

August 5, 2009

Dear Eagles Players and Families

It is with a sad heart this letter is being written. After many years of offering house league hockey, we are making the announcement that the Oak Lawn Eagles Hockey program is being dissolved. A number of factors led to this decision, but primarily the current economic conditions contributed the most. We are truly disheartened by this more than you will know. The Oak Lawn Ice Arena will continue to offer our Pre-hockey and Adult Training Camp classes, along with our Adult League.

We understand this leaves families who are loyal to Oak Lawn with only a few alternatives. Because we know that the hockey experience is very important to you, we have lined up one alternative as a possibility for you.

St. Jude has contacted us and plans to offer rostered 08/09 Eagles players a chance to participate at a reduced rate with St. Jude in an effort to transition the players.

St. Jude will accept rostered players from the 08/09 season to participate in their upcoming conditioning and evaluations / tryouts at a reduced cost (see attached). House conditioning and placement cost would be \$50 and travel conditioning and tryouts cost would be \$100 (travel also includes off-ice training). In addition to the reduced cost for pre-season training, Oak Lawn will continue to offer the free regular Open Skate privilege at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena to those who register with St. Jude. (More information will follow on this benefit once we know who has registered with the program.) St. Jude has been providing hockey to the South Side for 50 years and is a well-established organization. They will also be purchasing ice at Oak Lawn for games and practices in an effort to help in the transition.

Perhaps you have older players who are interested in ultimately playing high school hockey, or maybe you have a beginner who still wants to play within the SSHL (the league we participate in). In either case, St. Jude is a good option for any type of player you have as they have both house level and travel level programs. Some of the features they offer are:

- **Weekly Power Skate** - All players (House and Travel) will power skate weekly and will be instructed by Brandon Spike supported by the coaching staff throughout the year. Kevin Oliver and Paul Marzano will be goalie instructors.

- Another new element they are incorporating this year is **off-ice training**, which is part of the American Development Model (ADM) as outlined by USA Hockey. Off-Ice training is offered for the travel players to help augment their power skate and training regimen. House players may participate for an additional fee.

Wherever you choose to go, and whichever level you elect to have your player at, travel or house, we feel we have done a good job instructing and preparing our players for the next level or at a minimum, working towards it. We wish you the best of luck in your future hockey plans and will miss you all. As Red Green says "keep your stick on the ice".

We would also like to announce that Frank Di Cristina, Jr. has been chosen at the new manager of the Oak Lawn Ice Arena. He is excited to begin his experience with the Park District on September 1st. Frank will be consulting with current staff during this transition time, and we look forward to having his knowledge and experience available as we move into a new season at the Ice Arena.

Sincerely,

Oak Lawn Park District