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Empire Junior Report: Friday, September 30, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 4

Upcoming Weekend Games:

Friday, September 30, 2011

Boston Bandits @ New Hampshire
New England @ Junior Bruins
Brewster @ Jersey Hitmen

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Atlanta @ Florida Eels
Hampton @ East Coast Eagles
Valley @ Green Mountain
Frederick Freeze @ Maksymum
Space Coast @ Florida Blades
Salem @ Junior Bruins
Bay State @ Springfield
South Shore @ Boston Bandits
Jersey Wildcats @ Buffalo Stars
Philadelphia Revolution @ Syracuse

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Atlanta @ Florida Eels
Philadelphia Revolution @ Syracuse
Hampton @ East Coast Eagles
Frederick Freeze @ Maksymum
Valley @ Green Mountain
Jersey Wildcats @ Buffalo
New Hampshire @ Southshore
Jersey Hitmen @ Brewster
Junior Bruins @ Springfield
Space Coast @ Florida Blades
Salem @ Baystate
New England @ Boston Bandits

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

This section will be used to promote our **Players of the Week**. Each week the League will select a Forward, Defense and Goaltender as Players of the Week.

Teams are to make nominations no later than Tuesday of each week by 6pm. Players of the Week will be announced on Friday's.

This week's Players are:

Forward: Josh Koerner - Florida Jr Blades

Defense: Josh Couturier - Jr Bruins

Goalie: Brian Jacobs - South Shore

See their write up's next page.

Congratulations to these fine players.

Make submissions, along with picture to Pete Preteroti at: SportsNiag@aol.com



Forward - Josh Koerner - Florida Jr Blades - 1993 (Montgomery, NY)

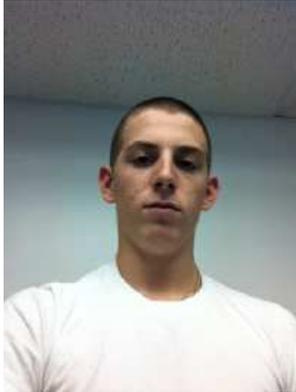
Josh Koerner #17 In a four game span Josh compiled (3) Hat Tricks, recording 10 goals and added 1 assist for a weekend of 11pts . Josh also was also a +12. His hat tricks were against north competition the Boston Jr Bruins, Brewster Bulldogs and Salem Ice Dogs.



Defense - Josh Couturier - Junior Bruins - 1995 (Newbury, MA)

Couturier was a warrior all weekend anchoring a B's defense that played most of the weekend with only five healthy defensemen and helped lead his team to picking up 5 of 6 available points in the teams' 2-0-1 showing at the BJB Shootout. A murderous schedule that saw the that saw the B's play 3 of the top 5 teams in the league back to back in the Hitmen, Applecore and Blades. The team, without defensemen Dylan Gargano (foot injury) and Nick Centauro (flu) the entire weekend, picked up wins over two of the top teams in the league with 3-0 wins over the Hitmen and a 5-2 win over defending league champion Applecore.

In addition to being on the team's PP (22%) and PK (96.77%) units he logs heavy minutes against other teams top lines. On Sunday, against the Florida Blades, Couturier was one of only 4 defensemen to play (Mat Harris was lost early in the game to a foot injury) and battled the oldest team in the league every other shift throughout regulation and overtime. While only being a '95 birth year and going against the more seasoned Blades (mostly 92/93 birth year players) all game he was a still a +2 on the game and a +4 on the weekend.



Goalie- Brian Jacobs- South Shore Kings 1993 (West Chester, PA)

The 93 from West Chester PA improved his record to 5-0 with victories over Potomac and Brewster. Brian held Potomac scoreless for the first half as the Kings cruised to an 8-1 victory. The next day he continued his shutout streak turning away all 16 shots he faced in a 5-0 shutout win over Brewster. This was Brian's league leading 3rd shutout of the season.



the first.

The Boston Bandits players have been working real hard on and off the ice to start the season. Their hard work showed in a non league win against the Walpole Express of the MET league 8 - 5. The Bandits came out flying in the first period out shooting the Express 15 - 7. Fwd Aharon Lara 94' (Saugus, CA) got the first of his two goals to start the Bandits scoring. Walpole tied it up on a PP goal to end

In the second period, the Bandits scored early and would lead thru out. Several players had multi point nights leading the way was Fwd Will Platt 94' (Pleasanton, CA) with 4 points on 2 goals and 2 assists. Evan Jackson 94' (Duxbury, MA) and Harry Connelly 93' (Medfield, MA) 3 points on a 1 goal 2 assists each and Chris Andre 92' (New Bedford, MA) had 2 points on a 1 goal and an assist.

The Bandits return to Empire League action coming this weekend: Friday at NH Monarchs, Saturday hosting South Shore Kings, Sunday at NE Huskies.



Buffalo Stars Juniors to open at Home

The **Buffalo Stars** open the 2011-2012 Empire Junior Hockey League season this coming weekend as they take on the visiting **Jersey Wildcats**.

Jersey is off to a huge start winning their first 7 games of this young season. The Wildcats make their first visit to Buffalo in 2 years and come in leading the league with a 7-0 record and 14 points. Led by Nicholas Branchina and Scott Mogerley (8 points each) and Eric Andersson (7 points), the Wildcats bring a potent offense into town. They have outscored their opponents 34-5 and are fresh off of a 13-1 thrashing of the Space Coast Hurricanes.

Jersey has a really balanced attack as all lines and defensemen are getting in on the scoring. All but 2 Wildcat players have registered at least a point so far. The team is also solid in net as the goaltending pair of Grant Perry and Tom Noce have save percentages of .976 and .967 respectively.

Buffalo is coming into this game hungry. Since the start of Training Camp on August 1st, Buffalo has played just 4 non league games and those were over the Labor Day Weekend. The Stars were 2-2 that weekend and showed some early signs of promise.

Buffalo enters the season with just one Empire veteran: **Spencer Koeppel**. Three other players have Stars Junior experience: CHA veterans **Tommy Leistner, Kevin Mackrell and Alex Willis**. **Chris Moses** and **Nic Pagano** have junior experience from different teams. The rest of the team are all rookies.

"We are a very young team" stated Stars Associate Coach Jerry Wheeler. "Our lack of experience will be offset by our hard work and discipline".

The Stars are the last team to begin the **Empire Junior** season and hope to make their mark right away. The Stars will need to get off on the right foot. Their schedule gets intense right away as they head to New Hampshire next weekend for the Monarchs Showcase. Buffalo has 4 games on tap for that weekend. They will then travel to Brewster, NY and Prince William, VA to wrap up the month.

On Saturday night the Stars will open the season with an elaborate **Opening Ceremonies** that features a Color Guard, Anthem Singer, Spotlights, Patriot Music and a host of other activities. Former Stars players will be on hand to present the "letters" to the new Captains and there will be an initial induction into the Buffalo Stars Wall of Fame. The night will be dedicated to our American Military and we will conduct fundraisers for both the **107th Family Support Unit** out of the Niagara Falls Airbase and the **Wounded Warrior Project**.

Game times are 7pm this Saturday and 11am Sunday.

You can watch Stars games live at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/buffalo-stars-junior-hockey>

Visit the Stars on line at: www.buffalostars.com

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME



After a month of exhibition games, the **Apple Core Empire** team traveled to Marlborough, MA to open up the regular season at New England Sports Center. The weekend consisted of three tough games against the Jr. Bruins, Tampa Bay, and Bay State.

In the regular season opener, the 'Core had to face a tough Jr. Bruins team, who are the defending USA Hockey National Champions. A good low shot from **Eddie Shinnick** ('92 Merrick, NY) caused the Bruins goalie to leave a rebound in the slot, and **Keegan Travers** ('93 Long Beach, NY) deposited the puck in the back of the net for a lead just four minutes in to the game. Three minutes later, **Joe Bochichio** ('94 Massapequa, NY) "buried the biscuit" after some great cycling by the red line to give the 'Core a 2-0 lead. The team seemed to have all the momentum going in their favor until a few trips to the penalty box late in the half squashed their momentum and allowed the Bruins to tie the game at two with two power play goals. Three goals by the Bruins in the second half were enough to put the game out of reach and the game ended 5-2. "Playing man down as much as we did takes you out of your groove" stated Assistant Coach **Jon Sandos**, referring to the fact that the team only gave up one goal at even strength.

With another game later that night, the team came out flying on all cylinders against Tampa Bay. The 'Core jumped out to a 6-1 lead in the first half thanks to goals from **Keegan Travers**, **Joe Bochichio**, **Joe Baccicheti (2)** ('94 Royal Palm Beach, FL), **Nolan Pues** (94 Long Beach, NY), and **Ilya Yavtuhovich** ('93 Keyport, NJ). The Second half didn't feature as much scoring, but saw **Keegan Travers** score his second of the night, and also saw **Brandon Fusaro** ('96 Elmont, NY) net his first goal of the season as well. The final was 8-1. Not only were all of the forwards generating high quality chances, but the D was stingy as well. Led by veteran defenseman **Mike Dellatto** ('94 Elmont, NY), the D suffocated Tampa's offense, allowing only 15 shots during the game. **Alex Harwood** ('94 Larchmont, NY) made 14 saves and picked up his first win of the season.

On Sunday, the 'Core played another tough Eastern Conference team, the Bay State Breakers. The Breakers scored the game's first goal, but that was all that **Justin Kapelmaster** ('95 Coral Springs, FL) would let them score as he turned away the rest of the 16 shots Bay State sent his way. **Ryan Cheng** (93 Howard Beach, NY) scored his first goal of the year when he

buried a **Joe Naclerio** ('92 Mamaroneck, NY) rebound to tie the game. The score remained 1-1 the rest of regulation and through overtime, forcing the game to be decided in a shootout. The Breakers scored the shootout's only goal, and the final score was 2-1.

News and Notes: **Joe Baccicheti** and **Mike Dellatto** are tied for the team lead in plus/minus at +10; **Mark DeVaughn** ('93 Sacramento, CA) has rejoined the team in Long Beach after recovering from off-season knee surgery, and will begin skating this week; Head Coach **Henry Lazar** will be taking suggestions for a new Chinese Take-out restaurant in the Marlborough area now that the one in the mall is closed; The team plays an exhibition game Saturday against the Sea Coast Kings, and will return to Empire League Action October 9th and 10th at Rochester.



Patriots Finally Home

On February 5th, 2010 the Prince William Ice Center collapsed under the weight of almost three feet of snow. Just weeks before the **Potomac Patriots** were given entrance into the prestigious Empire Junior Hockey League. In the past 20 months the club has not had solid ground to build on, playing out of an abandoned warehouse last season and being at various rinks in the D.C. area through this summer and the month of September of this year. Now, the Patriots are finally home. On September 27th, 2011 the Patriots skated for the first time in their new arena. While not complete with all of the amenities just yet, they have ice and a place they can call home; one that they truly helped build. From laying the sand, to painting, to assembling equipment, Patriots players have come together to help build the NEW Prince William Ice Center. Words cannot express the amount of gratitude that the Patriots have for their owners, Bill and Pat Hutzler. "We had anticipated a great facility, we've been here to help in the late stages of construction, but actually seeing it finished - it's unreal. The Hutzlers have given us everything we could have imagined." remarked Patriots veteran Chase Ainsworth.

The Potomac Patriots would like to thank all of the Empire and ESHL organizations for bearing with us through our tough times last season. In a near future article, the Patriots will provide a complete look into their new facility, complete with pictures. Until then, it's time for the Potomac Patriots to get to work.



Florida Junior Blades News

O'Had & Laime Promoted for Jr Blades

Estero, Fla– The **Florida Jr. Blades** organization is proud to announce the promotion of Tad O'Had and Jake Laime.

Tad O'Had has been promoted to General Manger of the Florida Jr. Blades. O'Had, also the head coach of the Florida Jr. Blades, spent last season as the Assistant General Manger working under team president Ron Kinnear. He is also vice president of hockey for Athletic Republic, where he oversees the hockey development of 164 facilities across the US, Canada and Russia.

Associate coach Jake Laime has been promoted to Assistant General Manager. Last season in addition to his coaching responsibilities, Laime held the position of Director of Player Personnel. Laime, a master trainer with Athletic Republic, is an experienced coach and focuses on player development. In 2007, he co-founded "37Hockey" an agency that provides premium player representation for professional hockey players and coaches worldwide.

Early Thursday morning the Florida Jr. Blades boarded a flight to Boston, where they attended the Jr. Bruins Shootout Showcase.

The showcase consists of all 31 teams from the Empire Junior Hockey League as well as teams from the Eastern Hockey League, U-19 and U-16 midget teams. Each game consists of two 25 minute periods. The Jr. Blades were scheduled to play four games in three days beginning Friday morning.

Day One:

The Jr. Blades began the tournament at 9:50am with a game against the Springfield Pics. Dan Thompson opened the scoring for the Jr. Blades. Florida continued to control play and went up 2-0 after Danny Giffone tipped in team captain James Hyatt's shot. The Jr. Blades third and final goal was scored by Blake O'Neill. The Pics avoided the shutout late in the second and goaltender Joe Keyser recorded the 3-1 win.

Second-year Jr. Blade Josh Stanclift said, "we had some difficult travel getting up here so it's great to get a win to begin the weekend."

The players had the afternoon off to rest before suiting up for their second match of the showcase. This time they faced the Salem Ice Dogs. Several Jr. Blade players posted multiple goals in the 9-3 effort. Florida recorded tallies from Josh Koerner (4), Eyrn Siracusa (2), James Hyatt (2) and Sam Mancini (1). Florida net-minder Eric Sugrue allowed one goal in the first and two in the second while capturing the win.

The team has the opportunity to achieve eight points in league action this weekend. Head coach Tad O'Had said, "we enter every contest with the intent to win. If we don't expect to win than we aren't expecting enough from ourselves. Overall the team played well and we look forward to the rest of the weekend."

Day Two:

The team had a leisurely day (by hockey standards). They spent most of the morning observing other games, napping and bonding as a team. The Jr. Blades were set to face the Brewster Bulldogs at 2:40pm, but an unexpected delay pushed the game back until almost 5pm.

The delay didn't slow the Jr. Blades down. Chaise Howard fed Josh Koerner the puck to put the Jr. Blades up 1-0. Not long after Koerner's goal, Josh Stanclift scored the game winning goal, his first of the season. Koerner added an insurance marker and goalie Joe Keyser allowed only one Brewster tally. The Florida offense took care of the rest, scoring another four unanswered goals.

J.P. Larmoyeux tallied a goal with an assist to Koerner. Koerner then completed his second hat trick in as many games to put the Jr. Blades up 5-1 and close out the first period.

Michael DiVico opened scoring for the Jr. Blades in the second period. The team continued to showcase its offensive depth as J.P. Larmoyeux tallied his second goal of the game with an assist to D.J. Thomas.

The Jr. Blades are scheduled to play their final game of the showcase against the host Boston Jr. Bruins at 12:20pm.

Day Three:

The final day of the Jr. Bruins Shootout Showcase saw the Jr. Blades matched up with the Jr. Bruins. The Bruins went up 1-0 after just 49 seconds of play. This was the first time the Jr. Blades faced a deficit in the tournament. Florida received their first power play opportunity when the Jr. Bruins Eichel was sent to the box for cross checking. Danny Giffone fed the puck to Josh Koerner who scored, tying the game at 1.

The Jr. Blades gained their first lead of the game at 19:43 of the first period, Koerner from Avellanet. Less than a minute later the Jr. Bruins answered back and the teams would go into the intermission knotted at 2.

Both teams battled in the second stanza. At the 14:27 mark the Jr. Bruins struck, beating net-minder Eric Sugrue. The Jr. Blades were not discouraged and within the minute scored the tying goal. It was Josh Koerner's third goal of the game and his third hat trick in consecutive games. Josh Stanclift and team captain James Hyatt were credited with the assists.

The two teams skated to a tie in regulation, forcing a 4-on-4 overtime period. With neither team scoring the game was decided in a three skater shootout.

The Jr. Blades selected Eyrn Siracusa, DJ Thomas and Troy Degler. Thomas and Degler both scored, while Sugrue denied two of the Jr. Bruins shooters.

The Jr. Blades captured the win, accumulated 8 points over three days and remained undefeated in league action.



The **Hampton Roads Whalers** had a well needed weekend off which saw big changes at Whaler Nation. After returning from NJ Hitmen Showcase Whaler Nation made some changes, Seeing EJHL head coach Eric Blase departing and EMPIRE head coach Andrew Newton taking over the reins. The EMPIRE team was sad to see coach Newton move up but proud to see coach Newton make such an impact in the program. This left a hole to fill for the EMPIRE boys. Whaler Nation brought in Whaler vet Brad Jones to lead the team. Brad hails from Michigan and came to the Whalers for their inaugural season in 06-07. Brad was a big part of that team and helped lead the team to stunning 35-0-5 record. Brad then moved on to play for Becker College in Worcester, MA. After 2 seasons Brad returned to the Whalers to coach the Bantam “AA” team. Brad has had great success with his bantam teams and looks to bring his proven track record to the junior level. Coach Jones and coach LaPointe now turn their attention to building on what coach Newton started for the EMPIRE boys. “We want to create an atmosphere that embraces hard work on and off the ice, and where losing is something that is not acceptable. A winning atmosphere is key not only to a successful team but for overall player development. Players that play for the Whalers will be expected to compete and work towards the next level, and it all starts here and now” stated Coach Jones. This weekend the Whalers are on the road for 2 games with the East Coast Eagles Saturday October 1 @ 4:30 p.m. and Sunday October 2 @ 8:30 a.m. Both games can be seen on Fasthockey.com

Reversal of Fortunes



The **Jersey Hitmen** traveled to Marlboro, MA this past weekend to participate in the annual Jr Bruins Shootout. On the slate for the Hitmen were two rematches from the previous weekend (Boston Jr Bruins and Springfield Pics) as well as a contest with the Valley Jr Warriors.

First up were the Jr Bruins whom the Hitmen defeated 3-1 on home ice just 6 days earlier. However, in this contest it would be the Jr Bruins who would find the net on three occasions. Conor Garland netted all three goals for the Bruins (one empty netter) and despite having

quality chances the Hitmen could not find a way to beat goaltender, Matt Penta. The 3-0 defeat marked the first regulation loss on the season for the Hitmen.

Up next were the Valley Jr Warriors. The Hitmen would come out firing and struck for two goals in the first 7:03 of play. Defenseman, Cody Calcagno ('95) would give the Hitmen the early advantage when he stuck on the power play at 5:15 of the first half. A short time later it would be veteran Nick Carey ('93) who extended the Jersey lead at 7:03. Valley would add a power play goal late in the first half to draw within one heading to the locker room.

In the second half Valley struck on the power play again at 4:18 to tie the game at two. From there the Hitmen would control the play but Kyle Williams would keep Valley in the game turning away numerous Hitmen chances. Finally able to break through Chris Fersini ('92) gave the Hitmen the lead for good at 16:50 of the half. Then with just under two minutes remaining Carey would tally his second of the game to give Jersey some breathing room en route to a 4-2 victory.

The final game of the weekend for the Hitmen found them in a rematch with the Springfield Pics. It was just a week ago that the Hitmen fell to the Pics in a shootout. As was the case in the first meeting this too would go to overtime hockey.

Chris Fersini would get the Hitmen on the board first when he notched a power play goal 5:43 into play. From there the first half would remain scoreless and Jersey would take a 1-0 lead to the locker room. In the second half Springfield would tally a shorthanded goal early to pull even. Just over a minute later Andy DeAngelis ('95) put the Hitmen back on top with a shot from just inside the right circle. Trailing 2-1 Springfield brought heavy pressure and tied the game at 8:38 and took the lead just over a minute later. As time began to wear down DeAngelis would strike again at 18:03 to pull the Hitmen even. Then at 19:20 Devon Duarte notched his first goal of the season to give Jersey a 4-3 edge. With less than five minutes to play and Nick Carey in the box with a five minute major Springfield would pull even once again sending the game to overtime for the second consecutive meeting. However, this time no shootout would be needed. Hitmen rookie Robbie Marsanico ('96) posted his second game winning goal on the young season with just 13 seconds left in the extra frame to send the Hitmen home with a 5-4 victory and a little revenge.

Notes: The Hitmen will take on the Brewster Bulldogs in a home and home series this weekend. Action kicks off at the Ice Vault at 8:30 on Friday night before the teams square off at Brewster Ice Arena at 11:50am on Sunday...Hitmen defenseman Matt DaSilva was awarded the Empire League Player of the week award for the week ending September 18th.



New Hampshire Jr. Monarchs

Empire Junior Hockey League

“Learning to be champions...on and off of the ice. We are Monarchs”

<u>Fri. Oct. 7</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>AWAY</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Rink</u>
5:00pm	Empire	NH Jr. Monarchs		Salem Ice Dogs		TT-N
6:00pm	Exhibition	Monarchs Midget Major		MML U18		TT-S
7:00pm	ESHL	NH Jr. Monarchs ESHL		Jr. Bruins ESHL		TT-N
<u>Sat. Oct. 8</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>HOME</u>	-	<u>AWAY</u>	-	<u>Rink</u>
9:00am	Empire	NH. Jr. Monarchs		Jersey Wildcats		TT-N
10:15am	ESHL	Jr. Bruins ESHL		Brewster ESHL		TT-S
11:00am	Exhibition	MML U18		Pics ESHL		TT-N
12:15pm	ESHL	MML ESHL		Jersey Wildcats ESHL		TT-S
1:00pm	ESHL	NH Jr. Monarchs ESHL		Suffolk Juniors ESHL		TT-N
2:15pm	Exhibition	Monarchs 97s		Buffalo Stars Bantams		TT-S
2:30pm	Empire	NH Jr. Monarchs		Buffalo Stars		Verizon
3:00pm	Empire	Frederick Freeze		Pics		TT-N
4:15pm	ESHL	Brewster ESHL		Potomac ESHL		TT-S
5:00pm	Empire	Jersey Wildcats		Salem Ice Dogs		TT-N
6:15pm	Exhibition	Jr. Bruins ESHL		Huskies Empire		TT-S
7:00pm	ESHL	Huskies ESHL		Jersey Wildcats ESHL		TT-N
7:00pm	A.H.L.	MANCHESTER MONARCHS		ST. JOHN'S ICE CAPS		Verizon
<u>Sun. Oct. 9</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>HOME</u>	-	<u>AWAY</u>	-	<u>Rink</u>
8:00am	Exhibition	Monarchs Midget Minor I		N.H. Avalanche		TT-S
9:10am	Empire	Pics		Buffalo Stars		TT-N
9:40am	Empire	Huskies		Frederick Freeze		TT-S
11:10am	ESHL	NH Jr. Monarchs ESHL		Jersey Wildcats ESHL		TT-N

11:40am	ESHL	B. S. Breakers ESHL	Suffolk Juniors ESHL	TT-S
1:10pm	ESHL	MML ESHL	Potomac ESHL	TT-N
1:40pm	ESHL	Huskies ESHL	Brewster ESHL	TT-S
3:10pm	Empire	NH Jr. Monarchs	Frederick Freeze	TT-N
3:40pm	Empire	Jersey Wildcats	Pics	TT-S
5:10pm	Empire	Huskies	Buffalo Stars	TT-N
5:40pm	Exhibition	Buffalo Stars Bantams	N.H. East Bantams	TT-S
7:10pm	ESHL	MML ESHL	Suffolk Juniors ESHL	TT-N
7:40pm	Exhibition	New England Stars	Pics ESHL	TT-S
<u>Mon. Oct. 10</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>AWAY</u>	<u>Rink</u>
8:00am	Exhibition	Buffalo Stars Bantams	N.H. Avalanche	TT-S
8:20am	Empire	Buffalo Stars	Salem Ice Dogs	TT-N
10:00am	Exhibition	Pics ESHL	Monarchs Midget Major	TT-S
10:30am	ESHL	NH Jr. Monarchs ESHL	Potomac ESHL	TT-N

Junior Website Blogs:

Here are some good Junior Blogs to follow:

USA Junior Hockey: <http://www.usacollegehockey.com/cgi-bin/UBBCGI/ultimatebb.cgi>

A great board for Junior Hockey discussion. I post in here all the time and am a moderator.

American Junior Hockey: <http://www.americanjuniorhockey.com/>

Another good site I always post in.

Wrist Shot Hockey: <http://www.wristshohockey.net/>

and of course our own blog at: <http://juniorhockeytalk.proboards.com/>

Please give us your feedback on this Newsletter and make sure to get it into the hands of your players and parents. This is only our first issue. It will only be as good as you make it. Make sure to keep news flowing in. sportsniag@aol.com

Pete Preteroti

AMERICA IS GREAT



GOD BLESS THE USA