

Southern Ice Hockey League
Managers Report
2007 Southern U16's – Nationals Dunedin

19 November 2007

As Manager of the Southern U16 team competing at the Nationals in Dunedin for 2007 I present my report as follows.

Our Southern squad again worked hard up to Nationals with numerous training weekends & great commitment from the squad. This year it was decided to take a slightly different approach and instigate three classroom sessions into our lead up to Nationals. Niel also introduced a training booklet for players to take a step up so they are aware of what is expected at representative level. Thank you Niel for putting a lot of time and effort into this. It was also decided to have a three day training camp and incorporated in this was two classroom sessions taken by Jeff Bonazzo (Ice Blacks Coach). These off ice sessions proved invaluable to our team and their performance at Nationals. Thank you to the players and parents for their commitment to this and especially to the Queenstown parents who billeted team members.

Right from the start Southern was determined to do well. The strength of the side was good, with a team of promising players. This was reflected in the first game when we confronted Auckland. Although a win would have been good first game up, a draw against Auckland showed that we had what it takes and were ready to step up. Step up they, did taking Gold this year after a 10 year spell. Well done to the team for taking on board the strategies in pre tournament preparation which rewarded the team with the gold medal.

Results were:

Game 1: Southern 2 Auckland 2
Game 2: Southern 6 Canterbury 0
Game 3: Southern 3 Auckland 2
Game 4: Southern 6 Canterbury 1

Gold to Southern, Silver to Auckland and Canterbury in third place.

Congratulations to the following players who gained tournament recognition.
MVP Aston Brookes (Southern)
Best Forward Jordan Challis (Auckland)
Best Defence Chris Dale (Southern)
Best Goalie Aston Brookes (Southern)

All Star Line
Gareth Lloyd (Southern)
Chris Dale (Southern)
Aston Brookes (Southern)
Jordon Challis (Auckland)
Justin Fuller (Canterbury)
Todd Elder (Auckland)

Congratulations also to the following Southern players who were named in the NZIHF U16 team to travel to Sydney & Newcastle.

Aston Brookes
Jaih Sneddon
Gareth Lloyd
Christopher Dale
Dane Dunlop
Mitchell Frear
Nicholas Gloag

Our accommodation at the Dunedin Holiday Park was good and handy to the rink.

On the whole team member behaviour was good & I support the Code of Conduct to make sure Management can enforce the necessary discipline to ensure a united team with the right attitude prior to traveling and at Tournament.

A huge thank you to Stevo for his coaching commitment once again. You did a brilliant job that has reaped rewards & have a great rapport with team members giving you ultimate coaching respect. Your playing experience is a huge asset to the team.

Niel also deserves a huge thank you. Once again Niel's ground work & organisation skills have been exceptional. As co-coach Niel's commitment has also played a huge part in this years team success.

Special thanks goes to parents/supporters for all their help & time/financial commitments & to those parents that attended the Nationals to support their kids & our team, it was fantastic to have you all on board.

Special thank you to Jeff Bonazzo in helping prepare our team this year, it was great to have Jeff's knowledge and experience

Winning the Gold medal is something this year's U16 Southern team can be very proud of and showed the commitment and determination to go for Gold paid off. Well done!

Regards

Peter Dale
Manager