



LEISA THOMPSON, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association squirt player Henry Palmer's jersey gets caught on Red Wings alumnus Shawn Burr's stick during their matchup between periods of the "Jeff Bourne Hockey Classic II."

Alumni face off for good cause

Michigan outscores Red Wings, 11-7

BY ANTOINE PITTS
News Sports Reporter

Hockey fans packed Yost Ice Arena again in the name of Jeff Bourne for an evening of fun. Sunday's "Jeff Bourne Hockey Classic II" drew about 4,500 to watch the Detroit Red Wings and University of Michigan alumni teams perform, raising an estimated \$20,000 for the Hockey Has Heart and Special Days Camp charities.

In the immediate aftermath, Rob Palmer, one of the event organizers, deemed it as much of a success as the inaugural game, which was held shortly after Bourne, a local hockey

fixture, passed away in December 2003.

The former Wolverines, who featured some still fairly young players, such as Dave Huntzicker, Dale Rominski and L.J. Scarpace, and current coach Red Berenson, outgunned the Red Wings, 11-7.

"Obviously, it was for a good cause," Berenson said. "It was fun for all of us."

The Red Wings Alumni team included former Detroit pros, such as Mickey Redmond, Dino Ciccarelli and Dennis Hextall, and other pros, including former Wolverines Chris Tamer

SEE HOCKEY, D4



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Ann Arbor native Tim Helber scored two goals 15 seconds apart in the first period for the Michigan alumni team.

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Kids played with pros during intermission

and Bill Muckalt, who notched a hat trick in his former college rink.

"You want to call it old-timers' hockey, but there were an awful lot of young guys on the other side," said Redmond, a former Red Wings teammate of Berenson's in the early 1970s. "They're tough to stay with when you get my age."

The Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association teams and its players made the event possible, selling most of the tickets. Two teams that sold the most, the squirt Eskimos and the pee wee Wild, got to scrimmage the pros during the intermissions.

"It's a great way to bring the community together," said Lauri Bourne, Jeff's wife. "It's just awesome. It's a great honor for my husband and our family."

The Bournes' 17-year-old daughter Alexis conducted a ceremonial faceoff between Berenson and Hextall. Their 20-year-old son Brett donned the captain's 'C' for the Michigan team and recorded a pair of assists.

Jeff's brother Roger, a former Michigan player, also appeared a game that the namesake would have gotten a big kick out of.

"We were just talking about that," Lauri Bourne said. "He would just love this."

The fans were most entertained by the youngsters who challenged the pros in between periods - especially with a "jail-break" finish of all 12 of the kids on the ice at the same time.

Former Red Wing Shawn Burr dished out a few playful elbows and holding and hooking violations to the kids, which drew the ire of the crowd.

"That's what it's all about - the kids," Burr said. "It felt like I was playing a home game again with the way they were



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Head coach and former Michigan player Red Berenson, left, talks with Michigan alumni Alex Roberts, center, and Ted Speers.

booing me out there."

The Red Wings Alumni, who play about 30 charity events a year, including a game earlier this month against the Toronto Maple Leafs Alumni, met one of their toughest competitions in some time.

It was a 5-1 first-period lead for Michigan, which got a pair of goals 15 seconds apart by Ann Arbor native Tim Helber.

"It's nice playing against a team that's very talented and works pretty hard," Burr said. "I'd like to beat them, though."

Palmer said having another "Bourne Classic" is dependent on the AAAHA and its members wanting to go out and sell tickets again. He's willing to help organize things again if they want after the good experience everyone had Sunday.

"I'm pretty happy," Palmer said. "We had a very nice crowd. I hope they enjoyed the

game. I know I enjoyed playing."

Like the "Pro-Am Skate for Mott" held in December at Yost Arena, it was a change of pace from the negativity that's surrounded the hockey world because of the long-term NHL lockout.

The way things are going, Sunday is the only chance fans will get to see the winged wheel floating down the ice for a while.

"There's been a lot of negative talk, but people still love the game, and they will when we get back I'm sure," said Redmond, who announces Red Wings games. "Events like these just show you how much people in this area really love the game and will come out to watch."

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Bill Muckalt, right, who played for Michigan but suited up for the Red Wings Alumni on Sunday, tries to get the puck away from Michigan alumnus David Roberts. Muckalt scored a hat trick.

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HOCKEY FROM D1