Women's Softball League almost set to batter up for 2019

By Matt Haraden

Despite the late winter snowfall, the Hull Women's Softball League will soon be holding signups for its spring season. The league is open to any women on the South Shore who are older than 18.

Caryn Ciampa, the organizer of the league, said that last year's age range was 19 to 57 and the average age for the 2018 season was 37.

Last year, the league had six teams, and it is looking as if five of those teams will be returning for the 2019 season. However, Ciampa said that anyone interested in captaining a sixth team, so that the total of teams will be the same as last year, should email hullwomennssoftballleague@ gmail.com for more details.

The schedule for the league this year is dependent on the number of teams that will be in it. If there are five teams, then there will be a 12-game schedule, but if there are six teams, then it will be a 15-game schedule, Ciampa explained. She also said that usually 75-100 women register for the league each year.



Ciampa still plays softball in multiple leagues and has been doing so for more than 30 years. She also has a coaching history at a high school level.

"I previously ran the Hull Youth Softball League and was the Hull Varsity High School softball coach for five years before moving on to Notre Dame Academy in Hingham," she said.

According to Ciampa, there was a women's softball league that ran for two seasons nine or 10 years ago. She decided to revive the league after interest in another stint became apparent, and now the new league is entering its third season.

Each of the six teams in the league is named after a sponsor. The six sponsors are: Schooner's, Local 02045, Nantasket Landscape/ Bagni Remodeling, California Underground, Eagle Eye Pest, and All-Starr Landscaping. Those interested in sponsoring a team should email hullwomenssoftballleague@gmail.com for more details.

The season starts in late April and runs until the first week of August. The league does have a championship game, and last year it was won by Schooner's for the second straight season when that team prevailed over the Local 02045 team.

All games take place at the L Street Fields, on the Nantasket Avenue side. Regular season games are played on Friday nights at 7:45 and Sunday evenings at 6:15 and 7:45. In August, the league also plays on Monday nights, at 7:45, for the playoff rounds.

At the end of the season, there is a banquet for all participants at the K of C in Hull in September. Ciampa says it is "a night where all teams are represented and have fun without worry about who won or lost at the end of the night."

Speaking of the league as a whole, Ciampa said it is "a league for women who want to play softball regardless if they live in Hull or not.

About 40 are from Hull, and we have others representing Abington, Rockland, Scituate, Cohasset, Weymouth, Hanson, Halifax, Kingston, Pembroke, Norwell, Plympton, Marshfield, and Hanover. But, we also have a couple of women coming from Randolph and Gloucester who have ties to Hull."

When it becomes available, the registration link will be posted on the Hull Women's Softball League Facebook group. HT

South Shore Seahawks

The South Shore Seahawks' Pee Wee A team entered the weekend with a seven-game unbeaten streak, but six of the seven games were ties.

The two teams the Pee Wee A squad faced last week boasted records of 13-1 and 11-1, respectively. But the 'Hawks went right after Tri-County Saturday with Grady Spinale burying a wrister off a Ryan Johnson pass with Cole Hendrickson driving the net. After giving one up, Johnny Donahue banged in an Eddie O'Donnell deflection of a Meyer Gack shot. Then Donahue scored again off an O'Donnell dish on a 2-on-1.

After a flurry of penalties, the Seahawks fell behind 4-3 until Johnson rifled in a Spinale tip of a Conor Jamieson shot. Willy Reilly held the fort with help of Willy Robinson, Tyler Mikus, and Owen Lochiatto to preserve the tie.

Sunday was another big test, this time against the very talented WHK squad. The 'Hawks fell behind 1-0 but fought back on a great individual effort by James Hoey, who tied it at 1. After another WHK goal, Hoey struck again on the ensuing faceoff, stealing the puck and finishing off a nifty deke to tie it again with Robert Malinowski driving the net. Then, after falling behind again, Donahue scored to tie it from Nick Turco and O'Donnell buried a Donahue feed for the lead. WHK tied it with 1 minute to go in the second period.

In the third period, it was all Seahawks. Walt Williams banged in a Johnson feed before Dona-

hue outraced the WHK D for a breakaway goal off a Robinson feed and a two-goal lead. Donahue finished it with an ENG - again from Robinson - ensuring the 7-4 win. Reilly was stellar in the nets for the 'Hawks.

The Seahawks Squirt B Blue team was one of 10 towns to participate in the Tier III - Large District Massachusetts State Championship. The Seahawks had a pair of wins in the preliminary round against Reading and Falmouth and a loss against Andover, but were unable to advance to the final rounds. The goals against tiebreaker enabled Braintree to make the finals over the Seahawks, but the boys of Squirt B-Blue fought hard throughout and played some really great hockey. While ultimately disappointed, the Seahawks made some great memories and had a lot of fun along the way.

Mite B White faced off against Mite B Blue for the last time this season at the Quincy Youth Arena on Saturday. Team White had lost their previous meetings and did not want to lose again and Team Blue wanted to keep their win streak going and retain bragging rights at the practice rink. The kids and the coaches came to play and the fans were treated to an outstanding game.

Team Blue struck first with a goal from August Langsdin, a beauty of a shot that landed where mom keeps the cookies - top shelf - in James Ditzel's net. That seemed to light a fire under team White, who turned up the intensity. Ditzel turned into a beast in net, only allowing one more goal in the first period. But it just wasn't Ditzel who turned it on, the whole team put the pressure on Blue. Goals from James Meckel and James Mikus had team Blue's coaches drawing up plays on the fly to deal with White's dominating offensive presence in the first. None of this seemed to bother Blue goalie Cal Stonehouse, who kept his team in the game, coming up with some huge saves, one that seemed to defy gravity as we saw him seem to flip in mid air with a sweet glove save.

Team White owned the first period but as we know, you gotta play two. White kept up the pressure in the second but couldn't find the back of the net. The speed of team Blue finally started to wear down team White as Matthew Viola tied up the game at the 13-minute mark. Then Blue took the lead with a series of goals from Reid Garland, Roman Murphy and Julian Lundrigan.

Feeling the game slipping away, Coach Capelle from team White pulled Ditzel out of the net to generate more scoring opportunities and the strategy worked, with goals from the Gallagher boys, Jack and Henry. But team Blue and Stonehouse held strong and came out with the victory.

The final was 10-8 and there were smiles all around on both benches for well played game amongst friends.

The Squirt B Blue team continued its hot streak with another convincing win, beating the Barnstable team by a score of 9-0. With an eye to the final standings, the boys of Squirt B-Blue have really turned it on at the end of the season; they also beat a tough Hingham team this Sunday by a score of 8-2. It was Squirt B-Blue's first win against Hingham this season after two prior games that were decided by a goal. The Seahawks came out on fire and put up five goals in the first period and never looked back. HT

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