



Midget Hounds Take 3 Out of 4 At SCIS



DEC 2007 \$5.00

The Hounds News

Mite/Squirt Hounds
Face-Off Against A Big
Opponent At The
Ford Arena

MILTON P. HEBERT
HEALTH &
WELLNESS
CENTER

+ PEEWEE HOUNDS IN AUSTIN

+ HOUNDS HOLIDAY BREAK STANDINGS

+ BANTAM HOUNDS TAKE 2ND IN TOURNEY



Welcome to The Hounds News—Dec/2007

Now we're rolling...or should we say gliding! We've had photos from about 4 or 5 different contributors and information or articles from a few others. Thanks a bunch to everyone for your contributions. Suzanne Cotton particularly has some awesome shots and we're thinking maybe she could have a second career doing freelance photography work for the Aeros?!!

We're going into a two week break from scheduled hockey activities. So what are your plans for the holidays? What better way to spend your free time than doing a little skating? Space City Ice Station has a great schedule of Stick & Pucks, Drop In Hockey and Public Skating Sessions during the next couple of weeks. Go to <http://www.spacecityicestation.com/calendar/> and check out the calendar. A little skating during the break really helps ensure our players don't lose their 'edge' (pun intended).

This month, we would like to specifically thank **Jeff Stone, Ken Bollweg, Melki Moussa, Suzanne Cotton, Mary Pitoniak, Dave King, Ron Kraft, Bill Mackey and Susan Stone** who contributed photos, information, links, and other information for the newsletter. (Front cover photo is courtesy of Jeff Stone.)

We also want to highlight an alliance that BAHHA has formed with Michael Glass of 'A Touch of Glass Photography' who will be covering some of our BAHHA home games, and will be making his photos available to BAHHA fans and the newsletter. See the separate feature 'BAHHA & A Touch of Glass Photography' for more information.

Remember, if you have anything to contribute to the newsletter, please email it to bahha@bahha.org.



Kevin Szafron—Communications Director, BAHHA ; Newsletter Co-Editor
Marie Szafron—Newsletter Co-Editor

About this newsletter...**The Hounds News** newsletter is published for the players, parents, friends, sponsors and supporters of Bay Area Houston Hockey Association (BAHHA). The mandate of this newsletter is to bring you up-to-date, interesting and fun information on our Hounds hockey teams. The newsletter will be published approximately once per month.

Thank-You

BAHHA would like to thank these sponsors and contributors who have made donations to the Hounds hockey program. Your support significantly contributes to the success of our program and enhances the hockey experience for our players:



Gulf Coast MRI & Diagnostic is a sponsor for the Bantam team in the form of a Dasher Board.
<http://www.gulfcoastmri.com/>

BAHHA & 'A Touch Of Glass Photography'



BAHHA is pleased to announce an alliance with **Michael Glass** of **A Touch of Glass Photography**. Michael will be photographing some of our BAHHA games at Space City Ice Station. A Touch of Glass Photography displays the photos at the rink and on a website, and customers can purchase the shots for a very reasonable price (\$2 each at the rink or \$3 via the website). In addition, special effects can be added to the photographs for a unique perspective on the coolest game on earth.

A Touch Of Glass photographed the recent Midget Hounds action and there was a lot of interest and praise for the photos taken.

A Touch of Glass will allow use of some of their photos in **The Hounds News** newsletter in exchange for promotion in the newsletter and credit for the photos. Please check out www.atochoglassphotography.photorelect.com to view photos or contact **Michael Glass** directly at glass-house1010@yahoo.com or by phone at 281-948-1105.



Front cover photo courtesy of Jeff Stone

BAHHA Board Of Directors - Update

The Bay Area Houston Hockey Association (BAHHA) Board of Directors (BOD) has started discussing coaches for the next season; watch for an announcement early in the new year. Plans for a new bulletin board at Space City Ice Station Rink were put on hold for a few weeks as the rink (under new General Manager Catherine King) considers changing the reception area to make it more aesthetically appealing and to help traffic flow. BAHHA continues to attract new players and is considering splitting the Squirt Hounds into two teams.

If you have any feedback, please contact the BOD through bahha@bahha.org, leave a note in the drop-box at SCIS or catch one of us at the rink. Thanks for your continued support!



2007-2008 BAHHA Board of Directors

Richard Allen – President	Joey Goubeaud
Darren Riggle - Vice President	Janiece Horn
Susan Stone - Secretary	Chris Mealey
Becky Marshall - Treasurer	Toby Null - Registrar
Ron Kraft - Coach-in-Chief	Al Pinder
Julie Bass	Jerry Purdon
Greg Crawford	Kevin Szafron - Communications

Midget A Hounds Smilin' Like a Butcher's Dog After Weekend Play

On December 15th—16th, the Midget A Hounds hosted North Texas Hockey League (NTXHL) action at Space City Ice Center. The Hounds won three out of four games, displaying strong teamwork and improved defensive team play.



On Saturday, the Hounds got off to a strong start versus the Texas Aces. The Hounds were consistently first to the puck, won the little scrums all over the ice and were the aggressors throughout the entire game. The Hounds' first goal was scored by Ricky Wilkinson on a strong individual effort less than a minute into the tilt, and that set the tone for the entire game. Other goal scorers were Cody Worthen, Brandon Bagwell, Trevor Crawford and Zach Rogers. The Hounds' specialty teams contributed with two power play goals and six penalty kills. Hounds' goaltending was especially sharp, with Michael Mealey stopping all 36 shots to record the shutout.

The second match of the day against the Junior Brahmas illustrated how important it is to maintain consistent team play for the entire game. The Hounds played a tight, close checking game and were the better team for two and a half periods, with even strength goals from Cody Worthen and Hayden Pritchard. In the third period, the Hounds struggled to keep their composure, and ended up taking some unnecessary penalties. The Brahmas ended up scoring three unanswered goals late in the third to steal a 3-2 win; two of those goals came on the power play.



Coach Kraft responded, "It was very disappointing after following the game plan and playing a disciplined style for the better part of the game, only to lose it in the third period by taking unnecessary penalties." Kraft went on to say, "We hope this was a valuable learning experience for our players as we put that game behind us." The Hounds edged out the Brahmas in shots on net by a 25 to 24 margin.

The Sunday morning early bird rematch with the Junior Brahmas saw the Midget A Hounds rebound nicely from the disappointing loss. The Hounds played an aggressive, disciplined game to come out on top by a 5-1 score. Leading the way on the score sheet was Zach Rogers with two goals and two assists; Hayden Pritchard, Brandon Bagwell and Evan Beasley each had a goal apiece. Luke Dimarco chipped in with two assists. The Hounds' specialty teams got back on track with three power play goals. The Junior Brahmas were outshot by a 31-26 margin.

"What was so impressive to see with this game was how we responded as a team, after giving a game away less than 12 hours earlier", stated Coach Kraft. "The coaching staff challenged the players on their ability to follow the game plan and play a strong, disciplined game. You have to do that against the Junior Brahmas." Kraft added, "Our on-ice execution was exciting to see."

The final game of the weekend saw the Hounds continue their positive play by defeating McKinney-Goss by a score of 7-1. The goal scoring was spread around with Scott Mackey, Cody Worthen, Michael Curry, Ricky Wilkinson, Zach Rogers, Brandon Bagwell and Evan Beasley all contributing singles. Geoffrey Barnes and Justin Ernst each chipped in with two helpers. Specialty teams provided three of the seven goals with two coming on the power play and one shorthanded. The dogs outshot McKinney-Goss by a 34-8 margin.

Coach Ron Kraft was very encouraged by the Hounds' play on the weekend. "In many areas, our team play continues to show positive growth. Our on-ice communication, defensive zone coverage, ability to win battles for the puck, and our offensive team play all show signs of good execution. Our goaltending and specialty team play has been very good all season and we expect these to continue to be areas of strength for our program." Kraft noted that, "Areas for improvement include better individual and team discipline, finishing more checks, and reducing the number of turnovers we give up." Kraft was cautiously optimistic, "There are several teams in our division that are even in terms of wins and losses. Our team's attention to detail in what we describe as our 'effort areas' will ultimately determine how successful we will be in the second half."

The Midget A Hounds next action is January 12th-13th, 2008 when they travel to Dallas for three games.



(More Midget A Hounds Photos on page 11)

Information courtesy of Ron Kraft

Photos courtesy of 'A Touch of Glass Photography'

Mite/Squirt Hounds At Ford Arena

The Mite/Squirt Hounds visited Ford Arena in Beaumont, Texas on December 8th, and played an exhibition game against a local team of mixed ages. The Texas Wildcatters who play out of Ford Arena even provided their mascot who offered referee services. A great time was had by our Hounds.



Photos courtesy of Suzanne Cotton and Jeff Stone

Coach's Corner

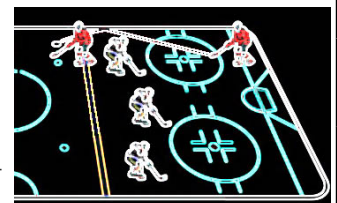
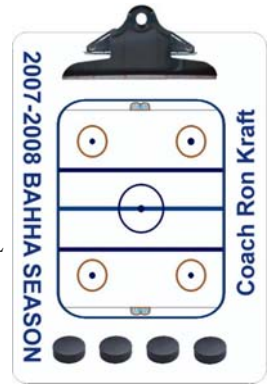
Ten Positive Player Performance Tips for Success!!

As effective coaches, we use catch phrases such as “attention to detail”, “doing the little things right”, or “perform the effort areas well” as teachable moments to help our players succeed. Many times, as an observer to a situation, one wonders why is it that a player with limited skills continues to progress up the hockey ladder and end up playing the game for a long period of time? For example, there are players who do not possess blazing skating speed, do not have a great shot, or are not that big physically, yet are still having success and playing at a high level. An example at the NHL level would be Kirk Maltby of the Detroit Red Wings. He is not the fastest, is not a big scorer offensively, and is not the biggest player around. However, he does all the little things very well and has played at a high level for a long time.

These “effort areas” or attention to detail things are performance areas that players should subscribe to. Whether it be getting the puck out of their zone, making sure he is in the right position defensively, or executing the correct cycle pass off the boards, these are important traits coaches look for in players. These are the important characteristics that allow players to play the game as long as they do and make them outstanding team players. There are a number of **positive performance tips** that high level players exhibit and many of our younger players can develop with good practice and patience. Next time you attend a professional or high level game, pick out your favorite player and watch him for an entire shift to see if you can emulate some of his good habits.

Identified below are a few of these performance tips for success.

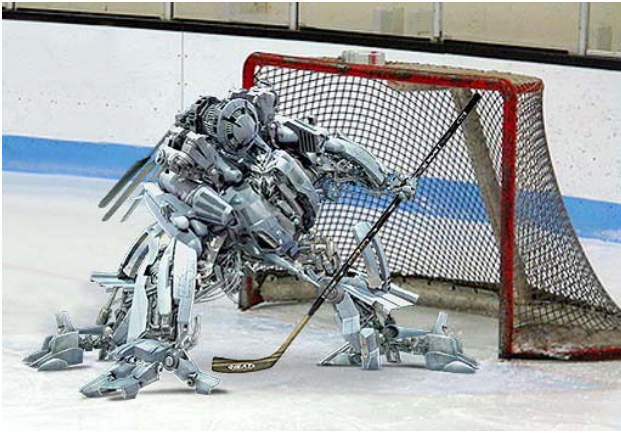
1. Don't over handle the puck in the defensive zone—by over handling the puck in the defensive zone you might find that you will be pressured and there is a good chance of you turning over the puck. So make sure when you are in the defensive zone you get it out, or you make the right play to the nearest forward. Don't try to skate through 3 or 4 guys and be a hero, because that is being selfish and you are only going to put yourself and your team in jeopardy.
2. After you make a pass, just don't stand there and watch, break to the open area. That is what so many National Hockey Leaguers do so well. As soon as they make a pass they break for an opening. Look for a hole on the ice, keep your feet moving and you will have a better chance to attack the offensive team with speed. Don't just stand there. Again, move, move, move.
3. After you shoot the puck on the net or have a scoring chance, don't skate by the net. Stop in front, with your stick on the ice in a ready position to play for a rebound or to bury that puck into the net. When the goalie is down, you want to put it upstairs or make the quickest play possible. If he is on his feet, look for the 5-hole situation. But again, a lot of our young players have bad habits of skating by the net; don't do this, stop.
4. Stay out of your comfort zone. It is so easy to go to a practice as a float and not give 100 percent. When you are on the ice, give 100 percent and don't take any short cuts. When your coach says skate to the blue line, that doesn't mean stop a foot before the blue line. That means you go from line to line. It is very important that you do all the little things, because if you take short cuts you are cheating yourself.
5. Unless you've mastered this, be careful of making a backhand pass across ice in your defensive zone. That can be one of the most dangerous places in hockey.
6. To our younger players, keep your head up at all times. This is a technique that takes care of itself once you reach the pee-wee level, but it won't hurt your game if you execute it earlier.
7. When making a check, keep your stick low and make contact so that you will be in good position to recover and stay with your man. Just because you deliver a great check does not mean that the play is over. Don't let your opponent get position on you or beat you back up the ice.
8. If a direct pass is not available to a teammate, use the boards whenever possible. By using a bounce pass, the chances are excellent you will advance the puck out of the zone you are in, and beat the defender in the process. We call using the boards, using “walls or windows”.
9. Make sure you are mentally prepared for every hockey game. Don't go into a hockey game unprepared. Understand who you are playing against, who the better players are from the other team, and understand what your role is and stick to it. That will make you a better player and a better team player.



Coach Kraft

10. Listen to your coach. Your coach is your boss out there. So many coaches do so many things. Take a look at any successful team and you will see the players follow what has been preached by their coach and execute per their roles on the team.





What can you say about that??!

A few thoughts come to mind:

- if you went to shoot for the 5 hole, would you be confused?
- you could hope the rust would slow him down
- robo goalie??
- wrong stick, he needs a new equipment manager
- someone needs to replace that water bottle on the net with an oil can!
- hey no uniform so he can't be their goalie (whew dodged that one!)

Photo courtesy of Susan Stone

Enter the December What is That!?? Quiz



So you think you know something about hockey, eh?

Let's see how good you really are. The picture on the left shows something that is related to hockey. You have to guess what it is. Email your guess to bahha@bahha.org and in the Subject Line put 'December Quiz'. Include your name and guess in the email. A drawing will be made from all correct guesses received by January 10th at midnight. The lucky winner will get a fun (hockey related, of course) prize. One entry per email address please. Thanks for playing!



Congratulations to November's 'What is That !??' Quiz winner - Tyler Sandel - who correctly identified the photo as the blade of a hockey stick. There were actually 7 correct responses and the winner was chosen by a random drawing. Tyler wins a Hounds Hockey beanie that will be perfect for a few of those cooler days at the rink that we've had lately. Tyler, send an email to bahha@bahha.org to arrange a time to pick up your prize. Thanks to all those who played!!!



Pewee Hounds In Austin



Photos courtesy of Melki Moussa & Mary Pitoniak

BAHHA Bantams Take Second Place In Fall Round-Up Tournament In Dallas



The Bantam Hounds took second place at the [Fall Roundup Tournament](#) in Dallas on the November 24th weekend. The Hounds played well enough to win 3 preliminary round games beating Dallas and Arkansas teams to advance to the tournament finals. However, the unbeaten La Pista Mexico team was too hot for the Hounds to handle as the Hounds lost the final 5-0.

For the Hounds, Jason Szafron, Zach Steelman, Ray Stone, Dominic Alfaro, Corey King, and Chase McClarty each had multiple points in the effort.



Bantam Hounds With the Second Place Trophy at the Awards Ceremony



La Pista Mexico & the Bantam Hounds Show Off the Championship and Second Place Trophies During A Group Photo at the Awards Ceremony—Ole!!! (above)



Sports Shorts



Space City Ice Station Holiday Events

Don't let the holiday break from hockey slow down your Hound! Take advantage of one of the Stick and Pucks, Hockey Drop-Ins or Public Skating sessions during the holiday season. Check out <http://www.spacecityicestation.com/calendar/> for details.

Team Photos - A big thank-you to Julie Bass who coordinated the individual and team photo shooting. Nice job Julie!

Best Wishes to Our Injured Hounds for a Speedy Recovery

The entire Hounds organization wishes the following injured players a speedy recovery: Brandon Bailey (arm), Kevin Eastwood (arm), Alec Robertson (separated shoulder), Joe Bass (collarbone) and Paul Stuart (ankle). Their fellow players and coaches especially miss their team mates and hope they're back on the ice soon.

Jordan Mowbray Joins SCIS As The New Hockey Director

Space City Ice Station has announced the appointment of their new Hockey Director, Jordan Mowbray. Jordan is a former professional hockey player and his credentials are well known in the Bay Area. In addition to coordinating the in-house hockey programs, Jordan will serve as liaison to BAHHA and ISHL. He will also be instructing hockey classes, camps, and clinics and is available for private lessons. He can be contacted via email at jordan@spacecityice.com. BAHHA looks forward to working with Jordan towards a common goal of supporting youth hockey in the Houston area.

SCIS Address Clarification

Please note that if you have to mail something to the rink, the address of Space City Ice Station is 18150 Gulf Freeway, Friendswood, Tx 77546-2722 (not Houston or Webster as has been sometimes seen in the past).



Can't Figure Out What to Buy Your Favorite Goalie For Christmas? Here Are Some Suggestions...



How Are Our Hounds Doing?



BAHHA Hounds Standings (as of Dec 16/2007)



Team	League	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Midget A Travel	North Texas Hockey League	9	6	2		1	13	42	22
Bantam B Travel	North Texas Hockey League	10	6	4		0	12	49	47
Peewees	South Texas Youth Hockey League	6	1	4	1	0	3	13	23
Peewee Miner	Houston House Hockey	10	1	7	2		4	31	58
Peewee Pinder	Houston House Hockey	10	0	9	1		1	16	85
Squirts	Houston House Hockey	9	0	6	3		3	14	34
Mites	Houston House Hockey	13	9	3	1		19	71	47

A BAHHA Jersey in Switzerland?



A Bay Area Hounds jersey in Geneva, Switzerland? Yep, the only one you'll see for sure. BAHHA's temporarily displaced Ryan Bollweg is shown practicing with the Junior Elites in Geneva. Ryan plays on the Oxford Junior Stars Under 16

and Under 18 teams and practices on several others. Ryan and Ken miss BAHHA hockey, but they'll be back on US soil (or make that ice) before you know it!



Information & photo courtesy of Ken Bollweg

The Ten Commandments of Hockey

1. Thou shalt skate thy lane.
2. Thou shalt headman the puck.
3. Thou shalt keep thy body between the puck and the man.
4. Thou shalt keep thy stick on the ice at all times.
5. Thou shalt not incur a penalty when thy team is behind.
6. Thou shalt always play the man first and then the puck.
7. Thou shalt not pass, nor carry the puck in front of thine own net.
8. Thou shalt always backcheck and pickup thine own man when thine opponent hath the puck.
9. Thou shalt keep thy head up and never pass to a covered man.
10. Thou shalt not hog the puck except when left unguarded by thine opponents.



Courtesy of Susan Stone



Hockey Quotes

"I know my players don't like my practices, but that's ok because I don't like their games."

- Harry Neale, former coach of the Vancouver Canucks

"When we've got the puck, they can't score."

- Paul Coffey, former Oilers defenceman

"You've got to go to the net if you want to score."

- Tom McVie, former coach of the Washington Capitals

—from *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader "Shoots & Scores"*



Midget A Hounds Photos—December 15th & 16th Weekend Games

See accompanying feature on page 3.



Photos courtesy of 'A Touch of Glass Photography'

Hounds Logoed Merchandise - Makes a Great Holiday Gift



The following Hounds Merchandise is available by sending an email to bahha@bahha.org or seeing Becky Marshall.



Hounds Hat (Red) - \$18



Lapel Pin - \$2.00



Hounds Hat (Blue) - \$18



Hounds Logoed T-shirt (6 color logo) - \$18



Scarf - \$12.50



Hounds Logoed T-shirts (single color logo) - \$14



Blanket in a bag - \$35



Beanies (Toques for you Canadians) - \$9.00



Hockey Bag - \$90 (add \$10 for custom lettering)



Pullover Fleece - \$36