

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dave McCowan <coralcoyote@hotmail.com>

Subject: Bismarck Girls Hockey CO-OP

Date: January 25, 2016 at 6:55:37 PM CST

To: "bertsto@fargo.k12.nd.us" <bertsto@fargo.k12.nd.us>,
"dahlean@fargo.k12.nd.us" <dahlean@fargo.k12.nd.us>,
"james.roaldson@k12.nd.us" <james.roaldson@k12.nd.us>,
"mark.vollmer@minot.k12.nd.us" <mark.vollmer@minot.k12.nd.us>,
"b1stedman@ideaone.net" <b1stedman@ideaone.net>,
"jason.wiberg@dlschools.org" <jason.wiberg@dlschools.org>,
"kbaesler@nd.gov" <kbaesler@nd.gov>, "ndhsaa@ndhsaa.org"
<ndhsaa@ndhsaa.org>

Dear NDHSAA:

The high school girls hockey conglomerate that Bismarck has put together of Century, High, Legacy, St. Mary's and Shiloh (that's five high schools if you lost count) are once again undefeated in North Dakota play. Fargo North, South and Shanley have now teamed together to try and compete for a State title (this is the same North and South that have individually won 7 of the last 13 state titles and who have always been bitter rivals). Although the duo of Grand Forks Central and Red River have not produced any recent State Championships, they are always at the top of the win category.

I can quote total city population or total student population of the 11 teams in girls high school hockey, but it really doesn't matter because the answer you will get from these co-ops is always "we don't have enough players to field more than one team."

Hmmm... Devils Lake, total population just over 7000 seems to put enough girls in breezers to fill a bench every year. What the real answer is they don't have enough players who have enough talent or skills to hang a State Championship banner in their rafters every year.

Enough is enough. It is time for the North Dakota High School Activities Association to step in and do what the above mentioned schools will not do for themselves, get them to get their own teams and play with the girls who are enrolled in their schools. It is pretty obvious that their local School Boards, Superintendents, Athletic Directors, Coaches or most of all their parents are going to do nothing to put a stop to this.

You can play Triple AAA hockey anytime you like, it is a level above High School Hockey, teams are put together from the best of the best. It is extremely competitive, the skill levels are amazing and the amount of pure fun they have is something to see. My daughter has been on a team that had skaters from 5 different states...wow what an opportunity to meet great new talented friends for life. The difference here is everyone knows that every team is full of ringers.

You can try out at the end of the season for Team North Dakota, you can play Northern Plains Hockey, you can make the USA Hockey U-18 Development Teams. The point I am trying to make is that there are plenty of opportunities to get on a "Super Team" and most of them are going to take hard work and determination to pull on their sweaters.

Co-ops are supposed to be used to give children an opportunity to play in an activity that their school either through numbers, location or cost could not provide them, NOT to form and hold onto a dynasty. Your co-ops are so large that you are causing girls to quit the sport or not play it at all knowing that they are never going to get decent playing time. Girls hockey in the state of North Dakota will not grow when you have certain communities obsessed with winning state titles and padding their stats.

This is nothing less than bullying. Anyone on this board is more than welcome to explain to my daughter how you think what Bismarck and now what Fargo are doing has anything to do with sportsmanship.

I am sending this to the current NDHSAA officers to wait for some kind of a response or explanation. I will follow up by contacting TV, Radio and Newspapers until this issue is addressed.

V/r,
David R. McCowan
PO Box 214
202 4th Street
Medora ND 58645
701-226-7742

Parent of Maiah McCowan, Junior Mandan High School, 12 years of Mandan hockey