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Novi Youth Hockey Association – Proudly serving Novi area youth since 1998

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### *A message from the President-*

As the season winds down, I want to congratulate everyone for all their efforts in making our Association one of the best in the state.

We tried several new initiatives this year with success. Parents are reporting their pleasure with the new Cross Ice Program for MiniMites and it will continue next year. The Learn to Play Hockey Program, on Saturday mornings, is well received by all its participants and will continue next year. We are also doing several items electronically this year that had been done in the past by paper- the Association Survey, the Coach Feedback Survey, and voting for your Board of Directors. We had a few learning experience concerns to overcome, but overall this has proven to be a better way to reach our members, get their input, be able to review it for improvements, and provide feedback.

Our website [www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org) continues to be a source of reference information for our members. On March 1st we began our House Tournament; visit the site for the latest results. Also on the site- teams still in the hunt for LCAHL playoffs; the importance of wearing neck guards; and information on the elections for the NYHA Board of Directors.

We had numerous teams that did well in tournaments, Little Caesars and Districts. We also had a record low number of meetings for the Grievance and Discipline Committee. Thanks again to all our volunteer coaches, managers, parents, and all that help make the season such a great experience for all players and families.



#### **Novi Youth Hockey Association**

42400 Arena Drive  
Novi MI 48375

248-735-0393

[info@noviyouthhockey.org](mailto:info@noviyouthhockey.org)

Visit our website at  
[www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org)

Angela Petty  
Program Administrator

#### **NYHA Office Hours**

Wednesdays: 6:00-9:00pm  
Saturdays: 9:00am -12:00pm

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



## Association Surveys

The Association is currently conducting two surveys- one regarding the Association and a separate one on the coaching staff of your player's team. These surveys have been sent electronically to your e mail address on file in the NYHA office. The Association survey helps us understand if the needs of the members are serviced. The Coaching staff survey helps us in determining who will be asked to return next year and also gives the coaches information on areas where they could improve. In the past, both of these surveys were done on paper.

This year, these surveys will be administered electronically. Association members have already been e mailed an invitation and survey. If you did not receive your surveys, we could have a bad e mail address for you; your e mail service placed the invitation in junk mail; your e mail server blocked your receiving the invitation with a spam blocker; or you had previously opted out of receiving surveys from our vendor, SurveyMonkey. If you have not received the surveys, contact [rdespirt@twmi.rr.com](mailto:rdespirt@twmi.rr.com). To date, we have the following response rates:

Travel Coach Survey- 66%

House Coach Survey- 32%

Association Survey done by travel- 49%

Association Survey done by house- 45%

Please take the time to complete these surveys. They guide what your Association will look like next year.



## Pre-Registration for the 2008-2009 Season

The pre-registration forms for next season (yellow forms) were all placed in the team mailboxes some time ago. Pre-registration is set to close. Parents should turn in the Pre-registration forms (yellow sheet) to Angela when completed. Recall that pre-registration guarantees you a spot in the house program next season. We don't want to be in a position of turning away our returning players and taking new players due to an administrative issue. Open registration is set to begin.



**REMINDER!** Just a reminder that it is the Association policy that any time a NYHA player is on the ice (home or away; games and practices), they are required to have a mouth guard in their mouth and a neck guard around their neck.

## ***Playing Favorites***

**By John Leonard**

One day a few years ago, a club board member accused me of “having favorites” on our club team. Several other parent members nodded their heads in agreement. The implication was that this was a terrible sin. When I was a younger coach, I thought it was terrible also. And he was right. I did have favorites. My favorites were those athletes who most fervently did what I asked of them. Those that did, I gave more attention to. I talked to them more. I spent more time teaching them. I also expected more of them.

The implication that he was making was that my favorites got better than the others because they were my favorites, and that was somehow unfair. He mistook cause for effect.

The fact is, that athletes who came to me ready to learn, ready to listen, ready to act on what they learned, and try it my way, even if it was more challenging, more difficult than they imagined, were ready to get more out of the program. And they were my favorites.

As a coach, I have only one thing to offer to an athlete. That is my attention, which means that I attend to their needs. The reward for good behavior should be attention . . . attending to their needs. The consequences of inattention, lack of effort, unwillingness or unreadiness to learn, or just plain offensive or disruptive behavior is my inattention to that athlete.

How could it be other than this? If you have three children, and you spend all of your time and energy working with the one that is badly behaved, what does that tell your other two children? It tells them that to capture your attention, they should behave badly. What we reward, is what we get.



## **Coaches ~ Players ~ Families**

Do you have interesting information to share about the NYHA Association? Win a tournament? Do you have an extraordinary player or coach to be recognized for achievements on or off the ice? Have any special hockey event to tell us about?

Please send your info to:

[factcat@noviyouthhockey.org](mailto:factcat@noviyouthhockey.org)

All submissions will be reviewed for entry and published in this newsletter or the NYHA website if accepted.

As a coach, I want athletes who are eager to learn, eager to experiment to improve, eager to work hard. I want athletes who come to me to help develop their skills, both mental and physical, and are willing to accept what I have to offer. Otherwise, why have they come to me? Am I going to reward that athlete with my attention. In so doing, I encourage others to become like the athlete above. If I spent my time with the unwilling, the slothful, the disruptive, I would only be encouraging that behavior.

The link I want to forge is between attention and excellence. Excellence in the sense of achieving all that is possible, and desired. My way of forging that is to provide my attention to those who “attend” to me. This does of course result in increased performance for those that do so. I am a coach, and when I pay attention to a person, that person is going to improve. Over time, this makes it appear that my “favorites” are the better players. Not so at all. The better players are those that pay attention, and thus my favorites.

What Dad didn’t realize is that you must have favorites if anyone is to develop in a positive fashion. The coach’s job is to reward those who exhibit positive developmental behavior. These are my “favorites” and they should be!

# 2007-2008 Team Accomplishments

<b>MiniMite 2</b> <b>Scott McCarthy</b> <b>Bobcats</b> Flint 24th Annual EMHA Mite Tournament Participant Port Huron Glacier Pointe Shamrock #2 Tournament Participant <b>Mite 1</b> <b>Joe Vig</b> <b>Predators</b> Holland Tournament Runner-up <b>Mite A</b> <b>Todd Krygier</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs <b>Mite AA</b> <b>Harry Youmans</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament Champion Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Adams Division Finalist <b>Mite 2</b> <b>Todd Abernathy</b> <b>Firecats</b> Holland Great Lakes Tournament Runner Up Big Bear Tournament 3rd Place <b>Mite 5</b> <b>Carlo Leone</b> <b>Bobcats</b> Holland Great Lakes Tournament November 3rd Place Chelsea Big Bear Festival Tournament Participant <b>Mite 6</b> <b>Matt Mitchell</b> <b>Panthers</b> Undefeated in regular season play; overall record 28 W, 3 L, 5 T <b>Squirt A</b> <b>Wade Stevenson</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Norris Division Quarter-finalist <b>Squirt AA</b> <b>Rick Shepard</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Patrick Division Quarter-finalist <b>Squirt 1</b> <b>Todd Martin</b> <b>Jaguars</b> LCAHL Division 3 Runner Up <b>Squirt 2</b> <b>Jeff Sherman</b> <b>Panthers</b> LCAHL Division 4 Runner Up LCAHL Above .500 Semi-finalist Fraser Thanksgiving Tournament Champion <b>Squirt 3</b> <b>John Kerr</b> <b>Thundercats</b> LCAHL Division 4 Champion <b>Squirt 4</b> <b>Joe Hamway</b> <b>Cougars</b> NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament 3rd Place LCAHL Division 5 Champion Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs MAHA District 4 Playoffs Winner Qualified for MAHA State Tournament Number 1 Seed NYHA House Tournament 2008 Traverse City Invitational Champion <b>Squirt 5</b> <b>Tim Conder</b> <b>Wildcats</b> LCAHL Division 5 3rd Place <b>Squirt 6</b> <b>Troy Isaacson</b> <b>Firecats</b> NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament runner Up LCAHL Division 6 Champion Cleveland Tournament January, 2008 Champion Holland Tournament December, 2008 Champion Overall record 37 wins, 3 losses. <b>Squirt 7</b> <b>Jim Zabinski</b> <b>Bobcats</b> Great Lakes Holland Tournament Champion NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament Champion Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs MAHA District 4 Playoff Semi-finalist LCAHL Division 3 Champion LCAHL Norris Division Finalist Number 2 Seed NYHA House Tournament <b>Squirt 8</b> <b>Frank Spelker</b> <b>Battlecats</b> LCAHL Division 6 4th place	<b>PeeWee A</b> <b>Bob Gawronski</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Adams Division Quarter-finalist <b>PeeWee AA</b> <b>Geoff Middleton</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament Champion Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Adams Division Quarter-finalist <b>PeeWee 1</b> <b>Chris Steffes</b> <b>Cougars</b> Royal Oak Christmas Tournament Finalist LCAHL Division 4 Runner Up LCAHL Adams Division Semi-finalist <b>PeeWee 2</b> <b>Sig Sjogren</b> <b>Battlecats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs LCAHL Division 4 3rd place LCAHL Adams Division Quarter-finalist Great Lakes Tournament Series Holland 1st Runner Up <b>PeeWee 3</b> <b>Jeff Zadorozny</b> <b>Sabre Cats</b> LCAHL Division 5 4th place Number 2 Seed NYHA House Tournament Gator Classic October, 2007 Participant Great Lakes Series Red Division February, 2008 Finalist <b>PeeWee 4</b> <b>Terry Manning</b> <b>Bobcats</b> LCAHL Division 2 3rd place <b>PeeWee 5</b> <b>Rob Massard</b> <b>Predators</b> LCAHL Division 4 4th place LCAHL Partick Division Quarter-finalist LCAHL Partick Division Semi-finalist <b>PeeWee 6</b> <b>Tim Fortier</b> <b>Jaguars</b> LCAHL Patrick Division Quarter-finalist <b>PeeWee 7</b> <b>Matt Mayes</b> <b>Firecats</b> NYHA Thanksgiving Tournament Participant <b>PeeWee 8</b> <b>Harry Youmans</b> <b>Wildcats</b> LCAHL Division 2 Champion LCAHL Norris Division Semi-finalist Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs Number 1 Seed NYHA House Tournament <b>Bantam A</b> <b>Mark Evasic</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs MAHA District 4 Quarter-finalist Cincinnati Silver Stick Participant LCAHL Norris Division Participant <b>Bantam AA</b> <b>Mike Pessedorfer</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs <b>Bantam 1</b> <b>John McKeegan</b> <b>Panthers</b> LCAHL Adams Division Quarter-finalist <b>Bantam 2</b> <b>Craig Lipson</b> <b>Pumas</b> LCAHL Division 4 Champion Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs Number 2 Seed NYHA House Tournament <b>Bantam 3</b> <b>Glenn Klocke</b> <b>Bobcats</b> LCAHL Adams Division Quarter-finalist <b>Bantam 4</b> <b>Mark Kubitskey</b> <b>SaberCats</b> LCAHL Division 2 Runner Up Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs Number 1 Seed NYHA House Tournament Mt. Pleasant 'Deep Freeze' Tournament Champion <b>Midget A</b> <b>Mario Macari/Steve Bahler</b> <b>Ice Cats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs MAHA DISTRICT 4 Playoffs Semi Finalist Fort Wayne Silversticks Runner Up Miami of Ohio Tournament Champion <b>Midget</b> <b>Bob Lane</b> <b>Firecats</b> Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs Qualified for MAHA District 4 Playoffs - Round 2 Dearborn 2007 Thanksgiving Tournament Participant Holland Great Lakes Tournament Series February Semi-finalist
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## **This I Believe – Hockey is the Cure for what Ails America**

### **By Joe Scatchell – March 02, 2007**

Failing test scores, ill-behaved day care children, gangs, drug use, the list goes on of the ills facing our country. We look for quick answers that many times end up creating new issues and the circle of problems grows wider in an ever-spiraling pattern. So how do we stop the momentum and hope to reverse its damage? Play Hockey.

I know that most of you are calling up images of stick swinging, lights out punches and bench clearing brawls. You've been fed a lie. That those things occur is a fact. That they occur so rarely to have painted an entirely incorrect picture of the sport is also a fact. Thousands of games are played each week all around the world now and you can probably name 3 or 4 incidents of outlandish behavior, total.

Here's the truth. If you want society to be civil, its citizens polite, humble and respectful of one another get everyone involved in hockey. Hockey is above all else a family commitment that instills the values that our society holds dearest; that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, hard work has its reward, but most important, respect for others.

For the uninitiated, hockey starts at 6, both in age of player and time of morning practices! Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles load up the player and equipment and it's off to the rink. Many times the rides to and from the rink are lengthy giving parents and guardians and the children quality time to do the unusual; talk to one another. The conversations are not always deep or life altering, but that they happen at all is becoming rarer. How did you sleep? Did you like that cereal? No, I never heard of "Take it Back Sunday", Is it a song or a group?" It's all good because you are establishing lines of communication that may be used for much more important matters some day.

At the rink, you get to watch your child learn. The early progress is breathtaking. Remember how you marveled when they learned to walk? Use a fork? How many chances to you get to see something as wonderful? Try skating sometime to see how difficult it is for yourself. It's likely that in a short time, your child will be better at something than you are. Talk about a no lie dose of self-respect!

Teams often play in tournaments that take place over several days and far enough from home to require over night stays. Whole families attend these events providing yet another opportunity to do something that is vanishing from our American landscape; the family road trip. Again, conversation, whole discussions even, stops for meals and potty breaks, arguments over who is touching who and all the other things that those fortunate enough to have taken these trips in our youth, still remember fondly many years later. Siblings look forward to hanging with all the other siblings, the hotel pool, knee hockey in the halls, and yes, the excitement of the games themselves. Coaches are more than hockey fanatics; they are coaches of life. Players are correctly taught that hockey is a team sport. Everyone on the team contributes. Most teams keep playing time evenly distributed among the players in all but the most competitive situations to instill this fact.

Parents are encouraged to bring school and home issues to the coach so that both the parents and the Coach are consistent. For example, its not at all unusual for Johnny not to play if he isn't doing well in school or disobeying at home.

Hockey can be dangerous. Sharp blades, hard sticks and the speed of play demand that players maintain control and respect for themselves and their competitors. Players are taught to "play the body" and not go and "hurt 'em". Indeed, the intention of checking is to separate the puck from the player; take the puck not the player out.

The game's traditions reinforce the basic tenets of a civil society. Before each game, kids as young as 8 years old and already placed in leadership roles as Captains, introduce themselves to the opposing Coaches and Officials and shake their hands. The rules of the game support the development of leadership by allowing only the Captains, not the Coaches, to talk to the officials about game calls. When a player scores, all his teammates join in the celebration. The players

who assisted on the goal get the same point the scorer received. Showboating does not occur in hockey. At the end of every game, all players and Coaches line up and shake hands. The same occurs at every level and even at the end of the NHL season.

Lest you think my arguments are specious, I offer these observations. Look at the other professional major American sports and compare them to professional hockey. Most of the players in the NHL and supporting professional leagues have lived away from their families and with host families at some point. Most of us would not think of taking a strange teenager into our home. If you speak to just about any host family, they will tell you that the kid came in with all of the attributes I speak of. They were polite, respectful, humble and thankful for the hospitality shown. Lifelong relationships were made. You don't see professional hockey players being named in bar room shootings or taking steroids or other illegal drugs. Listen to the player interviews. Universally, they deflect any praise to their teammates and coaches. If they have a bad game or they're in a slump, they talk about needing to work harder and blame only themselves. When they receive awards, they start by thanking their parents and talk about those long car rides to rinks early in the morning. They are humble, thankful.

These same things happen at every hockey banquet I've had the honor of attending. I was privileged to spend as much time as I did with my daughter and 2 sons and have been paid back many times over for those cold mornings when I see them working at something hard, being polite, humble and respectful. Thank you hockey.

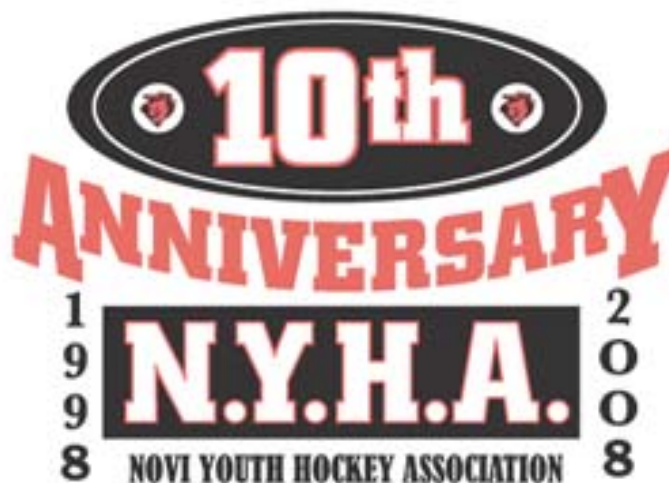
## SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!

The NYHA has various stickers and pins for sale.



NYHA window stickers with/without a hockey stick  
are \$7.50 each or 2 for \$14.00  
NYHA pins are \$4.00 each.

Contact the NYHA office during office hours.



## Special Thanks

*Todd Krygier and Cheryl Gasparotto will both be leaving the Board in March. Todd joined the Board in 2001 and has served 7 years, the second longest serving member. Cheryl joined the Board in 2005. Both members have made significant contributions to the Association and their day to day support will be greatly missed.*

## NYHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bob DeSpirt**  
President

**Dan Meyers**  
Vice President

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