

# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

## AAU Crowns the 2013 UHU Junior National Champions

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - The inaugural United Hockey Union National Championships wrapped-up last week in Sin City and some of the top junior hockey players in the nation shined under Las Vegas' lights.

The top two teams from the Western States, Midwest and Northern States Hockey Leagues, as well as all-star teams from each league, all converged on the Las Vegas Ice Center for the five-day event, which was far more competitive than anyone could have expected.

In the "Best of the Rest" bracket, the two WSHL teams, a overage squad made-up of players aging out of junior hockey and an under-20 team, ripped through the competition in the round-robin stage and met in the title game on Monday April 15. It was tight early on but the overage team pulled away late in a 3-1 victory, thanks to a goal and an assist from San Diego Gulls forward Justin Lazalde.



The two WSHL teams in the championship bracket fared just as well, as both the Idaho Jr. Steelheads and Bay Area Seals went undefeated in regulation during the three-game play-in

stage, earning the top two seeds heading into the semi-finals.

The other four teams, the Hartland Hounds and Tennyson Chevrolet of the MWJHL and Syracuse Stampede and Lake George Fighting Spirit of the NSHL, each went 1-2-0 and finished in a four-way tie for third place. Due to the goal-differential tiebreaker, the NSHL Champion Stampede finished third, while the MWJHL Champion Hounds nabbed the last spot.

After both WSHL teams took care of business in Monday's semi-final clashes, a rematch of the Thorne Cup Finals from just nine days earlier, where Idaho beat Bay Area to win their third consecutive WSHL title, decided the national champion.

In a very similar game, Idaho once again used their seemingly endless puck possession to pull away over the final two periods, as star forwards Dominik Gabaj and Stefan Brucato combined for seven points in a 5-1 win and first-ever UHU National Title.

After the success of the first full season of UHU hockey, new teams are already hopping aboard in each league, which should only make for an even more spirited championship event in 2014.

Article submitted by: Brent Maranto, WSHL Director of Communications

Sports for all, Forever



Editor

Keith Kloock  
21220 Wellington  
Woodhaven, MI 48183  
(734) 692-5158

Published monthly for the benefit and interest of AAU Ice Hockey participants.

AAU Leagues, Administrators, as well as Team Coaches and/or Managers are encouraged to submit articles and notices to:

[keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)



# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Page 2



## Idaho Junior Steelheads

**Players:** Jesse Collins, Tyler Kruenegal (C), Shamus O'Neil, Dominik Gabaj, Conner Kingsbury (A), Stefan Brucato (A), Josh Haverstorm, Dak Dice, Filip Kasaly, Victor Ivarsson, Jesper Jensen, August Von Ungern-Stenberg, Dallas Crum, Jan Blasko, Anton Virtanen, Ivo Crhak, Kevin Lassen, Cole Larson, Daniel Selby, Kirk Van Arkel, Randy Patzner, Tyler Danylichuk, Kyle Mitsunaga, Zach Walden, goaltenders Blake Mendenhall and Victor Olofsson.

**Staff:** Darrell Swigert (owner), John Olver (head coach), Kyle Grabowski (assistant coach), 'Fast Eddy' Summers and Dave Summers (equipment managers).

## AAU Junior A - Expansion

The 3 AAU United Hockey Union (UHU) Junior leagues have now expanded to 43 Junior A teams. Of course, it is still only spring and they are still growing.

The Midwest Junior Hockey League (MWJHL) Berkley Bruins (formerly the Great Lakes Lightning) have moved to the Berkley Ice Arena in Berkley MI and the Detroit Fighting Irish (formerly Tennyson Chevrolet) will continue to skate at the Allen Park Civic Center [fightingirishhockey.com](http://fightingirishhockey.com)

The Northeastern States Hockey League (NSHL) is expanding rapidly for 2013-2014. First adding the Maine Moose [www.mainemoosehockey.com](http://www.mainemoosehockey.com), Maine Wild [www.mainewildhockey.com](http://www.mainewildhockey.com) and Vermont Coyotes. And now adding the Wilkes-Barre Miners, which becomes the 10th NSHL team for the 2013-2014 season. The miners will skate out of the home rink of the AHL's Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins.

The Missoula Maulers [www.missoulamaulers.com](http://www.missoulamaulers.com) are very excited to announce that they have been accepted to play in the Western States Hockey League (WSHL) for the 2013-2014 season. The Maulers bring the WSHL to 23 teams who will be fighting for the leagues Thorne Cup!



# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Page 3

## AAU Mite-Squirt Qualifier Tournaments

Qualifying Tournaments are already being announced from several AAU Hockey Districts and Regions. These tournaments in order to provide pathways into the AAU Mite-Squirt National Championships

As was announced within a recent press release and April's newsletter, the AAU National Ice Hockey Championships will be held from March 6-9, 2014 in Edina Minnesota. Between 72-84 Mite teams and 36-48 Squirt teams will compete at several competition level.

Teams will be selected through a number of pathways including Qualifier Tournaments and through participation within AAU sanctioned leagues. Other through Qualifier Tournaments will be added to this list and reprinted as they are approved.



For additional information

Keith Noll  
keithn@aausports.org

Bernie McBain  
coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com

Keith Kloock  
keith@hockey-michigan.org

<u><b>10th Annual Labor Day</b></u>	Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, 2013	Arizona
<u><b>Motown Showcase</b></u>	Nov. 9-11, 2013	Michigan
<u><b>15th Annual Coyotes Cup</b></u>	Dec. 27-30, 2013	Arizona
<u><b>Christmas</b></u>	Dec. 27-30, 2013	Minnesota

## AAU 2014 Great Lakes Regional Championship

The date for the Michigan Mite and Squirt State Championships has been moved to February, in order to open up the month of January for a Regional Championship, without cause any conflicts for teams that may wish to attend both.

It is hoped that a location within Ohio, Indiana, Illinois or Wisconsin will be selected and that in the future we can begin rotating a Regional Tournament between several states.



Watch for our 2014  
Regional Tournament

## Rochester NY — Mite Full-Ice Tournament

The Rochester **Mite Full Ice Invitational Hockey Tournament** is scheduled for **October 18-20, 2013 in Rochester, NY.**

- Featuring: Full-Ice, periods will be 12-12-12, 4-game minimum (5-6 possible) and a cost of \$1050 (USD).
- The format will provide a 3 Championship rounds, Gold, Silver & Bronze.

Register Here: <http://rochesterinvitational.com/register>





## Michigan 2014 State Championship

The dates for the Michigan 2014 State Championship have been changed. The new schedule will allow for a season ending State festival to be held on the weekend of February 14-17, 2014 (which is the President's Day holiday). Proposed age classifications still include both Mites & Squirts (House & Travel). PeeWee and older classifications may be added if necessary.

This date change will allow for the addition of another Regional Qualifier to be held in January, while providing those teams with time for travel arrangements to the National Championships held in March. Yet most Michigan teams will then have the opportunity to participate in the State Tournament to close out their regular season.

In addition, most Michigan teams will have an opportunity to compete in their late season State Championships as a regular season ending festival.

Location(s) for the Michigan State Championships are still to be determined.

## Red Line Athletic Club (AAU)

Red Line Athletic Club (AAU) is seeking friendly games on the weekend of July 26-28. Any AAU Mite or Squirt teams interested in playing on July 26, 27 and/or 28th, please contact Bob DeGemmis at: [red-line-hockey@hotmail.com](mailto:red-line-hockey@hotmail.com).

We can play in the greater Washington, DC area or find a neutral venue. Thank you!



### RED LINE ATHLETIC CLUB (AAU)

Box/Field Lacrosse Spring 2013 Season (Mar 13 - June 5)

Spring Street Hockey 2013 (3/30, 4/8, 4/22, 5/11)

Summer Hockey 2013 Season (June 19 - Aug 3)

Fall Soccer 2013 Season (Aug 25 - Nov 10)

Winter Hockey 2014 Season (Nov 16 - Mar 9)

[www.rlacmetros.com](http://www.rlacmetros.com)

"The dates for the Michigan 2014 State Championship has been changed. ... for a season ending State festival to be held on the weekend of February 14-17, 2014 (which is the President's Day holiday weekend)."

AAU 2013 Junior Olympics  
Detroit - July 24 - Aug 3



AAU Ice Hockey  
National Mite-Squirt  
Committee



# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Page 5

## Minnesota Made Partners with AAU Winter Hockey

Minnesota Made Hockey and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), announced a new partnership that will see Minnesota Made Ice Center host the 1<sup>st</sup> annual AAU Squirt and Mite National Championships from March 6-9, 2014. In addition to the National Championships, Minnesota Made Hockey's Choice League will be hosting a new mid-winter tournament with teams from all over the country and plans are in the works to send players from the Choice League to Detroit for a winter tournament.

AAU hockey has seen rapid growth across the country over the past two years. With mandated cross ice hockey for all USA Hockey mites, AAU has seen its Hockey footprint grow exponentially in Michigan, Illinois, New York, California and many other new burgeoning markets.

Minnesota Made Hockey, has also seen their numbers grow and next winter they are expanding dividing to form two leagues. There will be a Southwest League, to be run primarily out of Minnesota Made Ice Center in Edina Minnesota, and a Northeast League operating primarily out of the Aldrich Arena in Maplewood Minnesota. The goal of the expansion of the Choice League offerings is to make it more logistically possible for North and East metro hockey players to compete in the league. There will be opportunities to play teams from both leagues. The Southwest leagues will continue to have leagues ranging from rookie mites to pee wee checking leagues, while the new Northwest league will have Silver mite, Gold mite and Squirt levels.



# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Page 6

## Hockey Colorado - 2013-2014 League

After wrapping up their 2012-2013 regular season, the Hockey Colorado teams are now well under way into their 2013 Spring season.

Yet, in order to prepare for the 2013-2014 season, Hockey Colorado is pleased to announce the expansion of their tournament-type AAU sanctioned league, which will operate throughout Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The league currently offers Mite (8U) and Squirt (10U) classifications running from September 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014 with games being played only of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.



- Teams will play 20 regular season league games + Playoffs
- To join this league, please register teams ONLINE at: [www.hockeycolorado.org](http://www.hockeycolorado.org)
- All inquiries should be directed to Vassiliy Larchenko at: [vlarchenko@hockeycolorado.org](mailto:vlarchenko@hockeycolorado.org)



### Regular Season Schedule

##	Date	7U (Mite Minor)	8U (Mite Major)	SQ Minor	SQ Major
1	Oct 18-20, 2013		X		X
2	Oct 25-27, 2013	X		X	
3	Nov 15-17, 2013		X		X
4	Nov 22-24, 2013	X		X	
5	Jan 10-12, 2014		X		X
6	Jan 24-26, 2014	X		X	
7	Jan 31– Feb 2, 2014		X		X
8	Feb 7-9, 2014	X		X	
9	Feb 21-23, 2014	Playoff for all divisions			



# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Page 7

## New York 2013 Large School State Champions

The Canisius High School Varsity Club hockey team captured the AAU Large School state championship on March 3 in Jamestown NY.

The championship game matched up the Canisius Crusaders with East Williston/Jericho from Long Island. The game started slow but the Crusaders woke up in the 2nd with goals from Pat O'Leary and Mike Piscatelli to grab a lead going into the 3rd. Piscatelli would record 2 more and O'Leary would add another as the Crusaders secured their first ever state title.



## New York 2013 Junior Varsity State Champions



The Hamburg Bulldogs JV Hockey team concluded an exciting season with a 6-1 win over the two time defending champion Canisius Crusaders, to capture their first ever NYS JV Club Hockey Championship. Held in Ithaca, NY, the Championship Tournament featured teams from Western and Central NY as well as Long Island.

## New York 2013 Small School State Champions

The NY Small School Championship pitted Western New York rivals the Cheektowaga High School Warriors against the Starpoint Spartans in the title game at Jamestown, NY on Sunday March 3, 2013. Starpoint took a 1-0 lead in the first with a goal from Christian Natti. Cheektowaga's Randy Szymkowiak tied it 1-1 in the second. Then with only 7.2 second left in the third, Chris Botzenhart scored defeating Starpoint 2-1.



## Q&A regarding Participation within both AAU Hockey and USA Hockey

The dramatic expansion of AAU ice hockey continues to present a great many questions from coaches, managers and parents who are interested learning about AAU Hockey programs and opportunities. After all, USA Hockey and its affiliates have enjoyed a virtual monopoly for decades and until recently many weren't even aware that AAU sanctioned ice hockey. Around the US, rumors cause ice hockey participants to mistakenly believe that USA Hockey has some sort of an exclusive right to administer all youth ice hockey. While in fact, this has simply never been the true.

In order to clarify some of these mistaken beliefs and rumors, please consider the following Q&A.

**1. May a PLAYER who participates within AAU Hockey programs, later participate within USA Hockey?**

**YES.** It would be a violation of both United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and even USA Hockey policies for any directors, officers or employees of USA Hockey or its affiliates to penalize anyone for their participation within AAU Hockey. To help clarify this point, please consider that the USA Hockey legal counsel has issued the USA Hockey Guidelines Regarding Non-Sanctioned Play. It is important to publicize this policy, which states in part that:

“Any Individual Participant may become a member of USA Hockey. Membership in or registration with another sanctioning body may not be used as a basis to deny membership in USA Hockey, its Affiliates or local programs. Correspondingly, no Individual Participant may be penalized for participating in a program that is not sanctioned by USA Hockey. ... ”

**2. May a COACH who participates within AAU Hockey programs, later participate within USA Hockey?**

**YES.** Essentially for the same reasons as stated above. The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act [Title 36 USC 220522(a)7] doesn't merely protect the membership rights of youth players. The Act protects all Individual Participants and requires that a amateur sport organization is eligible to continue to be recognized as a national governing body only if it:

“ ... demonstrates that its membership is open to any individual who is an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport for which recognition is sought, or any amateur sports organization that conducts programs in the sport for which recognition is sought, or both; ... ”

**3. May an INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT (such as a player or coach) participate within both AAU Hockey programs and USA Hockey programs at the same time?**

**YES.** At times this can be somewhat confusing. However, the easiest way to explain this is to simply note that the AAU and USA Hockey are separate organizations. AAU can not control what its members do within outside organizations (such as while participating within USA Hockey) and similarly USA Hockey can not control what its members do outside of USA Hockey. For obvious examples, USA Hockey members may chose to participate within other organizations such as the Boy Scouts, YMCA and even within other sports organizations such as AAU Inline Hockey, Little League Baseball, or with school Football and/or Soccer programs. AAU Hockey is no different.



4. **May an entire TEAM participate within AAU Hockey programs and USA Hockey programs at the same time?**

**YES and NO.** Obviously, this answer needs some further explanation. It is important to note that from an AAU Hockey perspective this is fine.

However, USA Hockey and/or its District affiliates currently prohibit a TEAM rostered within their organization from participating within programs that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey (at least as that same TEAM). Yet as previously addressed, INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS may compete within both organizations, ever during the same season. The distinction apparently being that INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS have individual rights, yet a TEAM rostered within USA Hockey is an affiliate.

Of course, despite the distinction mentioned above, nothing prohibits a group of INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS from banding together to also form as a group outside of USA Hockey. So clearly a group of PLAYERS and COACHES may become USA Hockey members and participate on their USA Hockey rostered team, in accordance with USAH procedures and rules. Likewise, the entire group of INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS (or a portion of them) may also become members of the AAU, form their own CLUB (team) and then participate on their AAU rostered CLUB (team), in accordance with AAU Hockey procedures and rules.

When such a group of INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS competes within a USA Hockey sanctioned practice, game, league or tournament then they are doing so as a USA Hockey rostered team and should comply with the rules and regulations of that organization.

When such a group of INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS competes within a AAU Hockey sanctioned practice, game, league or tournament then they are doing so as a AAU Hockey rostered CLUB and should comply with the rules and regulations of that organization.

5. **May an AAU CLUB (team) compete against a USA Hockey rostered TEAM?**

**YES and NO.** Obviously, another explanation is needed. From the perspective of an AAU team, YES (provided that the AAU players and coaches have elected the extended benefits 'AB' membership option). There is no rule within AAU prohibiting an AAU Hockey team from competing against a USA Hockey rostered team. In addition, the AAU extended benefits (AB) membership option provides insurance benefits to an AAU CLUB (team) and its properly registered AAU members during competitions, including non-sanctioned events. Such as while playing against a USA Hockey rostered team or against Canadian teams, tournaments, etc.

However, USA Hockey and/or its District affiliates currently prohibit a USA Hockey rostered team from competing within a non-sanctioned event. Therefore, it is important that USA Hockey may not insure a team rostered within that organization while playing against an AAU CLUB.

6. **May an AAU CLUB (team) compete against a Canadian team and/or on Canadian soil?**

**YES** (provided that the AAU players and coaches have elected the extended benefits 'AB' membership option). Any Canadian team, league or tournament willing to compete with an AAU CLUB may do so. Some rostered and/or sanctioned through Hockey Canada may refuse to play against AAU teams. However, so will and there are other governing bodies operating within Canada.

# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

## National Mite-Squirt Committee

### **AAU National Hockey Chairperson**

Keith Noll  
2409 Stout Rd., Suite #1  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 231-4000  
[slapshot@wwt.net](mailto:slapshot@wwt.net)

### **Committee Vice-Chair & Michigan**

Keith Kloock  
21220 Wellington  
Woodhaven, MI 48183  
(734) 692-5158  
[keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)

### **Committee Vice-Chair & Minnesota**

Bernie McBain  
7300 Bush Lake Rd.  
Edina, MN 55439  
(952) 746-9033

[coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com](mailto:coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com)

### **AAU Hockey - Pennsylvania**

Charlie Sgrillo

## AAU Hockey – National Support Staff

Trevor Hartwig  
(407) 934-7200

[trevor@aausports.org](mailto:trevor@aausports.org)

Crystal Mannino  
(407) 828-2660

[crystal@aausports.org](mailto:crystal@aausports.org)

## AAU Ice Hockey Leagues & Websites

[www.aauhockey.org](http://www.aauhockey.org)

### **Youth**

Hockey Colorado:	<a href="http://www.hockeycolorado.org">www.hockeycolorado.org</a>
Hockey Michigan:	<a href="http://www.hockey-michigan.org">www.hockey-michigan.org</a>
Minnesota:	<a href="http://www.minnesotamadehockey.com">www.minnesotamadehockey.com</a>
Oklahoma:	<a href="http://www.fulltilthockeyok.com">www.fulltilthockeyok.com</a>

### **Scholastic**

WNYHSCHL:	<a href="http://www.eteamz.com/wnyhshchl">www.eteamz.com/wnyhshchl</a>
Long Island, NY:	<a href="http://www.longislandhshockey.net">www.longislandhshockey.net</a>

### **Junior**

MWJHL:	<a href="http://www.mwjhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/mwjhl">www.mwjhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/mwjhl</a>
NSHL:	<a href="http://www.northernstateshockey.com">www.northernstateshockey.com</a>
WSHL:	<a href="http://www.wshl.org">www.wshl.org</a>

Sports for all, Forever



### **Editor**

#### **Keith Kloock**

21220 Wellington  
Woodhaven, MI 48183  
(734) 692-5158

AAU Leagues, Administrators, as well as Team Coaches and/or Managers are encouraged to submit articles and notices to:

[keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)

## AAU Ice Hockey

### **Amateur Athletic Union**

PO Box 22409  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
(407) 934-7200

[aausports.org](http://aausports.org)

#### **Keith Noll**

National Hockey Chairperson  
(715) 231-4000

[aauhockey.org](http://aauhockey.org)

#### **Ron White**

Juniors (UHU) Director  
(714) 231-2531

#### **Trevor Hartwig**

Staff Member  
(407) 934-7200

[trevor@aausports.org](mailto:trevor@aausports.org)

A single low cost AAU membership will provide benefits and opportunities for events in over 40 sports including:

