

Montgomery Cheetahs Year 2 Vol. 6

July 17, 2007

Web site: http://edit.usahockey.com/montgomery_spe/main_site/main/home///

Only one more practice left in this summer session!

Thank you mentor coordinator, Lyn Weintraub and mentor parent Andy Wolfe for helping out on and off the ice last week with Coach Schwab and Lucia. Many thanks to the mentors who have gotten up early to help our athletes learn to play ice hockey.

There will be a parent meeting following practice on Saturday. Come with questions/suggestions and an open mind to volunteer for some positions that have openings!

Those athletes who still do not have equipment, please email Carol Hyndman (clhyndman@comcast.net) to coordinate.

If you would like to be taken off of this email list, please email me. We will let you know our Fall schedule as soon as we have it.

Keep reading to find out more Cheetah news.

Kelly Thackston
kcthackston@hotmail.com

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I. Coach Spotlight – David Schwab

Thanks to second year coach David Schwab for taking time to answer the following questions. -KCT

Kelly Thackston: Why did you volunteer to coach this team?

David Schwab: I volunteered to coach the team before we ever really had a team. I got involved when I emailed Mike Hickey (President, American Special Hockey Association) and was told that we were getting donated ice time at the Rockville Ice Arena. I had told Mike that I had a friend with 2 autistic children and that I was interested in volunteering. Once the Berks got involved and our participation exploded with more players and mentors, I knew I had a lot of good people surrounding me and that I was up for the challenge of coaching the team.

I've really enjoyed the success that we have had so far and I want to thank Coach Lucia, the parents, mentors, the players, and everyone else that has helped the Cheetahs along the way.

KCT: What goals do you have for the Cheetahs this season?

DS: Going into our second full season in the Fall, I think our main goal is to get some of our beginner players skating and prepare the rest of the team to travel to Toronto for the next Special Hockey Tournament.

KCT: What are some challenges the team faces?

DS: The team faces challenges on many levels, all of which are going to be faced together by the coaches, families, mentors, and the players. As a coach, I realize that practicing just once a week is not enough and with our summer break approaching, it is very important that our players continue to "train" however much they can to stay in good condition for the next season.

There should be a number of events in the off season to keep our team busy.

KCT: How do you coach a team that has so many differences in ability?

DS: The varying levels of ability does not really change the way the team is coached. Splitting up the ice into different partitions has certainly been effective though. I think we still go about teaching hockey skills the same way we would any other team.

KCT: Do you currently play hockey? Did you play in the past?

DS: I do currently play goalie on 2 teams and fill in on other teams when needed. I started playing pickup hockey when I was in college at the University of Maryland. I played for the University of Maryland team my senior year and have been playing in various men's leagues ever since.

Editor's note – Coach Schwab tended goal on Team USA in the USA vs. Canada coaches' game at the end of this year's Special Hockey International Tournament held in Arlington, VA in April.

II. Cheetah Mom in the News

Seen in last week's Gazette, Cheetah mom and community outreach coordinator Andrea Golden at the Cure Autism Now Run in Potomac on July 4, 2007. Click the link to read the article and see the picture.

http://www.gazette.net/stories/071107/montnew02801_32370.shtml

III. Area Special Hockey BBQ

American Special Hockey Association President Mike Hickey (mhickey@specialhockey.org) is waiting for confirmation from The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, MD for a picnic dinner he is planning this summer. ASHA is supporting a group of college hockey players who are rollerblading from Florida to Maine in "Rolling for Autism" (<http://www.rollingforautism.com>) .

Three area Special Hockey teams, the Northern Virginia Cool Cats (<http://www.novacoolcats.org/>), Montgomery Cheetahs and the Washington Ice Dogs (<http://www.specialhockeyinternational.org/members/washington/washington.htm>) will be invited to the open skate and picnic dinner.

Details will be coming as soon as we have them!

IV. Schedule

Arrive about 30 minutes before ice time (7:30am) to get equipment on/matched with a mentor.

ARC Rockville Ice Arena
50 Southlawn Court
Rockville, MD 20850
301-294-8101
(<http://www.rockvilleicearena.com>)

| Date | Day | Start time | End time |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| 07/21/07 | Saturday | 8:00 AM | 8:50AM** |

****PARENT MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRACTICE ON JULY 21.****

V. Contacts

Questions? Contact a contact.

David Schwab
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Montgomery Cheetah Coach

David Lucia
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Montgomery Cheetah Coach

Steve Berk
Steven@chavezgertler.com
Lead coordinator

Kevin VanLowe
kvanlowe@emassist.com
Treasurer

Niki Bouvier
nbouvier@verizon.net

Liaison to American Special Hockey Association (ASHA) and Montgomery Youth Hockey Association (MYHA). ASHA can help us with coaching, equipment and tournaments. Parent email. USA Hockey registration

Kelly Thackston

kcthackston@hotmail.com

Special Hockey Montgomery newsletter/parent information. USA Hockey registration.

Sutura Bobbo

suturabello@hotmail.com

Coordinates registration of new and existing skaters, forms etc. USA Hockey registration.

Carol Hyndman

clhyndman@comcast.net

Equipment and uniforms (yes uniforms) coordinator.

Lynn Weintraub

hibob99@aol.com

Coordinator for our many (and enthusiastic) mentors.

Andrea Golden

goldnfam@comcast.net

Educates mentors and coordinates our outreach to the autism/special needs community.