

» More From The Ann Arbor News

Yost Arena to host 2 worthwhile exhibition games

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

A weekend of good exhibition hockey dots the calendar at Yost Ice Arena.

The University of Michigan hosts its annual cross-town exhibition against the National Under-18 Team on Saturday night featuring some stars of tomorrow.

The stars of yesteryear have the ice Sunday at 5 p.m. when the "Jeff Bourne Hockey Classic II" matches former Michigan players against the Detroit Red Wings Alumni.

The charity event honors the memory of Jeff Bourne, who had a hand in all areas of the Ann Arbor hockey scene from youths to USA Hockey and Michigan before his death in December 2003.

Last year's game nearly filled up all of Yost Ice Arena. Tickets are \$5.

Hockey Has Heart, an organization that helps families in times of crisis, and Special Days Camps, which provides camping opportunities for children and their families who have experienced cancer, are this year's beneficiaries.

"Last year's event was such a nice success, we thought maybe there's enough interest to do it again this year and see how it works out," said former Wolverine Rob Palmer, who plays in several Red Wings Alumni events around the state himself each year.

Among the Red Wings scheduled to appear include: Dino Ciccarelli, Shawn Burr, John Ogrodnick, Dennis Hextall, Eddie Mio, Jim Bedard, Mike Krushelnyski and Mickey Redmond.

Palmer will be joined on the Michigan side by Chris Tamer, David Harlock, David Roberts, Alex Roberts, Dale Rominski, Dave Debol, Bill Muckalt and current coach Red Berenson, who's been working out on the ice this week in anticipation of Sunday's game.

▼ From Our Advertiser



MLive.com: Search

"Last year, it was a terrific event," Berenson said. "That was a great hockey community response."

Spearheading ticket sales for this year's event is the Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association. Of the 33 AAAHA teams selling tickets, the top two selling teams get to scrimmage the Red Wings Alumni between periods.

If there isn't an AAAHA player on your block selling tickets, they can also be purchased at College Shoe Repair, 607 E. William St., in Ann Arbor; at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and on the day of the game at Yost Ice Arena.

Sneak preview

The very talented Under-18 Team, which has a good chance of beating the Wolverines this season for the first time in five career meetings, has five players who will be at Michigan next year.

Defensemen Jack Johnson and Mark Mitera, and forwards Jason Bailey and Zac MacVoy signed with the Wolverines in the fall.

They'll be joined by forward Danny Fardig, a Ann Arbor native who committed to Michigan in December. The Wolverines are also recruiting forward Phil Kessel, who's leading the team with 34 goals and 30 assists.

Ratings hit

Saturday's Notre Dame-Michigan telecast on Fox Sports Net drew a 1.5 rating (representing about 30,000 households in metro Detroit). That made it the third highest rated college hockey broadcast by the network behind the historic outdoor game played by Michigan and Michigan State in 2001, which drew a 3.5, and the 2002 CCHA championship game between the same teams, which had a 1.8 rating.

Antoine Pitts can be reached at apitts@annarbornews.com or at (734) 994-6819.