

ON THE BALL!!!

The Manitoba Ball Hockey Association Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Open Letter to Team Manitoba Prospects	2-3
MBHA NEW LOGO	
Women's Team Coach Gets Ball Rolling	
TEAM MANITOBA TRYOUT INFORMATION	4

Ball Hockey Thriving in Winnipeg - Kelly Huff

The Manitoba Ball Hockey Association is at the top of its game in 2009. With over 60 teams participating in its summer league, the game has never been stronger. This strength has been really highlighted by the competitiveness of each division, the success of the teams and individuals within, them and the interest in our provincial team programs, events, and volunteerism.

Key indicators of the MBHA's success in 2009 include hosting the Canadian National Ball Hockey Championship August 11-15th, for the first time in almost 30 years. The start of a provincial women's team program drawing on the association's more than 200 female members. As well the success of our elite players

Brant Cook, Scott Cameron, Dustin Kelly and provincial team coach Jeff Dzikowicz.

With the nationals our membership, and hockey community are going to get the chance to see ball hockey played at a level unimaginable to our summer league players and hopefully encourage our more competitive players to strive toward that level. It will also serve to celebrate and promote our game to the people of Winnipeg and facilitate future growth, specifically a potential youth league.

With our women's team program we have the opportunity to start something special. Creating synergies between the men's and women's team program will in-

crease awareness of the sport as well as increase our fundraising opportunities, and the dream of Manitoba medaling in

both Men's and Women's nationals will be huge for our sport.

With our national team selections we see the results of a strategic programming set that nurtures players to get into the game at the grassroots and work their way up through the levels toward National team selection. We have never had more than one representative on a national team, and now we have 4. Be proud MBHA members, as you are all part of the success and you will all be part

Special points of interest:

- Brant Cook played pro-ball hockey in Switzerland this winter
- The Players and CTO will represent Manitoba at the Western Bs, and the Decepticons will represent us at the Cs
- Team Manitoba's only loss at nationals in 2008 was to gold medal winner
- The Women's league has grown by 30 percent in 2 years

Team Manitoba Womens Coach Selected!!! – Kelly Huff

Kevin Hughes has been selected by the MBHA as the inaugural coach of the Women's Provincial Team Program. Kevin has served for several years as our head official and knows the game quite well. He has played in the league in almost every

division for over 7 years, as primarily a goaltender and a player. Including goaltending for the Winnipeg Selects at the Westerns in 2001. His coaching experience includes coaching AAA ice hockey, and level 3 coaching from

Hockey Canada. Kevin brings a passion for the game that is unrivalled and his commitment to building the Women's team program for 2009 and into the future was a strong factor in his selection.

A team made up of all MBHA members lost in a shootout in the final at the Nationals for the Play On! Street Hockey Tournament in Windsor, Ontario in February

An Open Letter to Prospective Men's Team Manitoba Players—Provincial Team Coach Jeff Dzikowicz

3 Years ago a team was put together from a tryout basis with the purpose of winning the gold medal at the Westerns that were being played in Winnipeg.

A promise was made that if we won gold we would move forward with selecting a team for nationals for the first time since 2000 and make a serious attempt and putting together a competitive team. So after a 7 year hiatus Team Manitoba made a return to the nationals in New Brunswick, the place where we left off, and with no real goal or aspiration other than to be competitive. Well, expectations were surpassed as we were not only competitive, we were 8 minutes away from our first medal in over 25 years,. Although we captured the title of **BEST IN THE WEST**, something I never intend on letting go, we were left thinking about what could have been and should have been, as well as what needed to be done moving forward. We moved forward alright selecting an excellent team to travel to the opposite coast with a very specific goal of getting a medal. Guess, what mission accomplished, despite the unavailability of several of our provinces best players. Those players absence opened up some doors for some new talent to step in and show what they can do and they showed a lot. Most importantly they showed the depth of our overall talent pool which leads us to set our goal for our performance in our own front yard, and that goal is **GOLD!!!!**

Now lets be very clear on something, our goal of Gold is not accomplished already, and we are by no means the favorite nor even in most peoples eyes one of the top contenders, but I believe that with the depth of talent, the work ethic that will be instilled, the strategy that has been successful for 3 years, and most importantly the people of the MBHA and Winnipeg behind us we will win **GOLD!!!!**

Now every road to a goal has its starting place and that starting place will be in the first week of May at our provincial team tryouts. We will be measuring technically with the beep test and 40 speeds. We will be measuring tactically with defensive coverage and offensive awareness. We will be measuring height and weight. We will be measuring competitiveness and talent during the scrimmages. We will be observing leadership, cohesion, camaraderie, ability to be a team player, work ethic. At the foremost of all of the measurements and probably the one that you cannot really measure at all, but we can all see it will be **CHARACTER AND HEART**, for these are the cornerstones of what **TEAM MANITOBA** is all about. That is what it will take to win **GOLD!!!!**

If one player thinks that this team will be selected on anything but those measurements listed above, please do not try out for you have revealed your true character already and are giving yourself an out if you are not good enough. We do not want players that need excuse parachutes to protect their ego. We want players that are going to put everything they have out on the floor with one goal in mind, not personal goals of glory, but one goal, and that is to **WIN GOLD!!!!**

It is strongly suggested that in your endeavors to be a part of this team and play in front of your friends, family, teammates and coworkers at the highest level in the nation, that you focus on one thing. That is your own personal play!. Please refrain from suggesting to everyone and anyone who you think should be or should not be on the team. Please refrain from any distorted vision of bias or favoritism of any individual. If you measure well in all of the above criteria you will be selected regardless of the jersey you where, who you are friends with, or if you are or are not a friend of any of the coaching or management of this team. In fact there will be absolutely no friends, except the friends that are made, en route to the selection of this team that we expect to **WIN GOLD!!!!**

The tryouts, which we are expecting over 50 players, are going to lead to an expanded roster of 30 plus players. These players will practice together until early to mid July, when the final 25 roster is submitted to the CBHA. Those final 25 roster spots will go the healthiest, fittest, and hungriest players en route to our mission to **WIN GOLD!!!!**



Team Manitoba won its first medal in almost 30 years in Vancouver in 08



Manitoba Ball Hockey Association Updates Logo

The Manitoba Ball Hockey Association has updated its logo for the first time in almost 20 years. The logo was done and redone several times to capture the right colours and representation of our province. As well professional look, and the ability to reproduce easily on promotional items and in a variety of media settings were key. Look for the new logo all over Manitoba in both the ball hockey and general communities. The new logo will usher in a great future of expected rapid growth.

Women's Team Coach Kevin Hughes Extends Invitation to All Women in the Association to Try Out! - Kevin Hughes

I have rounded out my coaching staff for the upcoming nationals with the addition of Jesse Peters and Allan Lau as assistant coaches. Jesse has extensive high level ice hockey experience coaching at the AAA Midget level the past 5 years and Allan who has the experience from assisting the CTO Division 1 Ball hockey team. The three of us plan on putting together a system that will enable the women to be competitive in all areas of the game during the nationals.

During our tryouts, we will be looking for women that not only have the skills and talent, but also have a great attitude and a willingness to compete on each on every shift that they are out there. We are planning on keeping 22 players and 3 goaltenders for the final roster, but we might keep more than that initially after tryouts and have a second set of releases done in July.

This team will mostly be comprised of Speed, skill and talent, but most of all attitude will be a key to a winning formula. It is not necessarily important to have only skilled players, because we also plan to have players that can jump in and fill different roles when needed.

If you have what it takes to help bring gold home, then come and tryout and show us what you have.

Kevin Hughes

Coach, Team Manitoba Provincial Women's Team Coach



Winnipeg has never had a Women's provincial team program', and with 13 womens teams and some great talent in our coed divisions we are expecting some early success. - Kelly Huff

MBHA NOTES

Manitoba Ball Hockey Association

200 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4M2

Phone: 204-925-5602
Fax: 204 925-5703
E-mail: mbha1@hotmail.com

We're on the Web at
www.manitobaballhockey.com

2209 Canadian National Ball Hockey Championship
Varsity View, St. Norbert Arena and the MTS Centre
August 11-15

Check the MBHA website for ticket package information
COME CHEER ON YOUR MENS AND WOMENS PROVINCIAL TEAMS!!!!

Garbonzo's has come on as a sponsor of our Men's and Women's Provincial Teams. They are contributing financially to our endeavours to win medals at the Nationals. As well they are giving great drink and food specials, have a great atmosphere and of course have great pizza and wings!!!! Please go after your games to Garbonzos and take your team with you, and support the businesses that support us!!!



TEAM MANITOBA BALL HOCKEY TRY-OUTS

@ Varsity View Arena, 4230 Ridgewood Ave.

Wednesday May 6th (40 yard Dash and SCRIMMAGE) 8:15pm – 11:45pm

Women (8:15pm – 9:30pm) Men (9:30 – 12:15am)

Friday May 8th (BEEP TEST AND SCRIMMAGE) 6:30pm - 10:30pm

Women (6:30pm – 8:00pm) Men (8:00pm – 10:30pm)

Saturday May 9th (MINI TOURNAMENT) 10:00am - 4:00pm

Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign-in.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY May 5th, 2009 with an MBHA TIME-KEEPER!!!

COST \$40.00 per player, players from all divisions and all positions are welcome.

This is a wide open tryout for all spots; all players from the 2008 team will be competing with all new players for the 25 spots available for the 2009 team and play in front of our friends and families in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Do you have what it takes? 2009 Team Manitoba will compete against 10 teams from across the country for a National Championship.

For more information contact:

Men's Coach – Jeff Dzikowicz 981-8188 or jeffdz@hotmail.com	Women's Coach- Kevin Hughes 792-9872 or kevin.hughes@yvg.com
--	---