

Championship Saturday Crowns Inline Hockey Teams



The Silver Bullets celebrate their championship.

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo Inline Hockey League completed its summer season with three championship games in three different division games. The league is divided into three divisions--the Mites, Squirts and Juniors--and is based on age and level of experience. All games are played at the refurbished El Segundo Recreation Park inline hockey rink.

According to El Segundo Inline Hockey Association spokesman Tom Kiel, this summer's league was an overwhelming success based on the level of play and the number of athletes who participated. The ESIHA provides co-ed recreational inline hockey for players between the ages of 4-17. With a total of four teams in the Squirts division and three teams in the Mites and Juniors divisions, there were over 100 players who played fast-paced, 40-minute (divided into two 20-minute running time periods) games.

The City of El Segundo and its Parks and Recreation Department have also embraced the inline hockey league by refurbishing the community's only inline hockey rink. New lights and a shade awning for players were installed, while the rink itself had new lines repainted. But according to Kiel, the league has asked for help from the City and reported to the police that one of the goal nets was stolen from the rink earlier this year. The league is currently using a spare until the other can be returned. If you have any information on the goal or its whereabouts, you can contact the El Segundo Police Department. If you have it, the El Segundo Inline Hockey League would just like it returned undamaged to the police with no questions asked.

Inline hockey isn't something new to El Segundo, and the ESIHA has had summer and winter leagues for a number of years. The popularity has really picked up, according to Kiel, because of the pace of the game and the fact it is on skates. It can give young athletes a gauge on how well they can improve from summer to winter. There are also so many sports to choose from now, but few have the overall benefits of inline hockey with its cardiovascular workout and teamwork as well as having each athlete involved in nearly every play.

In the Mites Division championship game the Ice Breakers, who had the league's best defense in terms of goals allowed, scored the game's first goal in the first minute by Dennis Vezina and went on to win easily 7-0 over the Transformers. Daniel Kopecky made it 2-0 when he took a pass close to the Transformers' net and pushed it in for a goal. Before halftime, Adrian Ortiz and Vezina both scored to make it 5-0.

Early in the second half, Austin Kiel found a crease and an opening and scored from close range to make it 6-0. With 11 minutes left in the game, Dennis Vezina scored his third goal of the contest, giving him a hat trick and the Ice Breakers a 7-0 win.

The defense once again played brilliantly, led by Aliyah Woods and Anthony Schoenkopf, helping Austin Kiel and Adrian Rubin who were in goal. On offense, Tatum Stevens and Theia Sexton's passing helped inside and made the scoring easy for the Ice Breakers.

In the Squirts Division, the Silver Bullets, who had the division's best record, had a tough semifinal game against the Hurricanes in which they had to overcome a 3-2 deficit. In the second half, the Silver Bullets scored two quick goals to take the lead and with just over 10 minutes left in the game. Noah Lynch scored the decisive goal to give the Hurricanes a 5-4 win and a berth in the championship game.

In the other semifinal, the Frostbites held a 3-2 edge over the Golden Tacos at halftime en route to their 11-5 win to usher them into the championship game. The final score is a bit misleading since the Golden Tacos pulled their goalie late in the game trailing 7-5.

In the championship game, the Silver Bullets scored early and often in building a 7-2 first half lead, and went on to hold off the Frostbites in the second half 11-6. The Silver Bullets' Matisse Hawthorne fired a rocket into the goal to get the scoring going while Noah Lynch and Steven Gomez also scored first half goals. The Frostbites had goals by Tom Hodder and Alex Manrique to keep the game close.

In the second half, Nathan Kiel scored early to give the Silver Bullets an 8-2 lead as they continued to pound away at the Frostbites' net to build an 11-2 lead. But the Frostbites didn't give up and they scored the game's last four goals: One each from Dex Troxel and Manrique and two by Casey Lund for an 11-6 final score.

It was an overall team victory for the division's best team with great defensive stops by Alicia Carr and Hunter Lynch. On offense, Nolan Moreno and Brain Carr's passing set up assists by Daniel Van Hueven, Steven Gomez and Matisse Hawthorne.

In the Juniors Division championship game, the White Wings scored with just six seconds left in the first half to go up 5-4. But the game was tied five minutes into the second half on a power play. After the teams traded goals, the White Wings then put together a scoring rally by punching in three successive goals--the last one with less than five minutes left in the game--to win 9-6. White Wings' goalie Michael Drohan withstood a barrage of shots on goal in the last four minutes to ensure the White Wings' championship.

It was a great day of inline hockey, and now it's on to another sport for these young athletes until the winter inline hockey season starts up again in December. If you would like more information on the El Segundo Inline Hockey League, you can visit the website at www.eteamz.com/esiha. To be added to the registration list, you can send an e-mail to ESIHA90245@socal.rr.com.

Student's forum

Student to Student

Dear Students,

We are starting a new section of the paper for students called *Student to Student*. Sort of a "blog in print". The purpose of this section is to give you an opportunity to express yourself, anonymously, on subjects ranging from dress codes to national issues. The first few weeks, we will provide the questions and would appreciate your input or comments. If there are any questions you'd like us to post, please email them in and we will use them. Please do not use anyone's full name or identity in your comments or questions. We have set up an email address, just for you: students@heraldpublications.com. Again, your submissions will be anonymous and your identities protected from the public.

We reserve the right not to publish any questions or comments that contain crude, vulgar, offensive, discriminating language or anything we deem inappropriate.

Question: Are there Bullies in your school?

What I did this Summer



FISHING AT THE LAKE

This summer I went fishing to Big Bear Lake it was my first time going fishing and I was expecting it to be boring but I had lots of fun and I really enjoyed going there with my family. My dad showed me how to make the dough bait, how to put it in the hook and then how to throw the fishing line. I did not want to use the worm bait, like my brother did. I stuck with the dough, then I did it all by myself; I hooked the bait, threw the line and then I waited, waited and waited. The waiting to catch a fish was boring. I am very impatient and wanted to get a big fish right away. I kept asking dad to help me get one, he said I was doing fine I just needed to be quiet not to scare the fish and most of all be patient. So I started to learn to be patient. While holding my fishing pole I started to look around the lake. It was beautiful and huge, the sky was so clear, the clouds so white, the pine trees were huge and everything across the lake was so small. Everything seemed so calm that I started to cool down and became patient.

I did not catch anything but I had a good time trying and enjoying the lake and everything else around me.

Julian Catania

Who am I?

WHO AM I?

Dear Students,

We are also starting a new section of the paper for students called *Who am I?* Send in ten factual statements of yourself. The purpose of this section is to give students an opportunity to get to know you better. Students will send in their ten factual statements to students@heraldpublications.com. Below is our first *Who am I* student. Send in your guesses to students@heraldpublications.com. We will publish these guesses and the correct answer in next week's issue.

We reserve the right not to publish any questions or comments that contain crude, vulgar, offensive, discriminating language or anything we deem inappropriate.

1. I played Frosh football at the high school last year.
2. I live in El Segundo with my dad and Hawthorne with my mom. I have a sister who is in the eighth grade.
3. I have dark brown hair.
4. I have dark brown eyes.
5. I truly enjoy eating crab cakes.
6. I enjoy making my friends laugh.
7. My hair is cut very short.
8. I wear a tee shirt and shorts everyday to school.
9. I will be a sophomore at El Segundo High School in the Fall.