



## **Fury Weekend Team Reports**

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### **Bantam Minor 95**

The 95's hosted the Fury Fall Classic this weekend at the Arctic Ice Arena. In game one the Fury skated by Russell Stover 7-3 in a dominating performance. "This was the best our team has played all season and it all came from our high intensity" Said Coach Matt Noga. In game two the Fury faced off against NXI for the third time this season. The final score was 4-1 Fury. In the third game of the weekend the Fury shutout Milwaukee 4-0. "It's always nice to shutout a good team knowing our team's defense and goaltending is starting to improve" Noga added. With the Fury going 3-0 it was enough to earn them a spot in the championship game. In the championship game the Fury headed into the third period down 2-1 with only 15 minutes to play. The Fury then capitalized on two straight power plays with only six minutes to go in regulation to regain the lead 3-2. "We made some special team adjustments during intermission and they paid off" Noga added. The '95 Fury held on to win 3-2 to become the Fury Fall Classic 95 Champions. The 95's host the Mission next weekend at home for the first games of the MWEHL regular season.

### **Pee Wee Major 96**

This weekend the Chicago Fury 96's skated in the Fury Fall Classic. The first game of the tournament put the Fury against Russell Stover. Although the effort was much better than the past weekend the Fury fell 6-1. "I felt that the effort was much better but it is the little things that we are struggling with from positioning to puck movement and down the line" commented Coach Bannerman. On Saturday morning the Fury squared off with S2 from Kalamazoo. The Fury came out fast and opened the scoring first and after two periods had the lead 3-2 going into the third. Halfway through the period the Fury lost their composure and took three bad penalties which lead to three S2 goals. The Fury did not quit and was able to find the

back of the net to make it 5-4 but that is as close as they would come. "We had too many opportunities early to put the game out of reach but did not capitalize and then let S2 take the lead with a couple of bad penalties. It is very difficult to swallow this loss as we outshot our opponent 41-18" stated Coach Bannerman.

After a good afternoon of film the Fury played the tournament leading Chesterfield Falcons. The Fury continued to control the pace of the game as they did in the earlier game and came out with a very good 4-3 win. "We found a way to win today which is nice, but we have to understand that the game is three periods long. We had a 3-1 lead and then sat back and let Chesterfield back in the game" commented Coach Bannerman. On Sunday the Fury played a consolation game against Madison. After a very slow start the Fury found themselves down 4-2 heading into the third. After a passionate speech by Coach Bannerman the Fury boys came out hard and halfway through the third had illuminated the deficit to take a 5-4 lead. Madison tied the game in the final minute and the two teams headed to overtime. After three scoreless overtime periods the Fury skated away with the win by taking a best of three shootout. "We battled back which is nice to see and our goaltender came up big in the shootout. Hopefully next weekend we will continue this momentum" Coach Bannerman was quoted after the game.

Up next the Fury head to Kalamazoo for three games.

### **Pee Wee Minor 97**

The 97's competed in the Fury Fall Classic as they skated against, CYA, Peoria and Green Bay. "The kids worked hard but took some penalties which hurt us. We need to tighten up on the defensive side" said Coach Luberda. The Fury finished the tournament with a 0-2-2 record. A lack of offensive pressure hurt the Fury over the weekend. The 97's will look to simplify their game as they prepare for practice this week. The 97's will regroup with an off weekend as they prepare for Cleveland and Honeybaked in two weeks.

### **Squirt Major 98**

The 98's competed in the Fury Fall Classic this weekend. Although the team went 0-4, the coaches were pleased with their efforts and the progress the team is making. As the tournament went on, the team improved as they skated into the consolation game on Sunday. With the goalie pulled, the

Fury created several chances however they were unable to get the equalizer in this back and forth contest. The Fury dropped the consolation game to the Huskies CSDHL Team by a score of 7-6. "We showed good improvement over the weekend" said Fury Coach Mark Cmund. "We created some offense from hard work although we learned that we have to work hard for all three periods to be successful at this level." The Fury boys took a big step this weekend and look to keep improving along the way this year.

### **Fury Girls 19U**

The Fury 19U girls team was in Cleveland this past weekend for the Ignite the Ice tournament. They were supposed to be in tier 2, but were moved to tier 1 which meant they would play much tougher competition including one of the top teams in the country, the Minnesota Thoroughbreds. They lost game one 4-1 to the Grand Rapids Griffins even though they outshot them. Game 2 they lost 4-0 to Gilmour Academy. Game 3 was a 6-0 loss to Minnesota which featured the Fury goalie making 59 saves. Game 4 was 3-0 loss to Belle Tire and the only game that they really didn't play well. Considering the teams they played against and the level of play that they are currently at, The Fury really competed hard and learned a lot about what it will take to do well at this level. Next week the Fury play the Sabres away, the Wisconsin Wild away, and the Flames at home.

### **Fury Girls 14U**

The Fury girls' 14-U team traveled by bus to Cleveland, Ohio this past weekend to participate in the "Ignite The Ice" tournament. The spirits were high for their first tournament of the season and their excitement was evident.

On Friday afternoon, the first match-up against a team from Mississauga, Ontario provided the girls an opportunity to start the weekend out on a strong note. Down 1-0 after two periods of back and forth play, the girls had a tough goal scored on them to put them down 2-0. They didn't quit, but the day of travel seemed to take a bit out of them and they were unable to mount a comeback. An empty netter finished the scoring. Final score; 3-0. Coach Harmon took the opportunity to review video of the game and help the girls see how to make adjustments and improve their effort.

The second game of the weekend came Saturday morning against a strong team from Ohio, the Ohio Flames. From the start, the girls were playing defense and trying hard to mount some pressure against a swarming Ohio team. They did

not quit, however, that wasn't enough. The girls saw what it was like to play a strong experienced team and where they would like to be as the season progresses. Overmatched and out chanced, the game ended and they saw what it was like to compete hard to the end. Coach Harmon said, "The girls did some good things in the game and did not quit. It was a good learning experience." Final score; 10-0.

Game three on Saturday afternoon pitted the girls against a MWEHL opponent from Detroit, Belle Tire. Not discouraged by their morning game, the girls were focused and prepared to go out and play hard. From the start, it was a rough and hotly contested game that saw the girls skate hard, pursue and support the puck. A couple of mistakes made the score 2-0 after two periods in favor of their opponent. In the third, showing discipline, the girls took advantage of some power play opportunities and quickly took the lead 3-2. Their excitement was contagious and their energy was strong. They chased down loose pucks, maintained puck possession and crashed the net for rebounds. They finished the third period with a strong team effort. Coach Harmon said, "The girls competed. Backed by strong goaltending and solid team play, the girls had some success to finish the weekend." Final score; 3-2.

The girls returned home in good spirits with a better understanding of the teams they will continue to face this season and what kind of effort it will take to be successful. Coach Harmon added, "You all worked really hard, you played hard and you had a good time. Keep up the hard work and good things will come".

### **Midget Major U18**

The Major Midgets returned to MWEHL play this weekend as they took on in state rival, Team Illinois at the Edge in Bensenville. Game one was an up and down contest with each team getting quality chances in each period. Team Illinois scored on the power play in the first to go up 1-0. The second period was back and forth however neither team could dent the net as the two teams skated to the third period. With the Fury trailing 1-0, they went on the power play and evened the score at 1-1. Later in the third the Fury scored again on the power play to take the lead 2-1. The Fury held on to win game one by that same 2-1 score. "This was a pretty good game" says Fury Head Coach Nick Pollos. It was a game of special teams and we came out on top." Game two saw the Fury start strong but found themselves down 1-0 in the first. After several power plays for Team Illinois, the Fury was chasing a 3-0 lead. Sloppy play and

lack of discipline did the Fury in as they went on to lose game two by a score of 6-1. "Everything we did yesterday in our win went by the wayside today. Our team must learn how to be consistent" Pollos added. "Our kids must be mentally focused every night." The Fury head to Des Moines, IA for the 2008 Buc Bowl this coming weekend. The Fury U18s pushed their overall record to 7 wins and 3 loses.

### **Midget Minor U16**

The Fury U 16 team faced off with two league games on the road at CYA.

Saturday saw the Fury team have a flurry of chances but struggle to finish while the CYA team had few chances but made them count. The Fury was down 1-0, 2-1, and 3-2 before coming from behind to take over 4-3 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. "The CYA goalie, Rutledge made life difficult for us again", said coach Marc Kapsalis, "but we managed four against him and added the empty netter. We can't give up the number of odd man rushes we did and think we will be competitive at this level," added the Coach. The Fury team lost to this same CYA team in a tough fought 3-2 game just a few weeks earlier in the Fury Labor Day tourney.

Sunday, both teams played better and both goalies were also sharp. Again the Fury team found themselves behind 1-0 but battled back to tie. "In the last few minutes of the game we managed to get one by their goalie and held on", said Coach Kap, "we are not playing particularly well, but we are finding ways to win, added the Coach. We will have to improve our power play if we are going to have a chance of competing against the tough teams, but I am happy for the boys," concluded the coach. Game pucks went out to Barrett for the game winner and Leisner for his strong play in net.

These two wins move the Fury record to 10-2 as they move into the schedule's toughest weeks. This weekend is Mission away for two more league games.

### **Bantam Major 94**

The 94's hosted the 2nd annual Fury Fall Classic at Arctic Ice Arena this weekend. The Fury 94's team won all four round robin games dominating their competition. Fury 94's scored in 40 goals in their four round robin games and gave up 4 in a total domination off their opponents. Fury 94's played Team Illinois in the championship game Sunday.

The Game was back and forth with T.I. taking the lead 1-0 on a power play goal late in the second period. Both teams

headed to their dressing rooms with T.I. up 1-0 starting the third. Fury came out of the gate in the third and tied the game 1-1. T.I. again struck on the power play to take the lead. Moments later The Fury got the equalizer and the game stayed tied. With 4 minutes remaining T.I. again struck on the power play. "We had momentum with the score tied late in the game when a very questionable penalty was called late in the game" McClusky continued. "That call did us in as T.I. scored again to go up 3-2. The game could have gone either way but we made two more mistakes than they did and it cost us" said McClusky. At the final horn, Team Illinois had earned the victory and the Championship of the Fury Fall Classic. Congratulations to Team Illinois.