



## Fury Weekend Team Reports

February 2, 2009



### **Midget Minor U16**

The Fury U16's played cross-town rival Mission in two Tier 1 Elite League games at home this weekend.

In dedication and prayer for Derek Zike, both teams, their coaches and the referees knelt at center ice for a moment of silence and prayer. It was a powerful statement of all that is good in hockey and I want to thank Coach Chuck and Coach Kent for their enthusiastic support of this gesture for our player.

In game 1, behind the emotion of dedicating the game to Derek Zike, the Fury got off to a quick start, managing to finish a couple of early chances and taking a 2-0 lead into the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mission completely outplayed the Fury boys in the second stanza, but Hunter Leisner was up to the task, allowing just 1 goal, while Fury managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> tally also. With the score 3-1 heading into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the game was pretty evenly played with Mission tallying first to close the gap, but Fury scored again quickly to widen the gap again to 2. With a minute left and the score 4-2, Mission pulled their goalie and Fury managed an empty netter for a 5-2 finish.

In game 2, trying to overcome the age old problem of playing hard in game 2 of a weekend series after winning game 1, the Fury played another good game. The score was

again 3-1 Fury heading into the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and again due in large part to the goaltending, this time from Griffin Strain. This 3<sup>rd</sup> period was different, and the Mission wasted no time closing the gap and tying the score at 3. Fury managed a goal of their own to once again take the lead, but with lots of time left it was still anyone's game. The Fury boys held on for a 4-3 win, playing well in their end and playing good smart hockey.

"These were two of our best team wins," said coach Kap after the series. Coach added, "when your group is able to combine playing hard, playing within the structure and you get good goaltending you are not just going to compete well, you are going to win some games. Every guy on our team played hard and sacrificed in our system. We dedicated these games to Derek and we all know it was this that led us to work so hard and so well together. I am very proud of these guys and believe strongly we can duplicate this in the rest of our games and have success."

### **Bantam Major 94**

94 Fury finished up their last league showcase this weekend at Arctic. Fury started off with a bang beating # 1 Compuware 3-1 in a hard fought battle.

Fury's next opponent #12 Victory Honda came out tough but the Fury boy's popped in 3 quick first period goals and ended taking the game 5-1

Little Caesars ranked #8 was Fury's next opponent. Fury came out flying scoring 2 goals in the first and then started the second period with another quick goal to go up 3-0. The Caesars made a goalie change and it obviously sparked the as they scored the next three.

With the game tied at 3 apiece LC scored again then the fury answered right back to make it 4-4. A bad cough up late in the third cost the fury and lost 5-4. "We played well for a period and a half and then started taking stupid selfish penalties, with that and only having 10 players Caesars wore us down" said McClusky.

Last game vs # 9 Belle tire you could see the small bench of the fury was catching up with them as BT took a 2 goal lead going into the second.. Second period Fury fought back with 2 of their own to tie the game going into the third.

Both teams traded off goals but BT came out ahead winning game 5-3 with an empty netter late in third.

"Overall the team played well being as shorthanded as we are we competed hard but made a few mistakes in the last 2 games that cost us.

The fury 94s team has 34 wins to this date with 4 games remaining  
2 vs Mission at Arctic and 2 vs Milwaukee.

### **Pee Wee Major 96**

This weekend the Chicago Fury 96's had two league games with in-state rival Team Illinois. On Saturday the team got off to a sluggish start but only found themselves trailing 1-0 at the end of the first. As the second period wore on the Fury fell into a deeper hole and although there was a brief glimmer of hope after two quick Fury goals they never really threatened and fell 6-2. "I am very disappointed in the level of play today, we stood around all game long looking for other people to make plays for us" commented coach Bannerman.

On Sunday morning the Fury had a chance to erase the previous day's results but came out slow and were embarrassed by TI. "I watched players who normally work as hard as anyone on the ice coast on the back check. It looked like none of our players wanted to be there that day. We had no fight and it is very disappointing after watching them take the steps forward that they did last week. I don't understand how we could have that poor of an effort in a game like that" stated Coach Bannerman.

Up next the Fury will host another state rival in the Chicago Mission.

### **Pee Wee Minor 97**

The 97's took on Team Illinois this weekend as they fell 7-0 in the contest. "We have to keep working on the skills of the kids" coach Stan said. "We have to play a little harder, keep working on our skating and shooting and get better with our overall skill level." The Fury will work hard this week as they get back to the drawing board with a good week of practice.

### **Squirt Major 98**

The team's first game was on Saturday at Seven Bridges vs the Mission. The final score was 13-1. Coach Mark added these comments about the game. "I thought the kids played

really well for a good portion of the game. They have a good grasp of the concept of working as a unit on the ice. The Mission team is a better team than we our right now, but I know that we have closed the gap. We are much more competitive then we were in the beginning of the season. The team is so much better in their own end. They are gaining control of the puck more often and because of that they are creating more offensive chances. What they lack right now is the consistency needed to play competitively for the whole game. I believe that they will get there with more training and practice. This is a good group of kids who like coming to the rink and working. If they can maintain their enthusiasm and work ethic I know they will continue to close the gap against the better teams in the league."

The second game this weekend was against Illinois rival CYA. The Fury traveled to CYA's rink in hopes of getting another victory against them. Unfortunately for the Fury, CYA was up to the challenge. The final score was 6-3. Coach Mark had this to say about the game. "I really think that was a winnable game. The quality chances were about even, but today the players could not capitalize on their opportunities. They had sustained pressure, goal mouth scrambles, missed open nets and they hit a few posts. I guess it wasn't our day. The kids battled all game and I know they are disappointed in the outcome. We'll see them (CYA) one more time in the state tournament for another opportunity for a victory." He also added, "I spoke to the team after the game about the importance of self-discipline and controlling their emotions during the game. A few players took unnecessary penalties and those always hurt the team. Those players need to be able to respond in a better way when faced with those situations. I am confident everyone better understands the value of self-discipline after our brief team meeting."

## **Girls 14U**

The Fury girls had a couple of exhibition games this weekend up in Madison against the Wisconsin Spirit.

The first game was Saturday afternoon. The girls came out against the Spirit and got out to an early lead. The game was a back and forth physical affair, with the Spirit tying the game and then the Fury going ahead again. This continued until late into the third period. The Spirit got a power-play goal late in the game with a tie score and take advantage of the opportunity. The girls were disappointed in the outcome, but should understand that there were opportunities they had to take control of the

game, which eluded them. The coaches were pleased for the most part in their effort and look forward to the rematch on Sunday morning. Final score: fury 3 - Spirit 4.

The second game on Sunday morning began much like the previous game, except it was the Fury playing "catch-up". Both teams had some tremendous opportunities as the action continued to go from end to end. The Fury never quit, and kept trying to climb back into it, by tying the game after being down by two. With the Fury down 6-3 mid-way through the third period, the girls began another comeback attempt. Notching two goals, with one on the power play, the girls had some excellent chances late in the game with the goalie pulled for the advantage in skaters. Unfortunately, the shots didn't find the twine, and the Spirit snuck out with another tough fought win. Fury 5 - Spirit 6.

In between games, the girls went to the KOHL Center to watch the University of Wisconsin play Minnesota-Duluth, and then had another surprise. Before their game on Sunday morning, the University of Wisconsin coach, Mark Johnson made an appearance in the locker room to give the girls a little insight into what it takes to prepare and be successful. The girls were excited to meet Coach Johnson and listened intently to what he had to offer them. It was a great experience for the girls to hear from the upcoming USA Olympic Women's Team Coach about what it takes to prepare and be successful at accomplishing their goals. Then after a brief question and answer session, the girls were able to get a team photo with Coach Johnson.

The coming week is a good week of practice before their NIHL playoffs begin on Saturday.