

## *Keeping things in Perspective.....*

The following story was provided anonymously to the OMHA office by a minor hockey volunteer. Unfortunately many adults expect minor hockey to provide a quick road to NHL riches instead of an opportunity to take up a popular sport for skill development, enjoyment and community involvement. We hope that parents across the province understand the emotional, mental and financial price of “getting noticed” when reading this story which seems to put this facet of minor hockey into perspective.

Headed to the NHL!

Little Jimmy started hockey and became a prolific goal scorer in his Tyke house league games. A budding super star headed for the NHL! Mom and Dad went head over heels envisioning all his future fame their Jimmy was certainly destined to achieve. They pushed him hard!

Next year it was Minor Novice AAA. Nothing else would do. He had to play at this level to guarantee a spot for him on a future NHL roster. As it turned out there were ten other little “Jimmies” on this team just as talented or even more talented. Dad started to get critical after games about Jimmy not trying hard enough.

What was done? Little Jimmy simply had to be the best. They spent thousands of dollars on power skating, hockey schools, camps and summer hockey to help get him the edge he needed.

In Novice AAA Jimmy did O.K. but he still wasn't the best

Mom and dad said the coaches were not bringing him along to his true potential. They started making some noise about the coaches. They asked for more ice time. They also tried inciting some other parents. Besides, the team hadn't won very many games. Somebody was to blame for these major disasters.

Atom AAA brought no improvement in spite of all the money spent on extras during the last three summers. It had to be the coaches, politics or something! It wasn't Jimmy! They went after the coaches and wanted some people in there who knew how to get the best out of the players. The coaches were too soft!

Little Jimmy didn't like Minor Pee Wee AAA body contact. His goal scoring dropped to almost zero and he just didn't seem to be excited over hockey as Mom and Dad still were. It was another rotten year in AAA hockey. Where did all these useless coaches and executives come from? They ruined our life!

Little Jimmy didn't make Major Pee Wee AAA team. It was the end of the world for Mom and Dad, utter and total devastation!

Jimmy played AA that year. The next year he played A and the year after that he quit hockey.

Jimmy's parents were not happy with his last three seasons but Jimmy was. The constant arguing and bickering about hockey was finally over. He knew he didn't have NHL talent!

Unfortunately Mom and Dad didn't.