the way home or placed a premium on winning as they walked into the arena.
- 10) Thou shalt realize this is supposed to be fun.** Cheer loud and cheer positive and demand and encourage maximum effort...the rest is all fluff.