



# Topeka Youth Hockey



Weekly update for March 1, 2010

## Squirts capture post-season tournament crown

by Brady Chaffin, Division Director

After wrapping up the regular season on a winning note, the Jr. RoadRunners S squirt squad had the momentum they needed as they entered the KCAHA's post-season tournament. The only problem was they would have to wait three weeks until they would have a chance continue their winning ways.

### Game One vs. KC Stars-5 (2/27)

The Jr. RoadRunners entered the post-season tournament as the #7 seed and drew the KC Stars-5 in their tourney opener. The Jr. 'Runners defeated the Stars in the regular season finale, 3-0, so expectations were high for a good performance. The first period proved that the three-week layoff had taken its toll on the team's conditioning. But, the squad was able to escape the first period without any damage.

During the second period, the Jr. RoadRunners seemed to get their legs under them and started controlling the tempo of the game. **Nolan Omitt (#15)** put the Jr. 'Runners on the scoreboard with a nifty top-shelf goal at 4:10 of the period. **Braedon Breckenridge (#19)** would be credited with the lone assist. **Breckridge** would then light the lamp himself at the 12:45 mark to put the Jr. RoadRunners up 2-0. **Alex Ellison (#87)** and **Mason Romine (#5)** were credited with the assists.

As the time ticked away, **Spencer Taylor (#4)** would tally his first goal of the season as stuck in a rebound from a **Braden Chaffin (#16)** shot from the slot. **Tre' Burkett (#24)** was also credited with an assist. The Jr. 'Runners took a commanding 3-0 lead into the final period. With a 3-0

lead, the Jr. RoadRunners tightened down the defensive clamps during the final period en route to a 3-0 victory.

Goaltender **Trent Lick (#30)** posted 12 saves in his third shutout of the season. All three shutouts have come against KC Stars-5.

### Game Two vs. Carriage Club (2/27)

After just few hours of rest, the Jr. RoadRunners were back on the ice for their quarterfinal game against the #2 seeded Carriage Club. During the regular season, the two teams split

their series, with the road team winning each time.

The Jr. 'Runners wasted no time in setting the tempo as **Nolan Omitt (#15)** scored the first goal of the game for the second straight game, just one minute into the contest assisted by **Alex Ellison (#87)**. **Ellison**, the team's leading scorer, was held without a goal in the first game finally tickled the twine with his first goal of the tourney at 6:15

of the first period. **Braedon Breckenridge (#19)** added to his tourney assist total on **Ellison's** goal. **Ellison** would add another goal three minutes later with assists from **Spencer Taylor (#4)** and **Ana Anthony (#26)**.

CC would finally get on the scoreboard in the second period. It was the only goal of the period and the Jr. 'Runners took a 3-1 lead into the final period. In the third period, Carriage Club seemed to grab the momentum after scoring midway through the final period. Carriage Club then knotted the game at 3-3 late in the period and forced a shootout to decide the game.

*Continued on page 3 and 4*



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## Squirts pull out a championship in tough battles

In the shootout, **Alex Perkins (#2)** was the Jr. RoadRunners first shooter and was unable to score. Carriage Club's first shooter was denied before **Ellison** would best the CC's goalie. Carriage Club would then match with their next shooter. **Breckridge** would be the next Topeka skater and was unable to score. **Lick** would then make another great save. **Omitt** would be the Jr. 'Runners fourth skater and his attempt was stopped. The next CC shooter missed, but the referee ruled that **Lick** had left the crease too soon and awarded the Carriage Club skater another attempt, which was also stopped by **Lick**. **Taylor**, who scored his first goal of the season in the first game, would be the Jr. RoadRunners fifth shooter. **Taylor's** backhand-forehand-backhand move had the CC's goalie sprawled out as trucked it in stick-side to give Topeka a 2-1 advantage. All **Lick** had to do was make one more save to clinch the victory and he did!

Jr. RoadRunners upset the #2 seed Carriage Club, 5-4, to earn a place in the semifinals.



*Spencer Taylor scores the game-clinching goal in shoot out against Carriage Club.*

### Game Three vs. KC Stars-3 (2/28)

Semifinals Sunday! After a sleepless night for many, it was back to Line Creek for the semifinals bright and early Sunday morning. A tired and weary team relying on adrenaline took to the ice against the KC Stars-3. For the first time during the tournament, the Jr. 'Runners found themselves trailing on the scoreboard 1-0 after the first period.

**Quinn Leyda (#9)** would tie the game 1-1 at the 8:29 mark of the second period as he was parked in front of

the goal and stuffed a loose puck into the back of the net. It was **Leyda's** first goal of the season. **Spencer Taylor (#4)** was credited with an assist.

**Alex Ellison (#87)** would pull the Jr. RoadRunners even at 2-2 with his third goal of the tourney. **Tre'Burkett (#24)** added his second assist of the weekend.

The Jr. 'Runners began the final period with both guns blazing as **Ellison** put the biscuit in the basket for the second time to put the Jr. RoadRunners on top 3-2. **Braedon Breckridge (#19)** and **Nolan Omitt (#15)** recorded the assists. With time running short, **Cheyenne Yette (#21)** used her long reach and tapped in a rebound to give the Jr. 'Runners a two-goal cushion. **Omitt** and **Taylor** were both credited with assists.

Just 17 seconds later, the Stars scored to make the final seconds of the game very interesting. With the defense packing in around goaltender **Trent Lick (#30)**, the Jr. RoadRunners were able to fend off the Stars' charge and claim a 4-3 victory and a place in the Championship Game against the top-seeded St. Joseph Griffons.

### Championship Game vs. St. Joseph (2/28)

The incredible ride continues! Spirits were high as the Jr. Runners skated onto the ice for the championship game against the top-seeded team from St. Joe. The Griffons finished the regular season as the league's top team. But, in the two pervious meetings, both games were decided by just one goal.

The Jr. 'Runners once again jumped on the scoreboard first as **Alex Perkins (#2)** netted his first goal of the tournament at 2:30 of the first period and **Spencer Taylor (#4)** added another assist to his stats. **Alex Ellison (#87)** extended the Jr. RoadRunners lead to 2-0 less than two minutes later with **Quinn Leyda (#9)** was the lone assist. The period ended with Topeka leading 2-0.

The Jr. 'Runners started the second period where they left off as **Perkins** buried his second goal of the game at the 2:35 mark with **Taylor** assisting. They weren't done

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either. Less than a minute later, **Nolan Omitt (#15)** blistered the puck past the St. Joe goalie as the Jr. RoadRunners took a dominating 4-0 lead. The goal parade continued, unfortunately, it was St. Joseph scoring the goals. The Griffons scored three goals in a four-minute span to pull within one as the period ended.

The final period looked to be the most intense period of the entire season for both teams.

At 3:21, **Braedon Breckenridge (#19)** collected a rebound shot from **Taylor** and put it past the Griffons' goaltender to pad the Jr.'Runners lead to 5-3. 40 seconds later, St. Joseph made it a one-goal game again. Both teams battled end to end through the middle part of the period until **Ellison** picked up a loose puck in the neutral zone and skated down with Griffons chasing and rocketed a shot into the top corner of the net giving the Jr. RoadRunners a 6-4 lead. For the final 90 seconds of the game, St. Joe pulled their goalie in favor of another skater and the Jr. 'Runners were able to hold off the powerful Griffons and claim the championship by the score of 6-4!

As the final buzzer sounded, tears filled the eyes of the coaches, players, family and friends as the city of Topeka and the Jr. RoadRunners program celebrated it's first-ever youth hockey championship! The Squirts finish their incredible first season with an overall record of 9-9-4.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

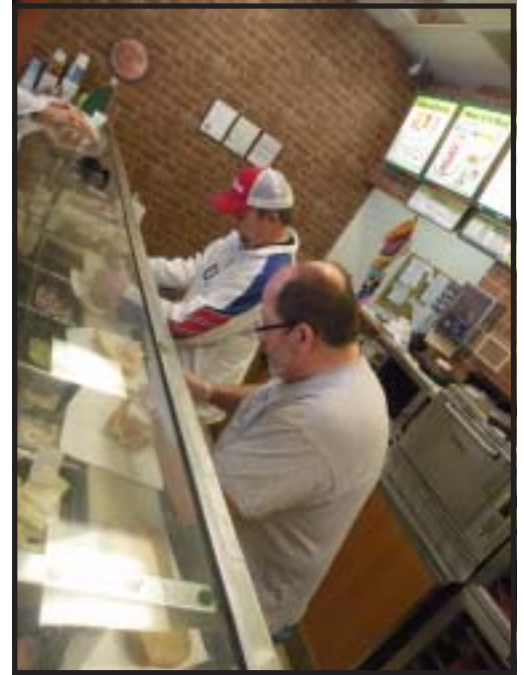
Members from the Squirt Division, along with other Junior

RoadRunners, continue to help out the Topeka Youth Hockey Association with their sales of Chuck-a-Pucks at each of the games. The Squirts are responsible for helping with selling Chuck-a-Pucks this weekend at the **March 6** home game. If you are available, your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Spencer Taylor, #4**, will proudly represent the Squirts as the "Junior RoadRunner of the Game" at the March 5 RoadRunners game and **Alex Perkins, #2** will represent on March 6. Come to the game and cheer them on!!!

For a complete recap of the season's schedule and tournament information, go to: <http://www.kcaha.com>. At the bottom of the page, click on the division you want to view. The complete tournament schedule and standings are listed here also.

Michael Anthony (Ana's father) has been taping the Squirts games this year. He has graciously offered to make DVDs of any/all of the games that you would like made. He has all the regular season games except the final two games of the regular season. He also has the tournament games. If you are interested in getting a DVD made, please email Michael directly at [DeadR8crrr@yahoo.com](mailto:DeadR8crrr@yahoo.com). Just give him the dates of the games that you would like to have and the best way to contact you (email/phone). If you



*Braedon's dad, Buck, and Trent's Grandfather, Gerald, jumped in to help serve sandwiches at a nearby Subway in between games on Sunday.*

choose to order a DVD from him, please be patient. Because he is making the DVD's on his own computer, on his own time, he will get to them as fast as he can, but it will take some time to get to all of us. Thank you Michael Anthony for your pictures and video this year and your generous offer to make DVDs for the families.

A BIG "Thank You" to the parents of this fantastic Squirt team. Thank you for getting your player to practice every week, and for sharing your player with all of us. It has been a pleasure serving as the Division Director for this Squirt family. Even without the "official" championship trophy, we always knew they were #1 in our hearts, didn't we? *But, the trophy is pretty sweet....*

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## Bantams finish big in regular season games

by Paul Fluke, Division Director - update from February 6-7 weekend play

What a way to finish out the regular season league play for the Bantams than with two big wins. On Saturday, the Bantams dominated the game against the Saints Blue team. There were several aspects of the player's performance that brought about a big win in this game. There was plenty of effective passing, checking, goal tending and shooting that netted a 6-2 win.



The Jr. RoadRunner with the hot stick in this game was Forrest Blanchette (7) with four impressive goals. The first coming at the 11:48 mark in the first period on an unassisted effort. The second just two minutes later on an assist from Brenden Garland (4), and the third again from an assist from Brenden at the one minute mark in the 1st period. Forrest's final goal was scored in the second period on an assist from Matt Carmody (12) at the 11:12 mark.

Brenden scored the Bantams first goal in the game at the 14:41 mark in the first period on an assist from Forrest. Then Brenden knocked home the final goal of the game in the second period at the 3:00 mark on an unassisted effort.

Once again there was a superb effort by goalie Drew Perkins (2) in this game. Drew denied the Saints 15 times on their 17 total shots. The Jr. RoadRunners totaled 19 shots on goal.

The game wasn't without an occasional visit to the penalty box with the Runners totaling six minutes and the Saints with 16 minutes. Ten minutes came from a player misconduct on a check from behind. The Saints seemed a little short handed too from the scratched up roster and two un-rostered players, which netted them a 2-minute delay of game penalty.

On Sunday the Bantams took to the ice for the last game in the regular season to battle with the

KC Outlaws. This was a very tight game, and the shots on goal during the first two periods of play were closely matched. At the 1:46 mark in the second period Brenden Garland (4) found the back of the net on a textbook put-back from a shot on goal by Forrest Blanchette (7).

This would be the only goal scored in the game as Skyler Stevens (31) got his second shutout of the season. Skyler blocked a total of 17 shots from the sticks of the Outlaws, and the Jr. RoadRunners had 18 total shots on goal. The Bantams all stepped up in this game to control the puck and come out ahead.



Once again we want to acknowledge Ben Lepse, Tim Forrester & Brody Lolley for their guidance throughout the year. Currently the Bantams are in 5th place in an eight-team league.

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## Atoms end on an icy note

*by Kris Romine, Division Director*

**T**he Atoms ended their season with a tournament at Carriage Club on Valentine's Day. It was incredibly cold but it did not slow our kids down. It began snowing during our last game and gave us flashbacks of the Winter Classic! A big thank you to Ike Prengel for playing with us for the tournament! Unfortunately, some of us drove home in freakish white-out conditions but everyone made it home (eventually) unharmed except for the Romines' totaled car.

Jack Wilcox is scheduled to be our Jr. RoadRunner of the Game this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by Connor Moore on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

We wish a belated Happy Birthday to Xander Posten! His birthday was at the end of February.

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful coach, Ande Davis, and his assistants Chad Omitt, Ben Lapse and Chris Romine! Thanks for teaching the kids so much about hockey. They made some major improvements in their play and we appreciate all of your time and patience.

We will all miss you Joey!!! Good Luck in Ohio!!!

## Fundraising News

*by De Ramonda, Fundraising Director*

**Chuck-A-Puck:**

We are still selling chuck a pucks at games. Plus we will have some play off games to sell as well. Please help!

**Sponsors:**

I have already began looking for next season sponsors. If anyone knows anyone/business that I should contact please let me know.

**Pizza Party:**

As soon as the banquet is over I should have date and place.

Thank you everyone that have help make Topeka Youth Hockey a great organization.

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## TYHA Annual Recognition Banquet

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 p.m.

Reynold's Lodge, Lake Shawnee

Join us as we celebrate the 2009-2010 season and recognize the accomplishments of our players and coaches. Families and players are invited.

Meat and drinks will be provided. \$5 per adult; \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Please bring an item based on your team:

Atoms - desserts

Mites - salads

Squirts - vegetable dish

Bantoms - potato dish

Pee Wee - buns and bread

If you did not receive an Evite, please email Christa Murphy at [cmurphy@potwinpottery.com](mailto:cmurphy@potwinpottery.com).