



Welcome to the **New Jersey Devils Youth** Newsletter!

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the second installment of the **Devils Youth Newsletter**. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is excited to dive into February and March. Between games, practices, and weekends away, it's hard to keep pace with everything going on inside the club; so, here's the update. The midget team played a sled game, the mites are playing cross ice games with **blue** pucks and size appropriate nets, Peewee, Bantam and Midget National competing for playoff position, Midget American locked up first place in the AYHL, squirts going on the road, and a handful of teams found success at tournaments. Our mite tournament, the **Shamrock Classic March 17-19**, Tune ups and Tryout dates announced, Devils Youth Hockey is jam packed. Enjoy!

Coach Ben

February Discussion

- From the Editor
- ADM & Mite Update
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Upcoming Home Games 2/10 thru 2/18 (South Mountain 2)

2/10

PW A vs. Flames @ 9:15 AM
PW Minor vs. Colonials @ 11:00 AM
Midgets Nat'l vs. Royals @ 12:45 PM
Squirt Red vs. Flames @ 3:00 PM

2/11

Squirt Minor vs. Colts @ 7:45 AM
PW A vs. Colonials @ 9:30 AM (SMA 1)
Bantam Major vs. Rockets @ 2:15 PM (N/L)
Midget Nat'l vs. Avalanche @ 4 PM

2/18

Squirt Minor vs Long Island Arrows @ 7:45 AM
Squirt White vs. North Rockland @ 9:15 AM
Bantam AA vs. Yale Bulldogs @ 9:30 AM (SMA 1)
Mite Teams: Kelly, Gold, Red and White @ 2:15 PM



With the **Shamrock Classic** coming up, let the kids play!



Now that we are heading into the end of the season, our ADS and DS groups are preparing for their final event as mites, the **Shamrock Classic**, held at Codey Arena.

Our philosophy puts a strong emphasis on maximizing touches and teaching skills in order for these young athletes to be successful in the small ice all the while having a ton of fun! The annual **Shamrock Classic** is coming up, March 15-18. Time to register 6u and 8u teams! It's sure to be a great weekend for the future stars!

For more information on our mite program please visit the website www.DevilsYouth.com



USA Hockey & the ADM... Excerpt from Dan Bylsma, former NHL Head Coach discussion on the ADM and its effect on development (www.admkids.com)

“The ADM and its ladder of development is the best program for every single kid playing the sport, regardless of ability level. Coupled with USA Hockey's extraordinary coaching education programs, the sport at the grassroots level has never been better in our country.”

DAN BYLSMA

2014 U.S. Olympic Men's Hockey Team head coach, 2009 Stanley Cup winner, fastest NHL coach to 250 wins, hockey dad

*in a discussion with Bylsma at the USA Hockey Select 16 festival, he also mentioned that NHL players and coaches would be open to exploring the option to play less games in the regular season.



Devils Youth Hockey State of the Union

Squirts u10 – Squirt Red took home 1st place at the Steel City Tournament in Bethlehem, PA. The Red, Black, and White mite teams also joined in on the fun in PA. Squirt Minor and Squirt Major headed to Providence over MLK Jr. Weekend for the Kennedy Memorial. The Minor group went 3-2 with wins over South Shore, Woonsocket, and the Boston Jr. Eagles. They also had a sweet picture taken at the Providence College hockey game. **Peewees u12** – Peewee AA also traveled MLK Jr. weekend to Foxboro, MA, and were able to battle their way into the championship game; however, fell just short to a strong Woonsocket Northstars team. Peewee minor has a handful of games left and are looking to finish strong – they're heading to MA in 2 weeks, best of luck! While the 05 Major team has their eyes on the playoff picture and are caught in the middle of everything as the league heads to break for the Quebec Tournament. **Bantam u14** – Garry Cox and the Bantam A team earned a chance to place for 1st, but fell just short for a second-place finish at the Steel City Shootout. Bantam Minors had a great weekend in Pittsburgh where they faced stiff competition and used the experience as great team bonding on the bus ride to and from. And Bantam Major is in the middle of a heated playoff race. **Midget U16** – Midget American, with their win on 1/14 against the Jr. Flyers, locked up 1st place in the league. The Midget National team took place in a fun filled afternoon just before New Year's with the Devils Youth sled team. It was an afternoon filled with laughter, smiles, and pure joy among both groups. A big thank you to Al Graul for helping set the whole thing up. Additionally, three of those players will be representing the Devils Youth at the Atlantic League All-Star game held at Quinnipiac University on February 3, David Andreychuk, Jonathon Berko, and Krystian Sczmacinski, Congratulations!

Tune-Ups & Tryout Dates – See next page **NJ Youth League** – Throughout the NJYHL a few teams will be taking part in both the district and league playoffs this spring which will be prove to be exciting, playoffs, held in Mt. Laurel, NJ. If you're around, the boys would love the support. Good luck to all our athletes! Don't look down is the motto at the Squirt level as 4 teams are hanging around top of the league standings! The same can be said for the Peewee group – WOAH! all 3 teams are at the top of their division and we're starting to see a pattern here as the Bantam groups are joining the party at the top as well. Kudos to all players and coaches! **Atlantic Youth League** – Inside the Atlantic League a handful of teams are eyeing up playoff positions and teams are looking to finish up the season with plus .500 records. Good luck to all the groups as we head to the final portion of the seasons. **Peewee Quebec** – Devils Youth players who are participating in Peewee Quebec this year are finishing up practices and preparation before heading north of the border for the prestigious Tournoi International de Hockey Peewee. This years Devils team kicks off tournament play on Sunday February 13th when they play host team, Quebec Nordiques under the big screen and what is sure to be packed house. Good luck boys, we'll be rooting from home! **Devils Youth**

Alumni – The state released a list of former high school players having success at the NCAA Division 1 level that include a number of Devils Youth players, including two Hobey Baker nominees. Those players include; Zach Berzolla - Colorado College, Brendan Less- Dartmouth, Bobby Hampton – Northeastern, Daniel Perez-Maine, Tommy Muratore - Holy Cross, Bredan VanRiemsdyk - New Hampshire, Grant Jozefek - Northeastern, Jacob Paganelli – Princeton, Alex Rauter – Cornell (Hobey Baker Nominee) and Josh Melnick - Miami (OH)(Hobey Baker Nominee). Also feel free to catch former Devil Youth player Matt Gilroy as he will be representing Team USA in the Olympics!



Devils Youth Tune-Ups & Tryout Dates

Mark your calendars folks!

Tune up dates and tryout dates are posted on the website. See www.DevilsYouth.com for more information regarding specific birth years, dates and times. All tune-ups and tryouts will be held at South Mountain Arena. Tune-Up dates will begin on March 2, 2018 and run through April 10, 2018.

Tryout Dates

Mite Placements 3/27 and 3/28

Tier 1 Squirt and Pee wee will be held 3/21 – 3/23 @ South Mountain

Tier 2 Squirt and Pee wee will be held 3/26 – 3/29 @ South Mountain

Tier 1 Bantam and Midget will be held 4/11 – 4/13 @ South Mountain

Tier 2 Bantam and Midget will be held 4/16 – 4/18 @ South Mountain

For more information regarding, tune-ups, tryouts, and all things Devils Youth for the 2018-2019 seasons, please visit www.DevilsYouth.com!





Player Profile – Jake Schunke '04

Jake has been with the Devils since he started playing hockey at the mite level, and he's had that smile permanently on his face since then haha! Jake was a part of the AAHA New Jersey Devils Pee wee Quebec team of 2017 and has been with the Player Development program since 2016. Jake currently plays on our '04 Bantam Minor team and has been a very integral part of their success this year. Jake is known for his positivity, work ethic, and dedication to his craft. In the picture, Jake makes his return to the lineup after a 6-week hiatus, and earns the hard hat for player of the game!



Coach Jim with Devils Youth Alumni Kevin Shattenkirk after a Ranger Game! Nice have friends close by!

Coach's Profile – Jimmy Elia

Jimmy played high school hockey at Trinity-Pawling and collegiate hockey for Lake Forest University. Jim has had much success with the Devils, having coached our Bantam team to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament in 1998 and 2007 and coaching our Pee wee AAA team to a USA Hockey National gold medal in 2002. In addition, Jimmy's Pee wee Major team won the 2002 Silver Stick International Championship. Jim helped to coach the 2002 Atlantic District North New Jersey Devils Quebec Team to a 1st place finish in the Quebec International Pee wee Championships and to quarterfinal appearances in 2003, 2011, and 2012 in the winners' bracket.

DEVILS YOUTH



Left to Right: Squirt Minors at the Providence College game, where little did they know photographers were looking for future Friars! Mite group participating in good sportsmanship with the customary handshake line at the end of game.



Left: Coach Hynes of the NHL New Jersey Devils giving the pep talk before the Squirt Black team hits the ice at the Prudential Center!



Above: Bantam A Red team finishes up in Steel City with a silver! Congrats.



Above: Big D handles this year's toy drive. This photo doesn't do justice to the amount of work and effort put into this. Not to mention doesn't come close to showing how many toys were actually collected this year. Great job D!

Below: Midget 16 All Stars, Jonathon Berko, and Krystian Sczmacinski – all smiles after a fun All Star event at Quinnipiac University.



Left: This year's (05 birthyear) Pee wee Quebec team at the annual Devils Game where they were introduced in front of a sell out crowd, taking behind the scenes and met some NHL players, and were sent off with the entire New Jersey Devils teams' best wishes.

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Above left to right: Midget Coach Ben Weston shakes hands with one of the Devils sled players after a great afternoon of sled hockey. Left: Coach Graul gives instructions, "take it easy on them boys, they're going to be a little out of place," he says with a laugh. Above: All the players that participated during the afternoon. A huge thank you to Jason Lerner, and Al Graul for helping put a great afternoon together!

Below: Quebec Teams final full day camp help over the MLK Jr. Holiday. A great skate for everyone before we send them off to represent the Devils Youth, and the Atlantic District. Good luck boys!



Coach-Parent Partnership

Following are guidelines for how sports parents can contribute to a Coach-Parent Partnership that benefits youth athletes.

Recognize the Coaches' Commitment. Your child's coaches have made a commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the time spent at practices and games. Quite likely in youth sports they are volunteers. Respect their commitment and imagine yourself in their place before approaching them to discuss any issues you may perceive.

Make Early, Positive Contact with the Coach. As soon as you know who will coach your child, contact those coaches to introduce yourself and offer any assistance you may provide. Establishing a positive relationship with the coaches will help you proactively shape a positive experience for your child and will lay the foundation for respectful, productive conversations with coaches should a conflict arise later.

Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank. Too often, coaches hear only from parents who have complaints. Filling the coaches' Emotional Tanks with specific, truthful praise positively reinforces them to continue doing the things you see as benefiting the youth athletes.

Don't Put the Player in the Middle. You wouldn't complain to your children about how poorly their math teacher explains fractions. Don't share your disapproval of a coach with your children. Doing so may force the child to take sides, and not necessarily *your* side! If your child has an issue with the coach and can maturely articulate it, encourage your child to approach the coach and at the very least learn some life lessons in self-advocacy with an authority figure. Otherwise, if you disapprove of how the coach handles a situation, seek a private meeting to discuss the matter.

Let Coaches Coach. It can confuse players to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions. Also, your instructions may counter the coaches' strategy and tactics, undermining team performance.

Fill Your Child's Emotional Tank. Competitive sports can be stressful to players. The last thing they need is your critiquing their performance...on top of what the coach may deliver and what they already are telling themselves. Let your children know you love and support them regardless of their performance.

Contribute to a Positive Environment. Fill all the players' Emotional Tanks when you see them doing something well. Honor the Game as a spectator, respecting ROOTS (Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates and Self), and encourage others around you to Honor the Game.