



Kent Valley Teams Play Teams from Far and Near

Kent Valley Ice Centre, Kent, WA. February 23, 2012 – Following a tournament weekend like the one we just had, I often marvel at the experiences our young hockey players have as they compete against teams from so many communities throughout the western United States and the mainland of British Columbia. As you scan through the KVHA Weekend Scoreboard, look at the names of the teams our Kent Valley teams faced over the weekend. Our Kent Valley teams faced teams from the following communities: Abbotsford, B.C. Canada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bremerton, Washington; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Coquitlam, B.C. Canada; Dallas, Texas; Everett, Washington; Kennewick, Washington; Kirkland, Washington; Langley, B.C. Canada; Orange County, California; Pasco, Washington; Richland, Washington; Rossland/Trail, B.C. Canada; Sacramento, California; Semiahmoo, B.C. Canada; South Delta, B.C. Canada; Spokane, Washington; Surrey, B.C. Canada; Wenatchee, Washington; and Winthrop, Washington. Truly amazing!

Thunderbird Community Sports Foundation Has Granted \$97,774.17 Since Inception – Thank you T-Birds!

Since its inception in 2009, the Thunderbird Community Sports Foundation has granted \$97,774.17 to a wide variety of community activities. Primary funding for the foundation comes from 50/50 raffle ticket and jersey raffle ticket sales at home games. I encourage readers to visit the foundation web site at: www.thunderbirdsfoundation.com

Community grants include:

- \$ 21,700.00 Kent School District to support Athletic Participation Fees
- \$ 17,961.25 Kent Meridian High School Key Club
- \$ 12,731.50 Kent Valley Hockey Association**
- \$ 5,000.00 Kent Parks Foundation
- \$ 4,500.00 Auburn Specialized Recreation Program
- \$ 4,000.00 Kent Cobras - Kent Football Association
- \$ 4,000.00 Orting Middle School –Sport Program
- \$ 4,000.00 Covington Community Sports
- \$ 3,000.00 Seattle Adaptive Sports
- \$ 2,500.00 Western Washington Female Hockey Association
- \$ 2,500.00 Kent East Hill Boxing Club
- \$ 2,000.00 Cedar Heights Cheerleading Uniforms
- \$ 2,000.00 Lafayette Elementary School – Roller Skates
- \$ 2,000.00 Lil Evolution Basketball Team
- \$ 1,598.42 Cruisin’ Passport Program – Kent and Covington
- \$ 1,500.00 Shoreline Community College Women’s Basketball
- \$ 1,500.00 Thunderbirds Community Sports Foundation Scholarship
- \$ 1,487.00 Kent Valley Hockey Association - Midget 18U Hockey Team**
- \$ 1,353.00 Kent AM Kiwanis Club
- \$ 1,000.00 Scenic Hill Elementary – Sport Equipment
- \$ 843.00 Project Uth – Kent
- \$ 500.00 Kent Little League
- \$ 100.00 Auburn Little League

KVHA Weekend Scoreboard:

2/18	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Everett Tier-II Jr. Silvertips	3
2/19	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	South Delta Storm	8
2/19	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Rossland Trail Squirt Rep	9
2/19	Win	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	8	vs.	Tri-Cities Jr. Ams Squirt Minor	7

2/20	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	1	vs.	Tri-Cities Jr. Ams Squirt Major	5
2/18	Win	KVHA PeeWee Tornadoes	6	vs.	Kitsap County PeeWee Outlaws	3
2/19	Tie	KVHA PeeWee Tornadoes	2	vs.	Wenatchee PeeWee	2
2/19	Loss	KVHA PeeWee Tornadoes	1	vs.	Winthrop Wolverines	5
2/20	Loss	KVHA PeeWee Tornadoes	2	vs.	Wenatchee PeeWee	13
2/18	Win	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	7	vs.	Spokane Bantam Bruins	0
2/19	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	4	vs.	Surrey Bantam Avalanche	2
2/19	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	3	vs.	Wenatchee Bantams	4
2/20	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	1	vs.	Kitsap County Jr. Warriors	2
2/17	Win	KVHA Bantam Tier-II Selects	7	vs.	Orange County Hockey	1
2/18	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tier-II Selects	1	vs.	New Mexico Ice Wolves	3
2/19	Win	KVHA Bantam Tier-II Selects	4	vs.	Colorado Springs Jr. Tigers	2
2/19	Win	KVHA Bantam Tier-II Selects	6	vs.	Texas Ice Jets	3
2/20	Win	KVHA Bantam Tier-II Selects	5	vs.	Texas Ice Jets	1
2/17	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	3	vs.	Tri-City Midget Rebels	4
2/17	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	1	vs.	Coquitlam C6	3
2/18	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	2	vs.	Abbotsford C2	3
2/19	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	2	vs.	Coquitlam C4	3
2/18	Win	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	5	vs.	Langley Eagles	3
2/18	Loss	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Semiahmoo Ravens	5
2/19	Loss	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	3	vs.	Capital Thunder U18	7
2/20	Win	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	4	vs.	SnoKing Tier-II Jr. T-Birds	2

Kent Valley Squirt Selects Stumble in Tri-Cities Tournament with 4 Losses and 1 Win

Kent Valley Ice Centre, Kent, WA. February 20, 2012 – Kent Valley's Squirt Tier-II Selects played the first three games of the tournament without scoring a goal and experienced 20 goals against before finally making it onto the scoreboard in game 4 at TRAC Arena in Pasco. The long dry spell of scoreless play, uncharacteristic for the Selects, was the longest of the season for the team that is second in scoring in the PNAHA League with 86 goals for and 37 goals against and a record of 12 wins, 4 losses and 1 tie.

On a more positive note, Danny Smith scored 5 goals and 1 assist in game 4 for 6 points. Trevor Mertel, Kemper Terry and Gage Gessner also scored goals. Dylan Herzog had 2 assists in that game. Ty Herring, Kemper Terry and Logan Seals also earned assists. Dylan Herzog had the only points in game 5; he scored a goal late in the first period.

Coaches Steve Mertel and Harry Smith will no doubt be looking for answers at practice this week. Here's hoping the Selects have rid themselves of scoreless games as they go into the PNAHA Play-Offs March 15th through 18th in Tacoma. Go Selects!

Below are the scores from the five tournament games:

2/18	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Everett Tier-II Jr. Silvertips	3
2/19	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	South Delta Storm	8
2/19	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Rossland Trail Squirt Rep	9
2/19	Win	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	8	vs.	Tri-Cities Jr. Ams Squirt Minor	7
2/20	Loss	KVHA Squirt Tier-II Selects	1	vs.	Tri-Cities Jr. Ams Squirt Major	5

PeeWee Tornadoes Wenatchee Apple Cup Recap

Toyota Town Center, Wenatchee, WA. February 20, 2012 – The Kent Valley PeeWee Tornadoes played very well this weekend at the Wenatchee Apple Cup tournament, beating out Bremerton to take 2nd in their pool and placing 4th overall out of 6 teams! The Tornadoes would like to thank John Brockes (of the PeeWee Hurricanes) for filling in as goalie...he did an amazing job! The kids played some great hockey and a good time was had by all!

Game #1 vs. Kitsap (Bremerton): This was a very physical game; and unfortunately Bremerton displayed a fair amount of un-sportsman-like conduct for most of it. So, you can imagine what sweet victory it was when the Tornadoes managed to win it 6-3! Sean Blair (#3) got a hat trick, with one assist by Hunter Johnson (#4). Andrew Barton (#6) scored two goals with one assist by Callie Zemla (#17), and Hunter Johnson scored the final goal, with an assist by Sean Blair (#3). John Brockes saved 11 out of 14 shots on goal for a 79% save rate.

Game #2 vs. Wenatchee: This game didn't count against our standings as Wenatchee was not in our Pool; but none-the-less, the Tornadoes certainly gave them a run for their money with the final score ending in a 2-2 tie! Hunter Johnson (#4) scored our first goal assisted by Andrew Barton (#6), with a second goal by Sean Blair (#3) to tie it up in the 3rd period. John Brockes saved 11 out of 13 shots on goal for an 85% save rate.

Game #3 vs. Winthrop Wolverines: The Tornadoes lost against the Wolverines 5-1; but not without a good fight. Sean Blair (#3) scored our only goal in the 1st period, assisted by Jason North (#14). John Brockes saved 24 out of 29 shots on goal for an 83% save rate.

Editor's note: All the other teams lost to the Wolverines 6-1.

Game #4 vs. Wenatchee - This was the final game, the Pool A and Pool B qualifying teams playing for 2nd place. The Tornadoes had tied Wenatchee the day before; but couldn't manage to hold them this time. The game ended in a loss with a final score of 13-2. (Ouch!) Andrew Barton (#6) scored our only two goals, with one assist by Jason North (#14). Sean Blair saved 30 out of 43 shots on goal for a 70% save rate. The Tornadoes received a total of 12 penalties...

Kent Valley Bantam Tornadoes Attend Wenatchee Apple Cup Tournament and Take Second in Their Pool

Toyota Town Center, Wenatchee, WA. February 20, 2012 – "Home Cooking" got the best of the Kent Valley Bantam Tornadoes this past weekend as they played in the Wenatchee Apple Cup Tournament. The host team Wenatchee Bantams played 8 Tier-II players on their 13-man "Rec" team roster. The Wenatchee team defeated the Kent Valley Bantam Tornadoes 4 to 3 and went on to win the tournament final 11 to 2 over the Surrey Bantam Avalanche.

The Tornadoes went 1 and 2 in Round Robin play with a goal differential of +4. They entered the final round as the #2 seed in pool B. Weekend game MVPs were; Jacob Ray, Jonathan Gonzales, Nicky Pokrzywinski and Mikey Thomas. Coach Alonzo said; *"The Apple Cup was great fun and competition over the three-day event."*

Below are the tournament game scores:

2/18	Win	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	7	vs.	Spokane Bantam Bruins	0
2/19	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	4	vs.	Surrey Bantam Avalanche	2
2/19	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	3	vs.	Wenatchee Bantams	4
2/20	Loss	KVHA Bantam Tornadoes	1	vs.	Kitsap County Jr. Warriors	2

KVHA Bantam Selects Travel to Colorado Springs for a Fun Filled Weekend!

Colorado Springs, CO. 20 February, 2012 - The KVHA Bantam Selects traveled this past long weekend to Colorado Springs, CO to participate in the Colorado Springs 35th Annual Presidents Day Tournament where they finished in 1st Place! The weekend was certainly full of hockey; however the experiences off the ice will carry these boys for years to come.

The trip started with a visit to the Colorado College where Bantam Head Coach Derek Pizzey spent his college years as a goalie. The boys met with Asst. Coach Joe Bonnett who not only showed the team around the locker room but also gave the boys the message of "School is important!" Coach Bonnett spoke to the team about the importance of being well rounded and keeping grades up and how important a high GPA is if you are interested in playing College Hockey. I do believe several players left with the dream of one day coming back and playing for CC as a Tiger!

Just a short walk across the street from where the Tigers play is the USA Hockey headquarters. The players were able to see some amazing memorabilia including photos and trophies from some of the greatest hockey players ever.

The first game of the tournament for KVHA was on Friday and the Selects dominated the game with a 7 to 1 win against Orange County Hockey. Dawson Myers (from Jake Best) was the first to put KVHA on the board. Additional goals were scored by Noah Persson, Jeremy Carlson (2), Joey Kane (2) and Anton Nikitin. Penalties were plenty for KVHA with a total of 16 penalty minutes. OC had 6 penalty minutes. Shots on goal were 33 for KVHA and 19 for OC Hockey.

After the impressive win the team visited with Fountain Valley Prep School where the schools Head Coach for their hockey team, Mike Payne met and showed the team around the very impressive Prep School Campus. The team had a tour of the classrooms and campus life and also experienced a prep school dinner. I know each and every one of them went home appreciating the size of their bedroom at home after seeing a dorm room!

As if the day wasn't full enough they then went to the Colorado College Tigers hockey game against the University of Nebraska Omaha where the Tigers had a win of 4 to 3.

Saturday started on a rather unpleasant note- the team struggled against the New Mexico Ice Wolves losing 3 to 1. The only KVHA goal was scored by Jake Best and assisted by Dawson Myers. Kent also had 22 penalty minutes. NM had only 10 penalty minutes. All 4 points scored in the game came in the 1st period. Shots on goal were 12 for KVHA and 21 for NM Wolves.

Following our 2nd game of the tournament our team traveled to Evergreen Colorado where they experienced practicing on an outside pond nestled in the mountains. This was a first for all the boys and they truly loved it! This is a memory the boys (and parents!) will never forget. Later that day the team went to an Air Force Hockey game against Mercyhurst where the Air Force fell 2 to 1 after the night before winning 8 to 0.

Sunday was a full day with 2 tournament games. The first game was against the home team- the Colorado Springs Jr. Tigers. The Tigers got on the board first but KVHA went on to score the next 4 goals scored by Nick Pizzey, Jake Best (2) and Nolan Fritts. The Tigers were able to get one more in the 3rd; however it wasn't enough to win! KVHA won with a score of 4 to 2. Penalties were much less in this game for KVHA with only 10 minutes. 22

penalty minutes were had by the Tigers. Shots on goal were 21 for the Tigers and 18 for KVHA.

After a short break the team went on to play the Texas Ice Jets. The Ice Jets came into the game having won every game thus far. Their coach and team tried hard to intimidate the boys with loud screaming and team stick banging on the boards. The game started off with the first goal scored by the Ice Jets at 15 seconds in and the second Ice Jets goal at 1:29. Kent refused to give in and played an amazing game to win 6 to 3. Goals were scored by Nick Pizzey, Jake Best, Anton Nikitin, Dawson Myers, Mason Stewart and Noah Persson. Again the team did a great job of only having 8 penalty minutes. The Ice Jets had 26 penalty minutes. Shots by KVHA were 29 and by the Ice Jets 16.

Monday was the Championship game and KVHA faced the Texas Ice Jets for a rematch. KVHA came out and dominated the game with a total of 5 goals to their 1 to take 1st place at the tournament for the Bantam A division. Goals were scored by Anton Nikitin (2), Mason Stewart (2) and Jeremy Carlson. Shots by KVHA were 23 and by the Ice Jets 18. KVHA has a total of 10 penalty minutes. Ice Jets had only 6 penalty minutes.

KVHA has had their share of challenges this season with first losing Anton Nikitin to an injury early on which kept him out for about 15 games and most recently losing Christian Cinderella to a broken collar bone. Also the short bench of 14 skaters and 1 goalie was further reduced when a player quit the team February 13th right before our trip to Colorado. KVHA skated with 12 skaters and one goalie in Colorado. The team rallied and played amazing hockey working together as a team.

Next stop for the Bantam Selects is state the first weekend in March. Having taken 1st place in PNAHA Tier II League with an impressive 14 wins and 1 tie the Selects are ready to head to Tri-Cities and compete for State Champions.

Midget Tornadoes Drop Four in Bremerton Tournament

Bremerton Ice Center, Bremerton, WA. February 19, 2012 – When was the last time this team lost four in a row? Not in recent memory... The Kent Valley Midget Tornadoes faced some tough competition over the weekend in Bremerton. None of the losses were blowouts by any means. Game #4 was a shootout loss; two losses were by one goal and another by just two goals.

In spite of the losses, it was a good weekend for Kent Valley goaltender Joshua Severeid. Joshua faced 118 shots and turned away 111 of them for a respectable 94% save rate. Severeid also earned an assist on Paul Pinkoske's 1st period goal in the final game.

Pinkoske was the point leader for the tournament with 2 goals and 2 assists for 4 points. Brendan Laik and Jared Prado each scored 2 goals. Casey Brockes and Erin Byrnes each scored goals. Tanner Coughlin (2), Zachary Bloss, John Dunn, and Neil Dwanda each earned assists.

Below are the tournament game scores:

2/17	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	3	vs.	Tri-City Midget Rebels	4
2/17	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	1	vs.	Coquitlam C6	3
2/18	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	2	vs.	Abbotsford C2	3
2/19	Loss	KVHA Midget Tornadoes	2	vs.	Coquitlam C4	3

Midget Tier-II Selects Win Two and Lose Two at Portland Jr. Hawks Presidents Cup Tournament

Winterhawks Skating Center, Portland, OR. February 19, 2012 – Kent Valley's Midget Tier-II Selects traveled to the Portland area over the weekend to participate in the Portland

Jr. Hawks Presidents Cup Tournament. The Selects won games 1 and 4 and lost games 2 and 3.

Kent Valley's Aaron Mathews was in goal for all four games. Mathews faced 106 shots on goal over the four games and turned away 89 of them for a save rate of 84%. Tyler Jennings led all Selects in points with 2 goals and 3 assists for 5 points. Four game player point details are below:

- Steven Farwell – 1 assists = 1 point
- Buck Scougale – 1 goal & 1 assist = 2 points
- Michael Julin – 1 goal & 1 assist = 2 points
- Max Doner – 2 assists = 2 points
- Noah Bloxton – 1 goal = 1 point
- Kyle Miller-Smith – 2 goals = 2 points
- Kale Pokrzywinski – 1 goal & 1 assist = 2 points
- Tyler Jennings – 2 goals & 3 assists = 5 points
- Brenden Miller – 1 assist = 1 point
- Jarid Rivers – 1 goal & 2 assists = 3 points
- Patrick Dunphy – 1 goal = 1 point
- Jacob Becker – 1 goal = 1 point
- Caleb Bromley – 3 assists = 3 points
- Jesse Howland – 1 goal = 1 point

Below are the tournament game scores:

2/18	Win	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	5	vs.	Langley Eagles	3
2/18	Loss	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	0	vs.	Semiahmoo Ravens	5
2/19	Loss	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	3	vs.	Capital Thunder U18	7
2/19	Win	KVHA Midget Tier-II Selects	4	vs.	SnoKing Tier-II Jr. T-Birds	2

Quote of the Day!

Regarding his time in the IHL:

"One road trip we were stuck on the runway for seven hours. The plane kept driving and driving until we arrived at the rink and I realized we were on a bus."

Glenn Healy, Los Angeles Kings, New York Islanders, New York Rangers and Toronto Maple Leafs – Stanley Cup winner with the Islanders in 1993/1994.

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