

Northstars News

March 2013

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Message from the President

Wow, seems like we just got started and here we are at the end of yet another hockey season. I want to start by saying thanks. It goes without saying that we could not do what we do without the constant support of our volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to lighten the load and move the organization forward. What I would like to focus on is how we are all part of the hockey community.

In reflection of the past hockey season and looking forward and planning for next season several thoughts come to mind. Firstly, I am very concerned that it is becoming more difficult to recruit individuals who are willing to get involved in our community just for the sake of the organization. Our larger community seems to be really hard on those individuals and there are more and more demands and expectations placed on these people. The greatest challenges are in recruiting, and holding on to the individuals so that the organization can grow.

Next comes encouraging dedicated hockey people to come forward to coach and manage our teams so that the players can have the best possible experience. When I look back and ask the question, as an organization/community, "what more can we do to enhance the experience for your child?" The answer seems quite simple; the Northstars provide ice, equipment, training, and an overall supportive structure.

When I look at the concept of community, I would like to ask each of you what you have done to contribute to the developmental hockey experience of your child. We get stronger as a community when we come together for common purpose and good. We all have a responsibility to work as a collective with the purpose of teaching our youth to be better citizens through cooperation, collaboration, and team work. I offer my personal thanks to all of you for your work with our teams and our organization.

Edmonton Northstars Athletic Club (ENAC) remains committed to doing the best we can to provide a quality sports program to the youth of North-East Edmonton. Please consider getting involved in some way to make our community the best it can be. We will be open every Monday until the end of the hockey season and we have our regular meetings first Sunday of each month at 7PM. I wish you all the best for the playoffs.

Rick McAdie, President

Upcoming Events

March 2013 EMHA playoffs

April 13, 2013 Street Hockey Event at Northstars

April 19, 2013 Northstars Banquet and Awards Night

May 26, 2013 Annual General Meeting

June 23, 2013 Early-Bird Hockey Registration

Coming Soon – Changes to the Hockey Season

There are several changes that are currently being presented through Edmonton Minor Hockey. These changes, if approved, will come into effect next hockey season. Currently your child's hockey season is made up of three rounds; the first round from September to November, round two November to Minor Hockey Week, and the final round from MHW to March.

The most significant change involves going from three rounds to two with what is now the first round being a series of exhibition games allowing greater opportunity to more adequately assess where a player should play. There is also a later start date proposed along with more scheduled practices. The later start date has been welcomed by most to allow a little more time in the fall before the game schedule actually starts. Please refer to our website as we will post the current information as it becomes available. The Northstars will register players as usual following regular registration practices.

Northstars Banquet – April 19, 2013

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual year-end banquet on April 19, 2013. Join us as we honour outstanding coaches, managers, Northstars teams and volunteers from the past season. If you would like to nominate your coach, team, or manager for one of the following awards, please email us by March 29th with your nomination and a brief explanation to enac@nstars.com:

Team Showing Greatest Heart and Desire
Team of the Year
Coach of the Year
Manager of the Year

Tickets for the banquet can be reserved by contacting enac@nstars.com.

The Power of a Thank-You Card

The simple act of thanking someone for a fund raising donation unexpectedly led to a once in a life time opportunity for the kids on the NEZ PeeWee Chill hockey team.

The team had a pub night last year and the Oilers were contacted for a donation. After the fundraiser, the parent sent the promoter a thank-you card, thanking the organization for the donation and letting him know how much money the team raised. Fast forward to February 2013...enter Kevin Radomski and Brad Ellard from the Oilers organization who called to see if our team would be interested in appearing on Hockey Night in Canada. Ummm, yes!!!

So the boys showered, did their hair, put on their home jerseys and headed down to Rexall Place for an afternoon they will never forget. The team was ushered into Rexall place and introductions were made. The boys soon found themselves on an extensive tour of the Oilers dressing room with the legendary Barrie Stafford as their guide. The parents were then invited to join the kids in the main dressing area and pictures were soon taken at Yakupov, Eberle, Nugent-Hopkins and Hall's stalls.

Then the CBC provided the boys with pizza and pop...every 11-12 year olds favorite meal. Ron McLean soon appeared and the kids crowded around him as he asked about their season, told stories and answered their questions. Next on the agenda - *Hockey Night in Canada*. The boys clambered into the broadcast room and were set up at the controls for the replays, stats, etc. The rest of the team organized themselves around Ron McLean for the big event. Lights, camera, and ...welcome to *Hockey Night in Canada*, the show every kid who plays hockey wants to be on one day! What an amazing experience. The entire team is grateful to Christine for her simple act of sending a thank-you.

Wrapping Up Loose Ends:

Year-End Team Reporting

Please be aware as the season comes to an end, you will need to hand in ALL financial information to the Northstars Treasurer. If you have any questions on how to handle remaining funds in the account, please contact Kerry Heise at Northstars to discuss. Depending on the type of fundraising activities your team conducted throughout the year, you MAY or MAY NOT be able to redistribute cash back to the families. Please speak with Kerry to determine if your team can do so. Team financials should be wrapped up by April 30th, and handed in by May 15th.

Year-End Equipment Return

The season will start wrapping up for our teams soon! This means it is time to return your equipment and jerseys. ALL jerseys must be returned cleaned, with the C's and A's removed (and returned), and any sponsorship logos such as Scotiabank must also be removed. Any additional equipment signed out must also be returned. This includes pucks, pylons, clipboards, first aid kits, jersey bags, goalie equipment and puck bags. Please make sure the goalie equipment is dry.

The Northstars office is open every Monday from 7-9pm and we will be accepting returns during this time. The coach and the manager are ultimately responsible for ensuring all items are returned so plan now how you will go about this. *Team deposits are NOT authorized for release until everything is returned and in an acceptable condition.* Items that are not clean, need removal of logos, or items not returned will be charged back to the team.

Thank you for your help in maintaining our equipment. By treating it well, you are ensuring it is in a condition that all our current and future players can enjoy.