

MARCH  
2021

# USABH MAGAZINE



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REFEREE CERTIFICATION  
LEAGUE BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM  
PLAYER AND PROGRAM INSURANCE**



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'GROW THE GAME' DAYS  
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS  
FUTURE STARS INVITATIONAL  
U16 GIRL'S NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT  
ISBF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings!

As we start to shake off the cold from winter, we are all hoping that 2021 treats us better than 2020 did! We have been living in some strange times. One thing that remains the same is ball hockey and how much we all love to play. The rinks are opening back up faster than we can keep up and 2021 is kicking in gear.

There have been a few things of note from over the winter and into the spring. I am proud to announce that since USABH registration has opened, we have had thousands of registrants enjoying the benefits of being a USABH member. As leagues begin to open back up, registrations are pouring in. This was a monumental effort by a great many people. Even more importantly, a big shout out to the league owners that have embraced the USABH vision. This unprecedented unification of our sport is truly amazing. I am looking forward to what the rest of the year brings and beyond.

Another item worth mentioning is the unbelievable response we have gotten in regard to our new referee certification program and our coaching certification program. The response from this has been far greater than we were expecting. We have even had guests from across the globe attending our referee certification program from the UK and Pakistan. Again, there was a great deal that went into this. Huge credit goes out to our Referee in Chief, Mike Wahbi and our Director of Hockey Operations, Cory Herschk for leading in these efforts. The teams that they assembled to make this happen have been nothing short of spectacular.

Rink and league owners, keep your players safe and have a great spring.

I hope you enjoy this edition of USA Ball Hockey Magazine.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Banks". The signature is stylized and cursive.

*Chris Banks*  
*President*  
*cbanks@usaballhockey.com*



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# CALIFORNIA DREAMING

By: Carl Ellis

## RE-ENVISIONING BALL HOCKEY IN ORANGE COUNTY

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There are some people in this world that embrace challenges and look for opportunities to grow. Beth Marhefka is that type of person. From ball hockey player, to former body builder, to entrepreneur, to re-envisioning the game of ball hockey in Orange County, California, Beth embodies the persona of living her life to the fullest. With everything she does, she works hard, remains passionate, and never takes opportunity for granted.

Beth grew up in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania. She found herself drawn to sports and was always competitive. During high school, she played both softball and field hockey. After being recruited to play field hockey in college, Beth decided to attend Penn State and forgo playing a college sport. "I really wanted to go to college to have the university experience, so I decided to play intramurals."

While at Penn State, Beth studied Marketing and International Business, which would set her up for a career that would

ultimately lead to a promotion that would bring her out to California. However, after college, it would be a move to Pittsburgh where she would get her first taste of ball hockey. This was the beginning of her journey into the world of ball hockey and Beth would never have imagined the opportunities that would come into her life.

"I joined the Pittsburgh Sports League and started to play street hockey. I thought to myself, this is awesome! I was drawn to the game instantly. It was an easy crossover for me, after playing field hockey, and I loved the physicality of the game as well as the competition. Not only that, it was so much fun and I made instant friends. From a health perspective, I was able to get great cardio, get rid of some of my stress, so it was a perfect match."

In 2012, a new challenge and new opportunity would appear in Beth's life. Beth was promoted and she decided to take the plunge and move to California. It would be here that she



would start playing in the SoCal Street Hockey League. Beth was surprised that this was the only ball hockey program around after coming from both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia where there was a league to play in almost every night.

"In California, I could only play in the SoCal league. I actually started bodybuilding when I moved out here. As I was getting stronger I started to realize that my performance on the rink was getting better. I started to understand and recognize the mind-body connection. I was more confident. I started eating better and continued working out and continued to notice my athleticism getting better. This ended up being a lifestyle for me, and I realized that I was improving all aspects of my life."

With Beth's mindset and workouts she was able to win an amateur bodybuilding competition, which shows her determination to be successful. Success on the rink continued as well. Beth made the Women's US National Team. She competed in the Barrie Masters in Canada along with the Master's Tournament in Banff, Canada. Beth also competed in the Master's Tournament in Bermuda making her a very decorated national player.

"Representing your nation is exhilarating, exciting, fun, but also humbling. I remember never wanting to mess up or let my teammates down. It was an amazing experience. The people you meet within the world ball hockey community are awesome. I have so much respect for them, and have an unbelievable bond with my teammates. I'm truly grateful for that opportunity!"

Today, Beth utilizes her entrepreneur spirit as an ontological life coach business. Beth is determined to help her clients reach their goals and find their passion in life. With her entrepreneur mindset Beth along with her partners are re-envisioning what ball hockey could mean in Orange County.

A few years ago, the rink that hosted the SoCal Street Hockey League could have been repurposed. Beth along with

**"We want to help grow the game, we want to introduce youth players to the game...We want to be the premier league on the west coast!"**  
- Beth Marhefka

Kevin Bever and Scott Shin, her partners, decided to propose that the rink be fixed up. However, they realized together that they didn't just want to fix the rink, they wanted to revamp the entire program and make it their own vision. They want to make ball hockey for everyone, not just adults. Pacific Coast Hockey was born.

"We are going to create all-inclusive leagues for players of all ages. We want to help grow the game, we want to introduce youth players to the game. We want to offer tournaments. We want to be the premier league on the west coast!"

Beth's passion is contagious. Her excitement for this vision is palpable. Beth and her team are partnering with the Anaheim Ducks and



EMPowerplay, partner of USA Ball Hockey, to create the new start at their rink. EMPowerplay is going to replace the current rink so that there will be a state of the art rink in Orange County. The perfect beginning to their vision, and the future home of National Ball Hockey League Division in California. 6 teams are already to go in April. The future is bright in the OC.

It's amazing how ball hockey provides opportunity in many different ways. From the health benefits, to building friendships, to even being able to cross country lines, we are so fortunate to be a part of a game that brings us joy. More importantly, ball hockey is opening up doors to people of all ages. Nobody understands this more than Beth. "I'm so

excited for the future of this sport. It's only getting bigger. I have much to be grateful for as well. I even met my boyfriend Kevin playing ball hockey."

Beth is a role model and a person that strives for greatness. Beth's determination will help the game of ball hockey to grow and she will be a pioneer of the game. We are lucky to have her as an ambassador. With Beth at the helm, we can all be certain that the Pacific Coast Hockey organization will be the premier program in southern California. Game on Beth.



## The "Hot Seat" Questions

**Question: What is your nickname?**

**Beth: B**

**Question: What is your favorite food?**

**Beth: Ice Cream**

**Question: What's your favorite cartoon growing up or currently?**

**Beth: Thundercats**

**Question: Coolest place you've traveled for hockey?**

**Beth: Banff was gorgeous, but playing hockey in Bermuda and being able to cliff jump after games was pretty incredible!**

**Question: One superpower you wish you had?**

**Beth: Teleportation**





# UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

MAR 19-21

**N.S.H.A**  
23RD RUMBOS AT THE RINKS



MARLTON, NJ  
U20, U16, U13, U10

APRIL 1-3

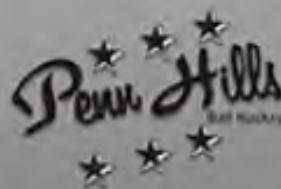
**N.S.H.A**  
EASTERN REGIONALS



BELLMAWR, NJ  
U20, U16, U13, U10

APRIL 7-11

GREATER PITT DEK HOCKEY  
MIDWEST REGIONALS



PENN HILLS, PA  
U20, U16, U13, U10

APRIL 16-18

**N.S.H.A**  
RIVERWINDS CUP



WEST DEPTFORD, NJ  
U20, U16, U13, U10

APRIL 30-MAY 2

**N.S.H.A**  
NATIONALS



GLOUCESTER TWP, NJ  
U20, U16, U13, U10

MAY 14-16

**COOL HOCKEY EVENTS**  
YOUTH NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



FEASTERVILLE, PA  
U20, U16, U13, U10

MAY 27-31

LEOMINSTER DEKHOCKEY  
US STREET & DEKHOCKEY NATIONALS



LEOMINSTER, MA  
U16 A/B, U13, U10

MAY 27-31

**AMERICAN BALL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS**



PITTSBURGH, PA  
U20, U16, U13, U10

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# THE NBHL

By: Steve Scian

## NATIONAL BALL HOCKEY LEAGUE

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Imagine sitting in your garage attempting to play your brand-new ukulele for the first time. You've got no clue what you're doing, and you're frustrated. You decide this isn't worth your efforts. You decide to focus on a new thought - forming a hockey league. And this new thought process leads to the eventual National Ball Hockey League.

This isn't exactly how it happened, but the origins of the newly established National Ball Hockey League can be traced back to 4 cords in a garage. In June 2015, Anthony Sanrocco, Pat Janus and TJ Janus had just returned from shooting around at their local hockey rink in Marlton, NJ when they all took out their brand new ukuleles to learn to play. While trying unsuccessfully to become musicians, the boys floated the idea of starting a ball hockey league. They decided to pursue this idea, and after a few phone calls and some paperwork the Evesham Ball Hockey League was formed. Within two weeks the league had 100 players signed up, forming 10 teams. Impressive to say the least, but this was just the start of what turned into years of hockey growth.

The Evesham Ball Hockey League began on July 16, 2015 on a small asphalt rink in Marlton, NJ. The rink was located in a development called Kings Grant. The Kings Grant rink had been around for years and was recently renovated (although there were no lights) and was fair game to use for anyone living in the development. Pat, TJ, and Anthony grew up in Kings Grant, so the Kings Grant board members were excited at the idea of members of their community getting use out of the rink. Games were weekend mornings with occasional weeknight games, as long as the games were finished before it became dark. The first season went well, with teams playing a 9 game regular season in a 4 on 4 format. The league kept all the players up to date with their website, updating stats, scores, and standings immediately after games. Most importantly, the players had a great time, which was the goal of the league in the first place.

Word of the EBHL spread after a successful first season and the league was growing in size quickly. The Sloths, based out of Gloucester Township, New Jersey and captained by Ryan Pavlik, were the first out of town team to make their way into the EBHL. The league followed the same growth pattern for 2017, gaining two more out of town teams from nearby Maple Shade and Bellmawr. As teams from farther away began to enter the league the talent level grew. By the year 2018, the EBHL's fourth season, nearly 30 Men's A level players were playing in the 4 on 4 league and almost half of the teams were from towns other than Marlton. The league was always friendly and fun, but the competitive aspect was starting to amp up as the league grew from the addition of players from

other towns. Furthermore, Pat Janus exited the EBHL at the start of the 2018 season and Gianni Sanrocco took his place alongside TJ Janus and his brother Anthony. The first 4 years on asphalt were incredibly successful and generated a ton of excitement locally, but the EBHL envisioned more.

In 2018, the EBHL started discussing the possibility of creating a National Ball Hockey League. Anthony tediously created an outline for the NBHL after the 2018 EBHL season and pitched the idea to TJ and Gianni before the 2019 season began. The plan involved moving the Evesham Ball Hockey League from the 4v4 style on asphalt, to traditional 5v5 play on dek. "Our goal was to prove that we were capable of running a league



worthy of being called the National Ball Hockey League. That entire 2019 season was meant to earn the respect of our peers in the sport to build the EBHL into the NBHL," said NBHL Commissioner Anthony Sanrocco. Along with the guidance of Scott Tarzy of Marlton, the wheels were set in motion to grow the Evesham Ball Hockey League into the National Ball Hockey League. To begin the growth, the Evesham Ball Hockey League transitioned to the Marlton Street Hockey Facility in 2019 to play on their newly renovated dek rinks. The league became very active on all social media platforms, secured a sponsorship from Bauer and had nearly every local "A" level player playing in the league. At the end of each week, top plays were highlighted and games were rewatched to ensure accuracy of statistics, including counting shots in every game to keep track of save percentage. Each game was recorded and cut into highlight reels during the season and playoffs.



All the graphics and editing were done by Anthony, TJ and Gianni, who taught themselves how to edit video and graphics in the months leading up to the 2019 season. The three mastered their editing skills so much that USA Ball Hockey reached out to have them handle the national teams graphics during the 2019 World Ball Hockey Championships. The first 5v5 EBHL season commenced by having Memory to Video Productions come to Marlton to livestream the finals, which turned out to be the last game in the history of the Evesham Ball Hockey League.

After the 2019 Evesham Ball Hockey League season, connections were being established and plans were being set in motion to form the National Ball Hockey League. By the fall of 2019 the transition was official and Cory Herschk, director of hockey operations at USA Ball Hockey, helped the trio connect with division leaders throughout the United States. Mylec joined the NBHL as a sponsor for the inaugural NBHL season of 2020. The first NBHL season was set to begin in April 2020 with divisions in Chicago, Pittsburgh, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Washington D.C. Unfortunately, in March, the COVID pandemic caused shutdowns of sporting leagues across the country. After attempts to salvage the season in all divisions, the 2020 season was cancelled, and the focus turned to 2021 being the start of the National Ball Hockey League.

The 2021 National Ball Hockey League season is slated to kick off in April, this time with 12 divisions, accounting for 75 teams. In one calendar year during a pandemic, the league added 7 divisions and doubled their number of teams - without ever having played a game. Jonny Ruiz, Captain of the U.S Men's National Team and forward for the NBHL's Marlton Dawgs told us, "it is awesome to see such a great and competitive league grow throughout the states." He continued, "I am really looking forward to the start of the season and getting back to competitive hockey." Phil Tranter of the NBHL's Pittsburgh Pioneers echoed Ruiz's statement saying, "I am excited to get the season started, it is going to be really competitive considering there has not been much hockey due to COVID."

The season format involves each division hosting its own



inclusive season with its teams. The teams will play a 10-game regular season from April to July, with games occurring weekly or monthly depending on the distance between teams. Each division will then host playoffs in July and August, with championship teams qualifying to play in the Mylec Cup in September. The Mylec Cup is a weekend long tournament at an undetermined location to decide the champion of the National Ball Hockey League.



The 12 divisions are split into Tier 1 and Tier 2, based on skill. You will find most of the Men's National Team and Men's A level players competing in Tier 1, with Tier 2 consisting of divisions with unknown skill levels to C and D level talent. The champion and the runner up in Tier 1 divisions will qualify for the Mylec Cup. In Tier 2 divisions, only the champion of each division will earn a bid to the Mylec Cup. For 2021, Buffalo, Massachusetts, New England, New Jersey Division 1 and Pittsburgh will be competing in Tier 1. Slotted to play in Tier 2 is California, Chicago, New Jersey Division 2, Pacific Northwest, Philadelphia, Texas, and Washington D.C.

The National Ball Hockey league will be the first ever league sanctioned by USA Ball Hockey, the governing body of the sport in the United States. Ball hockey talent is all over the United States, and the National Ball Hockey League has the opportunity to bring that talent out. Mike Dilorenzo, captain of the SoCal Royalty of the NBHL California division stated, "just the announcement of the league forming has generated more excitement than we have had in years." He continued to say, "there are a lot of new players coming in and better engagement from the existing talent." Additionally, out west, South Sound Sabercats Captain Erik Hogeberg is excited about the potential the NBHL brings to the west coast. "I believe the quality of hockey in the Pacific Northwest division is going to surprise some people." To keep the league competitive and fair, a salary cap of sorts, assigning a point value to each player on a roster has been put in place. The rosters are set, the hype continues to build, the only thing left to do is to step foot on the rink. Players in all divisions and ball hockey fans across the world cannot wait to get started.

For general questions on the league, email the National Ball Hockey League at [ballhockeynational@gmail.com](mailto:ballhockeynational@gmail.com). You can also check out their website [www.theNBHL.com](http://www.theNBHL.com) where you can find links to their Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter pages to stay up to date on the league. Many teams are active on social media, so be sure to check and see if your hometown team has a social media account you can follow.

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# TURN BACK THE TIME

By: Dan Coldwell

## MAYFAIR

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The genesis of Mayfair begins in Northeast Philadelphia in the mid 80's. Loosely formed around an old skating rink in Roosevelt, eventually branching out to the Woodhaven Sportsplex which would be Mayfair's home. This was during a time when the Woodhaven league would have 100 teams across multiple Tiers.

**“Mayfair was great. Everyone had size. They were aggressive. They were rough.”**

- North Jersey Lunatics captain, Steve Hill

Mayfair was a team still pretty much in its infancy. Playing primarily out of Woodhaven, and not yet a major player in the tournament scene. This was also a time when the leagues were brimming with bitter rivals and the games took on a much more physical tone. In a short time Mayfair branched out seeking additional competition.

“When we were all roughly around 20 years old, we also went to play in the South Jersey Ball Hockey League. We were a pretty good team that did well, but we didn't have the pieces to be an elite team. We came to a crossroads where we needed to make a decision. We had almost merged with Maple Shade Chiefs. The SJBHL had never been won by a Philly team, so we wanted to have an all Philadelphia team. We recruited some players and then merged with other Northeast

Philly guys who at the time were playing for Somers Point,” said Mayfair coach Marc O'Neil.

“The SJBHL played outdoors on Saturday & Sunday,” O'Neil continued. “Every township had a rink. They were all asphalt or tennis court surfaces. Games were long... 15 minute stoppage time periods. You could actually fight in that league a year or 2 before we joined. We weren't a tournament team then, we played in Woodhaven and the SJBHL.”

“We started in Tier 3”, said defenseman and Mid-Atlantic Hall of Famer Joel Schriver. “We won Tier 3. There would be 10-12 teams in each Tier. We ended up then losing in the finals in Tier 2. Once we merged with the other Northeast Philly guys we eventually won Tier 1.”



Mayfair at that time was the only team from outside of New Jersey to win Tier 1 of the South Jersey Ball Hockey League.

“Every game of ours was basically an away game. One of the things I loved about the SJBHL was each rink was different. In Woodlynne the corners were squared off. Maybe the worst rink I’ve ever played in. There was a rink down in Atlantic City literally on the bay. Every rink had its own identity. Woodlynne was very intimidating. We would go in rinks and it felt like everyone was against you. The teams and fans wanted to beat you. There was a lot of character in that league. We started in Tier 3 and moved all the way up. When we started in Tier 3 our goal was to win Tier 1. When we got Scott and Danny it made us a different team,” said Mayfair defenseman Joel Schriver.

O’Neil agrees. “We lucked into Scott Adams, for my money the best goalie around. He was unbelievable. Danny Behr was the final piece. Maybe the 2nd best ball hockey player I have ever seen. When Danny wanted to score a goal he just went and scored.”

“Danny Behr is a super nice guy but also on the rink the most ruthless player in a skilled way”, said Mayfair forward Jeff Jordan. “When Danny wanted to score you weren’t going to stop him from scoring. Unsung superstar on the team. Wasn’t overly flashy. Didn’t have a huge shot. The more you watched him though the more you saw how good he is.”

There is a saying that the whole is better than the sum of the parts. When you are a team that preaches system then the “whole” is critical for success. That being said, it doesn’t hurt when the “sum” includes 18 current members of the Mid-Atlantic Ball Hockey Hall of Fame.

As Mayfair grew they began to dominate Woodhaven, they were a team to be reckoned with in the SJBHL, and were now a big tournament presence in the Philadelphia/New

Jersey area. The team had rounded into form too. With an imposing defense led by Craig Wurtz and Schriver, a lethal offense including Behr, Richie Kosma, the Marks... Hanna and Marron, Dave “Tuna” Satanoff, Dave Pinkerton, and the captain Jon Barger. They were big, they were fast and they came at you in waves. They also had the benefit of 2 different outstanding coaches in Mark O’Neil and John Newman.

Jeff Jordan, the current coach of the USABH Masters Team, played with Mayfair for 3 years from 1992-94. “The team was phenomenal across the board. By far the best hockey team I have been a part of, maybe ever seen. The level of hockey on that team, up and down the lineup, they were just loaded,” said Jordan.

In the late 80’s and early 90’s, 3 fantastic teams forged a rivalry in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area:

- Mayfair
- South Jersey Force
- North Jersey Lunatics

“They would be in every tournament,” said Jordan. “Either the Force, Lunatics or Mayfair in every final, or a part of the final 4 every time. There was nastiness on both sides of it. Force and Mayfair had so much history. We ran into them everywhere we went. We would go to North Jersey and we would see them in the final or semifinal. The Lunatics were really good. They were tough and feisty. You knew they could be intimidating. They had a lot of skill and talent... and they could beat you up.”

Lunatics captain and Mid-Atlantic Hall of Famer Steve Hill remembers vividly what it was like to play against Mayfair.

“Definitely not a fun time when we had to play them. You had to play 100%. It was like ‘man I have to go against these guys but I’m not going to back down’. They were also the most difficult team to take draws against. They were just bigger. I don’t remember them having a small center.”



“When we played Lunatics it wasn’t out of control, just fierce,” said Schriver. “They had 10 guys and they ran you. We had 15-17 guys and we ran you. We never fought them. Looking back it was great hockey, both physical and playmaking. I thought the Force was the same way.”

“They were big, strong, and fast. Their size and physicality was out of control. It was like playing against a bunch of linebackers with talent,” said Force defenseman Steve Zambon.

Mayfair, Lunatics and the Force... in the moment the battles are so intense. You aren’t just playing to win. It’s pride. You knew you’d see them again, and again, and again. The animosity during the game turns into respect, and over time your opponents become part of your legacy.

“They were a really disciplined team,” said Force legend Chris Caplan. “They could play any style. They could bang, had finesse players, really could play any style. Playing against them was almost like a second job. When we played them it was a battle. You had to bring your ‘A’ game every time. If you didn’t do that you got exposed. They would expose your weakness. Everything about them was formidable and they were constantly in the semis

and finals. It was fun, our guys got along with them, but we hated them on the rink. They were an extremely tough team to play against. Scotty Adams was a quality goaltender. Their defense was tough to beat. They had size. Class act team that had it all. They had superstars and role players. They made us better playing against them. I like to think we made them better.”

Mayfair would find success at multiple levels. Routinely winning Tier 1 in Woodhaven. Winning Tier 1 in South Jersey. In tournaments, they won multiple championships around the Philadelphia/New Jersey area. Like every team’s story however there is a beginning, a middle, and of course... and end. For Mayfair, the end came when they could have continued on adding to their trophy case.

“They would have been elite even if they all kept playing into their mid to late 30’s. They would have eventually gone and won in Leominster. They were that type of team,” said Caplan.

“Biggest thing I think about is how young we all were when we stopped

**“Playing against them made us a better team. I respected them immensely. They are going to beat the crap out of you on the rink. That team had it all.”**

**-South Jersey Force captain,  
Chris Caplan**

playing as a team,” said Jordan. “Hardly anyone over 30. If we could have kept that together there would have been enough young blood coming up we could have lasted to this day. It just didn’t happen.”

“We were a family”, said O’Neil. “We didn’t just show up and play hockey together. We had 17-18 guys that were a hockey team, but we were friends and we did everything together. It was a good thing while it was going. Towards the end it ran its course, but it was going to. For a long time it was really good. All good things have to come to an end, and it did.”

“At the end of our run the leagues were starting to end and all you had was tournaments,” said Schriver. We played a bunch throughout the end of the 90’s

but then people get jobs, get married and have kids.”

Great teams become family. You battle together. You bleed together. But it’s the memories that end up resonating the most.

“It’s been 20 years since we played as a team,” said Schriver. “The championships, awards and all that stuff you kind of forget. What you do remember is the stories of us being together. No one remembers MVP’s. Everyone remembers the stories that we had when we played and travelled. That’s the stuff you miss. When you stop playing all those things were awesome when it happened but the friendships and storytelling is really the legacy, or a bigger legacy.”



# NOTABLE MEMBERS OF MAYFAIR DURING THEIR EXISTENCE

Andy Bristow	Henry George	Pat Carrol
Bob Groover	Jeff Jordon	Pat Eastes
Brian Stevens	Jerry Elitz	Paul Gerenger
Chris Walton	Jerry Zelinski	Pete DiDonato
Chuck Smith	Jimmy Garafolo	Ray Welsh
Craig Wurst	Jimmy Kosma	Rich Kosma
Dan Behr	Jimmy Reilly	Rich Romeo
Dan Gillespie	Joel Schriver	Robbie Stec
Dave Behr	Joey Gray	Ron Generalli
Dave Leber	John Monaco	Scott Adams
Dave Pinkerton	John Newman	Sean Fogarty
David "Tuna" Satanoff	Jon Barger	Steve O'Brien
Dennis Gannon	Kevin Trahey	Steve Skinner
Doug Perks	Marc Hanna	Todd Held
Eddie Tomaselli	Marc Marron	Tom Neiermeyer
George Dugan	Marc O'Neil	Tommy Martin
Gregg Hembold	Matt Schnauffer	Father Joe (mentor)
	Mike Wilson	

If you have never seen Mayfair play,  
you can click the link below to check out the "virtual"  
version of them in an EA Sports NHL20 simulation!

[Mayfair vs North Jersey Lunatics](#)

[Mayfair vs South Jersey Force](#)

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# FOCUSING ON: DEK HOCKEY FOCUS

By: Dan Coldwell

**AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
WITH THE GUYS WHO DO  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS**

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For the East Coast ball hockey community, Dek Hockey Focus came on to the scene a little over 2 years ago and have been covering all major club and international 5-on-5 tournaments. They've been providing us with insightful interviews from major figures within the game, as well as immediate postgame interviews with players who just stepped off the rink. However, the guys at DHF have been at this for a while, covering a different style of ball hockey for much longer out in the Midwest... 3-on-3.

Dek Hockey Focus consists of a 3-man production team; Hosts Eric Mock and Ryan Shackelford in front of the camera, and jack-of-all-trades technician Sean Clark behind it.

We appreciate the fellas taking some time to answer some questions we had about how they got started and what the ball hockey community is like out in the "Hawkeye State."



## **How did you guys all meet and how did the Dek Hockey Focus podcast come together?**

**Sean:** I met the majority of the guys through Dek hockey once it was started in the QC. I moved around the country for work a few times before ending back up in Iowa. When I did make it back to Iowa, though, I'd try to hang out and help out with recordings as much as I could. Really, the podcast was a great way to get together, drink beer, and have fun outside the rink.

**Eric:** The hockey community in the QC (Quad Cities) is very tight knit so the 3 of us have played with and against each other for years. Chad Kennelly originally had the idea for a ball hockey centered podcast. Shack and I are ball hockey fanatics, so it made sense to invite us to weigh in on the topics of the day. Since then, it's all been a blur.

**Ryan:** We all met through dek and being at the rink. The hockey community here is close and we all met through playing on different teams, forming new teams and building our relationship from there. DHF was actually not our idea and was started as the brainchild of Chad Kennelly and Michael Holst. They thought of having a medium to talk about the local hockey community and started broadcasting after Friday night games. From there I stepped into a broadcast during the NDA 3-on-3 Summer Tournament and Mock soon joined. Sean was moving around the country for work but when he was in town would join us. From there it has evolved to what we see today.

## **For those just being introduced to DHF... how would you describe your show?**

**DHF:** We want to be the voice of the game. There are so many amazing personalities, talent and excitement in the sport we simply strive to provide an outlet to support its growth. Our show is our take on what is going on within the game. From major tournaments to individual interviews, our goal is to be that outlet for our sport and provide our take on what is happening all around us.

## What are some of the most memorable moments for the show?

**Sean:** I would say that just about every interview we have done has been memorable in some way. I have to say, though, that Dan Coldwell's interview was one of our first "Big" interviews. It ended up rolling into two episodes and I feel like it put us on the map. If it wasn't for everyone that takes the time to interview with us, though, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.

**Eric:** My most memorable was last year at the Club Championships. I never thought when we started this, I would be interviewing Alex Burrows.

**Ryan:** Honestly, I do not know if I can pinpoint any specific memory or event. For me, the most memories I will have is from the relationships we have developed in the sport. I cannot think of one interview we have done that has been a one off discussion, we remain in contact and routinely connect on the sport and life. If I did have to pinpoint one memory though, it would be at the 2019 Club Championships, watching Mock present two college scholarships from USA Ball Hockey and announcing Terri Milby's award for volunteer of the year.

## Now that you have branched out into covering 5-on-5 along with 3-on-3, how do you see DHF evolving over the next couple of years?

**DHF:** We definitely did not see us on the path we are on now from where we started. We think the future is bright but need to develop a strategy for growth and expansion. Right now we are only a couple of guys in Iowa who are trying to cover the world. Like the adage says, 'It takes a village' and ideally we would be able to branch out to regional correspondents to offer more in-depth and local coverage. We are having conversations about how to grow alongside the sport but the sky's the limit.

## When did organized ball hockey get introduced in Iowa and how fast has it grown?

**Sean:** Organized ball hockey was brought to the Quad Cities from Patrik Levesque in 2012. Coming from an inline and ice hockey background, I remember second-guessing the game. Shack ended up having me sub in a game and I was hooked. The way that Patrik runs the leagues makes it very competitive and fun regardless of what experience you had previously. When it first started, there were 2 divisions with a total of maybe 20 teams. Now there are 12 Adult divisions with over 90 teams and 5 Junior divisions.



**Eric:** I think QC Dekhockey started in 2012. Honestly I looked down on the game at first. Now I'm absolutely obsessed. It's gone from 1 rink with 2 divisions, now to multiple rinks and more than 10 divisions. That's not including the youth leagues, women's leagues, and national summer tournament. It's incredible.

**Ryan:** Ball Hockey came to the Quad Cities in 2012. Pat Levesque was playing for our local professional team at the time and settled in the Quad Cities after he retired. Being from Quebec he was introduced to the game on his trips back home and decided to bring the sport to Eastern Iowa. Sean and Mock hit the highlights on the expansion but for me personally, it reignited my passion for hockey. Prior to dek I had stopped playing for almost 10 years; the first time I stepped onto the rink I was hooked and have gone all in ever since.

## What is the atmosphere like there during one of the large summer tournaments?

**DHF:** Words cannot describe the atmosphere at the NDA National Championship. We call it 'The Best Weekend of the Summer' and 'Tent City' as teams and players from all across North America converge on Bettendorf, Iowa for 5 days of dek hockey. Crow Creek Park becomes a mixture of college football tailgates and playoff hockey with over \$20,000 in cash and prizes on the line.

The best way we can describe it is to reflect on those who have been there. 2019's tournament brought the Southwest (Toronto) Cowboys to compete in the open division. During one of their games we were standing next to one of the player's wives. After she filmed a panorama picture of the crowd to send back home, we had to ask what she was doing. She explained that the crowd and atmosphere is the best she has ever experienced at any tournament. So much so, she had to send the imagery back home for them to understand.

When teams come to Iowa in July, they always come back!

**Every sport has its superstars... who are some of the names to watch in the 3v3 world?**

**DHF:** That is a tough question! Last year the 3-on-3 U16 and U18 put themselves on the map, bringing home medals in Montreal. Some names that stood out to us in that tournament would have to be the 'Jersey Boys.' Jack Gallens, JoJo Mellilo and Mike Marchese transitioned from the 5-on-5 game to the 3-on-3 game without skipping a beat and their talent showed.



Carter Schadler played up a level and was our pick as the tournament's top goaltender. Luke Wareham introduced himself to the world stage and has found a spot with the 5-on-5 USA team.

Honestly, we could name countless more names but do not want to miss anybody. The key, in our view, is the crossover between 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 and how we collectively align to bring USA Ball Hockey to the next level!

**You played in a 5-on-5 tournament in Chicago... What are some of the biggest differences in the 2 formats?**

**DHF:** The biggest thing we realized was the concept of space. 3-on-3 is tight, split-second decisions with the opportunity to score from anywhere. 5's was a more collective strategy and possession. Team play is a huge component. With 3's there are only 9 people on the roster so you learn to play with your linemates and understand each other. In 5's you have to account for the larger surface and additional personnel. Overall the strategy and execution between the two styles is completely different.

Breakouts, neutral zone play, defensive alignments and offensive possession are similar in thought but different in execution.

**So DHF has been heavily involved in producing the "50 Year History of Street, Deck and Ball Hockey". What has the experience been like? Were there any guests you found particularly compelling?**

**DHF:** Honestly, it is difficult to summarize the experience into a word or sentence. There was so much effort that went into making this happen that the word we land on is illuminative. Hearing the discussion and stories first hand, from those that were there and building the game across all decades was an incredible experience. Oftentimes, we would wrap up a call and be completely lost in the stories

that were told we could not think of a single question or follow up to outline for the team.

We are not sure if we can identify any specific individual who stood taller than the rest. The presenters, story tellers and groups that made themselves available captured our attention as much as their predecessors and successors. Their recollection, experience and passion for the game made this one of the most challenging projects we have done and by far the most rewarding.

Personally, we would like to thank everybody who came together to make this a reality and to memorialize the history of the sport.

**Whether it is 3-on-3 or 5-on-5, it's the love of hockey that gets us on the rink... where does DHF want to see our sport go in the next decade?**

**Sean:** There are so many places that this could go. I'd love to see ISBHF pick up a 3v3 tournament. I also think with the inception of the NBHL, you will see growth throughout the country. Like everything, though, growth will come from the youth playing the game. I would love to see the NBHL succeed and grow not only it's locations, but its divisions (skill and age wise).

**Eric:** At a base level, I want every man, woman, and child with a stick in their hand. Ball hockey provides that opportunity to people who may have never considered hockey a viable option the same way they do baseball, basketball, or soccer. Nationally I would love to see us recognized as an Olympic sport.

**Ryan:** I'll piggyback on what Sean and Mock are saying. I believe the unification of the sport is key. I'm writing this from a hotel in Phoenix where the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes recently opened up a ball hockey rink. The sport of hockey is much more than ice, 5-on-5, 3-on-3 or roller hockey; and if we can agree to row in the same direction there is no limit on where we can go.



# 50 YEARS OF ORGANIZED STREET HOCKEY

PRODUCED BY DEK HOCKEY FOCUS PODCAST & SCOTT DUGGAN

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COMING  
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APRIL 21

FOLLOW DEKHOCKEY ONLINE

**50 FOR 50**

TEN EPISODES  
REVEALING THE 50 GREATEST PLAYERS  
CHOSEN BY THEIR PEERS

**50 YEAR HISTORY**

FIVE EPISODES  
LEGENDS SHARE THE STORY OF  
THE GAME'S EVOLUTION



# S.C.O.R.E.

## The Anaheim Ducks S.C.O.R.E. Big in Ball Hockey

By: Ian Gordon

Ball Hockey is a sport that takes the iconic game of street hockey, and gives it a rink, organized rules, and a structure. Viewed as a viable alternative to ice hockey which can be very expensive and often times inaccessible in certain areas, ball hockey is giving the youth in Anaheim, California a chance to play like the pros and experience the game of hockey in a whole new light.

The Anaheim Ducks of the National Hockey league, like many other clubs, have discovered the value in sharing ball hockey with their communities and fan bases in an effort to

grow the game of hockey as a whole. In doing this they have worked to increase the demographics of the game and have introduced thousands of kids in the Orange County area to the more affordable and accessible version of the sport.

The Ducks started their flagship program called the S.C.O.R.E. program which began in 2005 as a part of their fan development team in the community relations department in an effort to connect interested people to the right resources to have access to ball hockey. As part of the S.C.O.R.E. program, the Ducks staff offer In-Class Education, Physical Education, and STEM programs to the students in their districts.

As part of the physical education programs, the organization offers the Captain's Challenge which helps prepare 5th graders at their partner schools for the California Physical Fitness Test by teaching them the characteristics of a leader through various physical fitness challenges.

Additionally, the program offers a 10-day hockey curriculum as part of the school's gym classes. During their classes spread out throughout the school year, students are taught the fundamental skills of ball hockey and the basic rules of the game while developing their social skills and learning to be a part of a team. The 10 class module culminates with the S.C.O.R.E. Shootout, an outdoor hockey tournament at





Honda Center featuring 4th grade teams from all schools who participate in the program, as well as hockey themed carnival games, a barbecue cookout, and tons of prizes!

Running anywhere from 3-4 tournneys a year, mostly in spring, the Ducks provide an entire ball hockey program to teachers, including conventions to learn about instruction programs and the availability of guest instructors available if there are no qualified teachers to teach the students.

The S.C.O.R.E. program has seen robust involvement since its creation 16 years ago, giving over 1,000 kids access to equipment and a place to play annually. The program has seen immense growth to serve over 14,000 children in the greater Orange County area. "It's very cool to see hundreds of kids and families being exposed to the sport for the first time, it serves as huge visual affirmation of those efforts," said Jason Cooper, Manager of Fan Development for the Anaheim Ducks and one of the leaders of the S.C.O.R.E. program.

In addition to the S.C.O.R.E. program, The Ducks have also created a related department called The Rinks, by which they have built 4 ice rinks, 1 inline facility and facilitated learn to play programs for youth ice hockey in their area.

Through this subsidized program, kids receive a full set of gear and learn to play access in an effort to make transitioning to ice hockey from street or ball hockey a possibility for as many children as possible. The idea of The Rinks, in conjunction with S.C.O.R.E. is to provide access to street hockey, with the idea of transitioning to ice hockey in the future and bring in as many people as possible to learn the sport and grow the game in southern California.

"As things stand, we currently support local tournaments but no leagues, we want to invest more in to continued play initiatives for middle and high school levels," noted Cooper.



# NATIONAL BALL HOCKEY LEAGUE

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## APRIL 2021

AGES 16+





# UPCOMING ADULT EVENTS

MAR 12-14

COOL HOCKEY EVENTS  
NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



FEASTERVILLE, PA  
MENS CO, COED A, B

MAR 26-28

COOL HOCKEY EVENTS  
NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



FEASTERVILLE, PA  
MENS A/B, WOMENS A/B, U16 GIRLS

APRIL 9-11

COOL HOCKEY EVENTS  
NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



FEASTERVILLE, PA  
MENS MASTERS, NOVICE/REC

APRIL 23-25

STREET HOCKEY USA  
NATIONALS



PITTSBURGH, PA  
REC A, REC B

MAY 21-23

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



PITTSBURGH, PA  
MENS A/B, GIRLS U16

JUNE 11-13

LEOMINSTER DEK HOCKEY  
U.S. DEK HOCKEY NATIONALS



LEOMINSTER, MA  
MENS A, WOMENS B & NOVICE





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**Send Us Your News!**

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A large, stylized logo for USA Ball Hockey is printed on a grey flag. The logo features the letters 'USA' in a large, white, outlined font, with a white ball and a red and white swoosh below it. Below the 'USA' logo, the words 'BALL HOCKEY' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a red background. The flag is waving and set against a blurred background of a crowd.