

Due to popular demand, the Mustangs are excited to announce U14 and U19 tournament teams for the 2017-2018 season. These teams will compete at the Tier II (AA) level, and will give participants experience with higher level hockey, and even an opportunity to be scouted. The teams will not be completely separate from the Mustangs MSGHL teams, and thus will not be eligible to go to nationals. Floyd Braaten will be the head coach for the U14 team, and Phil Askenazy will be the head coach of the U19 team.

The teams will practice together one weekend (Saturday evening/Sunday morning) a month in Albuquerque, which will include demanding on and off ice sessions; exact dates TBD. Participants will commit to attending these practices, in addition to attending regular MSGHL practices on Tuesdays in Santa Fe. All high school age or younger players must also be registered to play with their appropriate MSGHL team.

It is anticipated that the teams will attend 3-4 tournaments, possibly including the Silver Stick (Westminster, CO, end of October), Cranberry Cup (Phoenix, Thanksgiving weekend), and San Jose (MLK weekend). One of the tournaments will be held over President's Day weekend in our very own Albuquerque, which we hope to make an annual event. More details on this exciting development will follow. The cost for the tournament team will be approximately \$600 plus travel expenses per player.

Note that there is the possibility that, instead of competing in tournaments, the U14 team will participate in a U14AA league being formed in Colorado. More details on that, including costs, will follow.

The teams will be run as typical tier teams. All players will be chosen by the coaching staff. While all players will get ice time in games, it will not be equal. Each player will earn her ice time based on performance and attitude.

Please let Floyd (floyd@thrashingmonkey.com) or Phil (philda11@hotmail.com) know if your daughter is interested in participating, or if you have any questions. Please also copy Jeff Schultz (schultzjef@aol.com) on your email.

Tryouts for both teams will be held at the Outpost on Saturday, July 8, at 10:45 AM. The cost for tryouts will be \$30 per player. If your player is interested in participating but cannot make the tryouts, let us know so we can make alternative arrangements.

The Mustangs organization is really looking forward to providing the girls of New Mexico with an opportunity to play at a higher level. See you on the 8th!

Please note that tournaments, costs, and details are still being finalized, and subject to revisions based on changing circumstances, many of which are beyond our control. Finally, the tournament teams are subject to adequate numbers of roster players.