

Chicago ADM World Tour A Hit



This past week, as was discussed in a previous Mite Newsletter, USA Hockey converged on the Chicagoland area for the ADM World Tour. Eight members of the USA Hockey ADM team presented to just under 400 parents and coaches in 11 locations in 3 days. There was a mix of on-ice clinics and presentations discussing a myriad of topics surrounding the American Development Model.

The feedback from those in attendance was fantastic as no question was left unanswered. The prevailing theme

coming out of each meeting was, "Why aren't we doing this?" and "More people need to hear this message". The attendees were very appreciative of the experience and expertise that the ADM Managers brought with them especially from the other regions of the country. It was eye opening to hear what has worked and not worked in regions more traditionally known as hockey playing states.

The commitment and passion that the USA Hockey ADM staff shared with the parents was genuine and encouraging to those in attendance. Amongst the team that came in from USA Hockey were three Division 1 National Champion players, five Division 1 College Hockey coaches, USA National team coaches, five NHL draft picks and six of the Regional ADM Managers are hockey dads that have lived or are living through the implementation of the ADM.

We learned that 72% of the country has gone to cross-ice hockey. For associations that have gone that direction, their retention numbers are 19% higher than those that have not. A small example is the state of Vermont. They adopted cross-ice 8U four years ago and their mite numbers are up fivefold, and for the first time their PeeWee teams are winning the regional tournaments (these kids all started under the ADM and cross-ice).

We encourage you to truly learn more about the ADM and Long term Athlete Development. Our friends to the north get it as well. Canada recently went back-to-back World Junior Championships without winning a medal, head coach Brent Sutter (a familiar name in Chicago hockey) explained why he believes they have struggled recently..."Development starts at 10 years of age," said Sutter. "It's not about Xs and Os and those types of things – it's with skills and skating. You see how these teams in Europe, how they've done a remarkable job with that".

"It's something in our country we have to evaluate. There's too much focus on winning and losing at a young age and not enough about the skill part of it and the skating part of it. That's truly how it starts".