

Kent Valley Helps Vancouver Vipers Win North American Hockey Classic

Kent, WA. June 18, 2008 - Jake Levin of Kent Valley's Squirt "A" team played with the Vancouver Vipers at the North American Hockey Classic in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 12-15. The North American Hockey Classic attracted top teams from Western Canada and Minnesota. The Vancouver Vipers are the top 1997 birth year team in British Columbia and feature players from the Burnaby Winter Club, North Shore Winter Club and other top BC associations. Jake was personally requested by Vipers head coach, Jon Calvano, to bolster the Vipers defense after seeing Jake play with Kent Valley during this past season.

Kent Valley Squirt "A" head coach, Adam Kurtenbach, coordinated Jake's participation and commented: "Giving players like Jake an opportunity to play with and against top players in their age group is what our program is all about. Jake's experience in Winnipeg allowed him to test his skills against the best players in North America. It's important that players in the Pacific Northwest see the level of play in other parts of the world to understand how hard they have to work to realize their dreams. Our development program emphasizes improvement every time a player takes the ice. Players can only reach their full potential if they are constantly challenged by the best competition."

Many of the Viper players were familiar with Jake from playing against Kent Valley during the regular season. They welcomed him onto the team and made him feel right at home. The Vipers won all six of their games at the North American Hockey Classic to take home the Gold Medal. The semi-finals and finals were both won in exciting shootouts. Jake contributed a goal and 3 assists during the tournament and helped anchor a stingy defense. He was thankful for the experience and learned a lot playing for this very talented team. Several other Kent Valley Squirt "A" players will experience similar opportunities this summer with other top "AAA" teams.

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