



# Topeka Youth Hockey



Weekly update for January 25, 2010

## Bantams didn't give up and tried to battle back

by Paul Fluke, Division Director

Jr. RoadRunner Bantam division hosted this weekend's game against the Stars 1 team. After a previous loss to this team the boys were hungry for a win this time.

The Jr. RoadRunners showed a lot of hustle in this game and held the Stars to a single goal in the 1st period and nearly matched their 11 shots on goal with 9 of our own. In the second period the Stars took over the tempo of the game and scored two additional goals, and the Runners sticks went cold with only 3 shots on goal.

Going into the 3rd period the Runners were in a power play, and the coaching staff stacked the line in an effort to break our scoring slump. There were several great shots from almost every player, but still couldn't drop the biscuit into the net.

Later in the period the Runners came alive after being down by 5 goals, and at the 3:27 mark Skyler Stevens (31) ripped the back of the net with an assist from our guest player

Tristin Hillebert (who plays Pee Wee division hockey for the St. Joe team).

Then at the 2:40 mark the Jr. RoadRunners knocked in their second and final goal off the stick of Tristin Hillebert with an assist from Forrest Blanchette (7). The Runners continued their attack for the remainder of the period and kept the Stars out of the goal. We shot what I believe is a team record of 24 in this game. Way to go Bantams!

The players should also be proud of their conduct on the ice in this game. We had a single penalty, which appeared to be a clean check against the boards, but the referee thought different.

Drew Perkins (2) defended our goal in this battle and did a great job. Most of the goals scored off the Stars sticks weren't your average shots.... bouncing pucks, redirected shots and the like. Not an easy task to defend. Drew totaled 32 saves from the 37 shots.

You all maybe wondering what a goalie is doing wearing a number 2

on his jersey and not 33 or something like that. Well, Drew signed on with the bantams after we had submitted our jersey orders (and we all know what a mess that turned out to be and by no fault of our excellent board members) and had the foresight to order some extra jerseys and it just happened that the #2 was available in Drew's size.....there you have it.

This weekend Coach Gill was busy tending to his medical talents so in his absence Tim Forrester, Brody Lolley, and Ben Lapse lead the Bantams in a good game against a better team. Thanks so much guys! Big thanks again to David Stevens for scoring this game. Sorry, no action photos from this game due to myself tending to the penalty box.

The upcoming weekend finds the Bantams traveling to Carriage Club to do battle in the outdoor pond. This will probably be a first for most of the Bantam players. We'll see you all this weekend at the RoadRunners games.

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# Topeka Youth Hockey Update

## Topeka Youth Hockey Night a success

Saturday, January 23rd was Topeka Youth Hockey Night at the Topeka RoadRunners game. Our players sold tons of tickets to help offset their ice fees and promote youth hockey in our area. Thanks to De Ramonda for coordinating ticket sales and congratulations to Kyle Rigglin for selling the most - 68 - tickets. For his efforts, Kyle got to drop the puck at the game. Fans were treated to a great game by the RoadRunners. Didn't end the way we'd hoped - but at least it was exciting!



*Kyle Rigglin, Mite, drops the puck for the big guys.*



*Garrett Anschutz suited up as goalie for blue and played great as goalie all weekend.*



*Jack Murphy and Kate Finnegan face off during their exhibition game during intermission.*



*Adam Trupp fights through a sea of white.*



*The Mites end their exhibition game in front of a big RoadRunner crowd. Score: Fun-Fun.*

**Thanks to Cindy Chaffin for the photos!**

# Topeka Youth Hockey Update

## Mites make it a busy weekend

by Kevin Grauberger

The Topeka Mite team had very busy and exciting weekend this past week. The fun kicked off Saturday afternoon as the Mites headed over to Pepsi for a rematch with the Stars 1 team who came away with a 4-1 win earlier in the season. The Mites got on the board early with a goal by Maks Grauberger on a nice shot just inside the right post on a breakaway. Unfortunately, the scoring touch dried up for the team as they were not able to get on the board again until late in the game on a great shot by Alex Woods from the right corner of the ice. I think everyone left the building wondering how he was able to get that shot in with such a tough angle! Garrett Anschutz was excellent in net but unable to hold off a flurry of great shots by the Stars team that would have left Martin Brodeur shaking his head! Things got a little chippy in the third period as Remington Stiles found himself heading to the sin bin for an offsetting 2 minute minor for roughing. The scoreboard showed a 7-2 loss for the Jr. RoadRunners, but there is no question to anyone in attendance the game was much closer than that.

Following the game against the Stars, the Mites had the opportunity to watch their assistant coach Ryan Finnegan (big brother to Kaitlin "Pink Lightning" Finnegan) play a Pee Wee AA game against Waterloo. Ryan's team came out on top 7-0 in that game, and all of the Mites got an opportunity to see the high level of play they can reach if they are willing to put in hard work and determination that Ryan has shown over the years. After watching part of Ryan's game, the Mites headed back to Topeka to take on each other during intermission of the Topeka RoadRunners game which was designated as Youth Hockey Night. The final score of the intersquad scrimmage was Fun-Fun and all of the kids had a great time playing against each other. It also gave all of the fans in Topeka a small glimpse of the great work everyone associated with the Topeka Youth Hockey Association has put in this year.

On Sunday, the Mites laced up the skates for an early morning tilt with the Stars 4 team in the friendly confines of Landon Arena. Garrett Anschutz got the start in goal again, and continued to show improvement every time he takes the ice. The Mites got goals from Alex Woods who skated in on the right side on a breakaway and buried a lazer shot off the far post and into the back of the net. Adam Trupp also tallied a goal as his continued hard work and determination on the offensive end finally paid off. Once again the final score showed up as a 7-2 loss, but there is no question the Mites are making progress by leaps and bounds.

The Mite team also have the privilege of having its very own Reece Marney represent the team as the Jr. RoadRunner of the Game at the Topeka RoadRunners game on Saturday night. Reece was a late addition to the team this year, but has really come on strong and has shown some great potential. Congratulations to Reece for being Jr. RoadRunner of the Game this weekend!

## Mite Player Profile



Meet Alex Woods. He began skating when he was 7 years old and this is his second year playing hockey. His favorite position is playing Center. When we feel the need for speed, Alex is who we like to see on the ice. He is super fast and has a great shot. His favorite NHL team is the Pittsburgh Penguins.

He has several RoadRunner players that he enjoys watching as well. These include: Tony Thomas, Cooper Frederick, and Kurtis Anton. When Alex wants to get his groove on he likes to listen to Michael Jackson. He also enjoys having friends over to play hockey or watch George Lopez, his favorite TV show. He loves a good steak before or after a game to keep his muscles in top shape. For a quicker choice he enjoys McDonalds.

Alex wants to be a professional hockey player when he grows up. He attends Auburn Elementary and his favorite subject is reading.

# Topeka Youth Hockey Update

## Squirts split weekend doubleheader

By Brady Chaffin

In their two previous games, the Squirts have been of the cusp of victory only to be denied by last second heroics of their opponents. So, expectations were high as the KC Stars-1 visited Landon Arena for an 8:30 a.m. faceoff.

The Jr. RoadRunners wasted no time in “lighting the lamp” as **Cheyenne Yette (#21)** scored her second goal of the season just one minute into the game. The Stars would tie the score at 1 before the first intermission.

The Jr. ‘Runners would increase their lead in the second period with three unanswered goals, all from the stick of **Alex Ellison (#87)**.

Midway through the final period, the Stars would cut the Squirts lead to 4-2.

The Jr. RoadRunners would seal the victory with less than a minute to play on a highlight reel goal from **Nolan Omitt (#15)** that even Alexander Ovechkin would be envious of. Nolan was going hard to the net and was tripped by a Stars defenseman as he shot the puck. As he was falling to the ice, Nolan was able to collect the loose puck and shoot it into the open net from his stomach! Awesome!

Although it was an exciting win, the Squirts wouldn’t have much time to relish the well-earned victory because they had a 2:30 p.m. contest against a very good Carriage Club team. In the first meeting between the two teams back in early November, the Squirts skated to an 8-2 victory. At the

time, Carriage Club was the highest scoring team in the league.

The Jr. Runners knew that Carriage Club had something to prove and the Carriage Club players demonstrated why they are still one of



*Squirts celebrate after 5-2 win over KC Stars-1*

the top scoring teams in the league as the skated a to a 6-1 victory over the Jr. RoadRunners. **Alex Ellison (#87)** had the lone goal for the Squirts.

The team’s record now stands at 4-9-3, and they are idle until February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. The game on Feb. 6 will wrap up the Squirts longest homestand of the season as they take on the Outlaws. The next day they will travel to Pepsi Ice Midwest to take on the KC Stars-5.

### THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to Kirt Leyda, Heather Gastineau and Brady Chaffin for their assistance with the clock, penalty box and score sheet during the game on Sunday.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Members from the Squirts Division, along with other Junior RoadRunners, continue to help out the Topeka Youth Hockey Association with their sales of Chuck-a-Pucks at each of the games this past weekend! What a team effort! The next time the Squirts are responsible for helping with selling Chuck-a-Pucks is at the **March 6** home game. If you are available, your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Nolan Omitt, #15**, proudly represented the Squirts as the “Junior RoadRunner of the Game” at the January 22

RoadRunners game. Way to go Nolan!

Congrats to **Braedon Breckenridge, #19**, and his family. They were the lucky winners of the loudest fan contest at the RoadRunners game on Saturday night. Their winnings? A family-sized order of nachos!!!