

AA/AAA HOCKEY

TEAM - CENTRAL ILLINOIS

April 2006

CENTRAL ILLINOIS - ELITE HOCKEY

Throughout the past four decades Central Illinois' individual associations have enjoyed success in both league and tournament play. As of late, the competition has become fierce and the level of play has increased ten (10) fold. As a result, Central Illinois Hockey has been losing it's upper caliber athletes to distant competitors.

Up till now there had never been a mechanism in place for Central Illinois organizations to join forces and provide for the highest level (AA/AAA) of hockey to those individuals with the skills and desire to play. Through the collective efforts of all Central Illinois Hockey League Associations, a higher level of competitive hockey is being forged. All organizations have tabled the "me" and joined forces and adopted the "we" when it comes to hockey. This is truly a grass roots effort enjoyed by all organizations and because of this mission the children will certainly reap the rewards. This opportunity would

have not become a reality if it weren't for the foresight and vision that these organizations have in order to craft the highest level of hockey athletes in Central Illinois.

This Elite Hockey will be comprised of the most talented athletes throughout Central Illinois and beyond, it will truly become a "Showcase".

The intent is to field teams on a birth year basis - starting with Squirt Major through Midget Major. Minor is defined as first year players within a bracket. Major is defined as second year players within a bracket.

This common ground is not solely dedicated to elite travel hockey. The idea behind this is to collectively use the talent, tools, resources and knowledge to make hockey better in all communities. This would include Girls, House, Learn-to-skate, Learn-to-play and coach education programs and giving parents and players direction.

This united front will be

come vitally important when it comes to sharing ideas with regards to fundraising, player development, association growth etc...

Bloomington has a new ice rink facility that is due to open very soon, this will become the focal point of Team - Central Illinois (TCI). Why Bloomington? The answer is two fold: 1) it is a neutral site 2) geographically it is equal distance for almost all participating associations

This concept has been forty (40) years in the making, and its time is well overdue. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding information meetings, evaluation and development camp dates, tryout dates etc...

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE E-MAIL TO THE FOLLOWING:

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Points of Interest

- Informational Meeting Date - TBA
- Evaluation and Skill Development Camp Dates - TBA
- League Alignment and Declarations - TBA

They said it.....

"Looking at the number of kids currently playing youth hockey in areas like Springfield, Decatur, Peoria, Champaign and even the Quad Cities, developing those kids in a Elite and more competitive hockey environment would be a benefit to all involved."

Nick Pollos/Coach & GM
Springfield Jr. Blues
NAHL Jr. A

"Only by pooling resources and banning together with a common mission can we achieve the level of hockey that the larger communities take for granted"

Ed Maciejewski/Owner
Traverse City North Stars
NAHL Junior A

Quad Cities Express
CSHL Junior .

Together Everyone Achieves More