

EJEPL 16u & 18u All Star Games

2017-18 EJEPL All Star Game

Hosted by the New Jersey Titans at Ice World in Middletown, NJ

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President's Day, February 19th, 2018

The EJEPL All Star Games are designed to allow players to enjoy a fun game, have an opportunity to compete with players from other clubs around the league, and showcase their talent on the ice. While we encourage all players to pursue playing the great game of hockey, we recognize the importance of striving for an education as well. Helping our athletes find that balance between education and athletics is one of the key components that make our league so successful.



Home of the New Jersey Titans of the NAHL, Middletown Ice World hosted the EJEPL 16u & 18u All Star Game on Monday February 19th

The EJEPL 2017-18 All Star Game was held at Ice World in Middletown, NJ. We would see players coming in from Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Florida, Connecticut, and North Carolina to participate in these games. The 16u Blue and White teams would kick things off at 9:30am while the 18u Blue and White teams would play right after them at 12:00pm. Players arrived to the rink early and looked excited to add another hockey game to their already busy schedules, and were thrilled to meet the other players they would be competing with. The hockey world is a small one in which many of the players in these games were already familiar with one another

from playing in EJEPL league games as well as other league games where they were opponents. During these games on Monday though, they would be teammates and have a chance to showcase their talent together.

On the afternoon of February 14th, 2018 tragedy struck our nation when a mass shooting occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. A former student entered the building and unleashed a hail of gunfire on that afternoon killing seventeen people and sending fourteen others to the hospital making it the world's deadliest school massacre. The school closed down for the rest of the week and Florida Governor Rick Scott ordered government flags to be flown at half-staff through the following Monday in honor of the victims. "This has been a day where we've seen the worst of humanity. Tomorrow is going to bring out the best in humanity as we come together to move forward from this unspeakable tragedy," said Scott. The President of the United States had this to say about the tragedy, "My prayers and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible Florida shooting. No child, teacher or anyone else should ever feel unsafe in an American school."

The 18u EJEPL All Star Games hosted players that were both directly and indirectly affected by this devastation in Parkland with players traveling from Florida to participate, from towns that include Coral Springs, Davie, Hollywood, Parkland, Gulfport, Riverview, Lakeland, Miami, Boca Raton, and Weston. These All Star games not only served as an opportunity for these players to showcase their talent on the ice, but also as a chance to escape the harsh reality and heartbreak that these players from Florida were going through back home. Before each game started and right after player introductions, we had a moment of silence to recognize this tragedy and honor the victims, friends, and families of all those who were affected by this dreadful act. Then the National Anthem would play, bringing everyone together under one roof showing the world that as a nation, we all stand together. The EJEPL is keeping our thoughts, prayers, and sending our deepest condolences to the players in these games who were affected by this school shooting as well as all the other victims and their families. We can only hope that a tragedy like this never strikes our nation again.

The first EJEPL All Star Game would begin promptly at 9:30am between the Blue and White 16u All Star teams. In a fairly low scoring match for an all-star game, both teams would showcase some great defense on the back end. The Blue team would start off the scoring in the first period with a goal scored by the duo of Stef Oddoux and Brandon Laspina, from Westchester Express with Oddoux scoring off a feed from Laspina. That would be the only goal scored in the period. The White team would be able to get their offense started in the second period when Ryan Lasalvia (Igloo Selects) scored an unassisted goal to tie the game at 1-1. His goal would be the only one of that period leaving the score at just 1-1.



At the game's conclusion with Team White defeating Team Blue 5-2, all players would line up to shake the hands of their opponent in one of hockey's oldest traditions

Team White players line up for a photo at the end of the game to commemorate their EJEPL All Star experience



In the third period, we would see the offense start to kick-start itself up when Zac Deemer (Delaware Ducks) scored barely two minutes in being set up by fellow teammates with the Delaware Ducks John Paul Ahearn and Paul Army making the score 2-1 in favor of Team White. Less than a minute later, NJ Bandits player Ryan Andrews would give the 16u White team a 3-1 lead. The Blue team would get the game's next goal coming from Jackson Novak (Valley Forge), who also led his Valley Forge team in points scoring 14 goals while assisting on 5 for 19 points. The goal he scored here would get his team back in the game, at least for the time being.

However, the White team would score the games next two goals when another Delaware Ducks player Kaden Boots notched his first goal of the game making the score 4-2 with just over nine minutes remaining in the game. Paul Army would finish the game with two points when he scored the final goal of the game with 1:26 left leaving the score at 5-2. After a fun game that saw no penalties, the White team would come out on top. Each team had one MVP selected by their respective coaches at the conclusion of the game. From the White team, the MVP would be Zac Deemer who collected two points in the game with a goal and an assist. From the Blue team, the MVP honor went to the goaltender Matt Corella.



Zachary Deemer of the Delaware Ducks won the EJEPL All Star MVP award for Team White as they defeated Team Blue by a score of 5-2 with Deemer collecting two points in the game



Matt Corella of the Red Bank Generals is the EJEPL All Star MVP award recipient for Team Blue



The 18u All Star game started at 12:00pm at Ice World in Middletown, NJ where the Blue team would go on to win the game 10-7

After both 16u All Star teams finished their game and took photos with friends, parents, and coaches, the 18u game would begin on time at 12:00pm. In this game, we would see back and forth offense from both teams with a total of 17 goals being scored during the game. The first period would bring four goals to the table, two being scored by each team. Jack Cohen (South Florida) would open up the scoring for the Blue team as he put in a goal just over the three minute mark of the period. But the White team would answer with a goal of their own scored by Zach Swift (Delaware Ducks) evening up the score at 1-1. It would go back and forth like this throughout the first period as the Blue team would get the next goal off the stick of Wyatt Engelmann, another player from South Florida which made the score 2-1 in favor of the Blue team. With 1:45 left in the first period, Team White would tie up the score at 2-2 going into the second period with Zach Swift netting his second goal of the game.

In the second period, another four goals would be scored, but this time the Blue team would have three of them while the White team would only have one. The Blue team would take the lead as they scored the next two goals with Andrew Miranda (Gulf Coast) picking up his second assist of the game helping his team to a 4-2

lead. With 4:59 remaining in the period, Zach Swift would complete the Hatrick to bring his team back within a goal but the Blue team would get another goal from Jack Cohen to end the period with the Blue team up 5-3.

The third period would bring a huge offensive push by both teams as nine goals were scored among them. The Blue team was able to take the edge in the game scoring five goals in the period while the White team was only able to score four goals and the final score would be 10-7 in favor of the Blue team. Wyatt Engelmann of the Blue team would finish the game with two goals and an assist, Zach Katz (Gulf Coast) was able to complete his Hatrick in the third period, and playmaker Andrew Miranda picked up three assists in the game. Team Blue player Jack Cohen would also add an assist to bring his point total to three for the day. For the White team, there would be four different goal scorers in the period as they received contributions from Noah Gold (GNY Stars), Jake Woodruff (Delaware Ducks), Michael McGovern (LI Arrows), and David Lundy (York Devils) who came ready to play fresh from winning the EJEPL 18u Diamond division championship with his York Devils club. At the end of the game, an MVP trophy would be awarded to a player on each team. From the White team, the MVP would be Zach Swift who had three goals in the game while leading his Delaware Ducks team in points with 26 during the regular season. From the Blue team, the MVP would be awarded to Jack Cohen who had two goals and three assists in the game helping his team win the game 10-7. Cohen also led his team with 28 goals and 12 assists during the regular season for 40 points. He had a great EJEPL playoff run with the South Florida Golden Wolves making it all the way to the championship game but came up short when they lost to the York Devils in double overtime.



Wyatt Engelmann from the South Florida National team puts the puck into a wide open net during the EJEPL 2017-18 All Star game for the Blue team

Zach Swift won the EJEPL 18u All Star Game MVP award for the White team completing the Hatrick in a 10-7 loss



Jack Cohen, team captain of the South Florida Golden Wolves wins the MVP Award for Team Blue in the EJEPL 18u All Star Game scoing two goals leading his team to a win. During the regular season, Cohen was able to average an impressive 2 points per game with the Wolves