

### **Mite B's take on all challengers at AAHA / NJ Devils sponsored 3x3 tournament (09/30/07)**

Our Jr. Knights Mite B team, faced their first set of challengers of the 2007/2008 season, and did so "Head-On" with great energy and effort. Our boys, minus two (2) of their teammates (Brian Yarmolinsky & Brendan Liebross), competed hard, fast and smart in four (4) contests and were rewarded for their efforts with one more in the tournament finals!

The daylong excitement started bright and early with an 8:30AM match with The Kinnelon Colts that ended in a victorious 9 – 0 result. There was no shortage of "Good Efforts = Good Results" with the entire squad getting on the scoreboard with goals or assists.

The action raced onto the 10:15AM game with 1 of 2 Tourney host Devil teams. (Black) As the fast action continued so did "Hot Offensive Efforts by our Jr. Knights who came out on top 6 - 2. Now 2 for 2 and looking strong, our last "round robin" game at 12:15PM vs The NJ Colonials is ablaze with excitement. This 7 – 5 "nail-biter" of a win came thanks to all-around efforts of offensive, defensive and goaltending play and gave the boys 1<sup>st</sup> place in their division and a trip to the playoff rounds!

The Semi-Final game, verse Princeton, presented our Jr. Knights with their "toughest & tallest" challengers yet. This back and forth "puck-fest" saw the first "tied score" of the day. Only our boys would not be denied and pulled out a hard fought win on the strength of 2 late goals to thrust themselves into the Tourney Finals!

Awaiting us in the Finals, the also undefeated, 2<sup>nd</sup> Devils team. (Red) The fast, smart & talented Devils "lit the red light" first and didn't slow-up. But neither did our "Mighty Mites" answering back with an attack of their own making it a game, trailing for the 1<sup>st</sup> time 3 – 1. Now with close to ninety (90) minutes of "hot hockey" behind them, "tired legs" sometimes lead to "tired minds" and we suffered thru our *ONLY* weak moments of the entire tournament allowing four (4) fast goals. The boys, to their credit, wouldn't give-up and popped in a couple goals of their own, but ran out of time, falling 9 – 3 to an equally talented & determined team.

The entire Coaching Staff was impressed and very proud of ALL of OUR Jr. Knights! They impressed with their Gamesmanship, Sportsmanship & Teamwork on display throughout the long day of competition. All-in-all, one day, 6 hours, 100"fast & furious" minutes of hockey, (yes 100) our boys netted 32 goals while allowing just 21 against and winning 4 of 5 games!  
ENCORE! ENCORE! ENCORE!

I cannot say it enough, "Good Efforts = Good Results", and that is EXACTLY what we saw on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of competition for the 2007/2008 Mite B Jr. Knights. Examples were found all over the ice all day long.

Examples like **Mathieu Schroeder** turning away enough "rubber biscuits" to make a set of Goodyear Tires, to "bull dog determined" defensive zone puck battles by **Richie Modzelewski** that frustrated attackers, to the "terrific 2-way hockey" of **Timmy Carney, Brian Modzelewski, Frankie Emery & Danny Goetz** that helped at both ends of the ice, to "eye-popping" offensive output by **John Michael D'Aneillo, Giuseppe Fazio, David Vaysberg & Maxim Vaskovtsev** that kept us in the lead most of the day, to the "fair-play spirit" displayed by EACH of our boys as larger or more aggressive players "bent the rules" with body play they kept their cool and played on.

Make no mistake, our boys are still learning, growing and improving as Players & Teammates and still have more hard work ahead of them during this exciting hockey season ahead of them. Yet I think our boys showed us all, coaches, parents, family, and most of all their opponents they are a **TEAM** not to be taken lightly! (I can't wait to see the results with Brendan & Brian Y. too!)

PS- Special kudos & congrats to our **Mite C Team** who "Set the Bar High" with an impressive trip to the Semi-finals on Saturday. **Go Jr. Knights Go!!!**