

Disabled Hockey Section Report
January 2011

USA Hockey Disabled Section:

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.

Sled Hockey Documentary:

The documentary titled Hockey Courage will be presented during the festival, tentatively on Saturday afternoon. We will not schedule any games during this time so everyone can attend if they like. The documentary follows the lives of two paralympic sled players and their journey.

2011 Disabled Festival:

The committee for the 2011 Disabled festival continues to meet to prepare for next year's 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.

Festival reports:

Trophies (Eric Rud): I have narrowed down my choices for medals and trophies and will present the different options to the board next week. The company I am working with is Images on Metal in Kasson, MN. Kasson is my home town and Images is nationally known for their trophy and medal designs. Here is the pricing that I have:

Team Trophies: 10 at \$56 = \$560
Individual Trophies: 240 at \$5 = \$1200
Medals: 600 at \$3 = \$1800

Total Cost: \$3,560

This cost will be reduced a bit. I have done a lot of business with them and also have 4 family members that work there so I will be getting an employee discount. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sponsors (Mike Snee): 1. The following email was sent to many companies.

Hello **XYZ**:

The 2011 USA Hockey Disabled Festival will be coming to Minnesota for the first time ever this April. Approximately 750 disabled hockey players from across the United States will be coming to The State of Hockey to showcase their abilities and love for the game. This high-profile event will occur at the National Sports Center in Blaine.

To help finance this exciting event, Minnesota Hockey is accepting corporate sponsorships and donations. Below is more information about the Festival. I will be following up with you soon to discuss the various opportunities that exist for **COMPANY XYZ** to show their support of these athletes. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Thank you,
Mike Snee

2. The following is a status update of companies that I have met with or had a conversation with.

Prospects

PIIC – Considering a sponsorship

Total Hockey – Meeting with owner the week of 1/24

Reebok CCM – Meeting on 1/17

Lorenz Bus – has expressed interest

The Sports Authority – has expressed interest

Nos

Sears

QwikTrip

National Dizzy & Balance Center

Kemps

Shock Doctor

3M

No Name Steak

CSM Lodging

Maravonda Coffee

Liberty Mutual

Red Baron

Lifetime Fitness

Perkins

Supercuts

Applebees

Old Dutch

Minnesota Wild ticket offer: The Minnesota Wild have a game on Thursday night before the Disabled festival. They have created a link to offer tickets to players at a reduced price. The link is www.wild.com/usa. In addition they will be donating \$4 for each tick sold using this link to the Disabled Festival. We will have the link placed on the Minnesota Hockey webpage along with the USA Hockey webpage as well.

Volunteers (Suzy): We have been able to secure volunteer EMT's and volunteer trainers for the event, and Suzy is actively recruiting the volunteers needed for other areas of the event. A letter will be going out to all hockey families in the next few weeks to complete our need for volunteers.

Apparel: Minnesota is working with Signature Concepts for our apparel this year. They have created several amazing designs which will be available for purchase on line prior to the event with limited options at the actual event.

Signage: No report

Raffle: There will be three premier items for our raffle this year along with a 50/50 raffle during the weekend. We are still seeking our premier items for the event.

Registration (Dennis): We have only received 3 registrations to date. This is typical of Disabled Hockey. We will extend the date if needed but teams will not be guaranteed program recognition as was stated on the welcome letter 6 months ago.

Opening ceremonies (Special Hockey): Opening ceremonies will occur on Friday night of the Festival and will be held on one of the rinks. Floor will be put down; we will have an introduction of the teams by state, then a short welcome video followed by a DJ, dance and snacks. Pin trading will occur that night as well as all weekend.

Hospitality room: We are still finalizing who will be supporting the hospitality room and will have that by the end of January.

Sled hockey:

Midwest Sled Hockey league-adult program

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

Feb 11-13 - Minnesota

Mar 18-21 - Chicago

The Minnesota Northern Sled Hockey team is playing in the Midwest League and has completed one weekend of play in Austin, TX and will play its second weekend of tournament play in St. Louis on January 7-9. Also at the St. Louis weekend will be the first ever Midwest League Sled Hockey All-Star game. Minnesota's proud to be represented with three players; Eric Rud – Center, Taylor Lipsett – Defense, Wendy Richter – Defense. Minnesota's coach Bill Nolin will be the Coach of the East. Minnesota will host a Midwest League tournament weekend February 11-13 in Richfield and then play the final week of league play in Chicago on March 18-21.

Sled Hockey-youth program

We've been playing local able bodied squirt and peewee teams. We have been putting the able bodied kids in sleds and playing full ice games against them. It has been great for our kids to have some competition and great for the able body to learn how to play hockey in a sled. It has been very successful. I think we have played 4 games and we have won all of them! Wisconsin youth are coming the weekend of the Midwest tournament. We are going to play on the 3 x 3 (Total Hockey) in Lakeville.

Special Hockey:

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

Special Hockey started the season on Sunday, November 21st. Our program has a practice or games every Sunday. Each team has played at least 2 games and they have been very successful. We have a lot of happy players and parents.

We have 5 teams this year, the Raptors, playing out of New Hope Ice Arena are our newest team.

The teams breakdown as follows:

81 registered players – 8 registered coaches

12 Wildcats (Rogers Activity Center) – 1 coach

22 Stingers (Braemar Ice Arena in Edina)– 2 coaches

9 Raptors (New Hope Ice Arena) – 1 coach

15 Polars (Schwans Super Rink in Blaine) - 3 coaches

23 Eagles (Beilenberg Sport Center in Woodbury) – 1 coach

The youngest born was born in 2006, oldest born in 1961.

We are trying to determine how to break down our players for play in the USA Disabled Festival in April. We have enough 'A' players to make an

very competitive team, but don't want to take too much away from our current teams.

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

New initiatives:



Minnesota Warriors program

The Warriors have grown from a concept to an ice team. At the last practice on 12/29/10 there were 6 skaters and they were able to have a 3-on-3 scrimmage at practice. There are 2 Marines, 2 Army and 2 National Guards men on the team all of which do have a disability status from the VA.

The team has a home at the Vadnais Heights Sports Complex. This Complex has an adapted arena with zero depth benches for the sled players. A custom locker room with accessible showers. Ice is donated to the team as well. The gear that is used by the Warriors came from a grant from the US Paralympic Organization and Hat Trick Hockey Anoka has provided the gear at cost for the team. District 10 has provided custom gear bags for the players (40 total). The Warriors are filing for a 501 c 3 the second week of January then will turn the focus to media coverage and recruitment.

Respectfully submitted;

Antonia O'Brien
USA Disabled Hockey Representative
Minnesota District