



Contact: VP Marketing/Media Relations: Peter Preteroti sportsniag@aol.com
716-685-1122 Empire League site: www.empirehockey.com

Empire Junior Report: Saturday, September 10, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 1

Upcoming Weekend Games:

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Jersey Wildcats @ East Coast Eagles*
South Shore @ Atlanta*
East Coast Eagles @ Jersey Hitmen*
Palm Beach @ Space Coast
Florida Eels @ Tampa
New England Huskies @ Bay State
Hampton @ Philadelphia Revolution
Syracuse @ Junior Bruins*

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Atlanta @ Jersey Wildcats*
Hampton @ Philadelphia Revolution
Tampa @ Florida
Junior Bruins @ East Coast Eagles*
Bay State @ New England Huskies
Salem @ Boston Bandits

*Indicates games being played at the Wood Chuck Classic

Junior Bruins Crowned National Champs

The Junior Bruins were crowned as National Champions back in March. The link below is to a nice YouTube piece about their Journey. Congratulations to the Junior B's

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHG9GXCe0w&feature=youtube>

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.

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

Bruins to Honor 9/11 Hero

**Bruins to Honor 9/11 Hero
Welles Crowther Tribute at Woodchuck**



MARLBORO, MA-This Sunday, on the 10 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the Junior Bruins will honor the memory of one of the many heroes from that day.

Welles Crowther, a classmate and friend of Bruins' coaches Andy Powers and Chris Masters at Boston College, died that day as he was helping save those who were trapped in the South Tower. Welles, now known as the Man in the Red Bandana, played lacrosse at Boston College (class of '99) and was the captain of his high school hockey team (Nyack HS).

On September 11, 2001 he showed courage and compassion beyond belief in saving the lives of a dozen people in the South Tower.

This Sunday, at the Woodchuck Showcase in Burlington, Vermont all three Bruins' teams (EJHL, Empire and Little Bruins) will wear red bandanas as a tribute to Welles.

Buffalo Stars end Training Camp with a Split Weekend (2-2)



The **Buffalo Stars Empire Junior** team ended Training Camp with participation in the **Greater Buffalo Challenge Labor Day Shootout**. The early look at the Stars shows some signs of promise for the upcoming season as the team went 2-2 in this annual event.

The Stars opened the weekend on Friday evening as they took on the **Mass Maple Leafs**. Always a contender at the Junior B level, the Leafs came in at the tail end of a 10 day trip which took them to Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania before ending in Buffalo.

The Stars drew first blood just 7 minutes into the game as **John Loree** slammed one home to take the 1-0 lead. Buffalo came right back just 3 minutes later off the stick of **Jimmy Ford** and the Stars seemed in control. The balance of the game was pretty even and the half ended at 2-0. Mass came out flying in the second half and cut the Buffalo lead to one just 55 seconds into the half but that would be all as the Stars skated off with a hard earned 2-1 victory. **Alex Willis** was stellar in net turning aside 30 Leafs shots. A really clean game as each team took only 2 minor penalties.

In game 2 on Saturday morning, the Stars took on a very fast and skilled **Team Ohio U18 AAA** team. The Ohio boys took the lead midway through the first half and skated off with a 1-0 lead. The Stars started the second half strong but Team Ohio would fight back and take a 2 goal lead at the 19 minute mark of the half. The Stars put on some great pressure in the last 10 minutes of the half but Ohio hung on for the 2-0 victory. **Nic Pagano** was solid in net for Buffalo turning away 32 Team Ohio shots. Another fairly clean game as each team took 4 minor penalties.

Sunday morning saw the Stars take on the **Pittsburgh Junior Penguins U18 AAA** team. This game was chippy from the start. Buffalo took the lead ten minutes into the half off the stick of **Bradley Jones**. Buffalo scored again with 5 minutes left in the second half as **Robert Finn** slammed one home and Buffalo skated off with a solid 2-0 victory. The Stars pretty much dominated this game outshooting the Pens 35-17. **Alex Willis** registered the shutout for Buffalo.

Game 4 on Sunday evening saw the battle of the Stars as the Buffalo Stars took on the **Syracuse Stars**. Syracuse is a good solid team with a lot of speed. Buffalo found it hard to contain them and Syracuse skated to a quick 3 goal lead. Syracuse added a 4th with under 9 minutes to go but Buffalo came back to within 3 at the 7:38 mark off the stick of **Brian Ruff**. The second half intermission allowed the young Buffalo team a chance to get re-focused and Buffalo came flying out of the gate early and kept a good amount of pressure on Syracuse. Buffalo cut the lead to 2 with just under 10 minutes to play as **Dakota John** roofed one from the slot. The rest of the period was quite entertaining as both teams had several scoring opportunities. Syracuse rounded out the scoring at the 4 minute mark and skated off with a 5-2 victory over Buffalo. Other than a slow 1st half start, the Buffalo Stars played solid against a very good Syracuse team and had a 22-17 shot advantage in the second half.

A note for the record books: **There was not a single penalty called in this game.** This may be a Junior hockey first as both teams focused on hockey. The crowd of approximately 750 people got their money's worth for this game.

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

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME



The **Philadelphia Revolution** wrapped up their hard working, 2 week, preseason training camp on Friday, September 2. Training camp gave the players of the Revolution the opportunity to focus on various aspects of the game. Power skating and off-ice training to improve their physical condition and overall skating skills. Individual stick skills were a main focus along with implementing team systems and strategies. Classroom sessions and team building activities were attended to unify the players and carve out a team identity. The Revolution looks forward to hosting Hampton Roads in their home opener on Saturday September 10.



Rochester **Maksym** got off to a good start this pre-season with 2 weeks of camp and 2 scrimmages against Syracuse. The team has a few injuries to get over and a little stomach bug going around but once they get over those things they should be good to go. With 10 of the team's 22 players 95 and 96 birth years it has been an adjustment for the boys. The coaches have learned a lot about the team from their scrimmages. The totals were 8 goals for and 8 against. The team has 2 more scrimmages in New Jersey next week and then our opener will be September 23rd in Boston.



The **South Shore Kings Empire** program will launch their season by travelling to the 7th Annual Woodchuck Classic, hosted by the Green Mountain Glades Eastern Junior Hockey Club in the Burlington, Vermont area.

Both Kings opening contests are league games. The Kings are scheduled to play the East Coast Eagles (September 9th) at the Essex Junction Skating facility and then against the Atlanta Knights (September 10th). Sunday's non-league game has them pitted against the Portland Pirates at Cairns Arena (September 11th).

This year's games will be hosted on Fasthockey.com and scores for the games will also be posted on Pointstreak.com.



After a long off season the **New Hampshire Junior Monarchs 2011-2012** season has finally arrived. Sort of. The Narchs are a couple weeks away from opening the regular season but training camp started a couple weeks ago and the preseason schedule has commenced.

The Monarchs first pre season game was last week at Tri Town Ice Arena vs their cross town rivals the Tynsboro Huskies. In a game that was much more physical and intense than your usual preseason game the Monarchs prevailed 4-1. The Monarchs started off a little slow and Alex Devine was key in keeping the score 0-0 until 2nd year Narch Kyle Lajeunese blew by a huskies defender before making quick work of the Huskies keeper giving the Monarchs the 1-0 lead. The Monarchs extended their lead to 2-0 on a Taylor Vincent goal before the end of the 2nd and seemed to find their legs. As the second period started Devine gave way to former Bishop Brady all-star Sam Daley and Daley did not disappoint making key saves to help preserve the lead until Brent Beadoin netted the Narchs 3rd goal making it 3-0. Kyle Lajueneese scored the back breaker giving the Narchs a 4-0 lead and even though the Huskies cut the lead to 4-1 before the end of the period it was too little too late for the Huskies as Dylan Palmer took over for Daley in the 3rd and overcame some early jitters and pitched a shutout in preserving a 4-1 win. Luke Bennett also shined for the Narchs as he exerted his will offensively, defensively and physically. Narch rookie and CHA team graduate Dan Moynihan also impressed in his debut. The unproven Narchs D held the fort led by Nate O'Brien, and Ty Anderson.

The Narchs will continue their preseason schedule this weekend at the woodchuck against The Hill School, Northern Cyclones(MET) and Portland Pirates(MET).



Estero, Fla.- On September 2, the **Florida Junior Blades** took to the ice for the first time this season marking the start of training camp and the Jr. Blades' second year at Germain Arena.

The 10-day training camp is designed to ensure that the Jr. Blades ice not only the best, but the most well conditioned team. This year's camp includes on/off ice practice, conditioning and team building activities.

Team building exercises such as the scavenger hunt and strong man competition were designed to be a bonding experience and an opportunity for the players to get together and work as a team.

Last year the Jr. Blades had a breakout first season, earning a wildcard bid to the USA Junior B national championship tournament. Losing by a tie has left the squad hungry for a ring. The Jr. Blades feature a great mixture of new and returning talent, best described by head coach Tad O'Had describes as "motivated, energetic and talented."



Training camp is the first step in the Jr. Blades highly anticipated second season. "It's been an amazing start to the new season and we're looking forward to some much anticipated success," says associate coach Jake Laime.

The Florida Jr. Blades open the season at home on September 11 against the Tampa Bay Juniors. For more information visit us online at: www.floridajrblades.com

You can make submissions to this Newsletter. Send your write up along with any pictures you may have by 10am Wednesday mornings to Pete Preteroti at: sportsniag@aol.com

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.

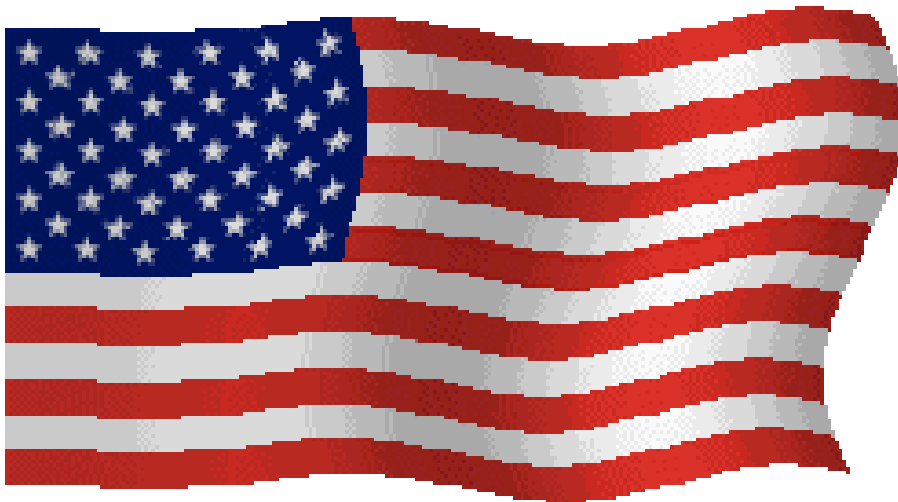
Wrist Shot Hockey: <http://www.wristshohockey.net/>

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

REMEMBER 911



GOD BLESS THE USA