

AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 13

Inaugural Mite & Squirt National Championship Recap

Dateline Minnesota March 6-9, 2014: Teams from 11 states converged upon the twin-cities of Minneapolis-St.Paul, Minnesota where AAU Hockey hosted their Inaugural Mite and Squirt National Championships. The event was a huge success and featured over 30 teams. Congratulations to everyone who participated, especially the newly crowned National Champions listed below!

Squirt:

- Gold - Minnesota Made Red (Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN)
- Silver - Minnesota Made Gold (Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN)
- Bronze - Rapid Fire (Superior, WI)
- Copper - Team Big Bear (Denver, CO)

Mite AAA:

- Gold - Illinois Steel (Illinois)
- Silver - Illinois Jesters (Illinois)
- Bronze - Syracuse Cadets (Syracuse, NY)
- Copper - Hurricanes (Illinois)

Mite AA:

- Gold - DSC Revolution (Bloomfield, MI)
- Silver - Vehicle City Ice Hogs (Flint, MI)
- Bronze - Anaheim Lions (Anaheim, CA)
- Copper - Minnesota Made Gold (Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN)

Mite A - Tier 1:

- Gold - Florida Fire Ants (Tampa, FL)
- Silver - Tulsa Jr. Oilers (Tulsa, OK)
- Bronze - Rapid Fire (Superior, WI)
- Copper - New Haven Nighthawks (New Haven, CT)

Mite A - Tier 2:

- Gold - Dearborn Cobra Select (Dearborn, MI)
- Silver - Livonia Rockets (Livonia, MI)
- Bronze - Minnesota Made Red (Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN)
- Copper - Minnesota Made Gold (Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN)

See more final stats and standings at: www.aauicehockey.org

Sports for all, Forever



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A Personal Story of Conviction: Meet 9 year old Noah Powell

Written by: Julie Sautner, AAU and reprinted from Let's Play Hockey

Stand-out athlete 9 year old Noah Powell was just like all of the other kids on the ice at the 2014 AAU National Ice Hockey Championships. He traveled with his family and team, the Illinois Jesters, to Minnesota to compete in the hopes of winning a national title, scoring goals, and overall dominating on the ice. Noah however, is NOT just an ordinary hockey player. Noah has mild to moderate bilateral hearing loss.

We met Noah and his team right before their AAA semifinal and would have never known of his challenges if it weren't for the coach notifying the referee at the start of the game of their "hard of hearing" player. Noah and his coach Mark Roy, who is also hard of hearing, use a device called an Assisted Listening Device (ALD) to help Noah hear coaching commands just like the rest of his team does. Noah has hearing aids he places directly into his ear canal while his coach has a small microphone he wears around his neck which projects his voice directly to Noah's hearing aids.

Noah's mom and dad, Maria Elena and Anthony, sat down with AAU to tell us a little bit about Noah's journey. Noah has been competing in the sport of hockey since he was just 4 years old. His parents were shocked to find out after a mandatory first grade hearing screening mandated by the state of Illinois where they live that Noah had mild to moderate hearing loss. He has the most trouble hearing middle conversational phonetic sound. His type of hearing loss can make it more challenging for him compared to others without hearing loss in and outside of the classroom. After discovering his hearing impairment, his school teachers began using an ALD so Noah could hear in the classroom.

When his parents learned about his hearing loss, he had already been playing hockey for 2 years. Maria Elena told us, "When we learned of his hearing loss, we thought he might have to pursue another sport other than hockey."

Not long after Noah and his family consider themselves "blessed" to have found the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) which allowed them to believe that Noah could continue to play hockey.





“AHIHA taught us what was possible and every year they host a week-long camp in Chicago and families from all over the country unite,” said Maria Elena.

“It’s an amazing experience for our kids that love the game of hockey regardless of whether they are hard of hearing or deaf!”

With noticeable improvements in the classroom his parents decided “Why not use it in hockey too?” They invested in their own ALD to use on the ice with the hockey coaches. Coach Mark recalls the first game where they used his ALD as a “night and day difference.” Noah no longer had to rely on reading lips and could just focus all of his energy into playing the game just like all of his other teammates and competitors. Because Coach Mark is also hard of hearing and almost completely deaf in one of his ears, he relates to Noah on a whole different level compared to other coaches that are not hearing impaired. They have a very special relationship and Coach Mark likes to joke about how he has to be careful what he says on the bench while wearing the ALD.

“Noah hears EVERYTHING.” said Coach Mark. “He will skate by after I say something to one of the other

coaches and say ‘I heard that coach!’.”

Hockey is Noah’s passion. It allows him an outlet to take out all of his energy and frustration. His determination and drive despite his challenges is noticeable when you watch him play. If you look at the leaderboard from the AAU National Ice Hockey Championships AAA Mite level it speaks for itself. Noah was the top leader for assists and goals over all of the teams upon the conclusion of the tournament. Noah participates in AAU with the Illinois Jesters Mite team but he also competes with a community hockey group the Northbrook Bluehawks.

He does have to work harder and probably always will but he’s determined to do so to keep up with the other kids. His parents told us that Noah will even study Patrick Kane moves and try and emulate and practice them to keep improving his hockey techniques.

Noah Powell is just one example of many AAU participants defying their odds and challenges. We commend his efforts and wish him the best of luck in AAU Hockey and all of his future endeavors.

Getting involved with AHIHA gave Noah’s family hope, inspiration and support. For more info on the:

American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association [CLICK HERE](#).



2014 Inaugural AAU Mite National Champions



8U AAA - Gold Medalist - *Illinois Steel*
Champions of: Hockey Illinois League and Motown Showcase



8U AA - Gold Medalist - *DSC Revolution*

2014 Inaugural AAU Mite National Champions



8U A (Tier 1) - Gold Medalist - *Florida Fire Ants*



8U A (Tier 2) - Gold Medalist - *Dearborn Cobra Selects*

Champions of: League (MAYHL 7U Advanced), Glacier Pointe Early Bird, Cleveland Mite Showcase

Collin - When can I skate?

There is not a team that better understands the rewards of hard work and determination more than Dearborn Michigan's Mite A Cobras Selects. The team is made up of 16 boys determined to win. Through a long, hard season of games against tough competition, the team was prepared for the challenge that Nationals would bring.

One player, especially, has been defying all odds this season. Collin Michalak, a 7 year old defenseman on the Cobras Selects, has had his fair share of hurdles to jump. Diagnosed with a rare auto-inflammatory syndrome at the age of 2, Collin has undergone numerous surgeries and procedures as well as routine doctor's visits, both local and out of state. He has used hockey as his motivation through it all. Collin has skated games and practices with high fevers, joint, and muscle pain, but has never allowed his TRAPS syndrome stop him from doing what he loves... play hockey.

This past spring, Collin was injured during a tournament in Sarnia, ONT. He had gone feet first into the boards, breaking his right femur. After being transferred to Children's Hospital of Michigan, he underwent a procedure to place a pin, plate, and two screws in his hip to allow the bone to heal. Collin's first question to the surgeon was, "when can I skate?" Collin began intensive physical therapy three times a week to rebuild the muscle that he quickly lost after the injury. Unable to skate, Collin refused to miss his team tryouts and insisted that he go to them in his wheelchair. At five and a half weeks after injury, Collin was cleared to start skating again. He got back on the ice with the same passion and lack of fear that he left it with. Within a few weeks, Collin's game was right where he had left off.

There is no way that Collin could have done this alone. The support and motivation from his coaches and teammates helped him stay focused and positive through a time that could have been discouraging, if not devastating, for any 7 year old boy.

Congratulations to the Dearborn '06 Cobras Selects! Your hard work, teamwork, and hunger to win have made you National Champions!



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2014 Inaugural AAU Squirt National Champions

On March 6th a talented group of boys came together to represent the Minnesota Made in the inaugural AAU tournament. They were one of 2 teams from Minnesota currently playing in the MN Made Choice League.

Team Red represented MN Made and the State of Minnesota with great leadership from it's coaching staff, a high powered offense, top defense and two young, confident net-minders. Heading into pool play, Team Red was to face off with the Dallas Ice Jest, Rapid Fire and our own Made Teal team. After decisive victories in pool play and finishing with a 3-0 record, Team Red landed the #1 seed and matched up with Big Bear in the semi-finals.

Team Red advanced past Big Bear to reach the championship and met it's inner-league rival, MnMade Gold. From the drop of the puck there was end to end action with outstanding goaltending from both teams stealing the show. In the end Team Red prevailed 3-2 and took home a well deserved Championship!



Thanks Coach

Hockey is my favorite sport. It always has been and it always will be. I love everything about Hockey. From pucks to elbow pads, sticks to helmets, red lines to blue lines, power plays to short-handed goals, OT to shutouts, benches to locker rooms, teammates to coaches, and from my first Mite Game to playing for the AAU Squirt National Championship. It's a Hockey Life!

That's right! I was lucky enough to play in the AAU Squirt National Championships, March 6-9th, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was an experience I'll never forget. There were a lot of great teams from all over the United States that came. It was Amazing! There was even a team from Florida called "The Florida Fire Ants". That's got to be one of the greatest Hockey team names ever! I played for the Minnesota Made Gold team, from Edina, Minnesota. It was a great team, with great teammates, and great coaches. The head coach of the team was Dan Wurst. The assistant coaches were Joe Norlin, Steve Nelson, and Troy Johnson. All of them had coached me before, and I have nothing but respect and admiration for all of them.

My journey towards the Championship game began on March 6th, 2014. We survived our 3 day pool-play with a #1 seed. We then played an elimination game against Team Rapid Fire, from Superior, Wisconsin. After winning that game, it was on to the National Championship game against the Minnesota Made Red team. Both teams were undefeated going into the game. My teammates and I knew that this was going to be a tough game to win. It was also going to be a game against a lot of kids I knew and kids who are friends of mine.

The game started fast and furious, and before my team knew it, we were down 0-2. We fought back though, and all of a sudden, it was tied-up 2-2 going into the third period. It was going to be one period for a National Championship Ring. I'd never felt this kind of pressure before in any sport...ever! The Minnesota Made Red team scored about half-way through the third period. We fought hard to try and tie it up, but we just couldn't get the puck in the net. On March 9th, 2014, our team lost in the AAU Squirt National Championship Game, 3-2. I was happy for my friends on the other team, but I was still heartbroken. We came so close. I'm still not over that loss. It's the only time in my short Hockey career that I've actually shed tears because of a defeat. But we had nothing to hang our heads about. We were runner-ups in the National Championship game...and the last time I checked, "National" means Nation. We really had a lot to be proud of.

As I was leaving the rink at Minnesota Made with my silver medal around my neck and my hockey gear in tow, my coach Mr. Dan Wurst saw me and came over to talk to me. He said something to me that I will never forget for the rest of my life.

He looked into my eyes, grabbed the top of my head with his hand and said: "Michael, I want you to learn from this today. I know it hurts, but I want you to become a better Hockey player because of it. Know in your heart that you tried your best, never forget, but don't ever let this bring you down or break your spirit. I promise, you'll become a better person because of it."

Thanks Coach!

Michael Manning (and my Dad) Age 10
Minnesota Made Gold Team
AAU Squirt National Championships/Runner-ups

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Let's Play Hockey Expo



Let's Play HOCKEY EXPO

RiverCentre • St. Paul, MN



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Hockey Michigan 3rd Annual State Chamionships helps our Michigan National Guard friends & families



Dateline Farmington Hills Michigan March 14-16, 2014: Following a long tradition of hockey families helping others, this year **Hockey Michigan** adopted the Michigan National Guard Family Fund in an effort to assist them in they mission to provide Michigan National Guard Families who experience sudden & unexpected financial difficulties with temporary financial assistance.

Please consider a donation to the Michigan National Guard Family Fund. One hundred percent of this not-for-profit fund goes to financially struggling families of deployed Michigan National Guard members. Please fee free to contact the Family Fund at (517) 481-8358 and/or send donations by check or money order to: **Michigan National Guard Family Fund**

State Family Programs Office
3423 N. Martin Luther King Blvd
Lansing, MI 48906



Thank you!

to the young women and men of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corp Color Guard who volunteered to help benefit National Guard families.



AAU 2014 Michigan State Champions

Medal	7U (2006) Open	7U (2006) A	8U (2005) B
Gold	Livonia Rockets	Downriver Warriors	Motor City Wolves
Silver	Canton Crush	Dearborn Cobras	Livonia Grizzlies
Bronze	Motor City Wolves	Port Huron Northstars	Wyandotte Vikings
Copper	Brighton Rebels	Trenton Trojans	Dearborn Spitfires



Mite Minor (7U) Open

After going 11-0 and finishing 1st overall in their MAYHL division and their Sivern Medal appearance at AAU Nationals only one week earlier, the Livonia Rockets captured Gold and the Michigan State Championship at the 7U Open (2006) classification with a 6-1 victory over the silver medalist Canton Crush.

Mite A (2006)

The Downriver Warriors made it a clean sweep at States with a close 4-3 victory over the Dearborn Cobras 06. The Warriors had been grinding out a 3-0 lead with goals in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Until the Cobras took control late in the 3rd. At 4:43 left in the game the Warriors secured an insurance goal, which became the game winner and earning the Mite A State Championship.



picture not available at press time



Mite B (2005)

The Motor City Wolves scored in the 2nd and Livonia Grizzlies scored half way through the 3rd for a 1-1 standoff. And it looked like a possible OT until 0:36 of the 3rd when the Wolves score the game winner to win their first ever Mite B State Championship.

AAU Mite-Squirt Leagues

This page will continue to be updated as additional league information becomes available.

8U Prep League

www.nsyf.org

Massachusetts. Offering opportunities at the 8U classification.

American Revolution (ARSS) www.americanrevolutionhockey.com

Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 18U classifications.

Canadian Independent (CIHF) www.cihfhockey.com

Ontario. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

Eastern Amateur (EAHA) www.eahahockey.org

Connecticut. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 12U classifications.

Empire Hockey League (EHL) www.empirehockeyleague.com

California & Nevada. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 8U classifications.

Greater Niagara (GNAHL) www.eteamz.com/greatniagaraamateurhockeyleague

New York. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 10U classifications.

Hockey Colorado

www.hockeycolorado.org

Colorado & Wyoming. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 12U classifications.

Hockey Illinois

www.aauhockeyillinois.org

Illinois & Wisconsin. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 8U classifications.

Michigan Amateur (MAYHL) www.mayhl.com

Michigan & Ohio. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

Minnesota Made

www.minnesotamadehockey.com

Minnesota. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 12U classifications.

New England (NEAHL)

www.neahl.org

Maine, Massachusetts & New Hampshire. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

North East Hockey League

Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

Redline Metros (RLAC)

www.rlacmetros.com

Maryland, Virginia & greater Washington DC. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

Salt Lake County (SLCYHL) www.youthhockey.slco.org

Utah. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 14U classifications.

Tulsa Jr Oilers

www.tulsajroilers.com

Oklahoma. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 10U classifications.



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Scholastic

WNYHSCHL: www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl
Long Island, NY: www.longislandhshockey.net

Junior

MWJHL: www.mwjhl.com
NSHL: www.northernstateshockey.com
WSHL: www.wshl.org

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

