

Minnesota Disabled Hockey Report  
April 16, 2013

**USA Disabled Hockey:**

The USA Disabled Hockey festival was held in West Chester PA the weekend of March 21-24, 2013. Minnesota Disabled Hockey sent 5 teams to participate; 2 special hockey teams, 2 sled teams and 1 Warriors team. Everyone reported that the event was a huge success and all had a very good time. Next year's festival is tentatively scheduled for Boston, MA.

USA Sled Select camp will be held in Buffalo, NY the second week of July, 2013. Applications for this camp will be posted on the USA Hockey website by March 2013. Eligible players must be nominated by their team coach.

**Minnesota Disabled Hockey:**

*Minnesota Warriors:* The Minnesota Warriors continue to grow as a program for veterans with disabilities. Currently they have 38 registered players with their program.

The MNWIH participated in the following events over the course of the last quarter:

January:

1. The Minnesota Warriors participated in a pre-game ceremony and fundraiser at the Coon Rapids versus Blaine Girls High School Hockey Game on January 12, 2013.
2. They also participated in a pre-game ceremony and a puck drop at the Woodbury Girls High School Hockey Game on January 22, 2013.
3. Rounding out January, the Warriors participated in the VFW Winter Conference, which took place on January 25-26, 2013. At this conference, the Warriors marketed the program to the VFW by tabling, distributing literature and public speaking.

February:

1. The MNWIH White Team took on the Elk River Rink Rats, which took place on February 10, 2013. Unfortunately, the Rink Rats won this game 8-4.
2. The MNWIH White Team then drove out to Cloquet, MN to participate in a Hockey Tournament the weekend of February 22-24, 2013. The MNWIH White Team took fourth place out of eight teams in this tournament. This is an improvement over last year, when the Warriors finished last in this same tournament.
3. Rounding out February, the MNWIH White Team took on the Defending The Blue Line, which took place on February 24, 2013. The MNWIH White Team defeated the Defending the Blue Line 7-1!

March:

1. This was a busy month for the Warriors! The MNWIIH White Team participated in the Cystic Fibrosis Tournament the weekend of March 2-3, 2013. The Warriors took fourth place out of eight teams in this tournament. This was another improved tournament for the Warriors from last year.
2. The MNWIIH Green Team took on the Ice Dogs on March 3, 2013. The MNWIIH White Team defeated the Ice Dogs 7-3!
3. The Minnesota Warriors participated in the Let's Play Hockey Expo on March 8-9, 2013. At the Expo, Minnesota Warriors sold merchandise, as well as networked and distributed literature about the MNWIIH program and the Warriors involvement with disabled hockey.
4. The MNWIIH White Team again took on the Elk River Rink Rats on March 15, 2013. This time, the MNWIIH White Team defeated the Rink Rats 6-5! The weekend of March 22-24 was action packed!
5. The MNWIIH Green Team traveled to Philadelphia, PA for the 2013 Disabled Hockey Festival. The MNWIIH Green Team placed third out of four teams at this festival.
6. Back in Vadnais Heights, MN, the WMWIIH White Team hosted the NHL Alumni at the VFW Bantam Hockey Tournament on March 22, 2013. It was a close game, but the NHL Alumni defeated the MNWIIH White Team 10-8.
7. On March 23, 2013, the MNWIIH White Team took on the Elk River Rink Rats for a third time in the past couple months, defeating the Rink Rats 10-5

The Warriors annual meeting and elections are scheduled for Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Ongoing, the Minnesota Warriors participate in weekly ADM practices for player skill development.

*Minnesota Sled Hockey:* Minnesota Sled hockey currently has 37 registered players.

December: Not a lot of activity Practices and holidays

January:

1. Hosted Winnipeg at the Vadnais Heights rink. Youth team backed out so youth & House teams mixed up and played each other. Winnipeg was a GREAT match-up competitively for the Northern. Lindy also did a silent auction and raffle and raised over \$1000!
2. Launched corporate sponsor's—jerseys to be made

February:

1. Accepted Jason S. (Secretary's resignation)
2. Ongoing frustration by some youth parents sparked the motion to create a committee to create criteria a youth must complete before moving up to adult team

3. It is noted at \$860 worth of bills to be sent to Toni to pay from late prairie island donation
4. Teamed up with WILD to get discounted tickets for lower level seats that gives back to MSHA
5. Executive board members include: Judd, Eric and Scott (1 vacant position). Lindy to stay on as Registrar.
6. Nominations were taken for March meeting for general board positions

March:

1. New board members were named: Michelle Stemm, Sheryl Lilya and Tony Lang.
2. National Disabled Festival in Philadelphia. Northern were in Open A and took 3<sup>rd</sup> (beat by Florida and Mid-America). Youth players Naomi and Grant played with Nashville
3. End of season/ice time. Enjoy summer break while board works on summer & winter fundraising events.

*Minnesota Special Hockey:* Minnesota Special Hockey currently has 140 registered players.

Minnesota Special Hockey traveled to Philadelphia for the Disabled Hockey Festival. A video can be found on their web site documenting their adventures.

Minnesota Special Hockey will be appointing a new Disabled Committee member at their April Board meeting due to a resignation by Suzy Lindeberg. We thank Suzy for all her time on the committee over the years.

**Minnesota Disabled Hockey Committee:**

The Disabled Hockey committee continues to meet and is currently developing a board hand book description along with a committee manual to assist with the development and governance of all disabled hockey programs in Minnesota. We have one more step in our application for a disabled hockey scholarship and hope to have that out to teams in May.

The Disabled Committee will be welcoming a new member from sled and special hockey this month due to resignations.

**New business:**

Minnesota Disabled Hockey is proud to welcome the Moorhead sled hockey program that has been in existence for many years. They have been supported through grants,

specifically through the Cullen Foundation, and are now looking to become a part of the Minnesota Disabled hockey family. One of their sled players traveled to the USA Disabled Festival this year and reportedly had an amazing time. We are hoping to create a tournament during Hockey Day in Minnesota.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey is proud to welcome Aaron Holm as our new Coach in Chief for disabled hockey. Aaron has been with the sled program for 3 years and will make a great addition to our program in his new role.

The USA Hockey sled lending program sent 40 sleds to Vadnais Heights during a Bantam tournament for players to try the sport. Great interest was found and talks of it being a recurring event are happening.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey will be working on incorporating our programs in the Minnesota High School League and will be meeting over the summer to discuss options.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Gillen  
USA Disabled Hockey Director  
Minnesota District