

SKOKIE FLYER'S HOLIDAY RUMBLE WITH THE HORNETS A BIG SUCCESS

By Patrick Long



The Skokie Flyers hosted the Hornets Youth Sled Hockey Team at their Holiday Rumble on December 22, 2013 at the Skatium. The Hornets took on the Flyers Midget 1 and 2 Teams in two back-to-back exciting SLED games. While the games were a friendly match up, the energy and effort put into the play showed the intensity that good hockey brings regardless of the format. While the Midgets tried to get used to sitting in and then playing hockey in the Hornets' extra sleds, they provided a lot of amusing moments for the crowd. The Hornets skated around them in a flurry of stealing, passing and scoring.

Skating with the Hornets was crowd favorite, Brody Roybal, the youngest member, at age 15, of the U.S. Sled Hockey Team headed for Sochi in March. Roybal repeatedly demonstrated excellence form, spirit and skill as he whirled around the ice easily passing the Midgets. His "spinorama" goal he served up late in the first game while holding the puck aloft on one of his two sticks brought the crowd to its feet in roaring admiration. While Roybal periodically demonstrated his skill set to the delight of the crowd, he most often worked as a play maker for the Hornets, helping to ensure that everyone on the ice for both Skokie and the Hornets got included in the Sled game play.



Throughout both games professional announcer, Alan Pritzker, a country radio host, provided rolling commentary and updates on the many items being raffled and auctioned off to support the Hornets.

Among the items were jewelry, a hockey stick signed by the 2013-14 Blackhawks team, a Blackhawks practice jersey signed by Blackhawks Hall-of-Famers, a NASCAR Team Geico signed jersey, personal items signed by Blackhawks players, tickets to a Wolves game and an assortment of restaurant gift cards, wine and fine food baskets. A 50/50 raffle was also conducted.

By night's end, combining door donations, sponsor gifts and auction and raffle items, the Flyers Midget Team Coach, Mike Tompkins and Flyer's President, John Mogan were able to present to the Hornet's team manager, JJ O'Connor, a check totaling nearly \$4,000; nearly \$1,000 dollars over the night's goal. In the past five years, this annual event has raised nearly \$10,000 in support for the Hornets, every penny of which goes to paying expenses for the Hornets players.



The Skokie Flyers are very grateful to everyone who attended the Holiday Rumble, and who gave so generously, and to the local business establishments that either donated raffle items or who provided food for the post-game dinner held in honor of the Hornets.

To donate to the Hornets, contact JJ O'Connor at USA Disabled Hockey Section at dubl95@aol.com.

To view all photos from the Holiday Rumble, visit the Skokie Flyers Website at: <https://www.facebook.com/Skokie.Flyers.Hockey>