

Perserverance and Agility Pays Off for NU's 12 & Under Girls Hockey Team

The Niagara Junior Purple Eagles Girls 12 & Under Hockey Team rose to the challenge this year. The pioneer team (first girls team ever out of NU, started in 2006-2007 season) of Niagara University's Dwyer Arena worked hard this season. The girls competed in the Great Lakes Girls Hockey League, and qualified for the State tournament held in Syracuse this past weekend (Feb 29, March 1 and March 2). Tying for 3rd Place in the State, the girls showed an impressive ability to play the game and play the game hard. Their success is attributed to the dedicated coaching of coaches, Bob Schiffhauer and Paul Mathias, who could not have been more proud of the effort set forth by their team. Team players include Alyse Borelli, Cara Porto, Kaeli and Brianna Mathias, Rochelle Cataffo, Annemarie Catalano, Abigail Nashwinter, Marielle Buffamonte, Taylor Schiffhauer, Taylor Scheuing, Lauren March, Madison Aiken, Paloma D'Auria, Kati Marotta, Kyra Johansson, Alessandra Santarosa, and Goalies, Jillian Long and Rachael Farmer. The players live across Western New York, including Niagara Falls, Lewiston, Youngstown, Lockport, Grand Island, Tonawanda, North Tonawanda and Buffalo.

What is more impressive is that some of the girls have been playing hockey less than 2 years and all of them have shown abilities, skills and love of the sport that have taken most players years and years to accomplish. The Purple Eagles team went into the tournament as the underdog of the eight teams in attendance and came out as the team to try and beat. The Mamaroneck Tigers team from the New York City area, having been together since most of their girls were 6 years of age, won all their preliminary round games in complete shut-outs until facing off with the Niagara Junior Purple Eagles Girls 12 & Under Hockey Team in the semi-final. Two late goals in the third period gave Mamaroneck a 5-2 victory. Mamaroneck advanced to win the final game versus the Lake Placid Ice Storm..

Tryouts for the 2008-2009 season for the Niagara Junior Purple Eagles Girls 12 & Under Hockey Team and the Niagara Junior Purple Eagles Girls 14 & Under Hockey Team will be 4/07/08 and 4/09/08. For more information call Bob @ 207-7809.

Hockey isn't just for the boys anymore, Women and Girls Hockey is alive and strong, especially out of Niagara University, New York!