



Lost Hockey Stick Returned to Sleepless Hockey Player – Mother Pleased.

Kent Valley Ice Centre, Kent, WA. April 20, 2011 – It is with great joy that I watch beginners (**Learn to Play** hockey registrants) come through the office door and past my desk as they make their way over to Kent Valley's Hockey Director, Danny Lorenz. There, they meet Danny, complete their registration process, admire the many hockey photos, trophies and hockey paraphernalia around the office and express their desire to play hockey. Some are timid, quiet and unsure about all this hockey stuff. Others are talkative, often on the verge of being over confident. They are all precious and the one thing they have in common is a big smile on their faces as they are fitted with and assigned their hockey gear. One little guy didn't want to take his helmet off. He wore it out of the office, down the stairs and strolled confidently out the front the door. He may have slept with it, for all I know.

Most hockey players don't want to be parted from their hockey sticks. My daughter's first hockey stick is displayed proudly on the wall of my office at home, her name emblazoned on the top of the shaft. Her last goalie stick is also displayed on the wall and her hockey helmet is nearby. She is now in her forties. These mementos have become family treasures. My granddaughter commented recently, *"Is that really my mom's hockey stick?"*

We received an e-mail from a concerned parent Monday morning. It read; *"Hi, did anyone find a red Easton stick with blue tape on it? Michael lost his at the rink on Sunday after Learn-to-Play... Please help he can't sleep. Thank you. Lisa"*

Sure enough, the stick had been turned in by a Good Samaritan and was resting against the wall next to Danny Lorenz's desk waiting to be claimed by its owner. Lorenz wasn't sure who owned the stick but he was confident it would be claimed, and it was. Danny wasn't in the office when Lisa picked up her son's treasured hockey stick. However, he responded later via e-mail; *"Hi Lisa... I'm happy to hear the stick in the office was Michaels... He can sleep in peace again!! :) Danny"*

Lisa's response is precious and worth sharing; *"Yes, he will sleep a lot better tonight with his stick.... Thank you sooo much Danny and Lew too! I went to Mike's school after getting the stick and I got the biggest hug and almost a kiss in front of his friends. His smile was priceless. He told me that without his stick his dreams wouldn't come true. I said, 'One day you will grow out of that stick and you will need a new one.' He replied, 'Maybe when I am a Thunderbird...but I will still keep it.' I think he loves hockey and that's ok with me. Thank you for all you do, Lisa"*

Speaking of beginners, my daughter Tammy interviewed a group of Mite-age hockey players at Kent Valley Ice Centre a couple of years ago for a promotional video. She asked one of the youngest players how old he was. *"I'm five years old,"* he said. *"Are you a Seattle Thunderbirds fan,"* she asked? *"Oh yes,"* he responded. She asked him how long he had been a Thunderbird fan. He thought for a moment and responded, *"About ten years!"*

Midgets! Where are you?

Kent Valley's Hockey Director, Danny Lorenz, announced last Friday; **"Midget Spring Practice** has been moved to Thursdays starting April 21st at 5:15pm-6:15pm. We believe the main reason enrollment was low was because the original time conflicted with High School Hockey on Wednesdays." The ice schedules have been updated to reflect this new time.

However, since we made that announcement, only one additional Midget has registered, bringing the total registered to five. We're hoping that several more will register opening

night. Spring Practice registration forms are available by scrolling to the bottom of the front page on the KVHA web page or by clicking upon the **Spring Programs** tab on the front page. Forms are also available in the lobby at Kent Valley Ice Centre.

Easter Weekend Stick n' Puck Sessions

Stick n' Puck sessions are a great way for hockey players to stay in shape and work on their hockey skills during the off-season. Kent Valley members are encouraged to check the Ice Schedules page for Stick n' Puck dates and times. Below are Stick n' Puck session times for the Easter weekend:

Open Stick n' Puck (all ages)

Saturday 04/23	8:45am to 10:15am 6:15pm to 7:45pm
Sunday 04/24	10:15am to 12:15pm 5:15pm to 7:15pm

Kids Stick n' Puck (kids only)

Saturday 04/23	4:30pm to 6:00pm
Sunday 04/24	12:30pm to 2:30pm

Quote of the Day!

"Sometimes when I make a good save, I yell out, 'Woo-Hoo!' I'm not sure why, but it just feels good. I don't think I scare anyone or freak anyone out when I do it. I just like to holler when I make a tough stop."

Penguins' rookie goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury (2003).

See you at the rink!

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