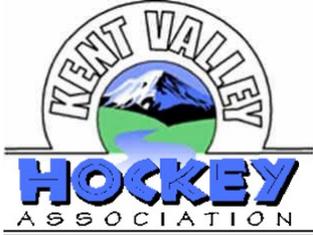


# Kent Valley Hockey Forecaster

Summer Issue 2006  
Volume 5, Issue 1



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Kent Valley Hockey Association  
6015 S 240th St  
Kent, Washington 98032  
(253) 854-2400

## **KVHA – Four Years and Counting And Ready to Move to the Next Level**

### **KVHA Celebrating a 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

Thank you members, players, volunteers, fans and sponsors for another great KVHA season! We hope you are all enjoying your summer and are looking forward to the coming season. While you are enjoying your time away from the rink, the KVHA Board has been hard at work with exciting NEW plans for the 2006-2007 season.

KVHA is making several substantial changes designed to help the association grow, improve communication, and ultimately create an environment we hope will take our association to the highest competitive levels. There are some BIG developments brewing in the hockey community and we look forward to sharing some of them with you in this issue of the KVHA Newsletter.

### **Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday KVHA!**



## September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006



### Seattle Thunderbirds vs Everett Silvertips

At Kent Valley Ice Centre

The Seattle Thunderbirds will face the Everett Silvertips in Western Hockey League exhibition play at Kent Valley Ice Center on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available via the T-Birds ticket line at (206) 488-PUCK.

## **REGISTRATION: The Key to Future Growth**

For KVHA the 2006/2007 season began on June 15th. That was the registration deadline for the new season. Everyone submitting their registration by the June 15<sup>th</sup> due date was locking in last year's rates for the new season. It was obvious on June 16<sup>th</sup> that not everyone had registered. Therefore, KVHA extended the registration deadline to July 21<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully, you have all registered by now.

Why the big deal about early registration? It's simple! Registration is the key to all things for KVHA. Registration helps the association determine how many teams they can field, how many coaches they will need and how much ice time they will need to purchase from KVIC. If you haven't already registered, please do so at your earliest convenience. A registration form and payment schedule is available on the KVHA web site.

### **KVIC Adds More Ice Time to Friday Day Camp**

KVIC is hosting the 4th Annual Friday Hockey Day Camp. The cost is \$25.00 per day and is directed by Les Grauer with KVHA Coaches. The camp includes 3.4 hours on-ice and 2.5 hours off-ice/video. Check the KVHA web site for additional details.

Camp Starts: June 30 / Ends: August 25 / Hours: 8:30am - 4:45pm

# *Bryan Appointed to Head KVHA Hockey Operations*

## **Meet Mark Bryan – Director of Hockey Operations**

On Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, Mark Bryan became the first “fulltime” employee of the Kent Valley Hockey Association when he assumed the duties of Director of Hockey Operations. Mark is no stranger to Northwest ice hockey. His hockey career began at the age of 4 with the Portland Amateur Hockey Association (PAHA.) He finished his minor hockey as a member of the PAHA Midget “A’s” and was invited to the Western Hockey League (WHL) Victoria Cougars training camp. The Cougars assigned Mark to their development program with affiliated teams in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League (BCJHL) at Nanaimo and later at Abbotsford, B.C.

Eventually, Mark became aware of the scholarship program offered by the Seattle Northwest Americans Junior Hockey Program and moved to Seattle, playing three seasons for the Americans from 1987-88 through 1989-90. The move proved to be the best for Mark as he was able to take advantage of the scholarship funds and earn a B.A. Degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington.

With the completion of his Junior level playing eligibility, Mark taught individual and group power skating lessons at Lynnwood’s Sno-King Ice Arena, working with all ages and genders on every facet of hockey and skating. He also coached adult-level women in the Seattle Women’s Hockey League. Membership grew from one team of approximately 18 players to three teams of nearly 60 players during his tenure.

Mark spent some time in Baltimore, Maryland. While there, he coached the Baltimore Stars “AAA” Bantam team in the Capitol Beltway League and continued individual skating instruction.

Mark views teaching as his strongest asset. Mark said; “I’m a very good teacher with a strong ability to connect at both an individual and group level.” His teaching skills will be used to the benefit of KVHA this coming season.

Lexi Doner, KVHA President, in announcing Mark Bryan’s appointment said; “Mark will help us, KVHA, attain our vision of becoming the premier amateur hockey organization in the region. You will see Mark on the ice assisting players and teams at all levels, from the Learn to Skate Program, Mighty Mites all the way to the Midgets.” I’ve known Mark for many years and I have confidence in his abilities.”

In a July 18<sup>th</sup> Coaches meeting Mark told KVHA Coaches that one of his major focuses would be to help grow the association into a second sheet of ice as quickly as possible. He said the second sheet of ice would enhance the association’s ability to grow the KVHA program, offer expanded skill training and host local, regional and national tournaments.



## **Learn to Play Hockey Program**

The fact that you’re a KVHA member indicates that you already have at least one family member involved in KVHA hockey. Do you have other family members eager to learn how to play hockey? How about neighbors, friends and relatives who have heard about your exciting and fun experiences at KVHA? If so, invite them to come learn the coolest game ever!

Our Learn to Play Hockey Program is the foundation builder for KVHA. Please help us grow our enrollment and build for the future by encouraging others to come learn the game of hockey through this introductory program.

The Learn to Play Hockey Program at Kent Valley Ice Centre provides beginning hockey players with the skating foundation necessary to play the game. You cannot be an effective hockey player without being a strong skater. We help players understand the basic fundamentals through explanation, demonstration and drills. We also make it fun!

The program is designed to teach the beginner skater (boys & girls ages 4-10) basic hockey techniques including proper skating strides, balance, passing, shooting and other hockey fundamentals. This is a fun introduction to the great sport of ice hockey. Remember, no prior skating experience is necessary. For additional details or to sign up for next season, check the KVHA web site or email: [katie@kentvalleyicecentre.com](mailto:katie@kentvalleyicecentre.com)

# ***Kent Events Center – The Right Place at the Right Time***

## **Editorial Comment**

By Lew Sellers, KVHA Director of Communications

I sat in Kent City Council Chambers the other night listening to Kent City Manager John Hodgson present a PowerPoint slide show on the proposed Kent Events Center. His audience included the Mayor, City Council members, staff, citizens and interested parties. The City Council meeting was open to the public. I was intrigued not so much by the content of Hodgson's presentation but rather by his obvious excitement and support for the project. Hodgson enthusiastically listed a dozen or so potential community uses for the multi-purpose facility; concerts, home shows, garden shows, car shows, high school sporting events, high school graduation ceremonies, rodeos, monster truck shows, professional boxing and wrestling matches, ice shows, and yes, ice hockey and the Seattle Thunderbirds as the anchor tenant.

I swear, at the end of Hodgson's presentation, everyone in the City of Kent Council Chambers had a smile on their face, even citizen Ted Kogita a notorious and frequent critic of City Council activities. Kogita even spoke in praise of the Council for considering something publicly before actually doing it... "It's a first!" He said.

Russ Farwell, Owner, Governor and General Manager of the Seattle Thunderbirds and Colin Campbell, Assistant General Manager and Director of Marketing for the Birds were in attendance at the Kent City Council meeting that night. Farwell mentioned later that he was pleased by the Council's obvious enthusiasm. "However," He warned; "It's not a done deal. This was just the first public step and we have a ways to go yet." Indeed! The City Council, after considering the T-Birds feasibility study and reviewing the City's own feasibility numbers, both showing positive potential, voted unanimously to fund a \$40,000 feasibility study of the project by an independent consultant, a firm with considerable experience in such projects. Hodgson told the Council; "If the feasibility study comes back negative, the project stops right there."

Lexi Doner, President of KVHA, and Carlos Sosa, KVHA

Coach, also attended the Kent City Council meeting that night. Both were pleased with Hodgson's presentation and the Council's reaction to the proposed project. However, it is difficult to imagine that anyone was more enthusiastic and excited about the Kent Events Center project than I was that night. The visions of what the Kent Events Center will mean to me, my family, my community, KVIC and KVHA flashed through my head like a surreal PowerPoint presentation of my own as I left the meeting. On my way home I passed the Kent Commons ballpark field, future site of the proposed Kent Events Center. One of the visions I imagined was that in the near future, possibly in less than 24 months, I could be standing at the scorer's bench above center ice in a brand new 6,500+ seat facility with my right hand over my heart. I envisioned a spotlight shining on the Stars and Stripes hanging high in the rafters at the North end of the building. I imagined myself joining a capacity crowd in the singing of the National Anthem in advance of the dropping of the puck. My vision is of opening night for the T-Birds at the Kent Events Center. I take my seat, the referee blows his whistle, the puck is dropped and the game is underway.

That night, opening night at the Kent Events Center, will mark the end for me of 29 years of commuting 40+ nights a year to Seattle Center to keep the score sheet for the Seattle Thunderbirds. Following that first game on opening night my commute from a T-Birds home game to my residence of 35 years on Kent's East Hill will be less than a mile and probably take me less than 3 minutes. I-5, West Marginal Way, the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Bridge, the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Western Avenue and Key Arena will no longer be involved in my commute to a T-Birds home game. That long commute will be a fading memory.

Do you think I'm excited? My enthusiasm is comparable to learning over six years ago that the City of Kent was working with a private party to develop an ice skating facility in a cinder soccer field at Russell Road Park. Dreams do come true! You bet I'm excited!

**Please support the Kent Events Center project by expressing your support to the following:**

### ***Kent City Council Members:***

**Tim Clark**  
[ttclark@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:ttclark@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Ron Harmon**  
[rharmon@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:rharmon@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Bob O'Brien**  
[bobrien@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:bobrien@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Deborah Ranniger**, Council  
President  
[dranniger@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:dranniger@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Debbie Raplee**  
[draplee@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:draplee@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Les Thomas**  
[lthomas@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:lthomas@ci.kent.wa.us)

**Elizabeth Watson**  
[ewatson@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:ewatson@ci.kent.wa.us)

### ***Kent Mayor and others:***

**The Honorable Suzette Cook**  
Mayor of Kent  
220 Fourth Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032  
253-856-5700  
[mayer@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:mayer@ci.kent.wa.us)

City of Kent Chief Administrative  
Officer **John Hodgson**  
220 Fourth Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032  
[jhodgson@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:jhodgson@ci.kent.wa.us)  
253-856-5478

City of Kent Economic  
Development Manager  
**Ben Wolters**  
253-856-5703

**Your letters, phone calls and/or e-mail in support of the Kent Events Center project can be very influential. Thank you.**

## COACHING ASSIGNMENTS:

KVHA is pleased to announce the best coaching lineup in the Northwest for the 2006/2007 season. The following coaching assignments have been confirmed:

- Mighty Mite - Position available
- Mite Rec. - **Jeff Alonzo**
- Squirt Rec. - **Kevin Bennett**  
(Note: We may need another coach depending on enrollment)
- Squirt Rep. - **Derek Pizzey**
- PeeWee Rec. - **Jeff Laik**
- PeeWee Rep. - **Carlos Sosa**
- Bantam Rec. - **Chuck Cadiente**
- Bantam Rep. - **John Petruzzelli**
- Midget Rec. - Position available
- Midget Rep. - **Bob Sellers**

Anyone interested in coaching at the Mite, PeeWee and Midget Rec levels should send an e-mail to Les Grauer as soon as possible at: [Les@kentvalleyicecentre.com](mailto:Les@kentvalleyicecentre.com).

## Stick and Puck Schedule:

If you're looking for a great way to cool off this summer, try a Stick & Puck session at Kent Valley ice Centre. Drop in cost is **\$10 per session** or buy a \$250.00 Discount Card and get 15% off drop-in price.

**Kid's Stick & Puck** - Full Equipment Required

### Saturday

11:00am - 12:15pm

5:10pm - 6:25pm

### Sunday

9:40am - 11:00am

**Adult Stick & Puck** - Must be age 16 or older. Helmet required.

### Saturday

6:35pm - 7:50pm

### Sunday

8:00am - 9:30am

9:30pm - 11:00pm

### Monday

8:30pm - 10:30pm

### Tuesday

11:40am - 1:00pm

8:30pm - 10:30pm

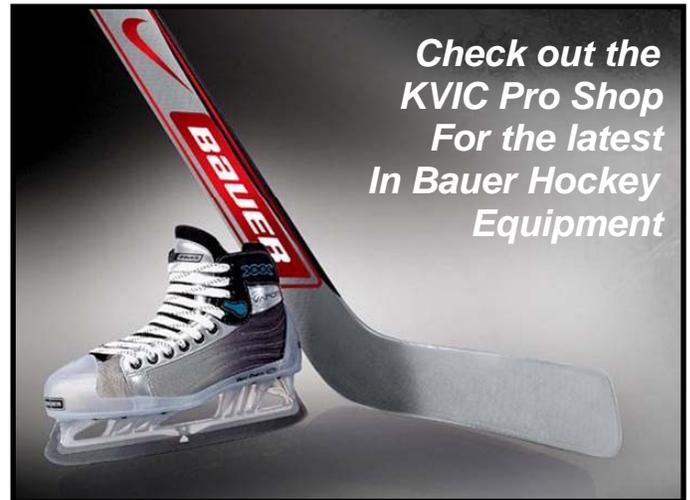
### Wednesday

11:40am - 1:00pm

### Friday

11:40am - 1:00pm

11:30pm - 1:00am (Must be 21 or older)



## KVIC Miniature Golf Course Open for Play

Complete with water hazards, rivers, water falls, tricky bounces and a variety of other challenges the KVIC Miniature Golf Course opened for business early in July.



According to an unsubstantiated rumor floating around KVIC, Katie Kusske was the first to score a hole-in-one on the course.

A number of KVHA members asked if there was still room behind the miniature golf course to build a full 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet of ice. KVHA President Lexi Doner answered affirmatively saying; "The original plans called for landscaping in this area with the front side of the building housing the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet of ice beginning at the back edge of where the golf course is now. There is plenty of room for a second sheet of ice."



## CCH Xtreme Hockey Camp

Chris Chelios CCHX Instructor

August 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> at KVIC

Hockey to the Power of 'X' - For details and to register check the KVHA web site,



# Low Sellers Appointed Director of Communications

## Meet Low Sellers – Director of Communications

KVHA President Lexi Doner recently announced the appointment of Low Sellers to the position of KVHA Director of Communications.

Low Sellers comes to KVHA with a strong hockey heritage. He has been involved in Puget Sound area amateur hockey programs for over 30 years. During that time he served the Eastside AHA, Greater Seattle AHA, and Puget Sound AHA (local amateur hockey associations) as team manager, assistant coach, recruiter, learn to skate instructor, division manager, tournament director, association board member, association vice president, association president and a term as a PNAHA Vice President. Low also has 28 years experience with the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League serving as an Off-Ice Official, Public Address Announcer, and Official Score Keeper.



Low is a 35-year resident of Kent and is married to Karen Sellers a member of the KVHA Auction team. Low and Karen have two children, Bob Sellers (KVHA Midget Rep Coach and local referee) and Tammy Haywood (also a member of KVHA Auction team.) Daughter Tammy spent her amateur hockey career as a goalie with the Eastside AHA in Bellevue. Son Bob skated with the Eastside, Greater Seattle and SnoKing Amateur Hockey Associations. Karen and Low have four grandchildren Chad Haywood (a KVHA Squirt), Justin Hill-Sellers (a KVHA Midget), Ashley Haywood (age 6, a figure skater out of Sprinkler Ice Arena in Spanaway) and Celina Sellers (age 6, a gymnast with Little Gym of Kent.) Low and Karen claim the honor of being surrogate grandparents to Justin's cousin Taylor Birkeland (a KVHA Bantam.) Low is employed by the County of Pierce in Tacoma as Manager of Administration & Strategic Planning for the Information Technology Department. He is also certified as an Emergency Public Information Officer (EPIO) with the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management. His educational background is music education and information technology. He is a recent graduate of the National Fire Academy and FEMA EPIO program.

In accepting the position of Director of Communications Low identified a number of communication objectives he would pursue over the coming months. They are:

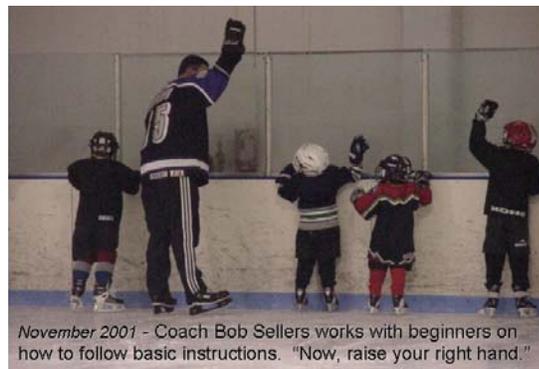
- Publish a KVHA Newsletter on a regular schedule, quarterly if possible,
- Keep members better informed by publishing frequent KVHA news bulletins via e-mail, weekly if required,
- Develop a more robust KVHA web site, providing team pages and game results during the season,
- Communicate better with KVHA members, (parents, players, fans and sponsors,)
- Establish local media contacts and keep them informed of KVHA activities,
  - Kent Reporter, South King County News Journal, Seattle Times and Post Intelligencer, KIRO, KING, & KOMO, etc.,
- Improve Community Awareness of the Kent Valley Ice Centre and promote Kent Valley Hockey Association,
  - Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce and others,
- Work with the City of Kent, Seattle Thunderbirds and KVHA members to promote the proposed Kent Events Center,
- Assist the KVHA Annual Auction Team in promoting the annual fund raiser,
- Work with businesses in the community to secure a reliable team sponsorship base,

Low acknowledges the enormity of his assignment. "We want to grow the association to over 200 members as quickly as possible. One of the keys to that growth is communication. That's where I will focus my energy over the coming months and years." Low can be reached on his cell phone at (206) 914-9619.

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## ***Volunteers Needed for KVHA Learn to Play Hockey Program in September***

Mark Bryan, Director of Hockey Operations is looking for 10 experienced adult skaters to volunteer as assistants for the KVHA Learn to Play Hockey Program. Bryan said likely candidates would be coaches, assistant coaches, parents, referees, or adult hockey players. If you're interested, call Mark at (253) 850-2400 X13.



November 2001 - Coach Bob Sellers works with beginners on how to follow basic instructions. "Now, raise your right hand."

# 2006-07 New Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis

## *Les Grauer Discusses Potential Impact on KVHA Coaches and Players*

Les Grauer, KVHA Executive Director, requested that all KVHA coaches and players be made aware of the USA Hockey "2006-07 New Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis." According to Grauer; "They have not changed the rules, only how they are going to call them. We will have to wait and see how the referees decide how to call it."

Grauer said; "I spoke with a coach that was at the National U-16 Select Camp in New York about the new rules emphasis and how they called the games there. Keep in mind that these are the most skilled players in the Nation, and the referees called from 20-30 penalties on each team per game!! Our KVHA Coaches might think about being prepared to sit out a few games in the early part of the season because of the 15 penalty rule."

Grauer indicated that KVHA had asked PNAHA about the 15 penalty rule and if there could be a possible change to the rule so that it would only include physical penalties and not the hooks, trips and holds. "We haven't heard anything back. I would assume we will at least discuss the issue at the September PNAHA meeting. However, I am not sure anything will get changed since it is a USA Hockey rule."



### **The Following is Reprinted from USAHockey.Com for the Benefit of KVHA Coaches and Players**

Through the new standard of rules enforcement, our game, much like the National Hockey League, will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. The mission of USA Hockey is clear; through this new initiative a greater emphasis will be placed on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to reduce restraining infractions in the game and not to remove legal body checking or body contact. A hard body check or using body contact/position (non-checking classifications) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules.

### **The principles of this new enforcement standard include the following:**

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck.
- The stick will not be allowed to in any way impede a player's progress.
- The use of a free hand/arm will not be allowed to grab or impede a player's progress.
- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage as a result of illegal acts by the opponent.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.

### **Enforcement Standard – These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement**

#### **HOOKING**

- A player cannot use his/her stick against an opponent's body (puck carrier or non-puck carrier) to gain a positional advantage. Examples include:
  - tugs or pulls on the body, arms or hands of the opponent which allows for the space between the players to diminish.
  - placing the stick in front of the opponent's body and locking on – impeding the opponent's progress or causing a loss of balance.
  - stick on the hand/arm that takes away the ability for the opponent to pass or shoot the puck with a normal amount of force.

#### **TRIPPING**

- A player cannot use his/her stick on the legs or feet of an opponent in a manner that would cause a loss of balance or for them to trip or fall. Examples include:
  - placing the stick in front of the opponent's legs for the purpose of impeding progress, even if on the ice, with no effort to legally play the puck.
  - placing the stick between the legs of the opponent (can opener/corkscrew) that causes a loss of balance or impedes the progress of the opponent.

## 2006-07 New Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis (continued)

### **HOLDING**

- A player cannot wrap his/her arms around an opponent or use a free hand to clutch, grab or hold the stick, jersey or body on the opponent in a manner that impedes their progress. Examples include:
  - wrapping one or both arms around the opponent along the boards in a manner that pins them against the boards and prevents them from playing the puck or skating.
  - grabbing the opponent's body, stick or sweater with one or both hands.
  - using a free arm/hand to restrain or impede the opponent's progress.

### **INTERFERENCE**

- A player cannot use his/her body ("pick" or "block") to impede the progress of an opponent with no effort to play the puck, maintain normal foot speed or established skating lane. Examples include:
  - intentionally playing the body of an opponent who does not have possession or possession and control of the puck.
  - using the body to establish a "pick" or "block" that prevents an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier.
  - reducing foot speed or changing an established skating lane for the purpose of impeding an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier.
- **Allowed Actions**
  - a player is entitled to the ice he/she occupies as long as they are able to maintain their own foot speed and body position between opponent and puck.
  - players are allowed to compete for body position using their strength and balance in front of the goal or along the boards.

### **SLASHING**

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck. Any stick contact, as a result of a slashing motion, to the hands/ arms or body of the opponent will be strictly penalized. In addition, hard slashes to the upper portion of the stick (just below the hands) of an opponent, with no attempt to legally play the puck, shall also be penalized.

### **OTHER INFRACTIONS**

- In addition to the above mentioned enforcement standards, all other infractions, including contact to the head, checking from behind, cross checking, high sticking and roughing (including late avoidable checks) shall be penalized to a strict enforcement standard.

### **CONCLUSION**

All members of USA Hockey share an equal responsibility to ensure the integrity of the game is upheld. The onus to incorporate change is not only on the officials, but also on administrators, coaches, parents and players, as well.

Administrators are expected to hold players, coaches, officials and parents accountable for their actions in an effort to promote a safe and positive environment for all participants.

Coaches are expected to teach proper skills and hold their players accountable for illegal and dangerous actions, regardless as to whether they are properly penalized, or not.

Parents are expected to support the decisions of the officials and support the coaches in teaching the proper skills in a safe and positive environment.

Officials shall enforce a strict penalty standard according to the guidelines that have been established. Players are expected to compete within the playing rules.

**All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey.**

# KVHA 2006-2007 Rate Comparison

*Better Than You Might Have Gessed!*

Many people don't know how fees are established, what they pay for, and how KVHA rates compare with other associations.

KVHA annual fees are set by the KVHA Board of Directors and are intended to cover the costs associated with running the association and placing teams on the ice. These costs include:

- Ice rental
- USA Hockey and PNAHA (Pacific Northwest Amateur Hockey Association) registration and fees
- Referees
- Uniforms
- Administration costs

Comparison of Fees & Other Costs for a PeeWee Tier 2 Team			
Description		Seattle Jr. Hockey (2006-2007)	Sno-King Hockey (2005-2006)
Base Fee	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,530.00
Registration	\$ 125.00	Included	Included
Tryout Fees	Included	\$ 75.00	N/A
Auction Requirement	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
Monthly Dues/Fees (slush fund)	N/A	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00 *
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,925.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,475.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,730.00</b>

Our fees compare quite favorably with other associations. The chart to the right compares rates, dues, fees and other costs from other nearby associations. Data was not available for Puget Sound AHA in Tacoma. *\* Note: Estimated*

## KVHA PeeWee Rep Tryouts

By: Carlos Sosa, Head Coach - Pee Wee Tier II AA Storm

Tryouts for PeeWee Rep, the Tier II AA Storm, have been scheduled. The tryouts are earlier than in previous years due to the Tiering Games which will occur in mid to late September for PeeWee teams in the State of Washington PNAHA League. The Tiering Games shall rank all Tier II teams across the State to determine which teams shall be able to participate in the Tier II AA State Tournament at the end of the season. In order for the Pee Wee Tier II AA Storm team to be prepared for the Tiering Games, earlier tryouts are necessary. The tryouts shall be ongoing through the week of September 15, 2006 at which point final team selections shall be made.

### AUGUST TRYOUT DATES:

- Friday August 18 6:00 PM TO 7:20 PM**
- Saturday August 19 11:00 AM TO 12:15 PM (Dry-land at 10:00 am)**
- Sunday August 20 9:00 AM TO 10:15 AM**
- Monday August 21 8:30 PM TO 10:00 PM (Dry-land at 7:00 pm)**
- Friday August 25 6:00 PM TO 7:20 PM**
- Saturday August 26 11:00 AM TO 12:15 PM (Dry-land at 10:00 am)**

Anyone not registered with KVHA must provide KVHA with a USA Hockey membership number from the previous season prior to taking the ice. The USA Hockey membership number expires on August 31 and USA Hockey insurance coverage also expires then. Players willing to try out will have a minimum of four on ice sessions for evaluation. After four on ice sessions, if the player has not registered with KVHA and it is determined that the player has made the team, the player will be asked to register or terminate evaluation participation. Recognizing that it is still summer, players may also participate in tryouts after Labor Day if they have not done so in August.

### CHECKING CLINIC:

The Paul Gaustad Checking Clinic at KVHA serves as the required USA Hockey Checking Clinic for KVHA. All first year PeeWee players, Rec or Rep, are required to take a checking clinic. This Clinic will be run by Paul Gustad of the Buffalo Sabres, and costs \$30.00 for the two days, August 14 and 15 which includes 2 on ice and one off ice session. Check the KVHA Website for registration information and times. This will be a great clinic for second year PeeWee's and beyond as well. Please contact Mark Bryan at KVHA or Carlos Sosa at [sosalaw@comcast.net](mailto:sosalaw@comcast.net) for any additional information or questions. We're looking forward to seeing you all as we prepare for a great season.

# Spring Hockey – Kent Valley Selects

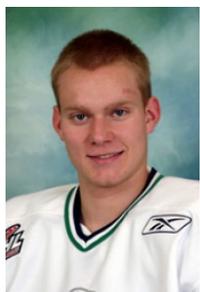
Kent Valley Selects field 3 teams during inaugural spring season.

**Reader note:** Throughout this article you will note references to 91s, 92s, 93s, etc. These numbers represent a player's birth year which is the classification for most spring hockey tournaments.

For the uninitiated, spring hockey is hugely popular in BC and many parts of the U.S. According to some accounts, spring hockey is larger than winter hockey in some parts of the country. Essentially, spring hockey typically commences in early April and runs into the late June/early July time frame. As it extends what is already a lengthy winter hockey season, it tends to attract more serious players who seek to continue to develop and improve their skills during what had typically been considered the "off season". Now, spring hockey is an intensely competitive series of tournaments and leagues wherein some of the best players gather to compete and compare themselves to other players in their birth year.



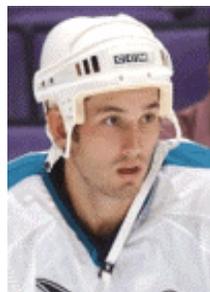
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Corey Schwab



Tavis Hansen

Bretton Stamler of the Seattle Thunderbirds provided instruction in the art of body checking and defensive zone coverage.

Corey Schwab of the New Jersey Devils (Vancouver, Tampa Bay and Toronto) provided personal instruction to Selects Goaltender Cameron Gray.

Tavis Hansen, formerly of the San Jose Sharks, Phoenix Coyotes and Winnipeg Jets joined the Kent Valley Selects twice to help run practices and give the boys tips on how to play the game.

Last Spring, the Kent Valley Selects fielded 3 teams during the spring season. The 91's competed in the prestigious Kamloops International Bantam Ice Hockey Tournament (KIBIHT) and performed admirably finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their 6-team division and qualifying for the playoffs with impressive wins over BC Powerhouse Langley and the Calgary Bruins. Players for the 91 team came from as far away as the LA Selects and the Phoenix Firebirds and 4 members of the team were drafted in the WHL draft 2 weeks later. Defenseman Kyle Verdino received first team all-star honors at the tournament.

The 92 Selects competed in Whistler in late June and performed well in spite of being short-handed due to injuries. The 92 team attracted local players and players from as far away as Alaska. The 95 Selects participated in the Frazier Valley Tournament in Chilliwack and the Pack West Timbers Tournament in Spokane, losing in the finals. In route to the finals the 95 Selects scored impressive wins which included a big win over the host Spokane team, which previously had won the 2006 Challenge Cup in their age division.

The Kent Selects practiced weekends and received instruction from NHL professionals and Tier I Western Hockey league players. Bretton Stamler of the Seattle Thunderbirds provided instruction in the art of body checking and defensive zone coverage. Corey Schwab of the New Jersey Devils (Vancouver, Tampa Bay and Toronto) provided personal instruction to Selects Goaltenders. Tavis Hansen, formerly of the San Jose Sharks, Phoenix Coyotes and Winnipeg Jets joined the Kent Valley Selects twice to help run practices and give the boys tips on how to play the game.

The Kent Valley Hockey Association initiated the Spring Selects program to provide a local venue for players wishing to continue playing competitive hockey without traveling to Canada every weekend. KVHA is the first program in the Puget Sound region to provide such an opportunity. Players in the Select program are by invitation and tryout only.

Next season the selects will field teams in the 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 and 97 age groups.

For further information on Spring Selects in 2007, contact Lexi Doner, Mark Bryan or Carlos Sosa at KVHA.