

USA Rink Hockey Forum



December 22, 2008, 10:15:36 PM

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Author

Topic: team usa (Read 1063 times)

hardballhock

Now I'm Making A
Difference



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Posts: 21



Re: team usa - (Ladies Team USA selection issue)

« [Reply #30 on: August 12, 2008, 12:31:53 AM](#) »

Ladies Team USA selection issue

I haven't added anything regarding the Ladies Team USA because I am generally a "Yes and" person, not a "Yes but" person. Gwen's email though, prompted me to want to contribute on the ladies behalf.

Reflecting on Nationals and the information I gathered there, unfortunately, I have put together a number of points that raise questions for me about whether or not the process agreed upon by our athletes and the Hardball Hockey Committee were honored during the selection of Ladies Team USA.

About February 6, 2008 -USARS announced that the Ladies Team USA would be announced in Bremerton, WA USA

Quote

(click for primary source)

...after a preliminary meeting with all the Ladies on Friday, April 4th at 5:30pm at Bremerton Skateland. The training and selection sessions are 6:00am-10:00am and 5:00pm-7:00pm on Saturday, April 5th and 6:00am- 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 6th. We hope to announce the World Team before everyone leaves on Sunday. We will have the World Team forms from USA Roller Sports on hand for all members to take home with them, complete and send back to the National office.

The ladies were told that the Bremerton April camp was the selection camp because the Japanese Organizing Committee needed the players names for the tickets among other reasons. There was an explanation for the urgency in the notice.

Then 2 or 3 weeks before the camp, prospective Ladies athletes were told that the Team USA Hardball Hockey Committee couldn't get enough members present to select a team, so they changed the format and made it a mandatory training camp instead.

Then the Ladies athletes were told that the Ladies Team USA would be selected at a 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon camp right before Nationals so they could play in the **Silver Division together**.(click for primary source)

However, When the Ladies arrived at the camp before Nationals, they were told

that the Hardball Hockey Committee couldn't get enough of the members present for the selection again and the team would be picked by the Hardball Committee as a result of *individual performance during National play* and announced on Thursday after the Ladies awards.

I wonder if some of the Ladies players were rated before Nationals play because I did not see Hardball Hockey Committee members watching the Ladies play, even though the Ladies were told that they would only be rated during the games.

At the announcement of Team USA, the committee picked 4 players and a goalie from the 1st place team. Then they added 2 players from the 1st place team that only played about a total of *20 minutes* each for the **whole** tournament.

The committee skipped over the entire second place team, except for the goalie. **The 2nd place Ladies team not only beat the 3rd place Ladies team 10-0, but almost beat the 1st place Ladies team.**

The players overlooked on the second place ladies team included a:
1st place freshman player,
1st place bronze player
3rd place Silver player.


In contrast, the committee chose 1 player from the 3rd place Ladies team and later selected 1 player from the 4th place team in the Ladies division and neither placed in any of the other divisions they played in. Also, the 3rd place Silver division Team was made up of 4 men and one lady and she was passed over for Team USA (she played almost the entire time).

How can someone who plays only 20 minutes for the whole week of Nationals be selected over the entire 2nd place Ladies team?

If any of this information is a misunderstanding on my part, please clarify. Also, any information as to why enough selection members were not available prompting the repeated changes in the selection format would be helpful.

Hardballhock

« Last Edit: August 12, 2008, 10:10:38 PM by
 hardballhock »

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Gwen

Hey, Nice To See
 You



Offline

Posts: 2




Re: team usa (Womens Team)

« Reply #31 on: August 12, 2008, 11:12:26 PM »

Most of the players were picked at the camp that we had the day before Nationals! At lot of people were upset that they had to fly in a day early to select the team and then found out that they had to hold off. So most of the Committee that was at the camp had already picked there players then.

As for the players who only go 20 mins, sometimes that does happen,

especially when you have such a large team!!! I have been playing this sport for many years and have seen 3 different ways that they pick the World Team!! Honestly I believe the team that they picked is a strong team, the thing is that who can afford to go to Japan to play??? That is the Key, I know that a few of the girls can't afford so they are stepping down, which will move the Alternates up to go.

 Logged

mike merkel

Wow, I've Got
Something To
Say



Offline

Posts: 13


playing hockey
for 30 years i
own pheasantland
roller rink



Re: team usa

« **Reply #32 on:** August 12, 2008, 11:18:56 PM »

again here it is again we cant take the best players cause of money how do the people who go to the olympics afford it iam not sure so mabye the commitee needs to find some answers for us if we can not send our best how can we improve how does long stick afford to send players

 Logged


dwalter_1

Hey, Nice To See
You



Offline

Posts: 4



Re: team usa(women's team)


« **Reply #33 on:** August 13, 2008, 01:07:43 AM »

I do know that at least one of the committee members that was at the tryout on Saturday before nationals did his choosing that day.

Keep in mind that only 15 players attended the first camp in Bremerton in April, and two were goalies. One of the players didn't make the trip to nationals. Obviously, it's not hard to decide who the goalies will be. From my perspective, it was really clear cut who the first six players were. Those six players are the ones who ran the offenses and worked together as a team.

I am not trying to take anything away from the ladies that were chosen as alternates. Clearly, they are all high quality players, but there is a system that Frankie uses. If a player doesn't follow the system, what's the point to chose her?

If I've said it once, I've said it a hundred times, the best players don't make the best team.

 Logged

PJ Mueller

Administrator
True Contributor



Offline


Posts: 760



Re: team usa

« **Reply #34 on:** August 13, 2008, 11:31:19 AM »

My two cents, and I wasn't even there, but yes, there were some committee members that were present for the "camp" prior to Nationals. Those members did their rankings then. The committee members that weren't there then did their rankings based on watching the games. The the scores of all the members were compared and they were in line with each other (meaning the players that performed well in the camp, also performed well at Nationals and the scores reflected that).

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PJ
www.USARinkHockey.com

hardballhock

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Offline

Posts: 21

**Re: team usa**

« **Reply #35 on:** August 14, 2008, 08:28:18 PM »

The current Team USA team roster, Ladies and Mens, perhaps our best, or not, is not the issue or question that should be discussed here by members of a sport who's governing body must be trusted if we are going to grow.

Honesty in Advertising, reasonable expectations, and forethought, are the bottom line that affects this years Hardball Hockey Team USA, these issues if not corrected will continue to effect future years teams, clubs, athletes, parents, and donations.

Every person that honors our Hardball Committee by dedicating time, money, and personal sacrifice to processes promised by our organizing body does so with the belief that their commitment is a partnership with a governing body that is fairly and ethically overseeing all the sport activities with forethought and vigor.

This years team USA selection is clearly fraught with agendas, rationalizations, and manipulations. In the case of the committee members who were unable to attend official, public, mandatory, try-outs, some hardball hockey members were frankly negligent, careless, or slow in performing their duties.

Some athletes who were working to be selected as members of Team USA, who followed the rules, were in essence throwing carnival darts at a moving target that the hardball hockey committee was moving and changing to meet personal and sporting needs. Some may see this as an abuse of authority.

Forethought, and taking time to build foundations of a great team and organization does not mean taking short cuts or skipping steps or changing rules at the cost of the skating community and public support.

Any prospective athlete who does what is asked, practices, and attends when expected, is a far better roller sports athlete than one who does less and still feels entitled. And where the notion of privilege dominates there is a far greater potential for the abuse of power.

USA Roller Sports is about winning, but it is also about youth - and instilling the will to be their best for life, this includes ethically.

The Hardball Hockey committee has a responsibility to deliver a well thought out team selection process that is transparent. And then make every effort to meet their agreement with the prospective athletes. In turn, athletes have a responsibility to fulfill every requirement set forth in the process by the organizing body.


How disappointing that some of our Governing Body members and some of our most talented athletes are remiss in their responsibilities to fulfill a process meant to select the best hardball hockey team in the US to represent our country in the world championships.

Again, the issue is not if we think the teams are good or not.

The issue is how we arrived at these results.

Hardballhock

« Last Edit: August 14, 2008, 09:10:36 PM by
hardballhock »

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