

– navigating the roadmap

# RECRUITING 101

*CCM Hockey Showcase*  
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# The Journey Begins

- Information is key.
- There is no hurry.
- No such thing as a bad question.
- Execution more important than promotion.
- Say little... Do more.
- Big Brother always watching.
- Get priorities in order (fast response=fast feedback).
- Know the landscape (draft, vets, tryouts, leagues, etc).
- Be wary of message boards – every experience is different.

# Major Junior Hockey

- Professional league with professional standards.
- Typically fastest way to NHL.
- Solid education package – caveat.
- Business orientated.
- 2006/07: Div. I roster of 28 players, 0.5 make the NHL; Major Jr. roster of 25 players, 1 makes the NHL.
- 80% of NCAA players earn degree, 20% CHL ~ understand what influences this number however.
- 87/88 birth year, 203 of 290 players selected were either cut or traded (incl. 28 of 40 1<sup>st</sup> rounders)
- Year for a year, only 50% if not on roster after Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Must start 18 months after leaving the CHL.
- If you sign any pro contract – void.
- If you leave school at any time, void.

# Junior “A” Hockey

- Different programs, different operating standards (budgets – what they provide, etc).
- Heavy local flair at times.
- Maintains NCAA eligibility or prepares for return to Major Junior.
- Try-out camps – part of the process now.
- Still does “cost” a family – equipment, billeting, fuel, etc.
- US vs Canadian leagues – understand Tier I, II, III – including Jr. B.
- Locations vary, program more important than league.
- Typically, colleges like older, more mature players now with life experience and having faced adversity.

# NCAA Hockey

- Academic & athletic demands.
- Recruiting do's and don'ts (do respond quickly, 1<sup>st</sup> impressions, etc)
- DI & DIII options (scholarships & financial aid, etc).
- Have's and have not's (facilities, support, size, conference – but we need the opportunity).
- Don't be “upside down” in the process.
- Eligibility standards (NCAA Clearinghouse – 16 Core courses).
- Truth about scholarships – no such thing as “4” year commitment.
- Can be divided several ways (% , books, etc).
- Verbal vs NLI.
- Communication rules.
- 2007/08: All NCAA Men's Hockey, 2,765 Americans, 888 Canadians
- Greater # of players going pro afterwards now than ever before.

# Numbers Game

- Can be deceptive, but paint a picture.
- Try to see where you fit in.
- Simply put – it's competitive, much like the job market.
- Can't lose sight of why you play the game – passion – intangibles that your participation has instilled in you.
- Included some numbers re: Junior hockey for you to consider – all taken from an online article a few years back.
- Have to ask yourself – “what are you looking to get out of the experience”.
- All it takes is one.

## A DOSE OF REALITY: THE JUNIOR HOCKEY NUMBERS GAME (#'s taken from 2006-07 season)

### **Tier I: USHL United States Hockey League**

For-profit business runs the team that pays your hockey fees & housing expenses

12 teams located in IA,IL,NE,OH,SD,IN, ND, MI x 23 = 276 SPOTS

Veterans of that team: 33%

Veterans of Junior Hockey (trades/advancement): 19%

Young Projects: 21%

Remaining: 73%

**\*\* 15 teams, not including the NTDP now**

### **Tier II: NAHL North American Hockey League**

For-profit business runs the team that pays your hockey-related fees but you pay room/board).

20 teams located in AK,IA,IL,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,OH, TX,WA = 500 SPOTS

Veterans of that team: 35%

Veterans of Junior Hockey (trades/advancement): 30%

Young Projects: 23%

Remaining: 11%

**\*\* 27 teams presently**

### **Tier III Junior A 1675 SPOTS**

Teams are most often run by a non-profit organization. Player's family help contribute up to \$6500 to the team's overall hockey-related budget (i.e. ice time, uniforms, team travel, staffing) Room/board expenses are also the responsibility of the player billet house coordinator.

AJHL (Atlantic) 11 teams in CT, MA,NH,NJ,NY,PA,VA = 275

CSHL (Central States) 13 teams in IA,IL,MI,MO,OH = 325

EJHL (Eastern) 14 teams in MA, NH, NJ, NY VT =250

MNJHL (Minnesota) 9 teams in MN,WI = 225

NORPAC (Northern Pacific) 11 teams in ID,MT,OR,WA,WY = 275

WSHL (Western States)13 teams in AZ,CA,CO,LA,OK,NV, TX = 325

**\*\* Teams vary in these leagues, let along new leagues being created as well such as the GLHL (part of MnJHL), USJHL, etc.**

### **SUMMARY:**

Even if every Tier I-Tier III A junior hockey team had complete roster turnover every year (no veteran junior hockey players stayed in the USAH junior hockey system for more than one season) still only 2.6% OF THE USA ELIGIBLE PLAYERS would be able to find a roster spot in these levels. Because many junior hockey veterans return for more than one season, these roster spot opportunities decreases significantly. It is extremely competitive to get a roster spot, let alone play or to keep your spot all year.

# Simply Put...

- Best advice, go where you are wanted.
- No promises, just the opportunity.
- Get academics in order.
- Learn how to speak with adults.
- Marathon, not a sprint.
- They are looking for total package.
- Teams have \$ invested into you as a player, a student, and a citizen.



# Where To Look For Help

- Internet.
- Direct from teams.
- Advisors – everyone operates differently, and to be honest, there should be a capacity. Have to once again ask yourself – “what do you expect out of the relationship?”.
- Friends, teammates, families, etc.
- Information sessions – College Hockey Inc. seminars, CHL satellite camps, reputable showcases, USA Hockey, etc.