

Hennen sketches intent of Hockey Association

by

Father William Hennen

The Shakopee Amateur Hockey Association is a group which touches the recreational lives of many families in this community.

There are approximately 250 children in the program, which includes both boys and girls. This number does not include the high school hockey program.

What is this group that affects so many families; who is it and how did it start?

In the winter of 1968, Chuck Novakovich thought that the only way to get something going was to grab the bull by the horns and get started.

During that winter he worked with a few boys teaching them the fundamentals of the game. It was indeed he who started a program of organized hockey in this city.

In 1969, he was joined by Chet Isakson and Father William Hennen. This first season of an organized program saw about 45 boys participating. Then the Shakopee Amateur Hockey Association began its corporate existence in March of 1970, in the basement of Chet Isakson's home.

The incorporators were Myron Gruetzmacher, Father William Hennen, Chet Isakson, Chuck Kreuser and Chuck Novakovich.

From this seemingly humble starting point, the Association and its program have steadily grown. During this season which is just ending, about 250 boys and girls took part.

Their ages ranged from 6 or 7 up to 15 years of age. They made up 10 teams plus Ice Mites: three Bantam teams (ages 13-15), three PeeWee teams (ages 11 and 12), three Squirt teams (ages 10 and under), a girls Hockey team, and the Ice Mites (skating class).

Helping run all these different endeavors are approximately 25 dedicated and hard-working men who now form the Hockey Association.

The original and perduring intention of the Hockey Association was and is to try to help provide for part of the recreational well-being of the boys and girls of this community.

The goal is to teach the children the skills of the game, and the sportsmanship that must accompany these skills. This is but one aspect of the recreational programs which serve our community: basketball, soccer, hockey, gymnastics, football, baseball, etc.

This is, indeed, one more element that makes the City of Shakopee so enjoyable to those who live here and so desirable an area to those who are looking for an area into which to move.

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