

Kent Valley Hockey Forecaster

Summer Issue 2007
Volume 6, Issue 1



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KVHA 2007/2008 Registration *Preliminary Status Report*

KVHA extends a heartfelt "Thank you!" to all those Kent Valley Hockey Association (KVHA) members who were able to get their registration forms completed and submitted by the June 20th deadline. KVHA is expecting a substantial increase in enrollment for 2007/2008 and could end up with waiting lists at some levels. KVHA encourages anyone who has not yet registered to do so at their earliest convenience.

Two registration deadlines loom large for KVHA. The North Puget Sound Hockey League (NPSHL) deadline for declaring "Rec" teams is August 15th. The Pacific Northwest Amateur Hockey Association (PNAHA) deadline for declaring "Rep" teams is September 8th. These deadlines mean that KVHA must have teams formed and provide the leagues with a tentative schedule template at least one week prior to the deadlines, thus the need for early registration.

Mite and Squirt "Rec" teams are potentially playing an exhibition, rather than league, schedule this season. KVHA will be setting up the schedule with coach and manager input once the number of players and teams is known.

Coaching Assignments for 2007/2008

The KVHA management team is in the midst of finalizing coaching assignments for the 2007/2008 season. Coaching assignments should be finalized by the first week of July and will be posted on the KVHA web site as soon as they are confirmed. KVHA plans to set up times for parents to come in and meet the coaches and talk about plans for the upcoming season.

New Team Jerseys for 2007/2008

KVHA teams will be getting new jerseys for the 2007/2008 season. Mark Bryan said; "We may not have everyone in new jerseys by the beginning of league play in September, but we will eventually complete the new look early into the new season." Rep level teams will be the first to get the new jerseys with others to follow shortly thereafter.

Members are being asked for suggestions on color and format for the jerseys. Bryan said; "We will stick with the NHL stock patterns but we would welcome suggestions on colors and format from KVHA members."

KVHA 2007/2008 Schedule

Development of team practice schedules and game times is probably the biggest nightmare for any hockey association. Such is the case with KVHA. However, it appears that Mark Bryan, KVHA Director of Hockey Operations, and Les Grauer, KVIC Director of Operations, have survived the scheduling nightmare. KVHA has secured blocks of ice time from KVIC for the 2007/2008 season. Bryan has been working on how best to utilize that ice time for the upcoming season. This season's schedule is designed to accomplish the following:

- A full season schedule posted on the KVHA web site at the beginning of the season,
- More consistent ice times,
- More ice time per player than in prior years,
- A new approach to KVHA practices providing structured hockey skill development as part of each team practice,
- Cross ice, short ice, scrimmages during team practices,
- New skill development tools and on-ice assistance for individual players,
- Full-ice practice slots for Rep Teams on alternating practices.

The 2007/2008 season is shaping up to be the best ever for KVHA. Enthusiasm, excitement and anticipation are building as the program details come together.

Hockey Day-Camp Begins Friday, June 29th

Enrollment Excellent for Day One of the Hockey Day-Camp -- 22 Skaters

Mark Bryan is hosting the Friday Hockey Day Camp this summer beginning Friday June 29th. Designed to provide an outlet for those whose summer plans don't include heavy time and travel commitments to more intensive camps, the KVHA Friday Hockey Day-Camp will provide a complete hockey conditioning and skill-improvement program for kids of all ages and playing levels. The camp will focus on power-skating, puck-handling, agility and quickness drills, along with technical and tactical information to ensure a comprehensive player-development program. This is a "drop-in" camp. Participants are requested to fill out the registration form no matter how many times they plan to "drop in." The \$30.00 fee can be paid in advance, or at the door at arrival time. Registration forms are available on the KVHA web site.

Friday Hockey Day Camp cost is \$30.00 per day. The daily schedule is:

- Arrive at KVIC - 8:30am
- Off-Ice Video - 8:45/9:45am
- On-Ice - 10:15/11:30am
- LUNCH - 11:45/12:15pm
- Off-Ice Video - 12:15/1:15pm
- On-Ice - 1:45/3:00pm
- Off-Ice/End - 3:00/3:30pm

Specific skills include: balance, skating-stride, explosive starts and stops, transition skating, "over-speed" skating, shooting, puck-handling and passing. Specific game situations include: "breakouts", "fore-checking", "defensive-zone coverage" and "puck-support". Also included are low-impact off-ice conditioning and video instruction/recreation aimed at enhancing motivation and understanding.

Friday Hockey Day-Camp (continued from previous page)

Please note that lunch is not included. Participants should bring a "brown bag" lunch or plan on purchasing lunch at the "On the Edge Café." Friday Day Camp is scheduled for June 29th, July 6th, 20th, 27th, August 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st. Come join Mark Bryan and he will help you reach a higher-level of play and ultimately, greater enjoyment playing the fastest game on earth.

Learn to Play Hockey Program Set to Begin September 22nd

The first session of the popular Learn-to-Play program begins September 22nd and runs through March 2008. There will be a weekend "off" every seven (7) weeks. The Learn-to-Play will skate from 11:20am to 12:20am, immediately preceding the KVHC "Learn-to-Skate" program and public session, this season.

Parents are encouraged to arrive early enough to allow their player appropriate time to get dressed and ready to go. This usually takes 15 – 20 minutes. Some parents dress their player before leaving home, and wait to put on the skates and helmet upon arrival. Contact Mark Bryan at KVHA for additional information. Registration forms are available on the KVHA web site at:

www.KentValleyHockey.com

KVHA to Offer Mighty-Mites Program for 2007/2008

There was considerable discussion about offering a Mighty-Mites program during the prior season but it never quite happened. However, enthusiasm and demand for the program is such that KVHA will inaugurate the Mighty-Mite program for the new season.

The Mighty-Mite program is designed for beginners (Mite only) who are not quite ready or comfortable with a full-blown Mite program. Ice time and cost for Mighty-Mites is almost half that of the Mite program. The Mighty-Mite program is viewed as a transitional program for those beginners and parents who are not quite ready for a full-time hockey season schedule at such a young age.

Mighty Mite (continued above right)

Mighty/Mites (continued)

The Mighty-Mites will play games against opponents from other associations, participate with the Learn-to-Play in the Hockey Canada National Skills & Standards Testing Series, and compete in the Seattle Thunderbird's Beginner/Mighty-Mite/Mite festival at the Key Arena, possibly skating between periods at that night's T-Bird's game. Contact Mark Bryan at KVHA for additional information.

"End of Season Coaching Survey" Results

Numerous KVHA members participated in the 2006/2007 "End of Season Coaching Survey." The survey was suggested by Don Bartlett of the Bantam Tier II "Storm," in an effort to not only gauge member attitudes toward KVHA coaches, but also to facilitate the giving/receiving of input between member families and the KVHA management team.

KVHA intends upon instituting a "user friendly" hockey program, accessible by its members, and offering the flexibility in planning and collective resources to provide the hockey experience that each player desires. Overwhelmingly, respondents asked for a common approach to skill development, pointing to the variability in coaching provided their sons/daughters from season to season, and the tendency to overlook broad areas of fundamental skill development. They view this as an outgrowth of the lack of a homogenous approach to coaching. KVHA's new approach to team practices is meant, in part, to be a solution to this problem. Many of the new plans for the 2007/2008 season are being implemented as a result of member feedback from the survey. Thanks to all those who responded to the survey.

Mark Bryan's 3-on-3 "King's Court" a Royal Success

Mark Bryan held his 3-on-3 "King's Court" Monday evening June 18th at Kent Valley Ice Centre and thirty Warriors showed up to battle 3-on-3. King Mark Bryan was assisted by three Knights, Sir Sean Miller, Sir James Gambrell and Sir Mark Mathews. The Warriors played three thirty-minute games with shift changes every minute and one-half.

Bryan divided the ice into three zones, or courts. The layout provided a short but fast-paced game. As soon as a goal was scored, the players rushed to center-court and the puck was quickly dropped to restart the game.

With the absence of goalies, the goals were covered by boards with small cut-outs in the lower corners and a diamond-shaped opening in the lower center of the board, about eight inches above the ice. The three small goal openings presented challenging targets for the players.

KVHA is still accepting teams of three (3) and has plans to expand into another session. Goaltenders are encouraged to come and play out as a forward. Please notify the KVHA office if you plan to attend. Each night is scheduled and "drop-ins" are difficult to accommodate without prior notice. Please watch your e-mails for further notice about this exciting program.

Six more 3-on-3 "King's Court" sessions are planned for July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and August 6th. Each of the Monday evening "King's Court" sessions begin at 6:30pm and end promptly at 7:55pm. Some limited space is available if your skater is interested in joining the fast-paced action. A second session will be added if enrollment justifies one. A registration form is available at www.KentValleyHockey.com for your convenience.

Congratulations to Mark Bryan and his assistants Sean Miller, James Gambrell and Mark Mathews for an excellent opening night session of 3-on-3 "King's Court." Particular thanks to Mark Mathews for assisting Mark Bryan with the building of the court dividers.

Carlos Sosa Retires From KVHA Coaching Staff

KVHA is saddened to report that Carlos Sosa, long-time KVHA coach, is calling it quits. Sosa announced his resignation to KVHA President Lexi Doner in a letter early in June. Sosa coached at the Squirt and PeeWee level during his tenure at KVHA. While coaching at the Squirt level in 2005 Sosa established the "Rainier Cup" and founded the Annual Rainier Cup Tournament, a first for the Kent Valley Ice Centre. At the PeeWee level this past season, Sosa's "Storm" won KVHA's first Rep hockey state championship. In his letter of resignation Sosa also reported that his son Daniel would be leaving KVHA to play with the PeeWee Tier-I Rep team in the Sno King Amateur Hockey Association at the Kingsgate Arena in Kirkland.

KVHA President Lexi Doner said "We appreciate all that Carlos has done for our program at KVHA, both as a coach and as a very involved parent. Carlos and his wife Shelly have contributed a great deal to the past success of our association. They have blazed new territory for the association with their creative ideas and exploits. We extend best wishes to Daniel Sosa as he pursues his hockey career in a new direction."

Sosa said; "KVHA is on its way to being the premier hockey association in the state. Change is good, and I will be watching KVHA's progress going forward. I want to thank Lexi Doner and Les Grauer for all their support the past four years, and wish KVHA nothing but the best."

Are New Teams Coming to KVHA?

Interest in KVHA's program is growing and could result in significant growth and expansion for the 2007/2008 season. It is far too early to make announcements on specifics. However, KVHA is in negotiation with several outside parties to bring additional teams to KVIC and the KVHA program. Stay tuned!

KVHA/KVIC Member Discount Cards Available August 1st, 2007

KVHA will be issuing plastic membership cards, two per family, beginning August 1st, 2007. The cards will entitle the bearer to a 20% discount on admission to all KVIC Public Skating and Stick & Puck sessions, as well as a 10% discount on purchases made at the "On the Edge Café." The FREE discount cards are in appreciation for being a KVHA member for the 2007/2008 hockey season.

KVIC Planning Second Sheet of Ice for Spring 2008

It's fairly obvious that demand for ice time at Kent Valley Ice Centre is growing. Lexi Doner, President of KVIC announced recently that planning for the second sheet of ice was underway. "We hope to have the second sheet of ice completed by the spring of 2008," Doner said.

A second sheet of ice will provide greater flexibility in scheduling, increase capacity for growth in all of KVIC's on-ice programs, and enhance the ability of the facility to accommodate hockey tournaments, figure skating competitions and other large events that require large commitments of ice time. The ability to accommodate a hockey practice or game on one sheet of ice while public skating or figure skating happens on

Second Sheet of Ice (continued)

the other sheet of ice will be beneficial for everyone.

Beginning in the fall of 2008, the Seattle Thunderbirds will utilize KVIC ice for practices when the "Amiga Center at Kent" is not available for their use. KVIC's second sheet of ice should be available for their use by then.

Three Seattle T-Birds Training Camp Practice Sessions Scheduled for KVIC August 27th, 28th & 29th

The Seattle Thunderbirds Annual Training Camp starts August 27th at Kingsgate Ice Arena in Kirkland. However, the Thunderbirds will skate at Kent Valley Ice Centre from 7:00pm to 9:00pm each night August 27th, 28th and 29th. All three sessions are open to the public and are free of charge. KVHA members are encouraged to attend the sessions and show their support for the Seattle Thunderbirds. The Seattle Thunderbirds will begin their final season in Key Arena this October. They will open their 2008/2009 season at the new Amiga Center at Kent (previously known as the Kent Events Center) in October of 2008.

Seattle Thunderbirds Exhibition Game Scheduled for KVIC September 15th

For the third consecutive year Kent Valley Ice Centre will host a Seattle Thunderbirds pre-season exhibition game at Kent Valley Ice Centre. The Thunderbirds will play the Everett Silvertips on Saturday September 15th with a 5:25pm start time. Tickets for the only exhibition home game will go on sale later in the summer.

On-Line Registration Coming Soon to KVHA

KVHA is committed to implementation of an on-line registration system over the next few months. KVHA has been evaluating automated registration software packages and services, and has recommended a package for purchase. The software will establish a membership database with a wide variety of valuable membership administration features and benefits. Under the new system, members would be able to link to the on-line registration system directly from the KVHA web site. KVHA President Lexi Doner said; "On-line registration has been a long-time goal for KVHA. I'm pleased that we're finally on the brink of attaining that goal."

Amiga Center at Kent— Project Update

Additional information available at: <http://www.KentEventsCenter.com>

The following is reprinted with permission from kentreporter.com, Wednesday June 27, 2007.

Future bright for center

By Erica Hall

For a project that hasn't been given the full green light yet, the Amiga Center at Kent — formerly known as the Kent Events Center — has acquired a new name and secured an awful lot of funding.

After the dust settled around the Legislature's April 22 adjournment, Covington Democrat Pat Sullivan's bill to allow counties to create multiple public facilities districts to pay for smaller arenas was still standing.

In Kent, that will direct more than \$21 million in state sales tax to the \$67 million Amiga Center project — once the bonds for Safeco Field and Qwest stadium are paid off — without raising taxes.

There's also \$3 million in Gov. Christine Gregoire's capital budget for the center.

And Amiga, Inc., a multi-media technology company based in New York, will pay \$10 million over 20 years for the naming rights to the events center, which is about twice what the city was expecting to get.

It's an encouraging confluence of funds that's generating excitement among city officials. Council president Deborah Ranniger had early concerns — namely funding and parking — that made her hesitant to proceed with the center. Those have now largely been addressed.

"There are still some outstanding questions, but the overwhelming strong support, the naming rights, and

all the pieces falling into place, parking can be addressed. I'm certainly not going to hold back the project. (Parking) is a solvable problem," she said. "Funding was really the larger question."

Momentum is building for the 150,000-square-foot, 6,025-seat events center and ice rink proposed for the Commons Playfields off West James Street downtown. City officials are hoping to break ground this summer, and construction is scheduled to be finished in fall 2008.

John Hodgson, the city's chief administrative officer, said the city still has to complete the environmental impact study process, which he said should be done in mid-June. In the interim, he said, the city will continue to work toward design development. The city will start ordering materials in a couple weeks.

The Amiga Center will serve as the home rink for the Western Hockey League's Seattle Thunderbirds, which will play 40 home games a season plus play-off games. The center also will be able to accommodate corporate conferences, trade and auto shows, and Disney on Ice-type family events.

Ranniger said she's thrilled with the way the Legislature performed this year, and with all the momentum, it's unlikely the Council will vote any way but yes when it's time to put the final approval on pursuing the project.

"It was terrific what the state did," she said. "With the naming rights, we're moving full steam ahead."

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