It is our mission to prepare players to become the Junior, Prep School, and College recruits of the future. Players are introduced to elite practices, skill development opportunities, and academic guidance throughout the entire process.

Maine Moose 16u win MEAHA Championship and will head to the National Championship in April in Wayne, NJ
Synthetic Ice: A Modern Training Tool

“With vast improvements in technology in the past 60 years, top synthetic ices on the market have about 90 percent of the glide factor as natural ice.”

Of the four major team sports in the United States, training for hockey in the offseason is the least convenient. Not everyone has access to an ice rink where they can skate and work on drills during the offseason. But improvements to synthetic ice in recent years have made it a feasible offseason training product.

Synthetic ice came onto the market in the 1950s as a way to skate outdoors because it does not require electricity to operate and can withstand warm temperatures. But the plastic used six decades ago (polyoxymethylene) caused great resistance, made it difficult to skate on, and even with lubricant added, the surface was uneven. With vast improvements in technology in the past 60 years, however, top synthetic ices on the market — many of which are self-lubricated — have about 90 percent of the glide factor as natural ice. In the past, poor gliding wore down blades to the point where they needed to be re-sharpened in less than 30 minutes of training.

Thanks to these improvements, many NHL players have installed scaled-down rinks at their homes to train on the surface, including Montreal Canadiens defenseman Phillip Danault and Florida Panthers defenseman Aaron Ekblad in the past few months. Plus, the Toronto Maple Leafs added a synthetic ice pad to their training facility, the MasterCard Centre, prior to this season.

The size of these synthetic ice rinks vary. Some setups are about the size of a pro hockey rink, while others are just 7.5 feet by 9.5 feet and fit in a basement. Since the rinks are composed of panels of polymer, some companies allow consumers to order theirs at custom shapes and dimensions. They also can install the rinks themselves in one day and use them year-round, unlike backyard ice rinks, which can take over a week to install and are not usable all year.

Cleaning the product is not much of a hassle, either, as consumers can use a vacuum cleaner and broom to clean up polymer shavings after use. Mopping and drying the surface or using a pressure washer on a larger surface once every few weeks helps keep it clean like any other floor surface. Synthetic ice is here to stay, and here to help hockey players train more efficiently.
Coaches Must Never Forget the Impact They Can Have

“Inspiration is the greatest gift, whether it’s an equestrian coach or a hockey mentor”

Earlier this fall, my wife and I were settling in for a relaxed evening. I’m typically immersed in early season hockey this time of year, but noticed that Lauri was particularly quiet. "What’s up?" I asked. "I was just thinking about Patrick," she replied. "It was a year ago that we lost him."

"Patrick" was Patrick Keough, one of the finest gentlemen I’ve ever met. I didn’t know him well, but I knew him well enough to realize that I’m enormously indebted to him, and the life lessons he taught my daughter, Brynne. He died suddenly, of a heart attack, doing what he loved most — riding one of his horses here on Boston’s North Shore. Patrick was a legend locally, known as something of a "horse whisperer," a man completely committed to the animals he was responsible for. When Brynne, at 6 years old, indicated that she wanted to ride horses, I asked a hockey buddy who belonged to a local "hunt and polo club" for recommendations. He replied, without hesitation, "Patrick Keough is your guy."

Brynne embraced those duties. In turn, Patrick Keough embraced my daughter. Horses weren’t a hobby for Brynne — they were a passion. And Patrick knew a kindred spirit when he met one. Once Brynne became a teenager, Patrick gave her more tasks. If Patrick was out of town, she’d stop by the stables to feed the horses, and clean out their stalls. Her payment was the chance to ride, and that was a reward far greater than any paycheck. I felt Brynne, much like Patrick, would trade just about anything to be in the saddle. Of course, Brynne wasn’t the only youngster to benefit from Patrick’s guidance. There were hundreds. Heather Player met Patrick when she was 8, when her folks brought her to Patrick’s barn for a riding lesson. "I looked around for Patrick but couldn’t find him anywhere. All of a sudden from up above I heard, ‘You better get out of the way, kid; this will give you one hell of a headache,’" said Player. "Patrick was up in the hayloft, directly above me, getting ready to throw down a bale of hay. He climbed down the ladder and acted as though I had been there forever and knew what I was doing."

Patrick Keough, a legend of the North Shore of Boston equestrian scene, had a unique ability to connect with anyone.
"He quickly put me to work, watering horses, mucking stalls and turning horses in and out," she said. "I thought I was just showing up to ride a pony. I loved it though. I loved it enough to sneak out of the house, take off on my bike and pedal a few miles down the road to go work for Patrick. After a few hours of searching for me, my mother would show up at the barn ready to ring my neck for disappearing on her. Patrick, with a cigarette hanging out of the corner of his mouth, would look at me, shake his head and laugh. ‘Time’s up,’ he’d say.

"This went on for years. Twenty-seven, to be exact."

I absolutely love Player’s story. Patrick Keough was a peerless instructor, with a firm-buteasygoing manner that helped his students relax. He seemed to know intrinsically what a kid wanted and, more importantly, needed. He had rules, and his kids had to follow those rules. But he was wise enough to know that kids also needed freedom to explore, to find out what they wanted to do. Not what their parents wanted, but what they wanted.

"Patrick had a way of sort of throwing you into things, that sink or swim sort of thing," said Player. "But he was always quietly there if you needed him, although he wouldn’t tell you that much."

When Player moved to Virginia when she was 21, Keough, who was shipping horses up and down the East Coast, "started staying at my house, overnighting the horses he had on the van at my barn," she said. "This was one of the ways Patrick would show you that he was looking out for you."

For the past four years, Player has been the "huntsman" for the Norfolk Hunt Club in Massachusetts. "There isn’t one day that goes by that I don’t sit on a horse or go out with hounds that I don’t hear him say, as he always did when we left the barn to exercise horses, ‘Now don’t get casual out there.’"

Patrick never let my daughter "get casual." Which was how I knew he was looking out for her. To him, she was much more than a young girl hopelessly in love with horses. She cared intensely about them, and Patrick cared about her. My wife, revealing her mother’s instincts, saw this before I did.

"It’s just so important for young women to have strong men in their lives who aren’t their dad," said my wife, tears welling in her eyes. "Patrick was that for Brynne."

I suspect the same holds true for many young women, and young men, who play sports, especially these days when so many kids come from single parent households or broken homes. Life may seem complicated for us grown-ups, but it’s infinitely more complicated for our kids. My daughters — Maddi and Brynne — are lucky if only because they’ve had a stable home life. But they’ve each had teammates who weren’t as fortunate. And even in a home with two loving parents, and without any lingering drama, they still needed adult role models. Which brings me back to Patrick Keough. This is a man who rubbed elbows with some of the wealthiest folks in the Northeast, but you’d never know it. He was utterly and completely comfortable in his own Irish skin. I’d drive up to Brynne’s events in my old Subaru wagon, a bit self-conscious parking between Range Rovers or Mercedes. Patrick couldn’t care less. As Patrick’s daughter said at his funeral last fall: "He could connect with everyone, whether they were 70 or 7 years old. Because he was so raw, and genuine, it allowed those in his company to follow suit, and let down any guard that they may have carried with them. He found common ground. When defenses are down, and the act is over, that’s when the real connection can begin."

Every coach should aspire to that standard. Patrick Keough always did. And we miss him, deeply.
Looking back over 27 years of coaching young athletes, the most valuable piece of wisdom I’ve gained is the necessity of setting team rules at the first practice, then reinforcing these rules throughout every practice and game. Team rules are important for a few reasons: They maintain order, they teach important values and they set expectations. Setting the right rules has infinitely more impact than setting imperfect rules. This is a fact I learned through a lot of trial and error and experimentation — a process that has yielded a set of team rules that are magical in their simplicity and effectiveness. Here they are:

1 There’s a time to talk, and there’s a time to listen. This is always the first rule I introduce at the first team practice, because after the players have defined it together, their chatter subsides and they give me their full attention (which allows me to present the next two rules). This rule politely reminds kids that sometimes they need to zip it and listen to me (without saying so), while acknowledging that talking is usually acceptable and is, in fact, an important part of team sports. Together, we discuss when "the time to talk" is, and the players always get it right: when communicating with teammates on the rink, field or court; when cheering for teammates from the bench; when asking a coach for clarification about a drill; when congratulating the other team after a game, etc. And the players also always know when "the time to listen" is: when a coach is explaining a new drill, giving a halftime speech or offering coaching advice between shifts; when a referee is speaking; when a teammate is addressing the entire team, etc. When my players are talking and I need their full attention, all I have to do to silence their voices is to say calmly, "Hey guys, what’s rule number one?"

(Notice, I never have to say, "Everybody stop talking and listen up!" which, for some reason, never works anyway.)

2 Support your teammates. Teamwork and team unity are important qualities that all coaches want their teams to develop, but they don’t just happen naturally. I think a lot of coaches expect teamwork and team unity to develop instinctually out of the players’ common goal to win, and through the process of working together toward that goal in practices and games. I certainly expected that would be the case during my early years of coaching. But I soon learned that the shared goal of winning and the routine of practicing and playing together do not guarantee teamwork and team unity. Then, I experimented with a new team rule, and everything changed. I can’t fully explain what causes a team to play well together, to enjoy seeing each other at the rink or field every day, and to feel a sense of harmony, but the first time I instituted the rule, "Support your teammates," I realized I’d stumbled upon a shortcut to these objectives.
Just as with Rule No. 1, the kids are always able to come up with numerous examples of what this rule looks like in actual practice: Cheer for your teammates when you’re on the bench (don’t just sit quietly, drinking your water); high-five your teammates frequently (after good plays, or even just good efforts); say encouraging things to a teammate after a bad play or a mistake (“You’ll get them next time" or "Don’t worry about it"); tell each other "great game" after every game, even if you lost; and never put down or blame a teammate. This might seem to be a weak, pollyanna rule, and it would be if it were stated once and then forgotten. But this rule becomes dynamic when a coach persistently includes it in all aspects of practices and enforces it throughout every game. Indeed, the key to unlocking the power of this rule is to make "support your teammates" one of the procedural instructions for every drill, and one of the constant reminders to players at every game. For example, when leading a drill where players take turns, a coach must stress that part of the drill is for all players who are awaiting their turn to yell something encouraging to the player who’s up. ("C’mon Ben!" or "Here we go, Benny!" or even just "Bennyyyyyyyy!") Part of the drill is also for every player, after a teammate in his/her line has taken his/her turn, to give that player a high-five (or a tap on the helmet, or a pat on the back, or even just to whack the ice with one’s stick). Miraculously, this rule also has the effect of making practices and games much more fun. Kids smile and play with pep when they’re cheering and being cheered for, and the act of encouraging teammates develops positive social connections and a spirit of collaboration between players — the seeds of an authentic culture of teamwork.

3 Always hustle. Certainly, one of the fundamentals to excelling at anything is giving one’s best effort. Can you imagine a team where everyone hustled, all the time? This team might not win every game, but it wouldn’t give away any games, and each of its players would develop his/her skills as much as possible over the course of that single season. An athlete who always hustles is a beautiful thing. So making this a team rule always has been a no-brainer. That said, of the three rules, this is hardest one for young children to define and to assimilate. They generally know that it means "try your hardest" and "skate or run as fast as you can," but they need some help to fully comprehend the commitment implied by "always" and to imagine all the instances where hustle makes a difference. So I fill in some examples for them: Sprint in all drills, even if you’re tired; skate hard after every loose puck, even if your opponent is bigger or faster than you; be on time for practices and games (that’s a responsibility shared by the player and the parents); when the coach asks you to "bring it in," rush; after the final buzzer sounds, dash back to your goalie to express your appreciation to him/her, then immediately form the handshake line; when saying "good game" to the other team, say it with heart, even if you lost; then thank the referees, and before you leave the locker room, thank your coaches. That’s a much bigger definition of "always hustle"
than kids are used to, and the complexity and breadth of this rule requires a coach to be vigilant in reminding players about its conscientious application throughout the season. The kids who have an easy time with "always hustle" already embodied the rule on the first day of practice; for everyone else, it’s a season long struggle — and a worthwhile one. I know there are other worthy "rules" that a youth sports coach could include on his/her list, such as "respect the game" or "respect your opponents" or "respect the referees." I have found, however, that three rules is the magic number for kids (adding a fourth waters down the rest), and that almost every important value that coaches might want to impart to their players can be included under the heading of one of the three rules listed above. Kids often recommend rules, too. The most popular suggestion is, "Shouldn’t ‘have fun’ be one of the rules?" My response is always the same: "Have fun used to be one of my rules — until I realized it isn’t a rule, it’s a natural outcome of knowing when to talk and when to listen, supporting your teammates and always hustling."

Maine Moose 16u, 18u Win MEAHA State Title, Advance to National Championship

The Maine Moose 16U team went 4-1 during the weekends of November 4th and November 11th winning the MEAHA State Title for the fourth consecutive year. MEAHA adopted a new playoff format this season only allowing the top 4 teams to advance to playoffs and making it a best 2 out of 3 series. The first weekend the Moose squared off against Casco Bay and won game one 7-2 with Nate Newgard leading the way with a hat trick in the game.

The second game the Moose came out on top winning 6-0 having six different goal scorers in the game and advancing to the championship round the following weekend. In the first game of the Championship round the Moose came out on top over the Gladiators 4-1 with Joe Clark picking up 3 points to lead the way. The second game the Gladiators scored a goal with less than a second left in the game to win 3-2 and force a game three. In the final game on November 12th, the Moose skated away with a 2-1 victory sealing the State Championship and punching their ticket to the National Championship this April in Wayne, NJ. Coach Gray said he was proud of his teams work in the two series and that seeing production from every line was key to their success. Brenden Gasaway was solid playing in all 5 games over the course of two weekends.

The Moose will now shift focus back to the EJEPL as they are in the hunt for a playoff spot and are looking forward to getting back in league games and continue the success they have had thus far in the league.

#22 Nate Newgard scored a hat trick leading his team to a 7-2 victory against Casco Bay on their way to clinching the state championship at the conclusion of the weekend
The Maine Moose 18U team entered the 2017 MEAHA playoffs as the number 1 seed and started their first round playoffs with a best two out of three series with Maine Hockey Academy. The Moose started the first round with two strong efforts against MHA eliminating them in two straight games with scores of 7-0 and 8-1. Chris Thronson, Erik Thronson, Patrick Sunderland each had one goal while Grady Friedman and Nicholas Garneau had two goals each in the 7-0 victory. Gavin Bates, Jacob Dubay, Cam Wilson, Matt Jolicoeur, Jackson Aldrich, Chris and Erik Thronson all had tallies in the 8-1 victory. Ian Neureuther posted the shutout in game one of the series and Jaxon Friedman came out with the second win only surrendering one goal.

The Moose moved on to the state final against Casco Bay on November 13th, a rematch of last year’s final. The Moose were down 2-0 with ten minutes remaining in the second half before Nicholas Garneau pulled the Moose within one goal. With Three minutes to go in the game Cole Lockhart tied the game on a feed from Jackson Aldrich and then Lockhart tipped in the game winner in OT off a feed from Matt Jolicoeur on the power play.

Game two Sunday morning was a hard fought battle between the top two teams in the state. After going up 1-0 on a Jackson Aldrich goal, Casco responded and tied the game at one. The Moose then opened up the game with three unanswered goals in the final three minutes of the half by Garneau, Bates and Aldrich, his second of the game. Patrick Sunderland had the final goal for the Moose in the second half to cap off the 5-2 victory to secure the state title for the third straight year for the Maine Moose 18U.

This is the 3rd consecutive year the Moose have won the 18U State Title and will head to the National Championship in the spring in Green Bay Wisconsin.
Q & A with Commissioner, Henry Lazar

During this edition of the EJEPL Monthly Review, we would like to recognize and speak with Henry Lazar, the Commissioner of the Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League. Here we will be introduced to our commissioner, examine his background in youth hockey, discuss the EJEPL, and look through some adversities that youth hockey faces today during a Q & A segment.

Please introduce and tell us a little bit about yourself, particularly your background in youth hockey.

As far as my background in hockey, I ran the Apple Core Junior program located in Long Beach in Nassau County for 25 years. During this time, we had three junior teams playing out of Long Beach and saw many top teams within this organization, and I was lucky to have coached many of those teams. I personally coached over 4,000 games myself between the Apple Core juniors and bantams as well as the St. Mary’s High School Program. The Apple Core Junior Program has sent over 300 players to colleges and universities, including Division 1 and Ivy League Schools. Eleven of those players ended up in the NHL. We won the Junior B Nationals in 1996 and 2010 and the Apple Core program won the EJHL Championship in 2003. Many of my former players are still involved in the game of hockey in capacities such as coaching, hockey director, league administration, and refereeing among other programs.

Why was the EJEPL developed and what are the major goals/objectives of the league? Discuss some of the things that differentiate this league from other youth hockey leagues.

The EJEPL serves as a supplemental schedule for 9u through 18u boys and girls teams and is a connector between the local organizations and the leagues they are involved in. The EJEPL allows these organizations to fill open game slots they may have in order to supplement their play. Many organizations play their local schedules in their local leagues but also have weekends where their schedules are open and that is where the EJEPL comes in giving these organizations the means to fill these weekends. The EJEPL allows youth hockey organizations to compete against teams that they normally wouldn’t play in accordance with their local league schedules in an environment consistent with an organized league set up. My goal is to always have the fairest, non-political league in the country with solid competition and a team friendly environment. We are a multi affiliate league in seven different affiliates. We have showcases, playoffs, all-star events, professional website and player statistics. We have three levels of play at the major levels, Diamond for our top level teams, Futures Gold for our middle level teams, and Futures Silver for the lower level teams.
Discuss why you think there is a decline in women’s hockey programs across the nation and what can be done to help them grow?

Some of the girls programs are decreasing because of the cost in travel involved as well as the success that women’s soccer and basketball is having. This has steered a lot of the girls to those sports as they get a lot of publicity. After the United States women’s soccer team won the World Cup, soccer registrations for youth girls programs increased tenfold. This had a large effect on the east coast as the star of the United States women’s team is Carli Lloyd who won two Olympic Gold Medals and was the 2015 and 2016 FIFA Player of the Year and is also from New Jersey. Girls’ softball and lacrosse programs have also increased at the high school level giving hockey tough competition. One of the things hockey programs may need to do to draw these girls back to hockey is to reduce costs. Women’s hockey also doesn’t get the exposure that the men’s programs see although it is easier for women to receive scholarships for division one schools when compared to the men.

What is one thing you are most looking forward to this year in the 6th EJEPL season?

We look forward to every year. We have a lot of good teams and great people running each organization. However, the playoffs this year are really going to be exciting. There are many good teams bunched up at the top at every level and it will be a great battle between them as they compete for the EJEPL Championship. Many of the games will be held at Aston IceWorks and for the most part, the teams at different levels will be competing in the same building which is unique. The 9u, 11u, 12u, 13u, 14u and 15u Diamond Divisions will all be at Aston, and the 16u and 18u midget levels will be held at the Igloo Ice Center. Futures playoffs will be in New Jersey and New York.

How impressed are you with the overall growth of the EJEPL and can we expect to see a continued growth in the future?

Well, the plan never was to get to the amount of teams we see now in our league. We wanted to put a good product out there under the values of honesty, reliability, and fairness as well as filling that notch where teams are looking for games to fill up their schedules. We are near the maximum amount of teams we can have in the league as we have 300 member teams. I don’t see a big increase in the amount of the local teams we have because most of the programs are already involved with our league. We do hope to get more organizations from out of the area though including Illinois, California, South Carolina, and Virginia in order to help increase our footprint. It would make our showcases more exciting as teams will continue to have the opportunity to compete against teams that they wouldn’t play against in their local leagues. Our Mid Atlantic Development Division is localized in Long Island and consists of house league teams, giving them an opportunity to be part of the EJEPL. There are 14 teams and they play a short 6 game schedule between November and March with limited travel to other local rinks. The top two teams in each division; 10u, 12u, and 14u play for the championship. There is also much room to expand this MADD into other local areas such as New Jersey.

What kind of experience can players expect to have when participating in this league?

We try to stress to the owners to have high level performance practices and when the players get to the midget level, we try to expose the players to the top junior programs in the area. We advertise to the surrounding junior programs and prep schools to come to the EJEPL playoffs and All-Star games. We are working with Live Barn to broadcast all youth games, showcases, and playoffs live to the EJEPL. Scouts will have a much better viewing experience to watch our players compete. We will also have an alumni page set up on our website next year so that current players, coaches, and scouts can see how some of our players have grown and developed their hockey careers.
“Organizational Spotlight” Featuring the Howard Huskies

About the Huskies

The Howard County Youth Hockey Club (HCYHC), commonly known as the Howard Huskies, is a not for profit hockey club started in 1971. At that time there were only 45 players involved in the organization. Today, there are over 300 players. The Howard Huskies organization provides both recreational and Tier II travel hockey. The emphasis of their organization focuses on sportsmanship, teamwork, and character.

Eastern Regional Silver Stick Tournament

Every year over Thanksgiving, the Howard County Youth Hockey Club hosts the Eastern Regional Silver Stick Tournament. This tournament is one of eighteen qualifying tournaments in the United States and this is the 28th consecutive year that the Huskies have hosted this event. The regional champions move on to the International Finals competing against other regional champions. This “Stay to Play” tournament hosted 103 teams this year and they competed in 220 games at five different venues. The venues used for this tournament were Columbia Ice Rink, The Garden’s Ice House, Piney Orchard Ice Rink, Rockville Ice Arena, and Skate Frederick. During this tournament, teams came in from six different states ranging from Mites through Midgets. The Annual Mite Half Ice Challenge tournament also featured fourteen teams competing at A and B levels.

This 2017 Silver Stick Tournament was dedicated to Bill Martinez. Throughout his years as a hockey coach with the Howard County Youth Hockey Club, Bill has dedicated himself to teaching skating and ice hockey as well as promoting good sportsmanship and developing strong character in all youth participants in the game. Having played hockey as a kid growing up in the northern part of Pennsylvania, he's always had a lot to offer today’s youth. Bill had a great understanding of the game and generously shared his skills and talents with all those he came in touch with during his 10 active years with the Howard County Youth Hockey Club. After moving to Columbia in 1986, Bill became involved with the start of the club’s first instructional program. He helped develop a quality program and from there, he grew along with the club to expand the house program. By 1988, he was well into coaching on all club levels, including instructional, house, and travel. He was instrumental in leading three Squirt A teams to the Silver Stick Finals. Bill always strove to help each child feel good about themselves, each other, and the work they did together as a team.

“This is just a game, and we’re here to have fun and play good hockey”

-Bill Martinez
Howard Huskies and Their Community Outreach

Many youth hockey organizations come up with and volunteer for various events throughout the year giving back to the community that surrounds them; whether it be raising awareness to cancer, volunteering in inner cities, or hosting benefit tournaments or Skate-A-Thons. The Howard Huskies organization participate in a few different events each year that help to give back to their community.

On Saturday September 9th, the Midget Black U15AA team came together for the first of two activities to raise money for the new equipment package of helmets, gloves and shells in their community service project. Rick and Marianne Martinson, parents to goalie Gavin Ross, hired the team to complete work on a nature trail on their property in Sykesville. The team labored throughout the morning to distribute 45 yards of mulch over a 100 yard winding loop nestled in a beautiful forested setting. The boys finished the morning by working together to relocate and stack logs from a fallen, 200-foot tree. The team’s fundraising efforts were brought to completion by a very generous gift from D’Amore Personal Injury Law. To demonstrate their appreciation and in an effort to “pay it forward”, the team will spend a couple of days this season packing food for the Baltimore Hunger Project, an organization that is dear to the D’Amore family and staff of D’Amore Personal Injury Law. The players and parents of Midget Black are grateful to the Martinson and D’Amore families and D’Amore Personal Injury Law for providing the team opportunities to succeed in fundraising for their new equipment that also create memorable team bonding and team building experiences!

Patterson Park Stars

Each year around the holidays, the Howard County Youth Hockey Club participates in their Annual Holiday Drive in support of the Patterson Park Stars. The Patterson Park Stars are a Youth Hockey Program for children in Baltimore City that face incredible life challenges. Operated by Baltimore Youth Hockey, the program is an all-volunteer 17 week program that provides ice hockey instruction to boys and girls ages 7-13.

The children participating in this program come from homes that are not financially capable of supporting their interest in the game. Parents are often jobless, struggle with alcohol and other drug addictions, and lack the transportation necessary to get children to and from the rink. This program provides a safe, stable, and fun environment for these players to learn about life and the sport of hockey. During the holiday season in 2016, there were a few different ways to support this cause: Volunteers in the program were able to donate cash or purchase $10 McDonald’s gift cards. The cards were then given out as part of the holiday goodie bags that the players go home with after the holiday party. A Patterson Park Donation box is also left out and volunteers are encouraged to donate used
hockey gear, pads, skates, & gloves. Finally, there was a sign-up sheet that allowed volunteers to donate food for breakfast with Santa. Attending the event and supporting this group is also encouraged. The Howard Huskies look forward to supporting this program again with this year’s 2017 Annual Holiday Drive.

The Patterson Park Stars is a Youth Hockey Program for children in Baltimore City that face incredible life challenges. Operated by Baltimore Youth Hockey, the program is an all-volunteer 17-week program that provides ice hockey instruction to boys and girls ages 7-13.

Try Hockey for Free Day

There are many youth hockey organizations that participate in USA Hockey’s Try Hockey for Free Day. The Howard Huskies are one of vast majority of youth hockey organizations that participate. With this program, local youth, ages 4 to 9 are encouraged to experience ice hockey for the first time and learn the basic skills in a fun, safe environment.

“We look forward to welcoming families to the Columbia Ice Rink to try our great sport of ice hockey” said Bud Buonato, President, Howard Huskies. “Our goal is for these families to enjoy watching their kids learn new skills with big smiles on their faces.” USA Hockey's Try Hockey program, with the support of the National Hockey League and NHL member clubs, among others, is designed to provide youth hockey associations with a national platform to introduce new kids to the sport. Pure Hockey and Liberty Mutual Insurance are official sponsors of Try Hockey for Free Days. USA Hockey has close to 500 locations offering this unique opportunity to kids nationwide.
Devin served as team captain of both the 16U AA and 18U AA Huskies teams, helping lead his them to two state Tier 2 championships and three USA Hockey Tier 2 Nationals appearances before playing for Team Maryland’s 18U AAA team this past season. The NCDC is the new Tier 2 tuition-free junior (under-20) division of the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL). It is being geared toward players who already have committed to NCAA Division I college programs, or those who are considered to be strong candidates to play at the Division I level. Devin is the first Howard player ever to be drafted by a Tier 2 tuition-free junior league.

“The Huskies Organization is very proud of Devin. He is a fantastic player and an even better, leader, teammate and person,” said Howard Huskies President Bud Buonato, who coached Devin for three years. “Devin is an excellent role model to all of our players. His talent, focus, dedication and hard work on and off the ice and in the classroom are now being recognized by some of the best hockey programs in the country.”

Devin led his Huskies’ teams in scoring for each of his three seasons at Howard and was named an Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League (EJEPL) All-Star. This past season, while playing for Team Maryland, he led the 18U Tier 1 Atlantic Youth Hockey League (AYHL) in scoring and was the second player drafted to play in the East Coast Elite League (ECEL) All-Star Game at Harvard in December. Devin also was an all-conference, all-state and all-academic selection playing for the Dulaney High School co-op team as a senior.

The NCDC is a division of 11 teams, many of them long-time members of the USPHL with other teams coming over from the Eastern Hockey League (EHL). The 11 teams are located in five states, ranging from southern New Hampshire west to Rochester, N.Y, and south to New Jersey. This past year the USPHL’s Premier division produced more direct NCAA Division III college hockey commits than any other junior league in the country.

A 1998 birth year forward, Devin also is a candidate to be selected in the NAHL Draft on June 6. The NAHL also is a tuition-free Tier 2 junior league that is known for developing NCAA Division I players. He was one of only two players from the state of Maryland to be selected in the NCDC draft out of a total of 132 picks.
“Organizational Spotlight” Featuring the Red Bank Generals

About the Generals

The Greater Red Bank Generals will be entering their sixteenth season. The Generals Organization is a member of the New Jersey Youth Hockey League and Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League. The NJYHL is an association member of the Atlantic District of USA Hockey. The EJEPL is a USA Hockey sanction League. The Generals offer youth hockey players between the ages of 7-18 the opportunity to compete at the Tier I and Tier II levels. Only coaches who meet the criteria set forth by USA Hockey and the Red Bank Armory shall coach and train our teams.

Mission Statement

“It is our goal to provide the proper environment for our players and their families, friends and supporters to enjoy the sport of ice hockey. To provide an atmosphere that encourages our participants to learn and grow on and off the ice. We will work to instill pride, discipline and a strong work ethic, not only as individuals, but also as teammates and members of the Generals organization. While winning is always one of our goals, playing the sport within the rules, showing good sportsmanship, respecting our opponents, officials and others during play, is of paramount importance. The introduction of Tier I is a calculated progression within the Generals Program – our Tier I completes the journey within the organization.”

This Year’s Success Stories

The Squirt B Team won the Can/am tournament in Lake Placid, NY last weekend. They won all 5 games they played, great job by the players and the coaching staff.

The Red Bank Generals Bantam AA won the Gold Medal in Lake Placid last Sunday by defeating the Oakville Rangers in OT 5-4. The Bantam AAA minor got the Silver by losing the Championship game to Ajax 2-0. Another great weekend of hockey for the Generals up in Lake Placid.
Mite Black won Ice Vault Thanksgiving intermediate tournament

Mite White won the Ice Vault Advanced Thanksgiving Tournament

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**Red Bank Generals Proud Alumni Player Joakim Ryan in the NHL**

Joakim Ryan is the first player to wear the Red Bank Generals Jersey to be drafted in the NHL. He was selected in the 7th round of the 2012 entry draft by the San Jose Sharks on June 23, 2012. Joakim played for the Generals as a Squirt, Peewee and Bantam. Ryan has also played for Cornell University and had a record for the most goals by a freshman defenseman at that University. He also has played at the international level for Sweden and team USA with the 16 & 18 and under. Congratulations to him for being the first General to be selected by an NHL team.
Former Red Bank Generals Players Willie Brooks and Bobby Hampton Playing Division 1 Hockey

Before Colgate
Played in 2014-15 with the Carleton Place Canadians of the CCHL...Spent the second half of the 2013-14 season with the Fairbanks Ice Dogs of the NAHL as well as 2012-13 and first half of 2013-14 season with the Jersey Hitmen of the USPHL...Attended Salisbury School...Also played lacrosse and soccer while at Salisbury.

Stats: Appeared in 62 regular season games for the Canadians, tallying 36 points on eight goals and 28 assists...Chipped in four assists in eight playoff games...Notched eight assists in 28 games played with Fairbanks.

Honors: Third-Team All-CCHL selection...Helped lead Carleton Place to Bogart Cup and Fred Page Cup titles and finalist finish in RBC Cup...Led the Ice Dogs squad to Robinson Cup Championship.

Freshman Year (2015-16)
Stats: Appeared in 32 games in his first season with the Raiders....Finished with two goals, seven assists and 25 blocks.
Best Games: Tallied his first career point with an assist in the first game and win of the season at Mercyhurst (Oct. 3)...Scored his first career goal against Northeastern (Nov. 28).

Sophomore Year (2016-17)
Stats: Played in 31 games for the Raiders...Had a great season with three goals and six assists for nine points...Tallied five of his nine points on the power play...Fourth on the team and tied for 24th in ECAC Hockey with 47 blocked shots.
Best Games: Scored the game-winning goal in a 5-3 win against Maine (Oct. 29)...Tallied assists in back-to-back games at Arizona St. (Dec. 2-3)...Scored his second goal of the season at Princeton (Jan. 14)...Scored his final goal of the season vs. Harvard (Jan. 28)...Added one assist in game two of the ECAC Hockey First Round (March 4).
Honors: Named to the ECAC Hockey All-Academic Team...Named to Raider Academic Honor Roll.
Red Bank Generals alumni player Bobby Hampton now playing Division 1 hockey for Northeastern University

2017-18: Has played in 10 games this season ... Made his collegiate debut against Sacred Heart (Oct. 7) ... Scored his first collegiate goal against No. 17 UMass Lowell (Oct. 28) ... Had goals in both games against Boston University (Nov. 4-10) to extend his scoring streak to three games.

Before NU: Appeared in 66 games over parts of three seasons with three different teams, recording 12 goals and 14 assists ... in 2016-17 with Cedar Rapids, he dressed in 44 games and tallied a career high 23 points on 11 goals and 12 assists, which led the team in scoring ... His 12.4% shooting percentage (12-of-89) was good for fourth on the team, and he also added one game-winning and two power play goals ... Spent the 2015-16 season with the North Jersey Avalanche U18 team, notching 26 points (13 goals, 13 assists) to help the club to the T1EHL U18 Championship.

The EJEPL would like to congratulate Joakim Ryan, Willie Brooks, and Bobby Hampton on the success they have had in their hockey careers as well as in their academic life. We wish and encourage all our athletes the best in their pursuit of playing the great game of hockey as well as success in the academic part of their lives.
The EJEPL is proud to announce the official dates, venues and formats for the 2017-18 playoffs for all the boys divisions. Please review carefully each level you have a team. There are many different formats based on factors such as # of teams in a division, geography, level of play, etc. KRACH ratings will be used exclusively to determine all playoff spots. Larry Nastasi is the EJ's KRACH guru and has announced the first ratings will be announced on Monday DECEMBER 4th and each Monday night after DEC 4 till the playoffs. Any questions pertaining to the KRACH are to be addressed to Larry only.

There will be a set schedule for each venue and teams will be slotted into these slots based on their KRACH ratings. There will be absolutely no changes to any schedule at any venue. If your team cannot participate with the set schedule, the next team in the KRACH ratings will be offered the spot.

Actual schedules for each age group at each venue will be announced by JANUARY 1. ------a full month in advance.

There is NO CHARGE for the playoffs, it is in your League Fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>FORMAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 U</td>
<td>FEB 2-4</td>
<td>ICE WORKS, ASTON</td>
<td>FINAL 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 U DIAMOND</td>
<td>FEB 9-11</td>
<td>TBA (EITHER NORTH / SOUTH) DEPENDING ON MAKE-UP</td>
<td>6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 U FUTURES GOLD</td>
<td>FEB 9-11</td>
<td>RED BANK ARMORY</td>
<td>FINAL 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 U FUTURES SILVER</td>
<td>FEB 9-11</td>
<td>RED BANK ARMORY</td>
<td>FINAL 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 U</td>
<td>FEB 2-4</td>
<td>ICE WORKS, ASTON</td>
<td>FINAL 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U DIAMOND</td>
<td>FEB 2-4</td>
<td>ICE WORKS, ASTON</td>
<td>8 TEAM ROUND ROBIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 U FUTURES GOLD</td>
<td>FEB 9-11</td>
<td>RED BANK ARMORY</td>
<td>6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN</td>
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<td>12 U FUTURES SILVER</td>
<td>FEB 9-11</td>
<td>RED BANK ARMORY</td>
<td>FINAL 6</td>
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<td>13 U</td>
<td>FEB 2-4</td>
<td>ICE WORKS, ASTON</td>
<td>6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 U DIAMOND</td>
<td>FEB 2-4</td>
<td>ICE WORKS, ASTON</td>
<td>8 TEAM ROUND ROBIN</td>
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</table>
14 U FUTURES GOLD        FEB 9-11        LONG BEACH ARENA       6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN
14 FUTURES SILVER        FEB 9-11        LONG BEACH ARENA       FINAL 8
15 U                     FEB 2-4          ICE WORKS, ASTON       FINAL 4
16 PLATINUM               FEB 2-4          IGLOO ICE CENTER       1 VS 2 ---(BEST OF THREE)
16 DIAMOND                FEB 2-4          IGLOO ICE CENTER       6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN
16 FUTURES                FEB 2-4          IGLOO ICE CENTER       TBA
18 PLATINUM               FEB 2-4          IGLOO ICE CENTER       1 VS 2 ---(BEST OF 3)
18 DIAMOND                FEB 2-4          IGLOO ICE CENTER       6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

SPLIT SEASON PLAYOFF RESULTS

The playoffs were held Oct 28th at Connecticut College.

In the 16 U -----So Conn Stars---------(3) Greater NY Stars (2)

In the 18 U -----Greater NY Stars ----- (5) So Conn Stars (2)

Congratulations to the Champions.....

MADD CONFERENCE TO BEGIN PLAY

The limited travel (House League) MADD (Mid-Atlantic Development Division) Conference will begin play shortly in the 10 U----12 U----and 14 U levels. All the teams are from Long Island. It is a (6) game schedule with Playoffs in March. Rinks / Organizations involved include-----Nassau County / Long Beach / Dix Hills / Superior and the Arrows. Playoffs will be held again at Freeport March 10-11.

WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

The Woman's conference is in full swing with 12 and 14 U divisions. Teams play a (10) game regular season which includes a (4) game showcase in December at Dartmouth College and Kimbal Union Academy Prep.

It will be well scouted by College and Prep schools. Playoffs for this conference will be at the end of January in MASS.

REMAINING SHOWCASES

Dec 15-17 @ Northern Cyclones (Platinum / Diamond teams---16/18 U)

Jan 5-7  15 U @ Norwalk, CT

Jan 5-7  All Midget levels 16-18 U ----Aston Ice Works, The Pond, Igloo Ice Center and Revolution Ice Gardens.
USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps young people become leaders, even Olympic heroes; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport.

USA Hockey’s primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. Its cutting-edge American Development Model, which was launched in January 2009, provides associations nationwide with a blueprint for age-appropriate athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey furthered the enhancement of those efforts by advancing the USA Hockey SafeSport Program in June 2012.

While youth hockey is a main focus, USA Hockey also has vibrant junior and adult hockey programs that provide opportunities for players of all ability levels. The organization also supports a growing disabled hockey program.

Erik Nates Euro Hockey helps players of all ages develop their individual skills and improve in all aspects of the game. Based in Rye, NY, we offer summer camps and clinics throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Through structured drills and innovative equipment like parallel bars, our intense on-ice instruction challenges each student to the best of his or her ability. We draw on traditional European methods to help students improve their game, and we strive to create an exciting and productive atmosphere where they can both learn and have fun. We’re also committed to maximizing the time students spend on the ice at each session.

To us, Sport is about the qualities that every athlete learns as they participate in organized sports activities. They learn about teamwork, respect, and discipline. They create lasting friendships. They build leadership skills. They learn how to win with humility and graciously tip their cap in defeat.

Many of us were taught these qualities by coaches and volunteers of sports organizations that we were a part of growing up. We are forever grateful for their impact in our lives. They were, and often still are, our heroes.

At SportsEngine, we build applications and services to help the heroes of today spend less time on the administrative activities of their organization and more time teaching the qualities of Sport to their athletes. They are our future leaders, doctors, firemen, policewomen, teachers, fathers, mothers and friends.

“They inspire every one of us every single day. Everything we do, we do for the love of sport.”