

LOCAL YOUTH HOCKEY TEAMS ARE ONE STEP CLOSER TO USA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pennsauken, NJ - February 16, 2009 - Three Team Comcast Tier I “AAA” Youth Hockey Club teams who play at the Virtua Health Flyers Skate Zone in Pennsauken, NJ, have clinched first place in the Atlantic District, at their respective age levels.

“This is an outstanding accomplishment,” said Comcast-Spectacor Vice President of Rink Management and Development Pat Ferrill. “The recent achievements of these young men is a sure sign that the future is bright for the future of ice hockey players from our region.”

The PeeWee (1996 birth year), Bantam (1994 birth year), and Midget (16U) teams of the Tier I “AAA” Team Comcast Youth Hockey Club earned bye weeks by clinching first place in their District with records of 14-1-1, 15-1-0, and 22-2-0 records, respectively. The teams now await the winners of a round robin tournament comprised of District rivals. The winners of the round robin will then face Team Comcast in a best-of-three playoff in which the victors will earn a trip to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament.

The Midget (16U) team has three of the top four scorers in the league, including forward Jamie Hill of Glassboro, NJ; with a league-leading 75 points (75) and assists (52). His teammate Kyle Smith of Lumberton, NJ, leads the team and is tied for the league lead in goals (36) and ranks second on the team and in the league in points (74). Smith recently committed to play Division I college hockey at the University of New Hampshire. Lastly, Eric Neiley of Warminster, PA, ranks second on the team in goals (35), third on the team in assists (35), and third on the team, fourth in the league in points (70).

The Bantam ('94) team has a balanced offensive attack which includes six of the top 10 scorers in the league. Coach Rob Badger sites a complete team effort, with contributions from all 17 players, including two of the league's top goaltenders as the main reasons for the team's success.

Flyers Head Coach John Stevens and Defenseman Derian Hatcher will be following the Bantam ('94) team closely, as their sons are both on the Team Comcast Roster. Stevens also has a son on the PeeWee ('96) team.

The best-of-three playoffs for all three age levels will be held at Ice Line in West Chester, PA. Midget (16U) will play on the weekend of March 5 through 8, while PeeWee (12U) and Bantam (14U) will play from March 13 through 15.

Should the teams advance, Nationals begin on Wednesday, April 1. PeeWee (12U) Nationals will be held in Indian Trail, NC. Bantam (14U) Nationals will be played in Frisco, TX, and Midget (16U) Nationals will be in Chesterfield, MO.

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