



## Fury Weekend Team Reports

### WEEK 6

October 14, 2008

#### Midget Major U18

The U18s hosted the MWEHL Major Midget Showcase with the Chicago Division taking on the Western Division in a 5 game weekend series. The Fury played well and competed hard as they skated to a 4 - 1 record with their only loss coming at the hands of the LA Kings by a score of 3-1. The Fury topped PF Changes by a score of 3-1, defeated Russell Stover 1-0, outlasted The Colorado Rampage 3-1 and topped The Dallas Stars in the final contest by a score 3-1. The Fury improved their overall record this season to 13 wins and 6 losses. "Our team took a big step this weekend" says Fury Head Coach Nick Pollos. "We learned the value of working hard for three periods. We had one bad period against LA and it cost us the game. This league is too good to take days off and we learned that this weekend." The Fury will enjoy an off weekend as they practice and prepare for the 2008 Chicago Fury Autumn Invitational October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> at Arctic.

#### Midget Minor U16

The Fury Minors travelled to Cleveland this weekend for two league games. The team came away splitting the weekend match, each game by a score of 2-1.

In game 1, the team came out sluggish but goaltending kept the game tied at 1 until late. "Our team did not play well until the 3<sup>rd</sup> period and I really felt the officiating was poor. Griffin (Strain) played very well but we took too many penalties, including going down 5 on 3 with 3 minutes remaining. They scored during that time and we did not have time to even it up", said coach Kapsalis after the game.

In game 2, the team played hard and again both goalies played well. "Hunter (Leisner) and the Cleveland goalie were both tough to beat and the game was back and forth. We

played better and literally only let down for two minutes at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, but that was the lesson for the weekend, because by letting up, they beat us to the puck and managed their only goal. I am hopeful the boys learned that at this level, you can't take even one shift off", concluded Kapsalis.

Next week is a showcase in Detroit.

### **Bantam Major 94**

The 94 Bantam Major team travelled to Detroit for their first league showcase. The 94 level of the MWEHL is home to not only the best teams in the country, but in North America. "To show you how strong this league is, all you have to do is look at the national rankings" Mc Clusky continued. "We have ten teams in our league and consistently 8 out of the ten teams rank in the top ten in the nation" Mc Clusky said.

Fury bantam majors started their Saturday morning game vs. #1 ranked Compuware. Compuware came out hitting from start to finish winning the game 3-1. Next up Saturday evening another top 10 ranked team in the USA Little Caesars. The fury boys came out of the gate strong and out played Caesars for 2 periods. Heading into the final period Fury was up 1-0. Caesars came out flying but could not find the back of the Fury net. Final score, Fury 2-0.

Sunday Victory Honda, another top ten team and Fury faced off in a wild game. "It was penalty filled contest that saw one shift take 10 players to the penalty box, 5 from each team" Mc Clusky continued. "Players received ten minute misconducts which left me with 8 total players playing the next ten minutes of the 2nd period." Mc Clusky said. With only 3 players on the bench and 5 on the ice, the Fury managed somehow to keep Honda from scoring. With the score tied at 2 apiece, Honda came up with 3 unanswered goals early in the final Frame. Then Fury with 5 minutes left in the game came up with 3 of their own to tie the game 5-5. The game ended in a tie. Fury and Belle Tire squared off in another battle between 2 top ten Teams. Fury took a 4-1 one lead to see Belle Tire get within 2 heading into the final period. Belle Tire came out strong and made the score 4-3. Fury fought off a flurry of shots early and popped in 2 more of their own to take the final 6-3, "I'm very proud of my team we played 12 skaters in 3 out of 4 games and were only beaten once, the boys dug deep and found a way to win". Showcase record 2-1-1

## Bantam Minor 95

The 95's headed to Detroit for their first showcase of the year. In game one the Fury faced off against Honey Baked and fought hard but fell short 3-1. In game two the Fury fell behind 4-1 to Belle Tire in the first period but came back strong tying the game up at 4-4 late in the third period. The final score was 4-4. "Belle Tire is suppose to be the top team in the league this year so tying them was a success for our team" says Coach Matt Noga. In game three the Fury came out strong and didn't look back. The Fury took the game beating Victory Honda 4-1. "Victory Honda beat us 3-2 three weeks ago so controlling the game the way we did was impressive" added Noga. Game four was not so good for the Fury, losing 5-0 to Little Caesars. In the final game of the weekend the Fury went up against Compuware in a very sloppy back and forth game. The Fury scored three goals in three minutes late in the game giving them the 5-4 victory. "I personally would like to congratulate all of the Chicago 95 teams on a great weekend" Noga added. The Fury heads to Kalamazoo next weekend for a couple of practice games against S2 Hockey.

## Pee Wee Major 96

This weekend the Chicago Fury headed up to Detroit for their first league showcase of the season. On Saturday morning the Fury played Belle Tire. The game was a much faster pace than the previous weekend games and the Fury struggled to execute with the puck and lost the game 8-0. "It was 2-0 going into the third against one of the best teams in the country so to lose by 8 is very frustrating. We have to learn to compete for three periods" Commented Coach Bannerman after the game. Saturday night the Fury faced Compuware in a closely contested battle, but a late empty net goal sealed another loss for the Fury by a final of 3-1. Sunday morning the Fury played Little Caesars. A couple of costly mistakes that Caesars was able to capitalize on had the Fury down 3-0 heading into the second. Both teams battled hard the final two periods but there would be no more scoring the rest of the game. "We had a couple of good opportunities that we failed to capitalize on that would have changed the game. We continue to stress at practice about challenging ourselves and executing at a higher level so that we can capitalize on opportunities" Stated Coach Bannerman. Sunday afternoon the Fury lost to Victory Honda 9-1 in their final game of the showcase. "We should have walked away from this weekend 2-2, so to finish 0-4 is not the way we wanted the

weekend to go. Hopefully the players will come to the rink this week ready to work and we can correct some of the issues that we currently are having."

The Fury 96's are off next weekend.

### **Pee Wee Minor 97**

The Fury were the hosts to the MWEHL 97 Showcase this weekend as teams came together for battle at Arctic. The Fury boys dropped game one to Belle Tire by a score of 6-0. Game two saw the Fury take on Little Caesars in a game which saw the Fury hang tough early on by faded as the fell by a score of 8-1. Day two pitted the Fury against Victory Honda in a tight contest only to see the Fury drop the game by a score of 4-2. In the final contest of the weekend the Fury was overpowered by Compuware 12-4.

### **Squirt Major 98**

The 98s skated in the MWEHL showcase weekend against 4 Michigan teams; Belle Tire, Victory Honda, Compuware and Little Caesars. It was a tough weekend for the boys as we lost all 4 games. They were overmatched by some of the best teams at the 98 level. On a positive note the boys played better in the facets of the game we have been concentrating on. They also learned some valuable lessons this weekend. The most important one is that the have to play hard on each shift in order to compete at this level. Coach Mark said about this weekend, "of course I am disappointed at the outcome of the games, but I am encouraged by the effort the team displayed this weekend. They showed a lot of enthusiasm this weekend, but hey have to learn to sustain level of consistency that will enable them to be competitive for the entire game."

### **Girls 14U**

On Monday 10/6, the Fury Girls 14-U began the week with a tough NIHL match-up against another team from the Sabers program. The girls came out and worked hard and showed some grit and determination. They limited their defensive zone turnovers and did a good job moving the puck up the ice. Unable to generate many quality scoring chances, they went into the second period down 1-0. The second period saw the girls make a number of mental mistakes that made it tough to mount a comeback. They came out in the third with the same determination as they did in the first, and finished the game strong, however, coming out on the losing end by a score of 6-0.

On Saturday, the girls had another NIHL match-up against the Express out of the Oakton rink. The girls began the game slow and dug themselves too deep of a hole to climb out of. Giving up 4 first period goals, the girls scratched their way to a 4-1 second period score before giving up an empty netter late in the third for a final score of 5-2.

Sunday morning, the girls had a MWEHL tilt against the team from T.I... The girls played a stronger game this outing compared to the last match-up. It was a close game through the first two periods, with both teams having some good opportunities. In the end, mental errors and some sloppy defensive zone play proved to be the deciding factor. Final score 4-1 Team Illinois.

Coach Harmon reflected on the games this week and observed that the girls need to show some consistent effort as a team. "We have 3 or 4 girls a game really working hard, but that's not going to do it for us". "We are not playing to our potential".

The girls have a good week of practice ahead before they face the Mission on Friday, as well as two NIHL games against Winnetka and the Hawks on Saturday and Sunday.

### Girls 19U

The Fury Girls 19U team played at Team Illinois on Saturday. They took an early 1-0 lead and held on to it until late in the third period when TI tied it. The Fury came back immediately and took the lead back. They held on for a 2-1 victory.

Sunday the Fury played at CYA. The first period was an up and down game that saw CYA get a late power play goal. The second period saw the Fury shorthanded almost the entire time after some very questionable calls. They were down five on three for several minutes. CYA capitalized twice to take a 3-0 lead all on the power play. The third period the Fury finally had some power plays of their own but even though they had several chances they could not score and wound up with a hard fought 3-0 defeat.

Next week the Fury takes on CYA and Wilmette at home and Kenosha away.