

Number 1 Visits Number 8

Kent, WA 20 December, 2008 – Kent Valley's Pee Wee Rainiers, currently ranked #8 in the nation, had a surprise guest come to practice on Saturday. Kevin Deeth of the University of Notre Dame spent three hours with the team talking about his hockey experiences and demonstrating skills on the ice. Kevin is a leading playmaker and scorer on the #1 ranked college hockey team in the US. Kevin lives in Gig Harbor and played his youth hockey in the South Puget Sound area. Kevin was impressed with the commitment and talent of the Rainiers players and was pleased that the Rainiers were playing an active role in re-establishing pride in Seattle-area hockey and putting the Pacific Northwest back on the national map. Kevin recounted his youth hockey days playing in a similar program to the Rainiers and the foundation it provided for him to play at an elite level of college hockey.



Kevin talked about his prep school experience at Shattuck St. Mary's where he played with current NHL stars Sidney Crosby and Jonathan Toews. Kevin also shared his experience winning the Tier 1 USA Hockey national championship as a senior. This really piqued the interest of the Rainiers as they continue their pursuit of a USA Hockey national championship.

Kevin got on the ice with the team and shared some of the tricks of the trade he uses to compete at 5' 8" against much bigger players. Kevin credits much of his success to his off-ice conditioning and emphasized the importance of strong legs to be able to drive larger opponents off the puck.

Since Kevin entered Notre Dame two years ago, the hockey team has enjoyed their most success in the history of the program. As a freshman, the Fighting Irish won the CCHA regular season and tournament championship, and won the program's first NCAA tournament game. Last year as a sophomore, Kevin was instrumental in leading the Fighting Irish to the Frozen Four and the national championship game. This year, Notre Dame is off to their best start in program history and is currently riding a 14 game unbeaten streak which has had them firmly atop the national rankings for the past month. Kevin's looking forward to the 2nd half of the season and another shot at winning Notre Dame's first hockey national title.

The Rainiers really appreciated Kevin spending part of his holiday break, sharing his experiences and talking about the path players from the Pacific Northwest need to take to play Division 1 college hockey. The players left the rink on Saturday night having a better understanding of the effort required to make their dreams come true. The Rainiers play in the Chilliwack holiday tournament starting December 27 and return to Kent Valley on January 3-4 for PNAHA qualifying games.

Additional information regarding Kevin Deeth is available at the following URL:

http://und.cstv.com/sports/m-hockey/mtt/deeth_kevin00.html

Contact: Lew Sellers, Director of Communications
Kent Valley Hockey Association
6015 So. 240th Street
Kent, WA. 98032
(206) 914-9619 Cellular
Lew@KentValleyIceCentre.com