

Disabled Hockey Section Report  
June 20, 2010

**USA Hockey Disabled Section:**

*National Sled Hockey Development Camp:*

This years USA Hockey Sled development camp will be held in Rochester New York July 16-21. 3 players from Minnesota have been invited to attend. National Jr and USA sled team tryouts will be conducted immediately following the development camp.

*2011 National Sled Championships:*

The USA Disabled Festival in Blaine will be host to the first USA national Sled championships. 8 teams will play in 2 tiers, based on league play and committee rankings. One championship will be awarded in each tier. There will be a third division, the USA division, for those teams who wish to participate in the disabled festival in tournament play at an open level.

*USA Disabled Hockey Sled Classic sponsored by the NHL:*

In October 2010, the Pepsi Center and the Colorado Avalanche will host the first sled classic sponsored by the NHL. Teams must be affiliated with their NHL team, must wear their jerseys and use their name. Sponsorship will be determined on a team by team basis. Only teams with NHL affiliation will be allowed to play. More information will be available once the 2010-11 season schedule is released.

*How to start a new program manual:*

USA Disabled section is completing a manual and accompanying DVD on how to start a program. The project should be completed by the end of the summer and ready for the upcoming season.

*2011 Disabled Festival:*

The committee for the 2011 Disabled festival continues to meet to prepare for next years event. The festival will take place at the Super Rink in Blaine, MN, April 1-3, 2011. Anyone interested in assisting with this event (before we call and ask you) can send an e-mail to [tonib@dakcom.org](mailto:tonib@dakcom.org).

*Sled hockey rules:*

New rules for the National Sled Hockey Championships, league play and the youth festival were created at the June Congress. These will be made available to all teams in the next month. Many of these rules will effect the registration process so it is important to get these out t teams prior to the start of the season.

*Steve Cash is named USA Disabled Hockey Athlete of the Year:*

Steve began as the back up goalie with Team USA when they competed in Torino, Italy in the 2006 Paralympic games. He became the #1 guy for the team that following year. Since taking his position between the pipes he has lead the team to its first ever Gold medal in the World Championships this spring in the Czech Republic. But he, along with his team, has always had their eye on the prize...the Gold Medal in Vancouver.

So for two weeks in March, Cash showed up at every game ready to make that dream come true. When you watch Steve in net he makes it all seem so easy, so effortless. But for anyone who has ever gotten into a sled, you know that he is the best at what he does. There is no other sled goalie on this earth that can do what Cash does. And his representation and class transcends to how he is as a person off the ice as well. Known as a practical joker, he is liked and respected by everyone he meets. And he continues to give back to those who are just beginning their sled hockey career, teaching and supporting kids at the USA Sled Hockey development camp in the summer of 2009. Given all the medals and accolades he has received during the past 2 years, he is the most down to earth and humble person. He will often times appear surprised by all the attention that he has received for his accomplishments. But that is who he is. He is grateful to be playing the sport that he has grown up loving all his life. And while he may not be wearing a St Louis Blues jersey, he has accomplished more and represented disabled hockey to a level that no one has ever seen before.

*Hartford Sled Hockey presentation:*

The Hartford Group, a sponsor of the Paralympic games, held an all day sled clinic at the National Sports Center for employees and business partners. Given the opportunity to be paralympians for the day, over 60 people experienced both classroom and on ice instruction on the overall Paralympics as well as their hand at sled hockey. Sandra Dukat and Taylor Lipsette were there to share their stories as well. It was an amazing day for everyone involved.

### **Sled hockey:**

*Midwest Sled Hockey league-adult program*

The dates are set for the second year of the Midwest Sled League.

Nov 19-21 - St, Louis  
Jan 7-9 - San Antonio  
Feb 11-13 - Minnesota  
Mar 4-6 - Chicago

The team has been practicing over the summer and will have almost double the players they have had in the previous year.

*Sled Hockey-youth program*

The youth program continues to grow and have had opportunities to get on the ice this summer as well. A youth sled clinic will be held during the summer along with a golf tournament in Lakeville, with proceeds going to Minnesota Sled Hockey. More information will be made available on their web site.

**Special Hockey:**

*Two new programs to be added for the 2010-11 season*

Minnesota Special Hockey will be adding another metro area team along with a team in the Moorhead area. Our teams continue to grow and we are hoping to continue to expand to meet the needs of our players.

*Minnesota Special Hockey annual Saints game:*

Again this year we will be hosting an evening at the St Paul Saints for all special hockey players, their families and friends. The date will be determined soon. The evening offers a meal and tickets to the game. This is our third year of coordinating this event and it is becoming the summer event all of our players look forward to.

*Section 108 Golf Tournament:*

Plans are again underway for the Section 108 golf tournament, benefiting Minnesota Special Hockey. More information will be available within the next month and will be posted to both the Minnesota Hockey and Minnesota Special Hockey websites.

Stand up-amputee Hockey: No report from this program at this time.

**New initiatives:**



*Minnesota Warriors program*

a. The Minnesota Warriors program is designed to assist injured veterans with either introducing the sport of hockey into their lives or getting them back to the sport that they love. Our official name will be the Minnesota Warriors. We will be creating our own team logo for jerseys and marketing, incorporating the USA Warriors in to the overall design (possibly a patch on the sleeve, etc.). We will have our ice time determined, including location, by June 2010. A clinic will be scheduled for September, with a regular schedule to begin in October. The season will run October to April each year, skating 1x per week on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening.

Please contact Toni Boelter if you are interested in working with this amazing program that is getting injured veterans either back on the ice or into a sport than can assist them with their recovery and help them on their journey back to a full life here at home.

*Minnesota Wild Summer Bash*

Minnesota Disabled Hockey will be on display at this years Minnesota Wild Summer Bash held at the Mall of America on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 6p-9p. Members from special, sled and the warriors program will be available to answer questions and promote disabled hockey in Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted;  
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USA Disabled Hockey Representative  
Minnesota District