



Fury Weekend Team Reports

January 26, 2008



Midget Major U18

This weekend the U18's took on in state rivals, Team Illinois on Friday and CYA on Saturday and Sunday with the Fury earning a 1-1-1 record. Friday the Fury fell to Team Illinois by a score of 6-2. Sloppy play and an overall poor effort did the Fury in. "We didn't compete at all tonight" said Fury Head Coach Nick Pollos. The next night the Fury came out with a purpose as they played one of their best games of the season dominating CYA in route to a 7-1 victory. "We had a pre game meeting and put the challenge to the team and they responded" said Pollos. The third game of the weekend started well as the Fury took a 5-2 lead into the third period over CYA. In the third CYA came on the attack and kept coming as they tied the game and avoided a sweep by the Fury. The game ended 5-5. "This was our 8th game in eight days and our third of the weekend, we seemed to run out of gas. We had to kill (2) 5 on 3 power plays and that took allot out of us. Give CYA credit for their comeback" Pollos said. The Fury is 3-1-1 in their last five games. The boys will enjoy a much needed weekend off next week as they prepare for the 2009 Gold Medal Classic Tournament in Madison, WI. In two weeks.

Midget Minor U16

The U16's were off this weekend as they prepare for two league games vs. the Chicago Mission this coming weekend.

Bantam Major 94

The 94's were off this weekend as they prepare for the Tier I elite Hockey League showcase this weekend at Arctic.

Bantam Minor 95

The 95's headed to Cleveland this weekend for 2 league games against the Cleveland Barons. In game #1 the Fury skated to a 1-1 tie. "We played below average as a team but managed to get a point out of the game" Coach Matt Noga said. In game #2 the Fury came out flat again and found themselves down 5-3 with six minutes left in regulation. The Fury never quit and pumped in two quick goals to tie the game up, the final score was 5-5. "Once again we were not in sync as a team but it was nice to see the guys step it up when we needed it" Noga Added. The 95's have next weekend off and will use the off week to prepare for T.I. for the last two games of the regular season. "We are in a position to finish in 2nd place in the league if we can take care of business against T.I. and get some help from other teams" Noga concluded.

Pee Wee Major 96

This weekend the Fury 96's had a pair of games against Cleveland and Honeybaked in league play. On Saturday morning the Chicago Fury came ready to play and executed better than they have all year to take their first league victory 4-3. On Saturday night the Fury had the effort but mentally were not as strong as in the morning and fell to Honeybaked 5-1. "Today was a very good day of hockey for the guys. The things that we have been working on in practice are really starting to show through in games" Coach Bannerman stated after the game.

On Sunday, the Fury squared off against Cleveland. After a very sluggish start the Fury found themselves down 5-0 after the first. Although the effort and execution was better in the second the Fury could not find the back of the net and trailed 5-0 heading to the third which is when one of the best almost comebacks happened. Started by a strong power play the Fury cut the lead to 5-1. Two minutes later the Fury found themselves down 5-3 as Blake Carrick found the back of the net on three straight shots over a two minute stretch. After several near misses the Fury inched even closer with another power play goal but could not get the last one and fell 5-4. On Sunday night the Fury battled hard against Cleveland but some costly mistakes in the third period sealed the game and they fell

8-4. "Overall this was one of the best weekends we have had and I am really proud of the development and heart that the players have shown" Commented coach Bannerman.

Up next the Fury play Team Illinois in a weekend set of games.

Pee Wee Minor 97

The 97's dropped a close game this weekend to Madison by a score of 3-2. The Fury battled back to make it a one goal game. The Fury battled right to the end with a ton of pressure in the Madison zone late in the game but were unable to get the equalizer as the game ended with Madison winning 3-2. On Sunday the 97's took on the Milwaukee Jr. admirals in a game that looked more like the NHL All-Star game as far as offensive production goes. The Fury exploded for 10 goals as they skated to a 10-6 win. "Saturday's game was good, we had a chance and the kids played real hard" said coach Stan.

Squirt Major 98

The Chicago Fury Major Squirt team won an exciting game at home beating visiting Illinois rival the Chicago Young Americans 4-1. CYA took the first period lead on a deflected shot that eluded Fury goalie Brian Roberts. But that would be it for CYA as Roberts closed the door the rest of the way facing a total of 43 shots. The Fury responded with a goal of their own to tie it with a wrist shot from Ryan Brooks assisted by Vito Dellorto and Danny Barnes. The next goal by the Fury to take a 2-1 lead was also scored by Ryan Brooks assisted again by Dellorto. The third goal giving the Fury the 2 goal cushion they were looking for was scored by the team's captain, defenseman Mike Pleshar. Pleshar scored on a wrist shot off a face-off win by Rudy Magana who was credited with the assist. The Fury closed the door on any chance of a comeback by CYA when Brooks scored his third goal of the contest completing the hat trick off a pass from Dellorto who was credited with his third assist of the game.

As the time on the game clock neared the final minute of play one could feel the excitement in the arena as the players were beginning to celebrate on the bench anticipating the final horn ending the game and that they indeed had the victory they worked so hard this season to obtain. When the final horn sounded all the players mobbed goalie Brian Roberts in celebration. After the traditional post game handshake with the CYA players, the Fury team returned to their side of the ice, gathered

together and collectively saluted their fans who have supported them all season.

Coach Mark Cmunt had this to say about the team victory, "I am so proud of these players. Those who are not around this team don't see the tireless effort they put in every week during on-ice practices and off-ice workouts on the synthetic ice and on the treadmill. Their reputation and identity through out the league has been that they are a team that never gives up, they continue to play hard and they always have their head up regardless of the score. I have heard these types of comments from coaches and parents from in-state rivals as well as the teams from Michigan. They see the improvements the team has made as the season has progressed." Coach Mark also added, "There were players who had outstanding games, but everyone has to contribute and play well for this to happen. I am happy for everyone on this team. This is a well earned TEAM victory."

There were 2 other games this weekend where the Fury didn't do as well as they had hoped. After an exciting win on Thursday, the expectations were high in achieving another victory against the team from Kalamazoo. On Saturday, the Fury was down 4-0 after the first period. They fought back scoring 2 in the second to close the gap, but gave up late period goals. At the end of 2 periods it was 6-2. The score ended at 10-2. Coach Mark thoughts on the game included..." the players were over-confident about playing the S2 team. I think to some degree they were feeling good about themselves and their chances against S2 because of their win the other night against CYA and the close game they had earlier in the season when we played them in Kalamazoo. I spoke to them about in the pre game session about being prepared to play and the need to continue to work hard, but unfortunately they learned a lesson this weekend." The S2 team also won Sunday morning's game 9-0. "... We played a team that is very good. Their top players were very good this weekend. When we were in our own end, we didn't make enough good decisions. We gave them too many quality scoring chances."

Girls 19U

The Fury Girls 19U team played Loyola Academy on Sunday at Heartland Ice Arena. Loyola is currently in first place in girls high school hockey. After a pretty solid first period the Fury came out with a 1-0 lead. The second period they played even better but could score only once again and took a 2-0 lead into the third period. After killing off an early penalty the Fury scored twice more for a 4-0 lead with a little over 7 minutes left in the game. Then the

wheels came off and they spent the remaining time down 5 on 4 and 5 on 3. Loyola scored three times during that stretch but the Fury held them off on a 6-4 to finish with a 4-3 victory. Next week the Fury is off and will prepare for both NIHL and Tier One Elite Hockey League Playoffs.