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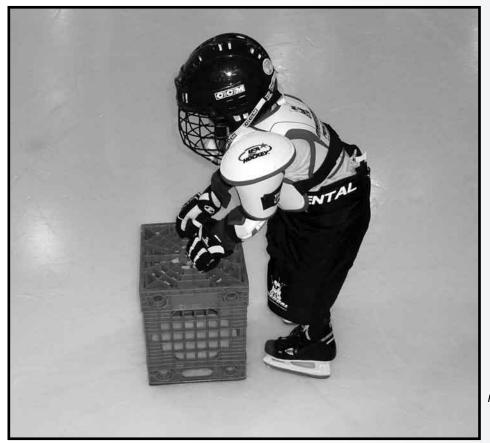
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INSIDE...

A number of youngsters took their first steps towards hockey stardom at last month's California Hockey Day (see story on Page 16). Photo/CAHA





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Pictured on the cover: Rocco Grimaldi (Rossmoor) and Adam Reid (Chino Hills), California's two representatives on this year's U.S. National Under-17 Team Photo/John Elftmann California Rubber Magazine is a production of:



OneHockey Tourney in a League of its Own

Elite summer festival in Pennsylvania offers top competition, exposure and fun

More than 200 teams; 3,400-plus participants; 13 countries and dozens upon dozens of regions from the United States and Canada represented.

No, this is no longer simply a tournament; it's quickly becoming an event of epic amateur hockey proportion.

Sebastien Fortier - the OneHockey founder and president with more than decade of pro hockey experience throughout North America - admits that even he didn't expect OneHockey's showcase event to be this big this soon.

Not that it surprises him, however.

"OneHockey is in its own league," he said of the event's growth year after year. "Actually, we're not going to be calling it a tournament anymore; we're going to be calling ourselves a real event. It's more than just a tournament.

"People leave each tournament year after year, and the one thing they all say is, 'When is next year's OneHockey tournament?' he added. "They can't wait to come back."

Fortier and Co. first introduced the idea of the OneHockey tournament *just* five short years ago, when a handful of teams participated in the inaugural event in Fortier's hometown just outside of Montreal.

Now, with the Summer 2010 showcase fast approaching, Fortier is confident in proclaiming the OneHockey festival as the premier summer AAA event of its kind.

"We've reached a lot of the best players, and with



With some of the best teams and players from around the globe along with plenty of scouts, OneHockey has quickly established itself as one of the most prestigious tournaments.

the success we've had it looks like this year we're going to be reaching even more of the best from everywhere in North America," Fortier added.

Aston, Pa., just a quick 15-minute jaunt from historic Philadelphia, currently serves as the summer home for OneHockey, giving participants, Fortier notes, the perfect destination for players, parents, coaches and scouts - notably from the junior and college ranks - to enjoy great hockey and some of the most historical tourist sites the United States' eastern seaboard has to offer.

Fortier said that OneHockey has succeeded at offering competitive hockey players - ages 8-18 participating

at various levels - the ultimate in highlevel competition at a great value. Participation includes at least five roundrobin games (plus playoffs for top teams) and a nine-piece uniform set, including jersey, pants, socks, off-ice apparel and more.

"The cost can be as low as \$295 per player for everything," he said, "and on top of that you get to play in the best-organized tournament in North America. That's a heck of a package for a small amount of money."

Nearly three-dozen former NHL players have served as OneHockey coaches, and, in recent years, the tournament has helped participants land opportunities to play with junior hockey programs in the QMJHL, WHL, BCHL, NAHL, USHL and AJHL, and with top college programs at the Division I NCAA

level.

"We're hoping to bring at least one team from each division from Arizona and California to OneHockey," said Fortier. "We already have some commitments, but if you have a really solid hockey team, a very good team, contact us and we'll talk to you and see if you can qualify or not. We want to keep growing with the best players and teams."

Teams and individuals alike are encouraged to visit OneHockey.com for tournament information, including location details, dates, and how to apply for the Summer 2010 event. §



Ducks Get Behind California Hockey Day

Anaheim's NHL team continues to support the growth of the game

By Jennifer Boris

It was an exciting day at The Rinks-Anaheim ICE on Nov. 7 as first-time youth hockey players took to the ice for California Hockey Day, presented by the Anaheim Ducks in partnership with USA Hockey.

The main objective of California Hockey Day was to get kids between the ages of 4-9 who had never played hockey before on the ice to learn how to skate in addition to learning some basics of the game.

The first-time players were joined on the ice by Ducks television announcer **John Ahlers**, former Duck **Jason Marshall** and Ducks mascot, Wild Wing. USA Hockey and Ducks representatives were on hand for the event as well.

In addition to The Rinks-Anaheim ICE, 16 other rinks around California participated in California Hockey Day. The Ducks program at Anaheim ICE was filled over capacity with 45 participants, but no kids were turned away.

Anaheim ICE general manager **Art Trottier** was thrilled with the turnout.



Close to 50 first-time hockey players converged on Anaheim ICE last month for California Hockey Day.

"It was a great day for hockey in Southern California," said Trottier. "The Anaheim Ducks are trying to grow the sport of hockey and when you see this many kids who have never played hockey before come out to try and learn, it's huge."

Those who participated in California Hockey Day were given full equipment to use for the session, including a helmet, shin guards, hockey pants, socks, elbow pads, shoulder pads, gloves and a jersey.

The use of full equipment not only gave participants the feel of what it's like to be a hockey player, but also enabled them to get used to skating on the ice while wearing all of the gear.

Participants also received two free tickets to an upcoming

Ducks home game, a commemorative hockey stick and two public skating passes for The Rinks-Anaheim ICE.

The festivities continued later that night at Honda Center where six youth hockey players - Connor Ahlstrom, Bryan Gilman, Marissa Gebauer, Gavin Dankert, Kamryn Kennedy and Ivy Boric - took the ice during

the national anthem to stand with the Ducks' starting lineup before that evening's game against the Phoenix Coyotes.

Dankert, who plays on the Jr. Ducks, got to stand alongside defenseman Steve Eminger.

"It was so cool to be on the ice with the Ducks," said Dankert. "Hopefully, someday a little player will be standing in front of me."

Gavin's dad, **Gregg Dankert**, added, "It's nice to have a professional sports organization in the community who is actively involved in supporting so many terrific causes."

Boric, a goalie for the Lady Ducks, got to stand next to netminder **Jonas Hiller**.

"He was really nice," she said. "He gave me a high-five when I skated over to him."

"Seeing her out there in net next to one of her favorite players was really special," said **Eden Boric**, Ivy's mom. "I'm grateful to the Ducks organization for providing this opportunity. I know it was a night Ivy will always remember." •



Golden Boys

Grimaldi, Reid making the most of their opportunities with the U.S. National Program

By Chris Bayee

What's the blueprint for advancing up the ranks in the hockey world as a top player from California?

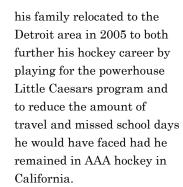
The answer is that there is no universal formula; it's as different as each individual player. One need look no further than the two California natives - **Rocco Grimaldi** and **Adam Reid** - who are part of the U.S. National Team Development Program's (NTDP) Under-17 Team this season to see that.

Not only are they two entirely different types of players, but the paths the former Brick Tour-

nament teammates took to Ann Arbor, Mich., home of the UNTDP, are a study in contrasts as well.

Grimaldi, from Rossmoor, spent his formative years in the California Wave program before

Rossmoor's Rocco Grimaldi played his youth hockey with the California Wave before his family relocated to Michigan. Photo/Robert J. Meyer



The move agreed with Grimaldi as he helped his teams to three Michigan state championships and thus USA Hockey nationals. His Little Caesars teams won the Midget Minor national title in 2008 and the Midget Major championship in 2009. Those events no doubt put him squarely on USA Hockey's radar for the national program.

Reid, meanwhile, made his mark with the LA Selects' 93 AAA teams, leading them to state championships in 2008 and 2009 and a berth in the Pacific District finals in 2008 and the semifinals in 2009.

Both exhibit similar characteristics on and off the ice - toughness, skill, determination and leadership - but the packages they come in could not be more different.

"He's built like a minirefrigerator," Reid said of Grimaldi, who stands 5-foot-6 and is a muscular 160 pounds. "He's incredibly tough."

Reid, meanwhile, is a rangier 6-3, 190 (up 10 pounds from when he entered the program in September).

"He's a big body in front of the net," Grimaldi said of



Reid knew the USNTDP was where he wanted to be from the time he attended USA Hockey's Select 14 Festival in 2007.

"Pretty much as soon as I found out about the program - we watched a video about it at Select 14 camp - I said that's where I want to be, that's what I want to do," Reid said. "I always thought I had a chance, and once we corresponded after Select 15s camp, I thought maybe I could make something out of it."

Reid, from Chino Hills, set out to make the most of that chance.

"Adam works hard," Grimaldi said. "His skating has come a long way. He's improved every area he could improve."

Even an early-season injury that shelved him for two months has been turned into a positive.

The winger suffered a compression fracture of his left thumb during the first weekend of the season playing against Chicago of the USHL.

"I took a shot from the wing and was hit into the boards," Reid said. "It was a clean hit, just one of those things that happens."

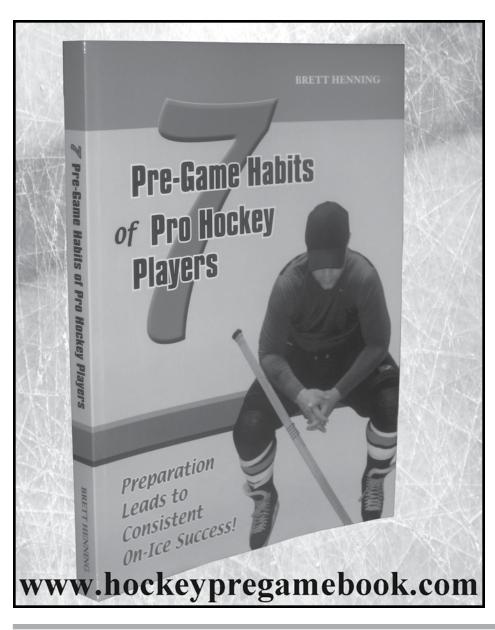
Reid, who played through the injury through that game and the next one before an X-ray confirmed the damage, used his downtime to add more than 10 pounds of muscle through a rigorous workout program. That in

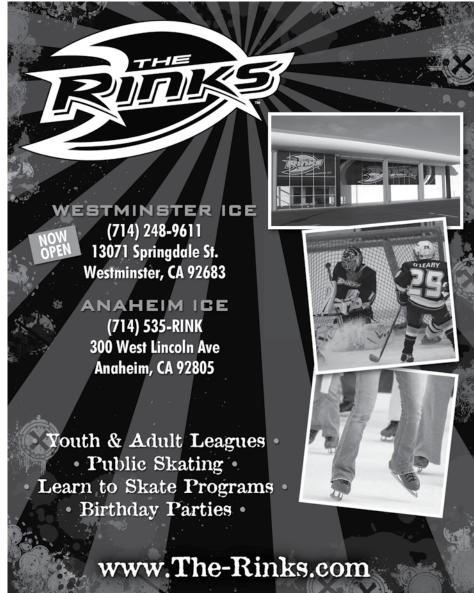
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turn should help him take his game to the next level, U17 coach **Ron** Rolston said.

"Adam's got a little more room in terms of growth; he's a taller, rangier player," Rolston said. "He has more room to fill out.

"He's a player we rely on as a physical presence to make it happen with his size. He skates well for a bigger player, and he uses his size very well to make space for his linemates."

It takes a large amount of discipline to play Tier I hockey in California, and the national program has added another level to that, Reid said.

A typical day on the U17 team begins at 6 a.m., when he rises to get ready for school. Once school lets out around 2 p.m., he prepares for 3:15 practice, which typically includes either video or power-skating sessions beforehand. After practice, the team heads to the weight room. He returns to his billet at 7 p.m. to eat and study.

"I don't get to bed until 11:30 most nights," he said.

Leaving home was tougher for him because his mother, in particular, has been involved in his hockey career as a longtime team manager in the Selects club.

"Our family has had to deal with me being so far away, but we're coping," Reid said. "I talk with them every other day, but there's more to it than that."

Some other transitions:

Reid now is a big brother. "I never had a younger (billet) brother until I moved here, now I have an 11-year-old brother."

The team's travel is mostly by bus. "Outside of CAHA games, we had to fly everywhere." $\,$

The level of competition: "Every player on my team is really skilled. It's kind of like playing against the best player on every team last year. The USHL is way faster and a lot more difficult."

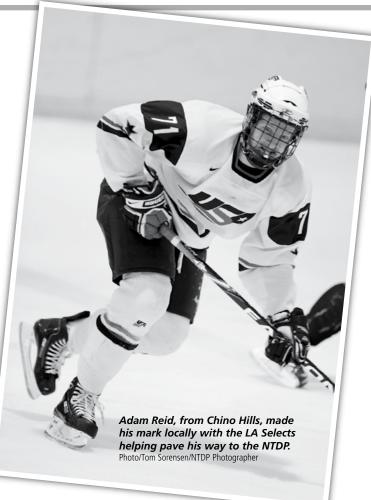
Small Wonder

Watch Grimaldi play for more than a minute and it's clear that what the center does have in his game (speed, skill, tenacity) far outweighs what he doesn't (height).

"He's a smaller player, but he plays big," said Jack Bowkus, one of Grimaldi's coaches with the Wave. "He is very difficult to defend because he's shifty and he's pretty unbelievable with his hockey sense."

Added Rolston, "Rocco is a real dynamic forward for this age group. He's got a lot of speed and he can create a lot of offense with his speed and skill. He's one of our better forwards whom we count on to generate offense for us.

Boys continued page 10



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Rabbani a competitor like no other

California's own Josh Rabbani can best be described as a fierce competitor.

Now in his sophomore season playing Division I hockey at RPI, the Woodland Hills product was often overlooked by scouts because of his unorthodox skating style.

As a coach, I wasn't concerned about it because I knew Josh's work ethic, passion and game sense would take him to an elite level.

Josh fondly recalls his youth hockey experience in California.

"I remember the excitement I had right after tryouts when I found out I made the defending champion Jr. Kings' Bantam AAA team. From the start, I don't think we ever doubted we would win having such talented players like Bobby Ryan, Johnny Kemp and Andreas Vlassopoulos on offense, Dave Inman and Ray Macias on defense, and two great goalies in Billy Blase and Steve Jakiel.

"We also had a top-notch coaching staff with James Gasseau and Igor Nikulkin. Our coaches did a great job explaining right from the start that the team goal was to win a national championship, and, once we got to nationals, the feeling was, "This is ours to win; nobody is taking it from us."

In the championship game, we matched up against the Madison Capitols and their star player, **Phil Kessel**.

"Before the game against Madison, we had a team meeting to discuss the game plan and I was put on a line whose job it was to stop Kessel," Josh remembered. "It was exciting knowing that I played an important role and, if we wanted to win the championship, we all had to do our jobs."

Mission accomplished, as Rabbani's line kept Kessel and



company off the scoresheet en route to our 3-0 victory.

"It was my first national championship and a moment I'll never forget - being able to say that we were the best team in the country that year, seeing all the hard work we put in during the season pay off," said Josh, who repeated as a national champ at the 16U AAA level with the Jr. Kings in 2004.

After he left L.A., Josh played Midget hockey with Detroit Honeybaked for a year before moving to New England to attend Berkshire Prep. When he graduated, he decided to play a year of juniors for the NAHL's St. Louis Bandits and once again was part of a national championship team.

"It was a step up from prep school, but we had a great team and coach (**Jon Cooper**) and many players saw their dreams come true with a national championship and 13 of our players getting Division I offers," he said of his NAHL experience. "I was fortunate enough to get recruited by RPI."

Josh also offered advice for young California players.

"Take the path that works best for you," he said. "It's not always a quick road and you can't get down on yourself when you see others around you getting picked for teams and you're not. Also, listen to criticism about your weaknesses and work even harder to fix those and play to your strengths."

James Gasseau is the president of LA Hockey Club/LA Selects youth hockey organizations. He also coaches the program's 96 and 99 teams.

LA Hockey Club / LA Selects

The sky's the limit for gifted leader Kerdiles

By Chris Bayee

One season literally changed the course of LA Selects forward Nicolas Kerdiles' hockey career

Kerdiles, the captain of the Selects' Midget 16U AAA team this season, had played roller hockey only until age 9 in 2003.

Upon returning from NARCh, he and his parents, **Michel and Nathalie**, decided he should give in-house ice hockey a try. "We didn't like the heat at the roller tournaments," Nathalie said with a laugh.

Nic started in the in-house program at Aliso Viejo Ice Palace. Within weeks he was asked to join the Aliso Viejo Eagles tournament team. At the conclusion of their season, he tried out for California's Brick Tournament team

"It was more for the experience than anything," said Kerdiles, a sophomore at Beckman High School in Orange County.

Kerdiles ended up being the last player selected for the squad.

"Coach Louis Pacella decided to go with me. I was little bigger, and he said he saw more potential," Kerdiles said. "All of that in one year."

Today, Kerdiles is a 6-foot-1, 180-pound 15-yearold who has served as a captain in the LA Hockey/ Selects club for the past four teams he's played for. "He leads by example," said Pacella, the Selects' 16U AAA coach. "He's an extremely hard-working kid, a straight-A student and he works his butt off in the gym. He has all the characteristics you'd want in a captain."

Kerdiles, who is recovering from a fractured growth plate in his left arm, is one of the scoring leaders in the 16U division of the Tier 1 Elite Hockey League this season. He and linemate Michael McNicholas combined for 30 points through 10 games. Kerdiles, a left wing, had 16 points, including 10 goals - totals that ranked him second in each category.

"On the ice, he's a tremendously skilled player," Pacella said. "He has the capability of being an absolutely dominant player, and he's proven that at nationals and in the Tier 1 Elite League.

"He's strong on the puck, has great hands in front of the net and uses his body well. He's a good skater for his size, and he's not afraid to block a shot or take a hit. He goes the extra mile."

The Selects' 94 group has won bronze medals at nationals the past two seasons.

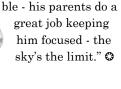
"My teammates and I have good competition," he said. "We all want to push each other, and we want to be better than the next person, but it's a friendly competition."

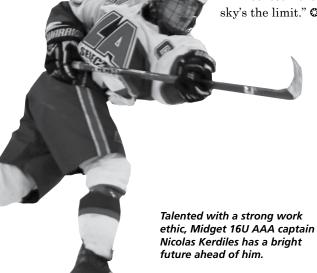
Expect plenty of competition for Kerdiles' services going forward.

He was drafted by Kelowna in the WHL's Bantam Draft this past spring and was selected as a team MVP at the Canadian Major Junior League's Anaheim Prospects Camp. He also has shone at USA Hockey's summer Select Festival. He clearly is on the radar of the U.S. National Team Development Program (NTDP).

"His upside is whatever he wants it to be,"
Pacella said. "He has the potential to play in Ann Arbor (home of the NTDP), I don't think that's a question. He will play at whatever Division I school he wants.

"If he continues to work hard and stays hum-





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Selects 95s Capture Bauer Invite Title

For the LA team, it's the second title in three years at the tournament

By Chris Bayee

The LA Selects won the Elite 95s Division at the Bauer International Invite tournament last month in the Chicago area. It was the team's second title in three years at the prestigious event that included 384 boys teams spread over 13 divisions and 116 girls teams in eight divisions.

The Selects defeated the East Westchester (N.Y.) Express, 7-1, in the final. The Selects earlier edged Shattuck-St. Mary's (Minn.), 2-1, in the semifinals and Team Illinois, 3-2, in the quarterfinals.

"It's a grueling tournament," said Selects co-coach Sandy Gasseau. "Not only three games on Sunday, but with four (round-robin) games in the first two days you have no room to make a mistake."

In the final, **Adam Erne** scored three first-period goals

and added two assists. Ryan Siroky, Brian Williams, Chase Deleo and Kenny Hausinger also scored goals, and Eric Comrie got the win in

"We played a really good game," Gasseau said. "(Erne) was really excited to play East Westchester (his former club). He got two goals in his first two shifts. I think it caught them by surprise. The puck was bouncing for us."

Comrie, who battled through a knee injury, won all three playoff games, allowing a total of just four goals in the process.

"He's a really determined young man," Gasseau said.
"He injured the knee prior to the tournament. He took care of himself and got himself to where he could play."

In the semifinal against Shattuck, Erne's goal with 6:14 to go in the second period was the difference. Williams scored earlier in the period off a feed from Deleo.

The turning point, Gasseau said, was the Selects killing off a 5-on-3 power play against

Shattuck, a team that had defeated the Selects in an exhibition earlier in the season.

"Down 5-on-3, Erne drew a penalty to make it 4-on-3. Then he drew another one to make it 4-on-4, and Comrie made some big saves," Gasseau said.

In the quarterfinal against Team Illinois, **Scott Savage** scored 47 seconds into overtime off a feed from **Andrew Oglivie**. Erne and **Max Becker** scored unassisted goals in regulation.

"That was a crazy game," Gasseau said. "They shorten the length of the games in the quarters and semis, so it's really a matter of if you score the first goal you're in a good position."

The San Diego Jr. Gulls advanced to the 16 AAA semifinals before losing, and four other teams reached the quarterfinals: LA Hockey Club in 99 AAA, the San Jose Jr. Sharks in 97 AAA and the California Wave in 16 AAA and 96 AAA.

Jr. Gulls 16 AAA goaltender Reed Kinsey got the shutout in a 3-0 quarterfinal victory over the Wave. Ryan Mowrey scored a second-period goal, and Zenyth Hamil tallied midway through the third for the Jr. Gulls. Steven Sherman added an empty-net goal. Justin Cintas scored the only Jr. Gulls goal in the semifinal loss.

Other clubs that reached the championships bracket playoffs included LA Hockey Club in 98 AAA and OC Hockey Club 99 AAA and the LA Jr. Kings in 99 AAA.

A total of 29 teams from California participated in 10 boys divisions, while the Anaheim Lady Ducks fielded teams in three girls divisions. •



The Selects 95s downed Team Illinois and Shattuck-St. Mary's before besting East Westchester in the championship game.

Offense Coming in Waves for Monsters' Freeman

Rancho Cucamonga product proving himself as one of WSHL's elite

By Brian McDonough

The childhood friendship between
Thomas Freeman and Ryan
Parkhouse is paying serious dividends
for the Fresno Monsters.

After tearing up the scoresheet a year ago for the Colorado Rampage's 18 AAA team, Freeman was looking for a place to play this season and, after hearing nothing but great things about the first-year Western States Hockey League (WSHL) team from his buddy Parkhouse, a forward on the Monsters, Freeman was sold.

"This is one of the top spots to play junior hockey not only at the Tier III Junior A level, but at any level," said Freeman, a Rancho Cucamonga native who played much of his youth hockey with the Ontario Stars. "We play in front of 3,000 fans a game and are treated like professional hockey players."

And Freeman, 19, is making the most of his opportunity. He led the league in scoring with 44 points (16

goals) in 19 games (he missed a handful of contests early in the season due to injury) and, playing with Parkhouse and **Rob Kolander**, his line combined for over 100 points through the team's first 22 games.

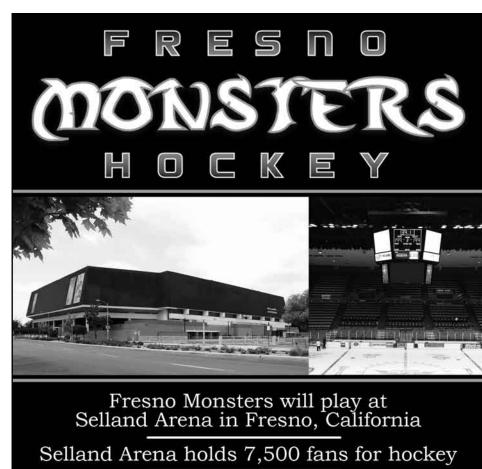
"These three have been dynamite together," said Monsters co-head coach **Brandy Semchuk**. "They're extremely creative as a line and they love playing together."

Semchuk sees a bright future in store for Freeman.

"There's no question in my mind that Thomas will be a solid NAHL (Tier II Junior A) player next season and, if he can gain a little more speed and strength over the next couple of years, I could see him playing at the D-I level."

Freeman credits the coaching of Semchuk, along with co-head coach **Eric Ballard**, for much of his development.

"They're easily some of the best coaches I've ever played for," he said. "It's amazing here." •



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Grimaldi, Reid Making the Most of Their Opportunities - continued from page 7

"In terms of his total offensive package, he is an elite player in his age group."

Grimaldi's transition period in hockey took place four years earlier than Reid's did, when the Grimaldi family moved east in 2005.

A chance meeting with a Little Caesars official while trading pins at the Quebec Pee Wee tournament a few years before planted seeds for the move.

"I was trading pins, and the Little Caesars pin was the biggest one," Grimaldi said. "I only had little ones so no one would trade with me. My mom encouraged me to ask a man who had the Little Caesars pins if he would trade. It turned out I had played against his son."

A year later, they got back in touch during a break between tournaments in Sarnia, Ontario, and Toronto, and the Grimaldi family traveled to Detroit to meet the Little Caesars coaches.

"We spent a whole year praying about the pros and cons," Grimaldi said. "We asked every coach we could find, and they all said 'You need to go.'

"It's really been a great blessing from God."

It's not uncommon for Grimaldi, who would like to become a pastor when his playing days have concluded, to discuss the role that his and his family's faith plays in their daily lives. In fact, he believes it has played a major role in why he is where he is.

"God put me here for a reason, just like the move to Michigan was for a reason and the next 5-10 years' events will happen for a reason,"

he said. "I'm going to deal with hard times and learn from them." One of the hard times he had to deal with this season was the U17s' 1-12 start; it was something he'd never experienced in his playing career.

"I've been playing up my whole life," he said. "It takes time for teams to catch up when some guys are coming from 16 AAA teams, but I didn't expect to lose 12 of 13 games (to start the season)."

The expectation to win stayed with Grimaldi, and he led the U17s to first place at the Four Nations Cup in Slovakia, being selected the tournament's outstanding player in the process. The team followed that by winning its first game against USHL competition.

"The Slovakia tournament was a confidence-booster for us,"

Grimaldi said.
So it
should come
as no sur-

prise that Grimaldi is one of Rolston's rotating captains.

"He's a professional in how he carries himself," Rolston said. "His consistency is remarkable for this age group. He's one of those players that's a leader, especially by example."

Added Bowkus, "Rocco's tremendously motivated. And he's a coach's dream. He works hard in practice, he works hard in games, he gives you nothing but 100 percent."

California's latest contributions to the U.S. National Program might be a study in contrasts, but Rolston is pleased with both.

"They are two different extremes," the coach said. "They have to rely on their strengths - and both have plenty of those."

The Under-17 Team is stronger because of it. •





Radke Readies for Division I Ranks

Bay Area native uses the NAHL as a springboard to the CCHA

By Matt Mackinder

Dan Radke used to come to Michigan just to get to a family summer cottage, but for the past two years and the next four, it has been and will continue to be home.

The current Traverse City North Stars forward and soon-to-be Lake Superior State University (CCHA) Laker loves the northern part of Michigan, though it's nothing like back home in the San Francisco area.

The hockey, however, that's a different story.

"We were up in Sault Ste. Marie (Mich.) one summer at the cottage and the Midget AAA team up there was holding tryouts," remembered the 18-year-old from Orinda. "So I went and didn't expect much as I was just a 15-year-old, but I made the team. I played there for two years and then came to Traverse City."

Apparently on a fast track, little did Radke know that

taking a chance on that tryout would eventually result in him committing to LSSU, where he'll start next fall

There, he'll be joined by three of his North Stars teammates: **Kyle Jean, Kellin Ainsworth** and, for the 2011-12 season, **Tyler Marble**.

The commitment to the Lakers happened "pretty quickly," added Radke, who also said that having his college career mapped out has made him able to concentrate more on the North Stars' season this year.

"There's a lot less pressure this season," said Radke, who had five goals for 17 points through 19 games this year. "I don't have it lingering over me like I did going into last season. When I made the commitment in March, it was a huge relief."

Coming to Michigan and being in a new setting meant odd looks from schoolmates and a multitude of explanations of who he was and where he was from.

"When I first moved to Michigan, my hair was a bit longer and once people found out I was from California, I must have heard the 'Do-you-surf?' question at least 20 times a day," Radke remembered. "They also asked if California even had ice. It was crazy.

"People just don't know; they have no idea how popular hockey is getting out there."

It wasn't always like that, though, as Radke recalled a fact from his childhood. He played with two programs during his California tenure - the Berkeley Bulldogs and the California Gold Rush.

"I remember one year I was in a league with just five teams," he said. "That's not a lot of kids, considering how big the Bay Area is. But hockey has grown so much and all levels are out there now."

For much of this season, the North Stars have sat atop the NAHL's North Division standings. While Radke knows there's still work to be done, the fact that Traverse City is maintaining a high level of success breeds optimism and encouragement.

"We've played really well

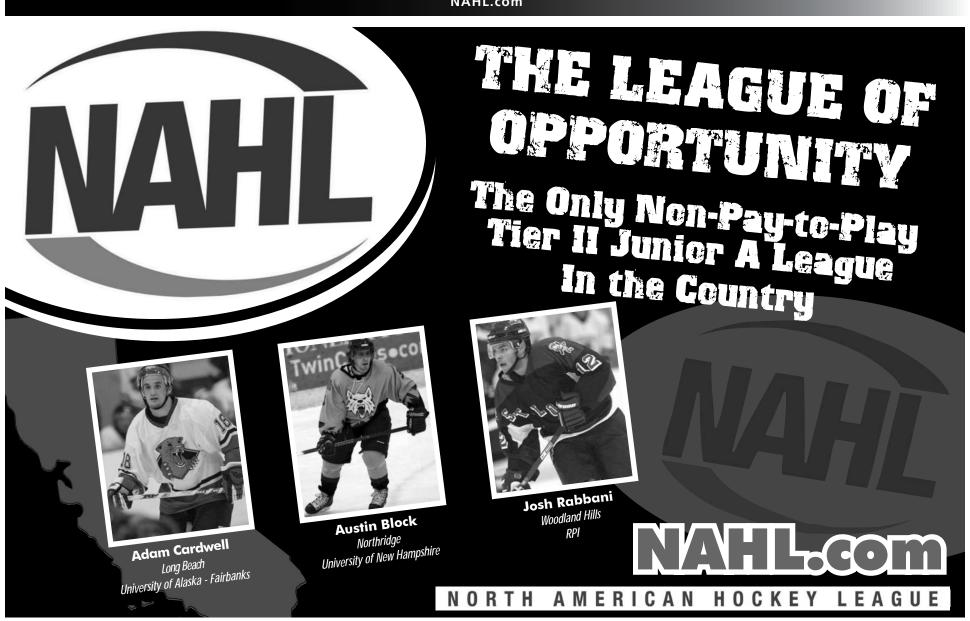


so far," Radke said. "This is a good group and definitely the most offensively-skilled team I've ever played on. I think if we continue to work hard, we can keep it going." •



Orinda's Dan Radke expects to step into Lake Superior State's lineup immediately after his development in the NAHL. Photo/NAHL

NAHL.com



Parental Guidance:

There's more to tournaments than winning



Every hockey season brings with it those magical weekends we all look forward to: tournaments.

What makes them so special? Well, there's the chance for your team to show what it can do against other clubs from across the U.S. and Canada and possibly hoist a cup on Sunday morning or bring home a banner, of course.

But there are a lot of important lessons to be learned and experiences to be had during tournament weekends, too.

For starters, parents who may not have known each other the year before get the chance to better know each other and relax outside of the normal rink routine. It also gives kids who may be new to each other the opportunity to work and play together outside of hockey during team dinners or downtime at the hotel. Team building can happen playing knee hockey just as much as it can on the ice.

Tournaments also force players to play outside of their comfort zone in new rinks against different teams under higher-pressure situations. Oftentimes, players who may not normally be one of the stars can rise to the occasion and surprise coaches.

Similarly, teams who may not be gelling as a unit can come together during tournaments because they play so many games in such a short amount of time. Coaches can use these games to build on mistakes, instruct based on

their observations, and see the results of their coaching almost immediately. It's an opportunity for growth and development that isn't always possible during the regular season.

There are a few tips you may want to keep in mind during tournaments: First off, make sure your player gets plenty of sleep, enough nutritious food to eat, and that he or she drinks lots of fluids. Playing back-to-back games for several days straight is hard on any athlete, especially a young one.

Put a limit on those swimming pool sessions and knee hockey games, and make sure your player gets to bed at a decent hour, especially when you have early-morning games.

Don't limit your player's socialization time, though.

Team bonding is critical to the success of any athletic organization and tournaments are an ideal time to develop camaraderie.

Also, identify one or two skills for your player to improve on during a tournament weekend. You can ask your coach what your player needs to work on, specifically. It could things like passing, skating with their head up or being more aggressive to the puck. Even if your team doesn't win the first-place trophy, your player can still be a winner by showing improvement on the skills you set out to work on.

And for the parents: Have fun and get to know the other families on your team. Strong parents make for strong teams

Oh, and lastly, make sure during the team cocktail hour you don't imbibe a little too much and tell the coach what you really think of him - he still controls the ice time. \bigcirc

Cean Burgeson is a hockey parent in the Capital Thunder youth association.

College Standout Lasch Overcomes Odds

Small in stature, the Lake Forest product is carrying a big stick at St. Cloud

By Chris Bayee

You're too short. You're too slow. You're not good enough to make this AAA team.

Turns out it was all baloney, and **Ryan Lasch** of Lake Forest didn't believe any of it.

A strong drive has carried Lasch to the summit of NCAA Division I hockey. The 5-foot-7 forward has piled up 139 points early into his senior season at St. Cloud State University. That point total put him one behind **Ryan Malone** (now of the Tampa Bay Lightning) for fifth on the Minnesota school's scoring chart.

He's within 40 points of becoming the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) school's all-time leading scorer. Ever.

Lasch also has been an All-WCHA selection the past two seasons, a member of the WCHA's All-Academic Team, a league all-rookie selection and a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award, given annually to the nation's top college hockey player, in 2007-08 when he racked up 53 points (25 goals, 28 assists).

"When you're smaller in stature, everyone is going to tell you that you can't do this or that," Lasch said. "That's where the competitive drive comes in. My main motivation was to prove that an undersized player can play."

What Lasch has been able to accomplish is not lost on his college coach, **Bob Motzko**, who has an extensive college and junior coaching resume since finishing his own Huskies playing career in the mid-

"Ryan's been a great player for us," Motzko said. "Three years, 130-plus points - you just don't see that in college hockey right now. He's one of the highest point producers in the past dozen years. That says something about the type of offensive ability he has."

More than just filling the

net, Lasch has become one of the pillars of the program, Motzko said.

"He's helped us grow our program," Motzko said. "He's done tremendous in his offseason training, outstanding in the classroom - he's become an all-around student-athlete.

"You're judged by your teammates, and he's one of our leaders. He trains extra hard and he's one of the hardest workers in practice. He's taken a leadership role and grown in it"

This comes as no surprise to one of Lasch's first coaches in California, **Buddy McKinnon**, who helped coach Lasch through Squirts, Pee Wees and Bantams.

"He's a tremendous young man, first of all," McKinnon said. "He wanted it so bad. He just couldn't understand why others wouldn't work as hard as him. He got shortchanged a lot, but he never gave up on his dream.

"He was never late to practice and he was always the last guy off the ice. And in the room, he wouldn't even tie his skate if a coach was talking. That's how much he paid attention because he wanted to learn."

Lasch got his start in hockey at the old Costa Mesa rink in an in-house program run by **Fred Nelson**. From there he played for the South Coast Sabres, Westminster Wave and Long Beach Jr. Ice Dogs.

Lasch met Larry Barron at age 14 and forged a friendship that would change the course of his hockey career on

Lasch continued page 21



Sharks Visit Pediatrics Unit at VMC

Team presents check for \$17K raised through its 'Favorite Things' Basket Fundraiser

For most people, hospitals are a pretty intimidating place. But for young patients, it can be even more of a terrifying experience. With that in mind, a group of San Jose Sharks players and their significant others decided to visit the Valley Medical Center's (VMC) Pediatric Unit after practice recently.

Dan Boyle, his wife, Amber; Kent Huskins, his fiancé, Bri; Marc-Edouard Vlasic, his girlfriend, Martine; Joe Pavelski and Jody Shelley were all on hand to meet with the kids currently under care. The group walked from room to room, visiting with patients, taking pictures, signing autographs and even passing out candy.

"These children are bored, hurting or scared," said pediatric nurse manager **Sue Kehl**. "When they see Sharks players - who they see on TV - in person, it's a pretty special thing for them. And for the players to take time out of their busy day, it's just so impressive and shows the kind of character they posses."

In addition to the hospital visit, the Sharks players and

wives/girlfriends also presented the VMC Foundation with a \$17,000 check raised through the "Favorite Things" Basket Fundraiser.

With support from the Sharks Foundation, the ladies created a basket that

contained some of their significant other's favorite things, including movies, game consoles, music, food, gift certificates,

autographed items and more. The baskets were then auctioned off over the course of several games during the 2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

To the wives and girlfriends of the players, this was an opportunity to give back to the community that has provided endless support for the team.

"It's a great feeling to be able to make a difference in the community," Boyle's wife, Amber, said. "To me, Dan is my husband. But to so many other people, especially young children, he's someone they really look up to. I think it's great for us to be able to give back to such a great organization like the VMC in any way we can."

The \$17,000 will help pay for the purchase of new televisions for the patient rooms in the Pediatric Unit. The current



Clockwise from top left, the Sharks' Jody Shelley, Kent Huskins, Dan Boyle, Joe Pavelski and Marc-Edouard Vlasic meet with a young patient at Valley Medical Center.

models are over a decade old and are not compatible with DVD players. Hopefully, in the near future, the patients will also be able to watch Sharks games in their rooms.

From toddlers to teenagers, the job of VMC's pediatric staff

is to fight injury and disease while keeping their patients calm and happy during their stay.

"Sometimes the biggest challenge is helping these kids overcome their fear of being in a hospital," said VMC Foundation executive director **Chris Wild- er.** "A happy kid is a well kid, so giving them the opportunity to watch a movie or a Sharks game actually makes the jobs of our doctors and nurses a lot easier." **©**



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The Anaheim Jr. Ducks' Kelly Murphy, left, and the San Diego Jr. Gulls' Brody Cavataio catch up prior to a recent

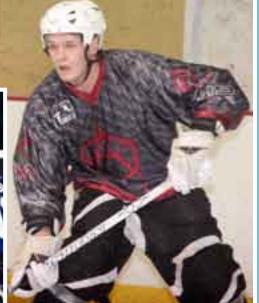


Evan Medeiros of the San Diego Stingrays makes a blocker save at October's Give Blood Play Hockey tournament at 949 in Irvine. His team was crowned champions of the 14U division.





Matthew Ng wastes no time getting a shot off for the California Cougars' Mites during the team's opening shift of the NorCal regular season.



Murrieta's Chris Connole, who played last season for the AIHL's Irvine Anarchy, will suit up for the Junior Ducks this year. See more on Connole's success on the international stage on Page 22. Photo/Phillip Brents

Jr. Kings' Breitenstein a TSC Lifer

Unassuming 16U AAA blueliner just goes about his business

By Chris Bayee

Los Angeles Jr. Kings Midget Minor defenseman Cody Breitenstein has literally grown up on the Toyota Sports Center's ice.

Yes, he played a few years of roller hockey before the facility opened in 1999, but since he's only spent one season playing for a team other than ones based at the El Segundo facility.

Breitenstein and his 16U AAA teammates will take center stage in late December when they play host to a Tier 1 Elite Hockey League showcase for the first time. The timing could not be better.

"My favorite part about this showcase being here is that it's right after Christmas, so we don't have to get on a plane on Christmas Day to go someplace," said Breitenstein, a 6-foot-2, 155-pound 1993 birth year from Hawthorne

Teammate Nicholas Newman added: "All of the good teams have to come to us this time. They're all looking forward to it. I hope they go to the beach and get tired out before they play us."

This is the first season the Jr.

Kings have fielded a team in the Tier 1 League's Midget Minor division, and the team has had its share of valleys to climb out of - in part because so many new players made the team and in part because the roster has undergone a fair amount of turnover since the season began.

"We've called some players-only meetings," said Newman, the team's captain. "We're basically a new team now, but things are starting to come together."

That can only help as the team tries to make a run after ending a league winless streak that had stretched into November.

"The level of speed and skill has been the biggest change," said Newman, a 6-foot, 180-pound 93-born. "Every pass has to be on the tape because there's always a guy right on you. You have to have your head up, always."

It's been an enjoyable experience, regardless, Breitenstein said.

"Everyone looks forward to the showcases; it's really competitive hockey," Breitenstein said. "A lot more guys have gotten hurt, but they're fighting through it because they want to he seen "

One of the foundational pieces to the team has been Breitenstein, who, after playing up at the 16 AA level two seasons ago, has played consecutive 16 AAA seasons for the Jr. Kings.

"Cody is a great kid who goes about the business of playing quietly, but effectively," Jr. Kings coach **Frank Salcido** said. "He's a tall, lanky defenseman who, when he fills out, will be a force to be reckoned with. He uses his long reach to fend off attackers and is beginning to play a more physical style of hockey."

Newman, from Saugus, centers the team's top line, and he has been a beneficiary of Breitenstein's improved play

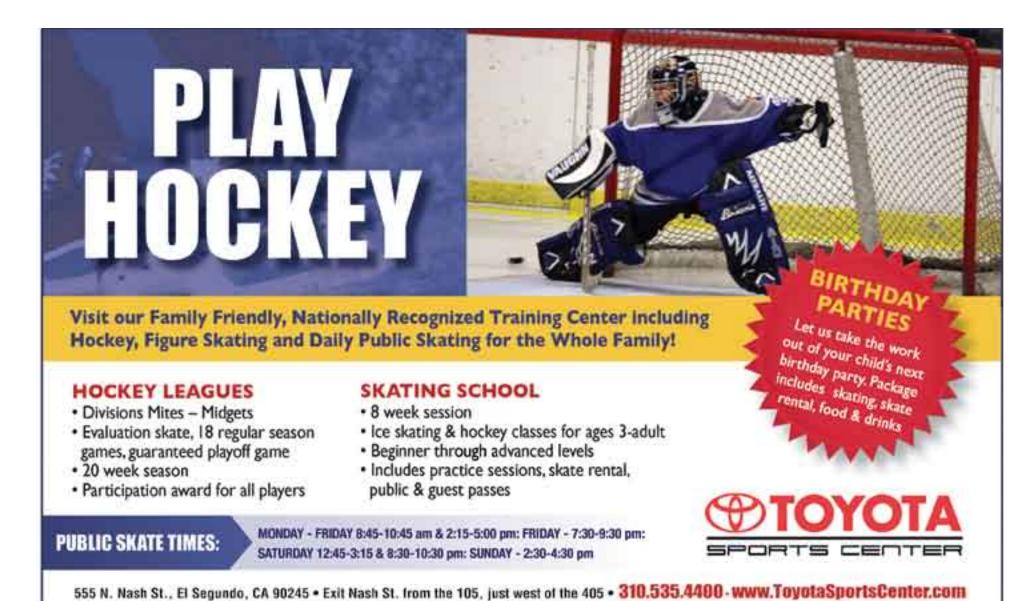
"He's a smart player," Newman said.
"He moves the puck well and has good vision. He's a defenseman we rely on in all situations."

Breitenstein's positive approach has not gone unnoticed.

"He's been a member of the Jr. Kings organization for many years," Salcido said. "And (he) exemplifies what we expect of our players, on and off of the ice." •



Cody Breitenstein has played 16 consecutive AAA seasons for the Los Angeles Jr. Kings.



California Hockey Day Gets More Kids on Ice

CAHA-led initiative gives over 300 youngsters the chance to try the game for free

By Matt Mackinder

In another step towards growing the game locally, the state of California, namely the California Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), hosted California Hockey Day on Nov. 7 and, by all accounts, the event was a rousing success.

More than 300 children in the 4-9 age groups came out to their local rinks to give the game a shot. For many of the kids, it was their first experience with hockey, but hopefully not their last.

"We'd been working with USA Hockey to gain a deeper understanding as to why our membership was decreasing in the younger age groups and ways to increase it," said **Steve Laing**, president of CAHA.

"Two years ago, I focused on promoting the OneGoal program and directed a large sum of money from a grant with board approval to increase our sport and provide equipment for first-time hockey players in the 4-9 age groups.

"With the support of the NHL, OneGoal and USA Hockey, funding was created to help financially support and promote hockey to a younger age group. We selected Nov. 7 as our date (for California) to create an opportunity for families to come to a local rink and try hockey for free."

The kids were provided a helmet, hockey gloves, shoulder pads, hockey pants, shin guards, skates and a stick. They were also given a basic concept of how the game is played, instruction on puckhandling and stickhandling and skating lessons followed by a short game. Smiles and laughs were optional,

but prominent all day.

The idea of one whole day dedicated to hockey is not new to the country, but it is to California.

"Hockey Canada is also actively involved with the OneGoal program, along with USA Hockey," Laing said. "I believe both countries share the opinion that the OneGoal program helps build a greater awareness and understanding of hockey. As to other states, California was one of three and the only West Coast state to promote hockey for free."

Laing said in the weeks since the event, the feedback he's received has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I've had great reviews and we consider our first event a big success," boasted Laing. "We had 17 rinks throughout California participate with 315 kids coming out to their local rink to participate. I saw kids laughing, playing and refusing to take their gear off when it was all done."

Is this something the state can count on next year at this time? With the shape of the U.S. economy, doing something for free is a bit of a flight risk, but Laing said that when it comes to hockey - and more importantly to kids that want to play hockey - the risk is worth taking as the rewards are priceless.

"With a lot of help from our NHL family - the Anaheim Ducks, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks - and our ECHL family – the Ontario Reign and Stockton Thunder - there's no limit to our success in promoting youth hockey," Laing said. "We hope it continues and can make Hockey Day an annual event." •



By providing free equipment and free instruction, California Hockey Day helped spark more interest in the sport. Photo/CAHA

A GREAT DAY FOR HOCKEY

17 rinks participated in the first California Hockey Day

The Rinks-Anaheim ICE (Anaheim)
Channel Islands Ice Center (Oxnard)
Oak Park Ice Arena (Stockton)

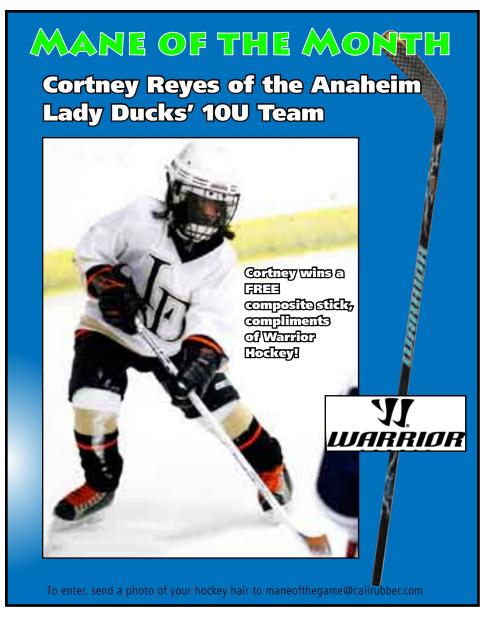
Burbank Roller Hockey Rink (Burbank)

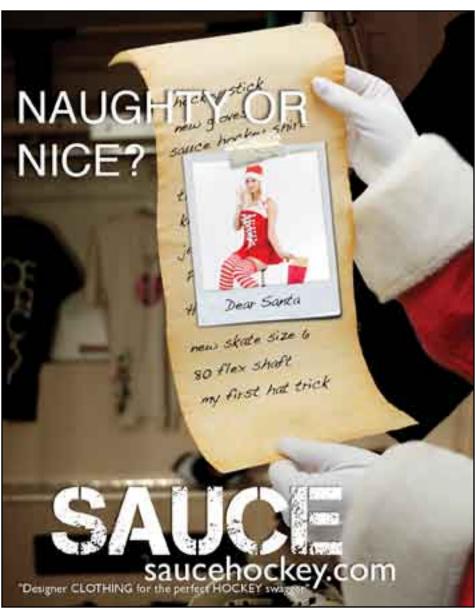
The Skating Edge (Harbor City)

Toyota Sports Center (El Segundo) Ice Station Valencia (Valencia)

Iceland Skating Rink of Sacramento (Sacramento)







Kings Fantasy Camp the Perfect Holiday Gift

All proceeds to benefit the Kings Alumni Association, Kings Care Foundation

By Lindsey Toso

Ever wish you could skate with some of the greatest players in Los Angeles Kings history, like Hall of Famer Luc Robitaille, Triple Crown line member Charlie Simmer or former NHL All-Star Butch Goring?

Well, now's your chance! The Los Angeles Kings Alumni Association, along with the Kings Care Foundation, is hosting the second annual Los Angeles Kings Fantasy Camp from January 14-16, 2010.

The camp will be held at both the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo - the Official Practice Rink of the Los Angeles Kings - and in downtown Los Angeles at STAPLES Center - the home of the Los Angeles Kings.

Each participant will get a chance to skate with and

take part in many off-ice activities with some of the greatest players in Kings history.

In addition to Robitaille, Simmer and Goring, participants will play with Kings legend Marty McSorley, "Miracle on Manchester" hero and Kings radio color commentator Daryl Evans, Dave "The Hammer" Schultz, who holds the record for the most penalty minutes in a single season, and Ian Turnbull, who has name etched in the NHL record book a number of times.

Along with three onice sessions with the Kings Alumni, registration includes a unique VIP experience at the Kings-Anaheim Ducks game at STAPLES Center on January 14. There, participants can spend time with Alumni in the Kings special "Green Room" and watch the

game from premier seats close to the ice.

Participants will also have a VIP experience at the Kings-Boston Bruins game at STAPLES Center on January 16, as they'll be able to watch the game with Alumni in a luxury suite.

Each participant will receive a Kings Fantasy Camp hockey bag filled with official Los Angeles Kings and Fantasy Camp merchandise, including a personalized jersey to use at the camp and take home.

The Kings ask that only ages 18 or older participate in this event, but all skill levels are welcome. The cost for this full experience the entire weekend is \$1.299.

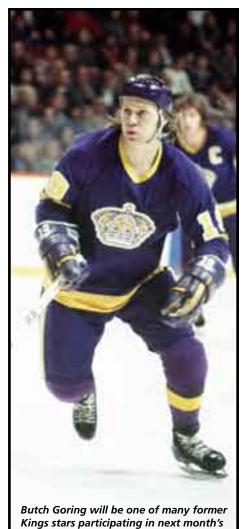
All proceeds from the camp will benefit the Kings Alumni Association and the Kings Care Foundation, the award-winning non-profit children's charity of the Los Angeles Kings, both of which are registered 501(c)(3) organizations.

The Los Angeles Kings
Fantasy Camp is a great
holiday gift and the perfect
opportunity to participate in a
rare hockey experience and to
support a worthy charitable
cause.

For more information or to register, visit the Kings online at LAKings.com/FantasyCamp and reserve your spot. Upon registration, enter the promotional code "CALIFORNIARUBBER" to receive at \$50 discount!

Space is limited to 38 people, so don't delay and register today!

For more information on the Los Angeles Kings Fantasy Camp, see the advertisement on Page 3. ©



Los Angeles Kings Fantasy Camp. Photo/Los

Angeles Kings

View From The Ice:

Always appreciate your health

My hockey season started off with an amazing team-bonding bus trip to Phoenix in August, chaperoned by our coach, Luc.

We had a blast on the bus ride. We ate junk food, watched movies, played pranks on one another and laughed the entire six-hour ride. Somehow a stuffy hot bus with a broken air conditioner brought our team together.

Once we arrived in Phoenix, we were billeted in pairs with families from the Jr. Coyotes' Bantam AA team. We had a productive weekend playing four games against the Coyotes, finishing with a 2-1-1 record.

More importantly, we achieved our coach's goal: We left Simi Valley as a group of boys who didn't know each other well and came back as friends who were excited and ready for our upcoming season.

We got a few more practices in and finally the preseason began. I loved playing with my linemates and I couldn't wait for our first game. We were scoring, hitting, getting along and starting to feel in sync.

But a couple games into the season, I took a clean, hard hit into the boards. I slammed into the glass and felt a "pop" in my left shoulder. Hearing that, I realized I couldn't play and skated off the ice. I stayed on the bench for the rest of the game in pain.

After the game, I met my dad in the locker room. We thought that maybe I'd just dislocated it, but he couldn't move my shoulder back into place. We knew then that something was broken.

We went to the orthopedic surgeon's office and the doctor told me to take it easy. That meant no hockey, no stickhandling and no P.E. at school (not even the stationary bike). I had to just sit around, wait and let it heal.

The doctor told me I'd be out at



Brendon Jasso

least four weeks. Two weeks had passed and I went for my follow up appointment, but again more bad news was delivered: The bone was fractured and not healing correctly and the doctor added an additional four weeks for recovery!

I was beyond disappointed that I had to sit during our first CAHA weekend! I felt like I'd let the team down. I really missed the game.

After seven weeks, my shoulder was still hurting and I was definitely not back to normal, but it felt good to be back on the ice. Although I was frustrated I wasn't playing to the best of my ability, I was glad to be playing hockey with my friends again.

I realized that this is the one place I can go to have fun, get my energy out and not think about anything else but the game, and I know I should feel very lucky that this was my first "real" injury in my seven years of playing travel hockey.

They say you don't always appreciate what you have until it's gone. I'm thankful my injury wasn't worse and that I'm back out on the ice again. ③

Brendon Jasso plays center for the Southern California Titans' Bantam AA team.

Blackhawks Soaring to New Heights

Santa Clara celebrates 40 years of family, fun and success

By DJ Powers

Now in its 40th season, the Santa Clara Valley Hockey Association, one of Northern California's oldest youth hockey organizations, has experienced tremendous growth over the years.

And they're not done yet.

"This season, we had a really good turnout at tryouts," said board president Mark Keil. "We were able to fill the teams really well. I think the volunteerism is probably the highest that we've ever experienced, too."

This season, Santa Clara has between 160-170 players that make up nine teams from Mites through the 18U Midget level. And, for the second consecutive year, the Blackhawks aren't fielding a tier team.

But, as the program's director of coaches, **Hal Nunn**, explains, that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"We could've probably put multiple tier teams together, but we've been competitive without doing that," he said. "So that begs the question: Is it fun and right for the kids?

"There has to be kids talented enough to do it (tier hockey) and coaches who can coach at that level. The parents also have to be willing to put up with all of the travel and all. So we didn't do tier this year, but that doesn't mean we would never consider doing it."

The Blackhawks began as a club in 1970, but it wasn't until the 1980s when the fruits of their labors began to pay off. In 1986, the club saw its first former player taken in the NHL Entry Draft when the Winnipeg Jets selected goaltender **John Blue** in the 10th round (197th overall).

Another magical season came in 2006 when the club soared to new heights nationally. That year, it became the first and, to date, only NorCal team to win a national championship when its Pee Wee AA team accomplished the feat.

That same year, Santa Clara's Squirt A, Midget B and Midget 18 A teams captured their respective NorCal championships as well.

"We're the only NorCal program to have ever won a national title, so I think that's probably the highlight of the club," said Nunn. "And we've also won a number of state championships as well.

"But I think what's probably more important than that is the reputation the Blackhawks have around the country of generally being a very skilled team that plays by the rules, works hard and shows good sportsmanship."

Two years later, Santa Clara would reach another organizational-first when talented forward **Viktor Tikhonov** became the first-ever player from a NorCal program to be selected in the first round of the NHL Entry Draft. The Phoenix Coyotes took him with the 28th overall pick in 2008.

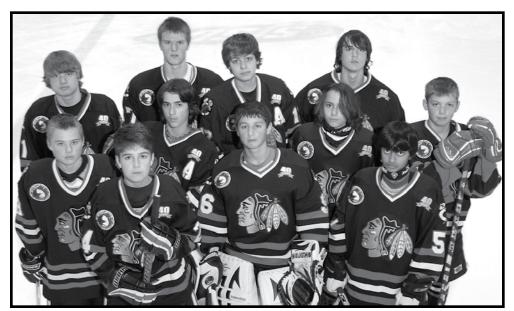
As successful as they've become, the Blackhawks, as an organization, have never strayed from their core philosophy of putting the kids and their parents first.

"They make a really big difference for this club," noted Keil. "In addition to the winning tradition, I think it's the commitment from the kids and the parents that marks our success.

"It's a tremendous group of people who are involved with the Blackhawks. They're always willing to volunteer or help one another out, so the club really functions like a large family."

The Blackhawks are as much a part of their community as their community is a part of them, and that can be witnessed in their partnerships with Kidango, a non-profit child development agency, and Turning Wheels, an organization that builds bicycles at Christmastime and gives them to children of low-income families

Blackhawks continued page 21



Members of the Santa Clara Blackhawks: First Row (from left): Aidan Ward, Brendan Powell, Geoff Grimm, Kevin Bentley; Middle Row: Robby Jackson, Jordan Carrasco, Greyson North; Back Row: Eric Folgman, Justin Hoffman, Crispin Ramos, Ian DeVries Photo/Norbert Tydingco





Good Things Come in Threes For LA Girls

Gianformaggio, Raber, Scheu stay the course with the Selects' 16U team

By Lindsay Czarnecki

Por the LA Selects' Girls 16U team, three players - one at each position - have stuck together since joining the club at the 14U level two years ago when LA opened its doors for a girls program.

Goaltender Tori Gianformaggio, defenseman Emily Raber and forward Nikki Scheu are the only three players on the current 16U team who have stayed with LA to develop a consistent veteran base that's advanced to the next age level together.

Gianformaggio and Raber, neighbors in Buena Park, played with the Cal Selects before joining LA. Scheu came to LA at the same time after skating with Valencia's girls program that eventually had trouble staying afloat.

"During one of our practices, we just started talking and became really good friends," Scheu said of their relationship.

From there, staying as a unit wasn't just the only option, but also the more desirable one.

"You just want to stick with your specific team," Scheu said. "You can't just switch; you have to be together and grow as a team."

At both ends of the ice, they've each become a force to reckon with at their

respective positions, and that sense of familiarity that comes from playing together has helped them succeed.

"I think we're pretty comfortable with each other as friends and are honest with each other about how we play and give each other opinions on what we need to improve on," said Raber, who flipped from forward to defense in her first year at 14U to help the team.

Through the seasons, Gianformaggio has helped keep LA in some hard-fought games and Raber has been right on the edge of her crease to help defend the net.

"I like that she's really aggressive as a goalie," Raber said of Gianformaggio. "She motivates me and the other D to protect her and play hard. I also like that she cares when she does lose or gets scored on and she tries to step up her game."

The compliments go hand in hand and, just as every position on the ice has its importance, Gianformaggio notices the value of having good friends to push her along the way.

"Emily keeps me focused," she said.
"We both are good influences on each other on and off the ice. We keep each other motivated and work out together."

In hockey speak, Scheu is a power

forward
- a strong and
gritty skater
who plays with
an edge and
has a knack
for burying the
puck.

"She gets
the job done,
puts the puck
in the net
and is a good
team leader
on the ice."
Gianformaggio
said. "She
doesn't just
score goals,
she's a great
playmaker as
well."

Scheu admits she was a bit shy at first, but now she's known for her goofiness just as much as her scoring. Feeling at home on and off the ice with her teammates certainly helped her come out of her shell, but she knows when to tune out the jokes and dig deep to help her team.

"We know where each other is on the ice because we've worked on it so often,"



From left, Tori Gianformaggio, Nikki Scheu and Emily Raber have remained with the Selects program since its inception two years ago.

Scheu said. "Through the years, we just got to know each other's personalities and how we play."

The benefits of staying together are what they're hoping to cash in on this season and beyond as all three will move up another division to 19U next year.

"Loyalty is important because it shows who you are, inside and out," Raber said. •

Away From The Rubber:

Emulate the best to be your best

Often times in sports, there's always an athlete who is perceived to be in a class all their own. In hockey, Wayne Gretzky and Bobby Orr will always be considered two of the best to ever play the game.

Today, guys like **Sidney Crosby** and **Alexander Ovechkin** are leading way as the world's elite on skates. In other sports, there's golf's **Tiger Woods**, basketball's **Lebron James** and football's **Tom Brady**, to name a few.

Obviously, every one of these players is an extremely talented and gifted individual. However, talent alone isn't what makes these players successful. Each of them has an outstanding work ethic that helps them maximize their given talents and elevates them above everyone else. They've also spent countless hours practicing and trying to perfect their game.

In the great **Malcom Gladwell** book, "Outliers," he refers to the "10,000-hour rule," which says that the greatest performers in most professions have spent more than 10,000 hours practicing and working on their crafts by the time they're a young adult.

Not only does this apply to sports, but other professions as well. However, the greatest athletes and other professionals will go above and beyond 10,000 hours. They'll spend more time working on their weaknesses, as well as their strengths. What are they doing during these 10,000-plus hours? They're simply practicing to get better. The best people in any profession will always have a beginner's mind.

A great example of an athlete who's put in his 10,000 hours at an early age and continues to go above and beyond is Tiger, arguably



the best to ever step foot on a golf course because of his relentless passion to improve.

Last August, after winning the Firestone golf tournament in Ohio on a Sunday afternoon, he was at the driving range of the PGA Championship course in Minnesota at 6:30 the very next morning. The PGA Championship didn't start until Thursday (It's important to note that I'm not recommending kids specialize in one sport at a young age like Tiger did; I'm simply referring to his current work ethic and practice habits.).

Brian Tracy, a great self-help book author, advocates finding out who the most successful people are in your field, and then mimic their habits and approach to that particular craft. There's no reason why you can't work as hard - if not harder - as the better players.

In hockey, what are some of the daily habits that the more successful players embrace? Are they getting on the ice before everyone else and practicing onetimers? Are they staying on the ice later than everyone else to work on their skating? Are they watching video of their opponents or themselves? Or, are they doing something off of the ice to help them gain an edge? Maybe it's a combination of all of those things.

Whatever it is that the better players are doing, you should try to emulate them the best you can and then apply the same level of work ethic and commitment to excellence. \bullet

Sean Skahan is the strength and conditioning coach of the Anaheim Ducks. Visit his Web site at SeanSkahan.com.

Lady Ducks' Growth, Success Continues

Anaheim hockey fixture Trottier helps women's hockey take flight

By Lindsay Czarnecki

When the Anaheim Lady Ducks first entered the girls hockey scene back in 1999, it was hard for anyone to imagine where the program would be 10 years later.

Hatched with just two teams at the 15U and 19U levels in 1999-2000 (approximately 30 girls), the Lady Ducks have ballooned to seven this year with 110 girls skating in the program.

What's more, the LDs have sent 23 girls onto college hockey in addition to qualifying for a handful of national tournaments with their 12U team winning gold in 2007.

Those numbers add up to success, and Art Trottier, a man who wears a few hats in the Anaheim amateur hockey circles, has played a integral part in the LD's growth since their beginning.

"He got the program started and now it's going strong," said LD program director **Kathy McGarrigle**.

Those baby steps seem

forever ago for Trottier because, well, they were. He remembers the support from players' parents, McGarrigle and former LD coach **Rick Hutchinson**.

"They kind of came to us with the idea of starting the LD program and it's really just taken off from there," Trottier said. "We've certainly been surprised by the growth, and by all indications we think it'll continue to grow."

Thinking back to 1999 and looking ahead to now, Trottier is amazed with how the program has flourished. Did he think the brainstorm a decade ago would be this big and successful in 2010?

"No, honestly I didn't," he admitted. "It's been a great surprise and it's not just me; it's a lot of work by the players and their families and Kathy has done a great job."

Trottier is the president of Anaheim Amateur Hockey Association, which includes the Lady Ducks, Jr. Ducks and two high school hockey teams:

JSerra and Santa Margarita. He's also the general manager of Anaheim ICE and the new Westminster ICE facilities.

It's a job that keeps Trottier busy, but one he enjoys to its fullest.

"As GM for both the Anaheim ICE and Westminster ICE rinks, it's my responsibility to oversee the day-to-day operations, hockey and figure skating programs and to make sure our guests have a positive and entertaining experience," said Trottier.

"I've enjoyed watching kids begin in our learn-toskate programs and follow through to junior and college hockey and beyond.

"It's our goal to promote both youth and adult hockey and figure skating, too, to ensure that all four of The Rinks continue to be known as Southern California's premier skating facilities."

The biggest step the LDs took on the national level was last season when they joined the prestigious Tier 1 Elite League, a Michigan-headquartered circuit that affords the girls the opportunity to compete against the top programs around the nation.

That move has helped tremendously with exposure, as a handful of current LD players are being recruited by top college programs like Dartmouth, RPI, Syracuse, Boston College, Providence, Cornell, Colgate, Amherst and Boston University, to name a few.

"That's a great feather in the cap for the program," said Trottier. •



Art Trottier has played a key role in the evolution of the nationally recognized Lady Ducks program.

College Standout Lasch Overcomes Odds - continued from page 12

several levels.

"At 16, I got cut from my AAA team and I didn't have anywhere to play," Lasch said.

"Larry gave me an opportunity to play up in Pembroke, Ontario, Canada, with a (Central Junior Hockey League) Junior A team he's involved with. I played for the Lumberkings for three years."

It's nothing new for 16-year-olds to leave home to pursue their hockey dreams, but going from Orange County to a hockey-crazed outpost 3,000 miles away?

"It was a culture shock," Lasch said. "My parents helped me in a huge way."

Barron, who owns and operates Barron Hockey Academy out of the Orange County Ice Palace, also helped Lasch develop his game.

"Larry's training took me to a whole another level," Lasch said. "His on- and off-ice training is excellent. We worked on my stride. Part of my weakness is my explosiveness. His whole culture over there is pretty hard-working."

Lasch's scoring touch and his continuous improvement caught Motzko's attention during the 2005-06 season - Motzko's first in charge of the Huskies.

"I had a tip on him and went to see him play in Pembroke," Motzko said. "I saw that electric offensive touch. It was special. He gets the puck and he has a mission, and that's to score a goal. You just don't see that everyday. He put up astonishing numbers at Pembroke."

Remarkably, Lasch was not drafted, but as the NHL game has opened up since the lockout, a premium has been placed on skill.

"Whenever you've got a player who can score like Ryan has, someone will give him a chance," Motzko said. "That's the beauty of players like that. When they can do something at one level, they can do it at the next level." •



Blackhawks Soaring to New Heights - continued from page 18



Players like Jared Lee, who skates for the Blackhawks' Bantam A team, continue to add to the strong tradition of the Santa Clara program, which is now in its 40th year. Photo/Butch Winters

With that, Santa Clara puts as much an emphasis on developing good citizens as they do skaters and stickhandlers

"To me, the main goal is to turn out not only great players, but great people as well," said Nunn. "If we're not here to produce good people as well as good players, then we're not doing our job." "The fact that we continue to think about the kids and the parents first almost forces us to make the right decision without having to look any further," added Keil.

"I think sometimes people might forget the amount of volunteerism and time that it takes to make this work. We don't have a problem with that because we're the sum of our parts and the families prove that - they really do." •

LA's 19Us Win Rheaume Invitational

Chamberlain stars in net as girls celebrate in Detroit



The LA Selects' Girls 19U team came home with the championship banner at the inaugural Manon Rheaume Invitational in Detroit last month after finishing the event with a 5-1 record.

Goaltender **Laura Chamberlain** was named the showcase's MVP after posting three shutouts to go along with an impressive 0.62 goals-against average.

Chamberlain, who split goaltending duties with **Sydney Aveson** the previous two seasons, has shined during her time as the No. 1 goalie this season following Aveson's graduation.

The Selects started their round robin with an easy 9-2 victory over the Madison (Wis.) Capitols and then later defeated Detroit Little Caesars, 3-0.

On the second day, the Selects lost a tight 3-2 contest to Chicago Mission,

but were still able to clinch first place in their division heading into the playoff round.

Chamberlain led the way in the first game of the playoffs, backstopping LA to a 2-0 victory. In the semis, **Lauren Strauss**, who finished with three goals and four assists on the weekend, scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory over Canada's Aurora Panthers.

In the championship game against Chicago, **Kourtney Kunichik**a and **Emma Tani** scored in the four-player shootout and Chamberlain again got the job done in goal as the Selects skated to a 2-1 triumph.

Kunichika led LA in points with four goals and six assists while Tani added four goals and two assists. On defense, Allie Era logged the most ice time on the blue line and chipped in three goals and two assists. ©

U.S. Junior Inline Team Serves Up Exciting Future

Four California players spur Team USA to bronze medal in Italy

By Phillip Brents

The United States Senior
Men's Inline Hockey Team
rode a sensational wave to
international glory last summer
with titles in a two-week span
at the FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships in Varese,
Italy, and the World Games in
Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.

The FIRS championship was the second consecutive for Team USA, which received adoring cheers from 40,000 fans gathered for closing ceremonies at the World Games.

The U.S. Women's Inline Team also captured the gold medal at the FIRS World Championships in Italy in another spectacular display of American pride and talent.

But the exciting news is the future, specifically the performance last summer of Team USA's Junior Men's Team that captured the bronze medal at the same FIRS tournament in Italy.

On board for the ride were five Californians: head coach **Ken Murchison** and four golden boys from the Golden State - forward **K.C. Groon** and defensemen **Joey Doran**, **Joshua Winters and Jacob Hickey**.

Murchison, a native of Prince Edward Island who rose through the Canadian junior and collegiate ranks to play for the Canadian National Team (1992-93) and later donned inline skates for the Anaheim Bullfrogs of Roller Hockey International (1993-94), predicted that players from California, specifically his adopted Southern California home, would have a major impact on the tournament in Italy. His keen powers of perception proved right on the mark.

Doran, one of three players involved in the Anaheim Ducks' development program at The Rinks-Corona Inline, was named captain of the U.S. Junior Men's Team. He and his three countrymen combined to score 13 goals and 13 assists to help lead the U18 squad to a 6-1 finish in the tournament.

Meanwhile, teenagers Ariane Yokoyama and Kourtney Kunichika, both based out of The Rinks-Huntington Beach Inline, helped provide the amazing spark to the women's championship team while goaltender Michael Urbano, another Huntington Beach product, won his second gold medal at the FIRS Senior Men's Championships and third gold medal in the last two years under Team USA head coach Joe Noris, a La Jolla resident.

In fact, all three medalwinning teams in Italy were coached by Californians, with Long Beach's **Jeff Prime** closing out his coaching career with a gold medal as head of the Women's National Team. Doran, Groon and Winters are all homegrown Southern California talent (and all playing out of the Corona facility). Doran and Winters both graduated from Santiago High School, while Groon is a graduate of Santa Margarita Catholic High School.

Hickey was the lone player from Northern California on the U.S. junior team's roster, hailing from San Jose.

Doran, Groon, Hickey and Winters are all included on rosters for the 2009-10 American Inline Hockey League (AIHL) season. Doran and Groon made the elite team for the Junior Ducks, coached by Murchison, while Winters is listed on the Ducks' minor squad.

Meanwhile, Hickey will assist the San Jose Pirates in their quest to defend their AIHL Western Conference championship. •

Q & A With Team USA's Chris Connole

By Phillip Brents

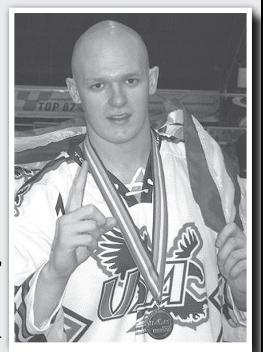
Murrieta's Chris Connole fired in the shot heard 'round the world at last summer's FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships in Varese, Italy, by scoring the game-winning goal - along with three others - to give USA's Senior Men's Team the gold medal in a 5-4 victory against Canada.

The 6-foot-4, 240-pound defenseman who will suit up for the AIHL's Junior Ducks this season after playing for the Irvine Anarchy in 2008-09 wasn't finished, however, as he proceeded to lead the young U.S. squad in overall scoring as the Americans claimed another gold medal, this time at the 4,500-athlete strong World Games in Chinese Taipei.

California Rubber inline hockey editor **Phillip Brents** had the chance to catch up with Connole after he returned to the Golden State with his two gold medals.

PB: Did you personally feel you had to elevate your game or take charge in the FIRS championship game against Canada?

CC: I think everyone felt they had to elevate their game. I just went out there, gave it everything I had and did what it took to win. I had the hot stick that game, everything was going in for me.



Chris Connole, from Murrieta, helped lead USA's Senior Men's Team to a gold medal at the FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships in Italy last summer. Photo/USARS

PB: What do you think was the biggest attribute you brought to the Team USA lineup in the two international tournaments?

CC: I played my role in every situation I could. I crashed the net every time I could, I won battles, shot the puck when the time was right and played solid defensively.

PB: What were your emotions after winning the first gold medal and then the second? **CC:** I was on top of the world at that point in time. That was the biggest tournament I've ever won, until Taiwan.

PB: What do you think were the U.S. team's expectations going into the tournaments? Do you feel the U.S. team met those goals or exceeded them?

CC: I had very high expectations going into the tournaments. I knew most of the players and how good they were individually. The question was how good we would play as a team. I was pleasantly surprised to find out everyone came together as a team and no one played selfishly. It made it much easier for us to win with everyone supporting everyone else.

PB: What do you think was the secret to success for Team USA at FIRS? At the World Games? **CC:** There were no secrets. We went out there and played our roles. The goal-scorers scored, playmakers made plays, the defense played solid and we had phenomenal goaltending.

PB: How does it feel to be the leading scorer for Team USA at the World Games? **CC:** It feels good, but the gold medals we received felt much better.



From left, Team USA's Jacob Hickey (San Jose), Joey Doran (Corona) and Sam Nixford (Brownstown, Mich.) share a laugh at last summer's FIRS Junior Men's World Inline Hockey Championships in Italy. Photo/USARS



AIHL's Pacific-North Division Packs Punch

San Jose out to defend its Western Conference championship

By Phillip Brents

The San Jose Pirates rate to be the team to watch again this season in the American Inline Hockey League's (AIHL) Pacific-North Division.

The Pirates captured both the regular-season division pennant and ensuing divisional playoff championship last season en route to sweeping the Southwest Division playoff champion Tucson Desperados in the Western Conference finals to advance to the AIHL's inaugural Elite Division championship series against the Steel City Phantoms.

The Pirates made the cross-country trek to Feasterville, Pa., in early July as part of the USARS-USA/AAU nationals to pair up against the Phantoms, but could only bring a skeleton crew.

Despite playing without substitutes, San Jose rolled to a 6-4 victory in the opening game of the teams' best-of-five championship series. The remainder of the series was hard fought, but fatigue kept the Pirates from opening the treasure chest as the Phantoms rallied to win the series and the AIHL championship, 4 games to 1.

Many in the San Jose organization had to ponder what could have been had the teams played even up. But that's history now and a new and exciting season awaits an expanded AIHL that will boast 40 elite teams for the 2009-10 campaign in eight geographic divisions

San Jose returns eight skaters and both goaltenders off last season's Pacific-North Division championship squad, and, with new additions, appears to be as strong as ever, if not more so.

The Pirates (25-5-1 in regular season play last season) ranked second in the league with 181 goals and had six players rack up more than 30 points each, led by **Kelly Spain** (33 goals, 83 points), who ranked third in the entire AIHL in scoring, trailing only Phoenix's **Danny Marmostein** (32 goals, 100 points) and Boston's **Brian Ingram** (50 goals, 90 points).

Also back are sharp-shooters **Matt Smith** (31 goals, 64 points), player-coach **Adam DeKeyrel** (33 goals, 62 points), **Jon King** (31 goals, 58 points), **Dustin Tilbury** (13 goals, 35 points) and **Sean Kotsubo** (11 goals, 32 points).

DeKeyrel paced the Pirates with 11 power-play goals in front of able goaltenders **Troy Hartman** (3.22 goals-against average, .852 save percentage) and **Steven Barker** (3.60 GAA, .828 SPCT).

Among the new additions is **Jacob Hickey**, a member of last summer's bronze medalist U.S. Junior Men's National Team that competed at the FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships in Italy.

Coming over from Oakland, which is not fielding at team in 2009-10, are **Casey and Kevin Kennedy**. Casey Kennedy led the Goodlife in scoring last season with 44 goals and 73 points, including seven game-winning goals, while Kevin pumped in 16 goals and 40 points.

Five teams competed in the AIHL's inaugural Pacific-North Division in 2008-09 and membership remains the same this season despite the departure of the Goodlife. The division's newest addition is the Ripon Savage. The division's other three returning clubs include the Nor Cal Riot, Northern California Mustangs and East Bay Jawa

All the returning clubs expect to be stronger than last season.

The Riot, which is coming off a third-place finish in the division last season with a 16-14-2 record, returns captain **Travis Suyeishi** and assistant captains **Blake Peckham** and **Trevor Kleinsmid**. Suyeishi ranked second on the team with 43 points while Peckham keyed the squad with nine power-play goals.

The Mustangs finished fourth in the division last season with a 10-17-5 record and return 10 players, led by captain **Travis Hawkins**, the team's leading scorer in 2008-09 with 13 goals and 47 points. Also back are the team's next two point-getters: **Jeremy**

Mamon (27 goals, 42 points) and Mason Nave (seven goals, 31 points).

Mustang coach **Mario Sousa** sees much improvement for his team and expects foes to see "a hungry team" competing for a championship.

The Jawz occupied the division cellar last season, winning just eight of 32 games but look to be much improved, especially in the defensive end with the addition of former Oakland keeper Kevin Silva, who compiled a 19-2-1 record, scintillating 2.83 GAA and .865 save percentage last season while leading the Goodlife to a second-place finish in the division. The Jawz returns top scorers Vince Castoro (27 goals, 52 points) and Jason Weiser (14 goals, 47 points).

The Savage is playing in

a new facility that has opened with much enthusiasm. Player tryouts were held in August and the team hosted an AIHL elite jamboree in mid-October that was well received by the division's returning teams.

Jason Weaver, who played for the Philadelphia Bulldogs during the 1995-96 Roller Hockey International season and also suited up in ice hockey for the Fresno Falcons of the West Coast Hockey League and the ECHL, is one of Ripon's higher-profile players.

AIHL venues this season include the Silver Creek complex in San Jose, Bladium in Alameda and Powerplay Sports Arena in Ripon.

The AIHL, which will roll out more than 1,400 games this season, has undergone major expansion for 2009-10 with the

addition of two new divisions (Southeast Gulf and Rocky Mountain zones). The Western Conference features 18 teams this season with the addition of the El Paso Black Diamonds in the Southwest Division and the High Plains Sidewinders, Colorado Kodiaks, Mile High Mayhem and Rocky Mountain Talons in the new Rocky Mountain Division.

The Pacific-South Division returns intact with the Huntington Beach Blades, Pama Cyclones, Junior Ducks, Irvine Anarchy and San Diego VooDoo. Joining El Paso in the Southwest Division are the Las Vegas Aces, Phoenix Dragons and Tucson Slayers.

The Pirates - and the rest of their Pacific-North Division rivals - aim to explore those new horizons this season. ③



Kelly Spain's 83 points for San Jose last season ranked third in AIHL scoring. His offense helped the Pirates advance to the league's inaugural Champions Cup finals. Photo/ML Photo



California Alumni

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

Alec Martinez (Bay Area) – Los Angeles Kings Richard Park (Torrance) – New York Islanders Bobby Ryan (El Segundo) - Anaheim Ducks

Jon Blum (Rancho Santa Margarita) - Milwaukee Robbie Earl (Los Angeles) – Houston Aeros Gabe Gauthier (Torrance) - Manchester Monarchs Ryan Hollweg (Norwalk) – San Antonio Rampage Colin Long (Santa Ana) – San Antonio Rampage Ray Macias (Long Beach) – Lake Erie Monsters Travis Ramsey (Lakewood) – Manitoba Moose Brian Salcido (Hermosa Beach) - Manitoba Moose Garrett Stafford (Los Angeles) – Texas Stars Brett Sterling (Pasadena) - Chicago Wolves Landon Wilson (Los Angeles) – Texas Stars

ECHL

Matt Ford (West Hills) - Charlotte Checkers Jeff Hazelwood (Fremont) - Las Vegas Wranglers Tim Kraus (Garden Grove) – Ontario Reign Andrew Orpik (San Francisco) – Las Vegas Wranglers Zach Tarkir (Fresno) - South Carolina Stingrays

Grant Goeckner-Zoeller (Los Angeles) – Rio Grande Chris Tarkir (Fresno) – Wichita Thunder

Mike Thompson (La Habra) - Flint Generals Bryce Dale (Fresno) - Muskegon Lumberjacks Brandon Marino (Riverside) – Quad City Mallards

Noah Clarke (La Verne) - Switzerland Justin Morrison (Los Angeles) - Finland

COLLEGE HOCKEY DIVISION I – Men Atlantic Hockey

Nelsson Arcibal (Vista) – American International Derrick Burnett (Corona) – Air Force Academy Kyle DeLaurell (Mission Viejo) - Air Force Academy Andy Gevorkyan (Glendale) - American International Jason Krispel (Cypress) – University of Connecticut Shane Madolora (Salinas) – RIT Blake Page (San Clemente) – Air Force Academy Kevin Wright (San Jose) – Air Force Academy

 $Gregg\ Rodriguez\ (Sunnyvale) - Sacred\ Heart\ University$

Brett Beebe (Redondo Beach) – Western Michigan University Adam Cardwell (Long Beach) – Alaska-Fairbanks JJ Crew (Placentia) – Western Michigan University Alex Hudson (Corona) – University of Neb.-Omaha Jared Katz (San Jose) - Western Michigan University PJ Kavaya (San Clemente) – Western Michigan John Kemp (Arcadia) - University of Neb.-Omaha TJ Miller (Placentia) – Northern Michigan University Brandon Richardson (San Clemente) – Neb.-Omaha Matt Tennyson (Pleasanton) - Western Michigan Scooter Vaughn (Placentia) – Michigan University

Billy Blasé (Santa Monica) – Yale University Kevin Crane (Irvine) - Princeton University Joe Harkenrider (Manhattan Beach) – RPI Nick Maricic (Alta Loma) – Yale University Corbin McPherson (Folsom) – Colgate University Josh Rabbani (Woodland Hills) - RPI

Hockey East

Mike Beck (Long Beach) — University of New Hampshire Kyle Bigos (Upland) — Merrimack College Austin Block (Northridge) - University of New Hampshire Adam Kraus (former Jr. King) - Boston University Kyle MacKinnon (Walnut) – Providence College Kevan Miller (Los Angeles) - University of Vermont Max Nicastro (Thousand Oaks) – Boston University Darren Rowe (Simi Valley) - Massachusetts Ryan Santana (Yorba Linda) - Boston University Dalton Speelman (San Jose) – New Hampshire Casey Wellman (Brentwood) - Massachusetts

WCHA

Brett Hextall (Manhattan Beach) - North Dakota Ryan Lasch (Lake Forest) – St. Cloud State University Joe Marciano (Alta Loma) – Colorado College Dan Quilico (Thousand Oaks) - Colorado College Rhett Rakhshani (Huntington Beach) - Denver Andreas Vlassopoulos (Los Angeles) – Colorado College Brian Volpei (Burbank) - St. Cloud State University William Wrenn (former LA Select) – Denver

DIVISION III - MEN ECAC East

Vince Johnston (Simi Valley) – UMass-Boston Kris Kranzky (Glendora) - UMass-Boston Tyler Lindley (San Diego) - Skidmore College Jeff Van Siclen (Alamo) – Amherst College Jonathan Watanabe (San Diego) – Skidmore College David Woods (Huntington Beach) – New England

ECAC Northeast

Mike Caprio (Valencia) – Becker College Stephan Davis (Lafayette) - Plymouth State University Chris Fraterrigo (Laguna Hills) - Fitchburg State College Jake Gilbert (Huntington Beach) – Becker College Kory Grahl (San Diego) - Western New England College Jerry Hotarek (Foster City) - Curry College Steven Jakiel (Santa Clarita) – Curry College Skylur Jameson (Long Beach) - WIT Brett Kaneshiro (Laguna Niguel) – Curry College Steven Mohler (Anaheim) - Curry College Tyler Monteros (Diamond Bar) – WIT Will Munson (Corona) – Nichols College Anthony Paulsen (Bakersfield) – Worcester State College Kevin Richardson (Temecula) – Nichols College Kyle Richardson (San Jose) - WIT

ECAC West

Russell Anderson (Riverside) - Utica College Alex Contis (Calabasas) - Hobart College Kregg Guestin (Kingsburg) – Utica College Matt Jimenez (Santa Rosa) - Utica College Shaun Mathur (Laguna Hills) – Lebanon Valley College Daniel Organ (Simi Valley) – Hobart College Marcus Wilhite (Torrance) – Lebanon Valley College

Josh Lopez (San Diego) - Northland College Steve Marino (Torrance) – Northland College Nick Prange (Acton) - Concordia College Corey Stark (San Diego) – Concordia College Michael Wyenn (Thousand Oaks) – Concordia College

MIAC

Jimmy Becker (Wildomar) – Saint Mary's University Scott Cohen (Culver City) - St. Olaf College Evan Mackintosh (San Jose) - University of St. Thomas Ian McDougall (Mission Viejo) – Augsburg College Justin Thomas (Belmont) - St. Olaf College

NCHA

Chris Annunziato (Alta Loma) - UW-Stevens Point

Thomas Herd (Los Angeles) - Bowdoin College Cory Korchin (Fountain Valley) - Tufts University Ryan Purdy (La Jolla) – Williams College Sasha Voloshin (Pasadena) - Williams College

SUNYAC

Hank Van Boxmeer (Orange) - Oswego State University

DIVISION I – WOMEN College Hockey America

Carleah Angeles (San Jose) - Niagara University Amanda Rowe (Santa Cruz) – Niagara University

ECAC

Kristen Burney (Alta Loma) – RPI Joy Joung (Torrance) - Brown University Paula Romanchuk (San Jose) – Princeton University Jessi Waters (Menlo Park) - Colgate University

Hockey East

Jennifer Friedman (San Gabriel) – Providence College Kristi Kehoe (Bakersfield) – Northeastern University Lauren Lemond (Vista) – University of Connecticut Rachel Llanes (San Jose) - Northeastern University Laura Veharanta (La Verne) – Providence College Alyssa Wohlfeiler (Saugus) - Northeastern University

Sydney Aveson (W. Covina) - Minn. State-Mankato Olivia Jakiel (Santa Clarita) - University of Wisconsin Kelly Nash (Bonita) – University of Wisconsin Jaime Rasmussen (Garden Grove) - Minn. Duluth

DIVISION III – WOMEN ECAC East

Whitney Fraleigh (Fresno) – UMass-Boston Jessica Frump (Saugus) – Manhattanville College Natalie Horton (Bakersfield) – Manhattanville College Ella Hubley (Santa Monica) – Manhattanville College Nicole Ruman (Riverside) - Castleton State College

Cheryl Winter (Cupertino) – Nichols College Aly Zappen (Huntington Beach) - Saint Anselm College Amy Zappen (Huntington Beach) - Saint Anselm College

ECAC West

Elvse McGinnity (Temecula) - Utica College Ashley Reid (Chino Hills) - Chatham University

MIAC

Kelly Biddle (La Mirada) – St. Olaf College

NCHA

Shana Katz (San Jose) - University of Wisconsin-Superior

NESCAC

Ashley Bairos (Van Nuys) – Middlebury College Michelle Chee (San Francisco) - Trinity College Dominique Di Dia (Studio City) – Trinity College Courtney Hanlon (Fullerton) – Amherst College Caroline Hu (Cerritos) - Amherst College

UNIOR <u>HOCKEY</u>

Alberta Junior Hockey League

Kyle Bowen (Valencia) – Lloydminster Bobcats Eric Coscione (Murietta) - Drumheller Dragons Ciaron Driscoll (Simi Valley) - Canmore Eagles Casey Rogers (Moreno Valley) – Brooks Bandots

Atlantic Junior Hockey League

Cory Giczewski (Fountain Valley) – Boston Bulldogs Alex Kwon (Los Angeles) – Laconia Leafs Greg Park (San Diego) – Philadelphia Little Flyers Jacob Rakitis (Long Beach) – Northern Cyclones Edward Rohaly (Huntington Beach) – Walpole Express Mike Smith (Pleasanton) - Portland Jr. Pirates Trevor Van Haute (San Marcos) - Phil. Little Flyers

BCHL

Beau Bennett (Gardena) - Penticton Vees Wade Bennett (Gardena) - Trail Smoke Eaters Daniel Chang (Woodland Hills) - Merritt Centennials Jason Diehl (San Diego) - Williams Lake Timberwolves Chris Gularte (Salinas) - Prince George Spruce Kings Cory Kane (Irvine) – Vernon Vipers Kevin Kraus (Garden Grove) - Vernon Vipers Kyle Manlow (Murrieta) - Prince George Spruce Kings Jonathan Milhouse (Yorba Linda) - Vernon Vipers Jason Nash (Oxnard) - Westside Warriors Josh Pineiro (Huntington Beach) - Prince George Marcus Watson (San Jose) - Langley Chiefs Steven Weinstein (Los Angeles) - Vernon Vipers

Chris Mason (Montrovia) - Cornwall Colts Tyler Tosunian (Whittier) - Pembroke Lumber Kings

Brett Menton (Monrovia) - Flint Jr. Generals Andrew Pierson (Clovis) - Dubuque Thunderbirds Ian Seidl (Livermore) - Grand Rapids Jr. Owls Steven Terry (Santee) - St. Louis Jr. Blues

EJHL

Mike Basist (Alisa Viejo) - New York Apple Core Tyler Gilmore (Valencia) – Bay State Breakers Chris Gularte (San Jose) - New England Huskies Brant Sherwood (San Anselmo) – Syracuse Stars

KIJHL

Jordan Bledsoe (Costa Mesa) - Revelstoke Grizzlies Zach Fridella (Los Angeles) - Fernie Ghostriders Kyle Garcia (Costa Mesa) - Golden Rockets Uriah Machuga (Norco) - Spokane Braves Faiz Khan (Santa Clarita) - Revelstoke Grizzlies Bruce Silvera (Alta Loma) - Revelstoke Grizzlies Alex Spadoni (Calabasas) - Revelstoke Grizzlies Adam Wade (Yorba Linda) - Spokane Braves

Manitoba Junior Hockey League

Dusty Campbell (Costa Mesa) - Neepawa Natives David Smith (Vista) - Neepawa Natives

Metropolitan Junior Hockey League David Amman (Cathedral City) - Hampton Roads

Minnesota Junior Hockey League

Nick Cafrelli (San Jose) - Minnesota Owls Spencer Gaalaas (Santee) - Minnesota Wildcats David Giguere (Fremont) - Minnesota Owls Jared Melmen (San Jose) - Granite City Lumberjacks Morgan Sanchez (Corona) – Minnesota Ice Hawks

Joe Adams (Orange) - Texas Tornado Alex Barron (Glendora) – Bismarck Bobcats Brandon Brossoit (Los Alamitos) – Wenatchee Wild Ryan Frost (Corona) – Wichita Falls Wildcats Daniel Gentzler (Manhattan Beach) - Wichita Falls Garrett Jensen (Salinas) - Alpena IceDiggers Michael Juola (Lake Forest) – Fairbanks Ice Dogs Ilya Kravtchouk (Encino) – Bismarck Bobcats Zach Ledford (Folsom) - Wichita Falls Wildcats Adam McKenzie (Petaluma) - Wenatchee Wild Billy Miller (Morgan Hill) - Alexandria Blizzard Sean O'Rourke (Alto Loma) - Fairbanks Ice Dogs J.T. Osborn (Alpine) – Wichita Falls Wildcats Tyler Parker (Livermore) – Wenatchee Wild Nathan Paulson (LaHara) - Albert Lea Thunder Mark Pustin (Northridge) – Fairbanks Ice Dogs Dan Radke (Orinda) – Traverse City North Stars Wayne Ravdjee (Sylmar) - Kenai River Brown Bears Sam Skura (Saugus) - Motor City Metal Jackets Mico Solorzano (San Jose) - Texas Tornado Jason Torf (Hermosa Beach) – Motor City Metal Jackets Tyler Vanscourt (Corona) - Topeka Roadrunners Kevin Zehnder (Pleasanton) - St. Louis Bandits

Northern Pacific Hockey League

 $Nelson\ Aamodt\ (San\ Diego)-Seattle\ Totems$ Josh Albright (San Diego) - Billings Bulls Aaron Arnold (Redondo Beach) - Missoula Maulers Bryon Berryhill (Huntington Beach) - Butte Roughriders Dalton Bowles (Carpinteria) – Helena Bighorns Arram Chinarian (Orange) – Helena Bighorns Kevin Clark (San Dimas) – Helena Bighorns Johnathan Durrell (Newbury Park) – Rogue Valley Grey Edwards (Carlsbad) - Missoula Maulers Jason Effertz (San Diego) - Billings Bulls Christian Foster (Los Angeles) - Bozeman Icedogs Ray Frianeza (Ladera Ranch) – Eugene Generals Edward Fritz (Seal Beach) – River City Jaguars Dalton Gilbert (Alta Loma) - Missoula Maulers Austin Goldsmith (Tracy) - Rogue Valley Wranglers Nicholas Gomez (Lancaster) - Butte Roughriders Neil Holder (Fresno) - Eugene Generals Phil Jennrich (Lake Forest) - Yellowstone Quake Adam Johnson (Santa Rosa) - Helena Bighorns Keahi Johnson (Rocklin) – River City Jaguars Gabe Katsimpas (Camarillo) – River City Jaguars Christian Kramer (Thousand Oaks) – Helena Bighorns Christian Kramer-Johnson (Valencia) - Rogue Valley David Lamb (Orange County) - Rogue Valley Wranglers $Tyler\ McGreevy\ (Camarillo)-Helena\ Bighorns$ Christian Merritt (Murrietta) - Eugene Generals Joshua Nourse (Newbury Park) - River City Jaguars Matt Prigge (Rocklin) - Yellowstone Quake Jeffrey Purslow (Clovis) - Rogue Valley Wranglers Mario Retana (San Jose) - Eugene Generals Morgan Robinson (Hermosa Beach) – Billings Bulls $Trevor\ Ruiz\ (Riverside) - Eugene\ Generals$ Tracey Sato (Grenada Hills) – Yellowstone Quake Noah Segall (Los Gatos) - Missoula Maulers David Smith (Vista) - Helena Bighorns Alex Sulitzer (Los Angeles) - River City Jaguars Ryan Thompson (Palmdale) – Butte Roughriders Jamie Velasquez (Canyon County) – Helena Bighorns Nic Wackerly (Altadena) – Helena Bighorns

SJHL

Cameron Gibson (Valencia) - Humboldt

Dennis Brown (Cypress) - Omaha Lancers Brandon Carlson (Ladera Ranch) - Des Moines Dakota Eveland (Anaheim) - Omaha Lancers Robert Francis (San Diego) - Green Bay Gamblers Taylor Holstrom (Yorba Linda) – Youngstown Steven Hoshaw (Vista) - Lincoln Stars Adam Hout (Ladera Ranch) - Tri-City Storm Mitch Hughes (Laguna Niguel) - Tri-City Storm Soren Jonzzon (Mountain View) - Waterloo Black Hawks Matt Leitner (Los Alamitos) - Fargo Force Brett Mohler (Yorba Linda) – Tri-City Storm Bryon Paulazzo (Redwood City) - Indiana Ice Ben Paulides (Los Gatos) - Youngstown Phantoms Ami Peled (Encino) – Des Moines Buccaneers Troy Power (Camarillo) - Omaha Lancers Chad Ruhwedel (San Diego) – Sioux Falls Stampede Dan Senkbeil (Fremont) – Youngstown Phantoms

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2009 California Alumni Continued...

Trevor Tracy (Burbank) – Des Moines Buccaneers Matt White (Whittier) – Omaha Lancers

U.S. National Team Development Program

Chase Balisy (Fullerton) – Under-18 Team Rocco Grimaldi (Rossmoor) – Under-17 Team Matt Nieto (Long Beach) – Under-18 Team Adam Reid (Chino Hills) – Under-17 Team Shane Sooth (Canyon County) – Under-18 Team

WHL

Taylor Aronson (Placentia) – Portland Winterhawks Adam Brown (Yorba Linda) - Kelowna Rockets Mitchell Callahan (Whittier) - Kelowna Rockets Cody Castro (Pasadena) – Tri-City Americans $Emerson\ Etem\ (Long\ Beach)-Medicine\ Hat\ Tigers$ Shane Harper (Valencia) - Everett Silvertips Brendan Jensen (El Granada) – Vancouver Giants Matthew Konan (Tustin) – Medicine Hat Tigers $Gasper\ Kopitar\ (Manhattan\ Beach)-Portland$ Ryan Letts (Newport Beach) - Spokane Chiefs Todd Mathews (Covina) - Kootenay Ice Tyler Maxwell (Manhattan Beach) - Everett Silvertips Shane McColgan (Hermosa Beach) - Kelowna Rockets Markus McCrea (Canyon Lake) - Everett Silvertips Jonathan Parker (Solana Beach) – Seattle Thunderbirds Colin Reddin (Corona del Mar) – Portland Winterhawks Parker Stanfield (Orange County) - Prince George Cougars CJ Stretch (Irvine) – Kamloops Blazers

Garrett Taylor (San Diego) – Lethbridge Hurricanes Brandon Underwood (San Marcos) – Kamloops Blazers Mitch Wahl (Seal Beach) – Spokane Chiefs

WSHL

Zach Alvarez (Sacramento) – Fresno Monsters Cory Anderson (Bakersfield) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Jimmy Bashara (Valencia) - Fresno Monsters Kyle Bicksler (Clovis) - Arizona Redhawks Brett Blomgren (Frazier Park) - Fresno Monsters Spencer Brown (Rocklin) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Cameron Coburn (Fresno) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Jay Cochran (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Jake Commeau (Manteca) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Ben Conroy (San Jose) – Fresno Monsters Don Coyle (Belmont) – Fresno Monsters Smbat Defterderian (Arleta) - Valencia Flyers Jeff Dill (Fresno) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors John Dove (Santa Clarita) – Valencia Flyers Jeff Duggan (Fresno) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Luke Echeverria (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Bryan Fiol (Burbank) – Valencia Flyers Chad Foss (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Tyler Giulietti (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Nick Goodenough (Visalia) - Fresno Monsters Andrew Hallmark (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Brenden Kelso (Bodfish) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Edv Keshishian (Arcadia) - Valencia Flyers Harout Keshishian (Arcadia) - Valencia Flyers

Artur Ketchedijan (North Hollywood) – Valencia Dion Kincaid (Bakersfield) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Kyle Lenhof (Fresno) - Fresno Monsters T.J. Lundgren (Bakersfield) - Bakersfield Jr. Condors Andrew Lux (Valencia) – Valencia Flyers James McGuirk (Newbury Park) - Fresno Monsters Peter Megariotis (Anaheim Hills) – Fresno Monsters Nick Miner (Newbury Park) - Valencia Flyers John Mullin (Paso Robles) - Arizona Redhawks Cameron Noland (Bakersfield) – Valencia Flyers Ryan Parkhouse (Rancho Cucamonga) - Fresno A.J. Ramirez (Bakersfield) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Mike Richmond (San Jose) - Fresno Monsters Patrick Ryan (Laguna Niguel) - Fresno Monsters Kyle Schwartz (Sherman Oaks) - Valencia Flyers Evan Sharpshair (Thousand Oaks) - Valencia Flyers Vinnie Smith (Fresno) - Fresno Monsters Chris Tomaszewski (Santa Rosa) – Bakersfield Jr. Condors Garrett Trummer (San Diego) – Fresno Monsters Justin Wilmers (Valencia) - Fresno Monsters Joey Yaller (Moorpark) – Valencia Flyers

PREPSCHOOL Division I - New England

Jake Abrahams (Los Angeles) - Exeter Max Balaban (San Diego) - Tilton Charles Baldwin (San Diego) - Kimball Union Academy Michael Basist (Aliso Viejo) - Kimball Union Tucker Dayton (San Francisco) - Deerfield Stefan Demopoulos (San Diego) - Avon Old Farms Grant Dennis (Newport Beach) - Deerfield Lucas Digati (Santa Monica) - Milton Raphael Durand (Menlo Park) - Governor's Max Edson (Hermosa Beach) - Salisbur Evan Hutson (Pasadena) - Tilton Doo Soo Kim (Los Angeles) - Milton CM Liotta (Menlo Park) - Taft Ryne Lubert (Yorba Linda) - Tilton Vinnie Smith (Fresno) - Kimball Union Andrew Mason (Manhattan Beach) - Proctor Sean Okita (Newport) - Milton Xavier Reed (Oakland) - Taft Jake Rivera (Los Angeles) - Tilton Morgan Weireter (Agoura Hills) - Tilton

Division I-US/Canada

Daniel O'Maley (Lincoln) - Gilmour Academy Matthew Robertson (Rohnert Park) - Stanstead College

Women's

Chelsey Goldberg (Agoura Hills) - NAHA Jessica Hon (Brea) - NAHA Allie Hughes (La Canada)- Brewster Academy Kaliya Johnson (former Lady Duck) - NAHA Alison Pankowski (Laguna Hills) - NAHA

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Visit CaliRubber.com for Podcast interviews with St. Cloud State University's Ryan Lasch, the Milwaukee Admirals' Jonathon Blum and Tri-Valley Blue Devils coach Mike Holmes!!



Driving the 'Net

Here's a sampling of stories that ran recently on CaliRubber.com

Compiled by Chris Bayee

Porwards Matt Leitner, from Los Alamitos, and Beau Bennett, from Gardena, were key members of the U.S. Junior Select Team that captured its second consecutive World Junior A Challenge championship in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, last month.

Leitner, who plays for the USHL's Fargo Force, scored the winning goal in a 2-1 champion-ship-game victory over Canada West. The former LA Selects player had a goal and four assists in the tournament.

Bennett, a former LA Jr. King who plays for the BCHL's Penticton Vees and is among the league's top rookie scorers this season, had three goals and an assist in the tournament.

Rossmoor's Rocco Grimaldi Was selected the tournament's best forward and was the Team USA Player of the Game as the U.S. National Under-17 Team captured first place at the U17 Four Nations Cup with a 3-0 record in Trnava, Slovakia.

Grimaldi, a center who played for the California Wave

program, had a goal and three assists in an 8-2-clinching victory over Switzerland. The team's captain, he scored a goal in an earlier U.S. triumph as well.

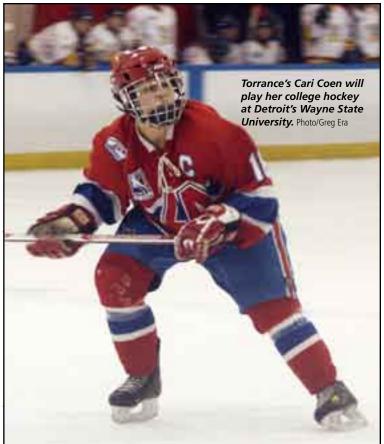
Porward Matt Nieto, of Long Beach, led the U.S. National Under-18 Team in scoring as Team USA won the U18 Four Nations Cup in Pori, Finland. Nieto had four points (two goals and two assists) as Team USA swept its three opponents.

Jason Zucker, a former LA Selects player, added a goal and an assist for Team USA in the tournament.

Two players with ties to California appear on the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's fall top prospects list for the 2010 Entry Draft.

Center Emerson Etem
(Long Beach) of the Medicine
Hat Tigers is the fourth-ranked
prospect in the WHL. Former LA Selects center Jason
Zucker, a member of the USA
Hockey National Team Development Program's U18 team, is
the 18th-ranked USHL prospect.





Etem led the WHL in rookie scoring with 26 points (17 goals, nine assists) through 27 games. His point total put him among the league's top 30 in scoring.

Zucker, from Las Vegas, was part of the U18 squad that won the Four Nations Cup in Finland recently.

Whittier's Matt White, a forward, was named the Reebok USHL Offensive Player of the Week after a nine-point weekend outburst for the Omaha Lancers in early November.

White, who has committed to play collegiately at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (CCHA), has been at or near the top of the USHL's scoring list in the season's first quarter.

Bakersfield native Tim Potter made his pro debut with his hometown Condors when the ECHL club signed him as an emergency backup goaltender.

Potter, 22, spent 2007-08 and part of 2008-09 with Clarkson University, an NCAA Division I school that competes in the ECAC, and transferred last season to Oswego State University, a D-III powerhouse located in New York.

University of Minnesota Duluth defenseman Jaime Rasmussen, of Garden Grove, was named the WCHA's Defensive Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 28. Rasmussen, a senior, registered a goal and four assists in two weekend games against WCHA foe North Dakota to help the Bulldogs to a two-game sweep.

Included in the scoring outburst was a career-high threeassist night in the first game of the series. The Duluth captain followed that up by scoring the winning goal in the Saturday game. She's been one of conference's top-scoring blueliners thus far this season.

San Jose's Dalton Speelman, a freshman forward at the University of New Hampshire, got his college career off to a flying start by scoring two goals in an early-season weekend series against Northeastern.

The former San Jose Jr. Shark was selected the Hockey East Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Week as a result.

Land Selects forward/defenseman Cari Coen (Torrance) recently signed a national letter of intent to play college hockey at Detroit's Wayne State University starting with the 2010-11 season.

Coen, her team's captain, has been in the Selects program since 2007 playing in SCAHA and helped the team win two regional titles in 2007-08 and 2008-09. In her earlier years of amateur hockey, Coen was a goaltender, including a season with the West Valley Wolves in 2005-06.

A three-sport athlete at Rolling Hills Prep, Coen has been a standout on the volleyball, soccer, and softball teams since 2007.

Porward Justin Morrison, of Los Angeles, was Team USA's Player of the Game in its 3-2 victory over Germany in the opening game of the Deutschland Cup at Munich, Germany.

Forward **Noah Clarke**, of La Verne, had an assist in Team USA's victory over Switzerland in the tournament.

The U.S. Men's Select Team is made up of the top Americanborn professionals playing in Europe.

Devcon Holiday Ice Rink, located in downtown Pleasanton, opened last month.

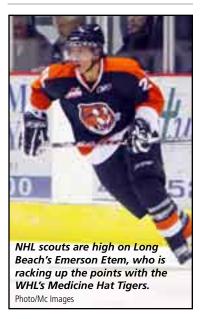
Pleasanton's first seasonal holiday ice rink will be in operation through January 10, 2010.

Devcon Holiday Ice Rink is a partnership between the City of Pleasanton and the San Jose Sharks. All net proceeds from the operations of the outdoor winter rink will be donated to Pleasanton education, sports and recreational activities.

For more information on the Devcon Holiday Ice Rink, visit DevconHolidayIceRink.com.

NARCh's West Coast Winternationals will face off in Northern California for the second consecutive year after wintering in Irvine in 2008.

The event, which will be held at San Jose's Silver Creek Sportsplex from Jan. 15-18, 2010, will feature competition in 16 major age/gender divisions: Cub (6-under), Atom (8-under), Mite (10-under), Squirt (12-under), Pee Wee (14-under), Bantam (16-under), Midget (18-under), Junior (21-under), High School, Division I, Men's Silver, Men's Gold, Men's Platinum, 35-and-older, Women's and NARCh Pro.



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Two girls Warrior Ad

