

## Montgomery Cheetahs Year 2 Volume 35

April 9, 2008

Cheetah web site: [www.usahockey.com/montgomery\\_spe](http://www.usahockey.com/montgomery_spe)

ASHA web site: [www.americanspecialhockey.org](http://www.americanspecialhockey.org)

Welcome back Tourney Cheetahs and Coaches,

The team had a blast in Mass. Keep reading for an account from Cheetah Special Correspondent, Sean Twombly. If you didn't make it to the tourney, this is a must read.

A huge thank you to Coach Schwab and Lucia and Steve, Corey and Jake Berk who attended the tourney with the athletes and their families. And a big shout out to Andy Rothstein, tourney coordinator extraordinaire.

We had a solid turnout with the Wootton High School practice this evening. Thanks to the Patriots, the Maryland State champions. When asked by the owner of the Rockville Ice Arena what he could do for them for earning the State Crown, they proposed a practice with the Cheetahs on a full sheet of ice! Our athletes had a great time.

A lot of things to look forward to including a team meeting (look for info in another email), a new Special Hockey team forming in the Baltimore area and an award from the Governor on April 22nd.

When we have our summer schedule, I'll let everyone know.

Attached is a letter from the Governor explaining the award we won and naming the recipients of the various categories.

Thank you,

Kelly Thackston

[kcthackston@hotmail.com](mailto:kcthackston@hotmail.com)

### **I. Governor's Volunteer Service Award**

If you are interested in attending the 25th Anniversary Governor's Volunteer Service Award Presentation and Reception, please RSVP to the below phone number.

When: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 2 pm

Where: The Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

801 Chase St. Annapolis, MD

RSVP by April 15th 410 767-1216

(Business Attire)

Turner and I will be attending. If you are planning on going, email me and we can all try to meet up at some point.

## II. Cheetah Tourney News

### **Cheetahs Race Up East Coast for 2008 USA Disabled Hockey Tournament**

By Sean Twombly

Cheetah Special Correspondent

With tired eyes five Cheetah players, along with parents and Coach David Schwab boarded a bus with the NOVA Cool Cats bound for Massachusetts early Thursday morning, to be met by the rest of their teammates. The excitement was high as players and parents from both squads got to know each other during the exit from the city. Despite a minor interruption (due to the impatience of a local driver who decided to try and beat the bus and the ensuing wait for DC Metropolitan Police) we cruised in style for nine hours to Marlborough. Upon arrival we had a great meal at a local Italian restaurant which set the tone for the rest of the weekend.

Friday morning both squads set off for the rinks at the New England Sports Center. The Cheetahs had the distinction of playing the first game of the "special hockey" section, facing off against the Philadelphia Fearless Flyers. Coach David Lucia settled an excited bunch of Cheetahs with a great pregame talk and named his "red" and "blue" lines for the tournament. The Cheetahs came out strong against the more experienced Flyers taking a first period lead backed by some outstanding work by netminder Thomas Morere. Elias Tsakiris and Zach Range led the first period charge with a couple goals each. The Flyers mounted a comeback in the second period and Cheetahs worked hard to keep pace with the bigger Flyers team. Kevin Coleman netted two goals in the third period to keep the score close as Adam Rothstein played great defense and Brendan Kania hustled to all corners to minimize the Flyer attack. At the final horn the team gave salutes to their goalie and then as part of hockey sportsmanship lined up at center ice to shake hands with the Flyers. The Cheetahs returned to their locker room with sweat and smiles after a hard fought game number one.

With a lot confidence the Cheetahs returned to Rink 5 later that afternoon to take on the South Connecticut Storm, a first-year ASHA team. Primed with a bit of game experience and some locker room strategy talk led by Adam Rothstein, the Cheetahs came out firing on all cylinders and put some early tallies on the board. Cheetahs Maurice van Lowe, Daniel Sartucci, and David Lucia played key roles in keeping the puck deep in the Storm end and each netted a goal. Though I stopped keeping count after about 15, the Cheetahs peppered the Storm goalie (the 15 year old son of the Storm coach) who turned away shot after shot in his first game appearance. Cheetah goalie Thomas Morere came up big again as he turned aside some great chances by the Storm. Thanks to some quick teaching by Thomas' mother we were all signing "good job" to let him know how great he had done. By the third period the Cheetahs really controlled the game as Kevin Coleman, Adam Rothstein, and Zach Range tallied big goals. Ben Twombly, Sam Majane, and Dakota Simons also got into the action with some great shots thanks to key positioning by their mentors Jake and Corey Berk (thanks boys!). There were big high fives for goalie Thomas Morere and lots of smiles again on the return to the locker room.

Following game 2 all the participating teams stuck around for the opening ceremonies and pizza party. In the time between the end of our game and the festivities we all got a chance to watch some of the other games, including the fascinating sled hockey tournament. For those of you not familiar with the sport, athletes sit on a skateboard-like device that has two hockey blades mounted in place of wheels (imagine putting your skates heel to toe and you'll understand) and use their gloves to move. Each player has a mini-stick in each hand to whack the puck. The skill in which these players moved was incredible. Cheetah Coach Dave Schwab took a shot at trying this out during open ice and confirmed it was really challenging. Sadly there was no one on hand to photograph his flops!

On Saturday the Cheetahs returned to the rink prepped for game three versus the Boston Bear Cubs. Adam Rothstein gave an important impromptu inspirational speech to his teammates in the locker room. It worked. As they had in the first two games, the Cheetahs came out of the locker room strong. The game experience began to show early as the passing game took shape. Brendan "soft hands" Kania repeatedly set up his "blue line" mates for great shots and Kevin "between the legs" Coleman offered the same to his red line. The passes led to more great chances including a beautiful one-timer by Aaron Hyndman which "pinged" the post denying him a great goal. Cheetah Zach Range (who played goalie for the NOVA Cool Cats throughout the tournament) gets the "GUTS" award as he finished a game in net for the Cool Cats only to rush to our dressing room, change gear and hit the ice again. Zach "Ranged" far and wide on both offense and defense.

Though the scoreboard was the least important element of this trip, the Cheetahs came out on top in two of their three games. Most important was a great sense of bonding and friendship amongst the squad. The group enjoyed an afternoon trip into Boston to explore the city, took over the hotel pool, and ran amuck in the lobby -- including a great Saturday night when multiple families sat in the lobby to listen to the Washington Capitals clinch a spot in the NHL playoffs via Internet radio. By Sunday morning a tired bunch of players, parents, and coaches boarded the bus for DC knowing that it was less than twelve months to the next tournament in Buffalo, NY. I can't wait.

Strong thanks go to Steve Berk for leading the charge behind the bench, for Coaches Lucia and Schwab for getting all players a chance to play offense, defense -- and in most cases -- to score a goal, and of, course, Andy Rothstein for putting everything together for the tourney.

I'm taken the liberty of creating a Cheetahs page on Flickr (the photosharing site). I've already uploaded my pictures there. I hope anyone else who took photos will consider doing the same or simply tag them with "montgomery cheetahs" -- the quotes are necessary -- under your own account. Just visit <http://www.flickr.com/> and log in (look for link in upper right hand corner) with Yahoo ID: MontgomeryCheetahs and password: hockey. You can add more photos to the bunch I have. For those of you that just want

to look them go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/montgomerycheetahs>. I also noticed that if you search Montgomery Cheetahs in Flickr a bunch of photos posted by Paddy's father Sean appear. They are from the end of the season party.