



Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

AFTER 17 DAYS...

December 18, 2009

After two solid weeks of action, there have been quite a few surprises as the season has gotten underway. Here is our top 10 list:

#10 Delbarton - It was very much anticipated that Delby would have an outstanding squad but thus far, they have simply destroyed all comers including Hotchkiss of Connecticut. It's early and they will bound to have a letdown a couple of times this season, but currently they look unstoppable.

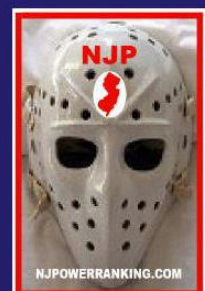
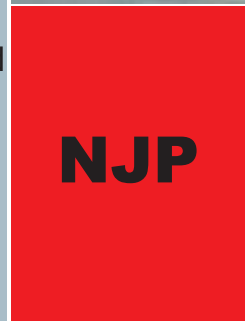
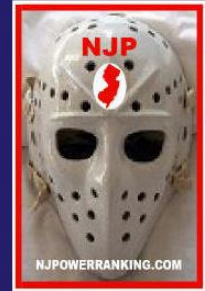
#9 Mennen Division - Morris Knolls and Coach Keiper's crew has been dominating thus far, much better than our pre-season rankings predicted. With the loss of Danny Fullam to injury and Justin Kleinwak's to AAA commitments, Randolph has had a difficult start. Beard and Chatham are strong out of the gate as expected. Kinnelon has bounced back after a rocky start and will continue to improve. Should be a real dog fight for this division title in the end.

#8 Tri-County - Ridgewood has been outstanding thus far this year as has Bayonne, Depaul and PV. All have outperformed expectations. On the down side, Clifton and Fair Lawn have had poor starts. Hopefully, the Mustangs and the Cutters can turn things around soon and get back in contention in their new divisions.

#7 St. Peters Prep - We thought this young team would be very competitive in the Gordon National but they have yet to find their rhythm. They have a good core group of goaltenders and we will see who will rise up and take charge of the Marauders net. Nick Bretzger, the freshman, might be the man.

#6 Shore C - Very solid all around and can compete with most of the states more established programs. Hats of to RIYA and the entire Freehold community. Howell still looks to be the most competitive and could crack the top 25 list in our first ranking this weekend. Freehold Township has also looked very strong.

(Continued...)





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#5 Ocean - Very nice start for Dave Smith and this new program who sport a winning record and a couple of impressive wins over Freehold Township and RBR.

#4 Gloucester Catholic - They have been dominant and their win over CBA was a major statement for the year. Watch out for the Rams as they clearly have positioned themselves in the Top 5.

#3 Eastside Red Raiders - Two wins and a tie under their belts so far. Even a couple of blow-outs. Great to see this wonderful program showing solid progress. Awesome job by coaches Keith Veltre and Dennis Ruppe.

#2 Shore A - Brick Township and Middletown South have really outperformed our pre-season ratings and it looks like a tougher go for Monsignor Donovan and St John Vianney. Memorial and RBC look solid as expected.

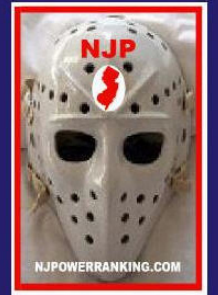
#1 Bergen Catholic - Biggest surprise so far...an 0-5 start was just not expected even though they are playing very strong teams. It will be interesting to see if new Coach Mulligan can turn this talented team around soon...

Lots to look forward to as the season starts to hit its stride into January.

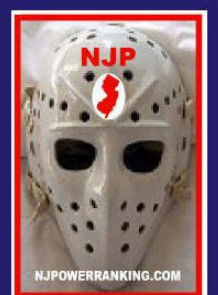
We invite you to check out some of new features this season including our live internet game broadcasts, weekly podcasts, and new database features including up to date standings, scores, schedules, and more. There are a few more new items coming soon as well. Our first ranking will be out this weekend and the Predictor will resume shortly after.

All the best to the entire NJ hockey community for the holidays!

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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2009/2010...

October 27, 2009

High School hockey season is just around the corner and njpowerranking.com has a few surprises for the new season. By December 1, the site will have many new features which hopefully all of our fans will be very excited about. Some of these projects are still in the final steps of completion so continue to look out for announcements as we get closer to the season start.

We hoped you have enjoyed our pre-season reports throughout the summer and beginning of the fall. We have completed well over 100 "PSR's" and are trying to get all of the teams completed prior to the season start.

Our analytics and team pages will have a new look for the upcoming season. We continue to try to make the site better as every day goes by and truly appreciate all of your insights and input on site suggestions and features. We will have some new energy from a selected group of new bloggers for the upcoming season as well as the return of Jacquie Pierri, NJP, our John Covello link, and College Hockey Directory. Our newest bloggers are readying their first reports. Watch for them by December 1st or sooner.

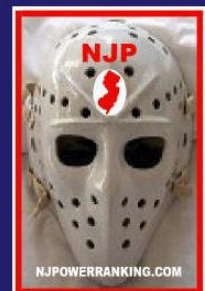
The Predictor will be gearing up as well coming off an improved and impressive season of picking winners at 83%. We continue to tweak our ranking formula and hope to maintain our winning ways and consistent analysis of NJ hockey teams at the high school and college level. Our pre-season ranking report is available and our editorial rankings will be updated through December until the statistical sample size is large enough to present our "ranking formula" rating system. This should occur around Christmas time.

Thanks so much to all of our faithful fans for their continued support as we enter our third year.

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HOCKEY AT THE SHORE...

May 30, 2009

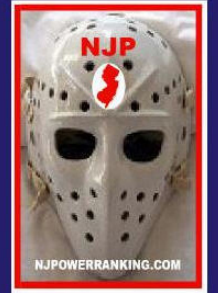
So last Saturday afternoon I needed a break and thought I would get away from "Hockey" for a while. Maybe take the kids to the shore for a fun night on the boardwalk and get some ocean air. We headed down the GSP to exit 82 and thought we would try out Seaside. A lot of memories came back from childhood days as the smell of salt water and sausage and peppers sandwiches filled the air. My two younger boys were entrenched in doing every ride and game they came upon. As we headed down the boards, we came upon an interesting site at Fun Town Pier. You guessed it. Hockey!! I have seen basketball shooting, baseball throwing, even soccer ball kicking but this was quite a neat setup for hockey fans and players alike.

It was called The Hockey Shot. Looked simple enough. Grab a stick and blast a shot and see how fast it goes... But the owners here have gone a step further. They have a website that records and lists the top players for speed and accuracy across all age levels. They plan on recording all of the best scores through the summer. It's quite an interesting concept. Some of NJ's best high school players have already hit the website with some impressive speeds. Joe Estenes (Msgr. Donovan), Mike Philpott (Livingston), and Frank Stefano (Hackensack) have logged numbers in the 70's. The website even has pictures of the contestants and also plans to have a live webcam up on the site for the summer. The surface is synthetic and has a look and feel like real ice. My 6 year old almost hit 20 mph. I know, not exactly Chad Kilger but the 12 year old landed one near 40. You get 10 shots for \$5 and everyone gets a prize. We stayed for over an hour watching others blast some shots or embarrass themselves. It was great fun.

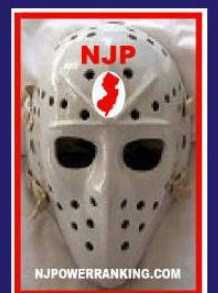
Check it out when you're at the shore this summer..

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<http://www.njpowerranking.com/id112.html>



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PARITY IN NJ HS HOCKEY...

April 14, 2009

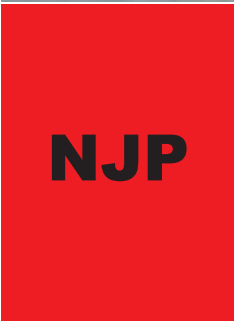
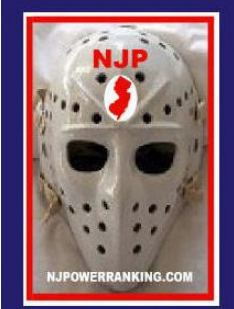
We broke down the regular season goal differential for all games played during the year at the New Jersey High School level. The following chart represents an analysis of the number of games at each game score differential with percentages and cumulative percentages in each category...

NJ HIGH SCHOOL GOAL DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS AND BREAKDOWN

OVERALL																			
17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	TIE	0 TIE	TOTAL
1	0	1	2	4	3	6	65	44	42	75	83	124	172	222	254	266	122	4	1490
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	3%	3%	5%	6%	8%	12%	15%	17%	18%	8%	0%	
100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	91%	88%	83%	78%	70%	58%	43%	26%	8%		
NON-LEAGUE																			
17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	TIE	0 TIE	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	1	0	4	23	16	10	25	37	46	80	93	110	116	33	0	594
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	3%	2%	4%	6%	8%	13%	16%	19%	20%	6%	0%	
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	95%	93%	91%	87%	80%	73%	59%	44%	25%	6%		
LEAGUE																			
17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	TIE	0 TIE	TOTAL
1	0	1	2	3	3	2	42	28	32	50	46	78	92	129	144	150	89	4	896
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	4%	6%	5%	9%	10%	14%	16%	17%	10%	0%	
100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	94%	90%	87%	81%	76%	67%	57%	43%	27%	10%		

Basically, the average numbers for league and non-league games did not skew far apart. League games appear much more likely to tie than non-league games with 10% of all games being even compared to 6% in non-league match-ups. Close to 50% of all high school ice hockey games played in New Jersey are considered "very close" by our standard of within 2 goals. The hypothesis of an empty net goal would create a 2 goal margin and fits our definition. We define "close" games as a margin of 3-4 goals. Two-thirds to three quarters of the games fall into this category depending on the venue. Non-League games tend to be closer than league games by a slight margin. The 5-8 goal category by our definition is defined as "not close" and a differential of 9 goals or greater is defined as "blowout" games. 5%-6% of all games are blowouts with goal differentials ranging from 9 to 17. 20%-24% of all games are considered "not close" and fall into the 5-8 goal differential category. There is a wider range of goal differential numbers for league games. Average goal differential is 3.7 for league and 3.5 for non-league. Mode differential is one goal for both league and non-league games.

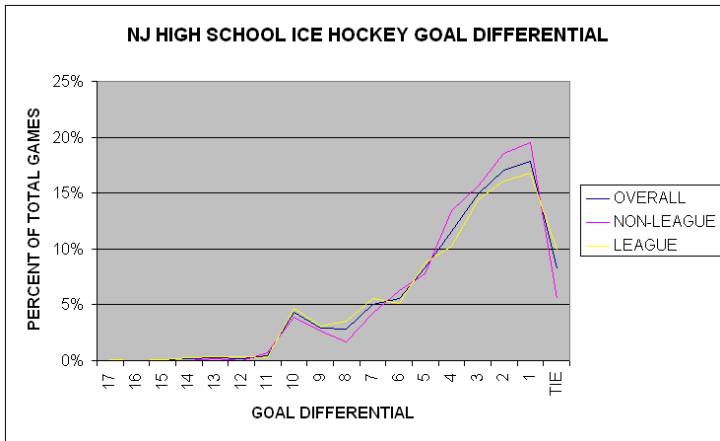
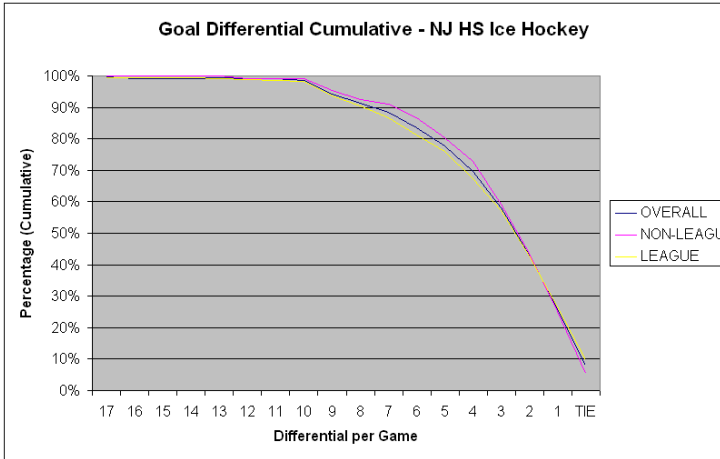
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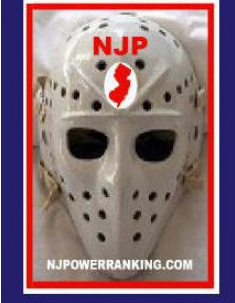


So we have made some simple assertions about this data set. Considering that this is high school hockey, you never really know which players are going to show up on a given night, what injuries might be influencing a game, which goalie is playing, and many other variables, we are concluding that the current system appears to be working in regard to creating divisions that create fair play. We can all sit back and voice opinions about the Red/White/Blue divisions and who moves up and who moves down but the core principles appear not to be flawed.

It would also appear that coaches and AD's are making a real effort to schedule non-league games with competitive foes. There are major league re-structuring discussions going on as we speak. We are big believers in the philosophy that if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Some food for thought from NJP...

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When is enough enough?

April 12, 2009

Head Coaches are often put into difficult situations when the talent level between competing teams is far off. We have all been in these games when one team is so far superior to the other that no one wins. Blowouts in youth sports are common place. At the high school level, it is also prevalent. How coaches handle themselves in these situations can be very telling. I just caught an interview on ESPN with Dallas Covenant High School Head Coach Micah Grimes who's girls basketball team received national attention by beating Dallas Academy 100-0. What was so interesting to me was that Mr. Grimes saw nothing wrong with his leadership. And even more nauseating was that two ESPN commentators actually agreed with him. One had the audacity to say that the problem is that the Dallas Academy team had no right being on the floor. Hmmm... What's wrong with this picture?

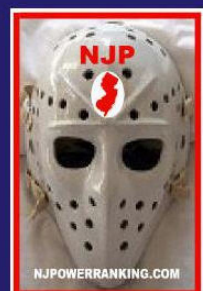
Mr. Grimes made several other startling statements. He said he was not going to ask his girls to stop playing. He said that if he had to play the game over again, he would not change one thing. He was fired after the game.

We did some research on the teams and on the game itself. It appears that Covenant had played a good chunk of games by the time these two teams met in January. Covenant was having a successful season with a winning record after 11 games and Dallas Academy had struggled in the four games they played, winning one and losing three by lopsided margins. . Let's just say, the coach knew the difference in talent level before the game. Especially considering the teams rank coming into the year was not in the top 1,500 teams. And if by some miracle he did not know, it was easy to identify in the first quarter as his team built a 35-0 lead. A Coach that had any value system would have made a decision at that point. But our research found that he kept his best player in the game as she amassed 48 points during the contest, almost half of the teams total points. He also says he was not aware of the score, or did not target the 100 point level as a goal. The reality of the situation would beg to differ.

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But as we all know. Micah Grimes will probably not be out of work long. I am sure there are some anxious AD's who want to turn their programs around and hope to rely on a win at all cost philosophy. We find that sad.

We have had some lopsided games in our recently completed NJ high school ice hockey season. We are lucky enough to have a mercy rule in our system, which is a major fault of the Texas girls high school basketball system. There were 82 double digit victories this season. Does a 17-0 hockey score equal a 100-0 basketball score? Probably not. But just the same, we would hope our NJ hockey coaches would see a golden opportunity to get some playing time for their third and fourth liners to develop their skills in game situations. Or even better, bring up some JV players if they know the game has the potential of having a large talent disparity.

There are many opportunities for coaches to build character in their players. Winning is important but how you win is a greater measure in a coaches repertoire of life lessons.

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The Ratings game...

April 11, 2009

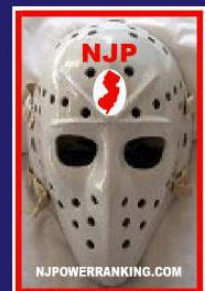
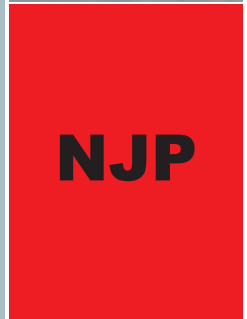
So somebody needs to clue me in here. America goes "Mad" in March flooded with more college basketball than you can possibly get your hands on. Network TV shows are cancelled, work pools go wild and everyone and their sister is bombarded with college hoops. ESPN.com and many other Sports related websites have entire sections devoted to "the tourney". CBS gets about a jillion dollars for TV ads, almost as much as the Super Bowl. The Final Four gets more attention than the World Series. Then on a fateful Monday night, it's all over. Everyone is talking about the game and every major newspaper and website has a front cover section spewing with storylines, heroes, and highlights.

While college basketball is getting all this attention, another tourney is taking place at the same time. And no, I am not talking about the NIT. There are other college teams getting together to play a big year end tournament, but they are not wearing sneakers. The Division 1 Frozen Four gets little attention across the country. Despite providing the best ice hockey colleges have to offer, there is little coverage of this major event. For those of us who are fans, it is disheartening. So here is the question. Is the tail wagging the dog? Is college hockey not popular because its gets no coverage or is it that it gets no coverage because its not popular?

But wait a minute... Let's look at professional level grand finale's. One would think the Stanley Cup finals would garner some viewership no? Well, after looking at the numbers, you can see why networks are not too excited when it comes to pucks. NBC continues to cover the Stanley Cup finals (well 5 of the potential 7 games) despite extremely low national viewership. How low? Well lets just say that hockey is a fraction of other sports and gets beat out regularly by NASCAR, golf, cycling, and dare I say the word...yes, poker!

Boston Bruins announcer Jack Edwards had a great quote a few weeks ago. The former ESPN anchor just could not understand why on a busy and crazy Saturday night filled with topsy turvy NHL action, all of the highlights hit the editing room floor..

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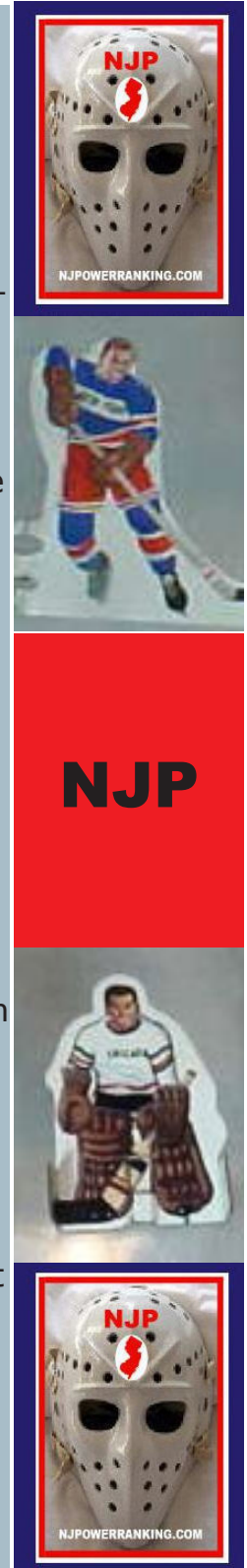
"So, for those of you that hope that hockey gets back on ESPN, that's what you're gonna' get. That's where it belongs in ESPN's hierarchy, because there are some bozos sitting in the accounting department in a bunker in Burbank, California running Disney, who look at the numbers and completely ignore the passion of hockey fans. They say "Poker gets better ratings because we can attract more compulsive gamblers to the screen than we can passionate hockey fans, so just for the sake of that number, we're gonna' run poker instead of hockey. We're gonna run women's basketball instead of hockey." We saw highlights of the Division II NCAA basketball championship, we didn't see a single NHL highlight in that entire "SportsCenter". Case closed."

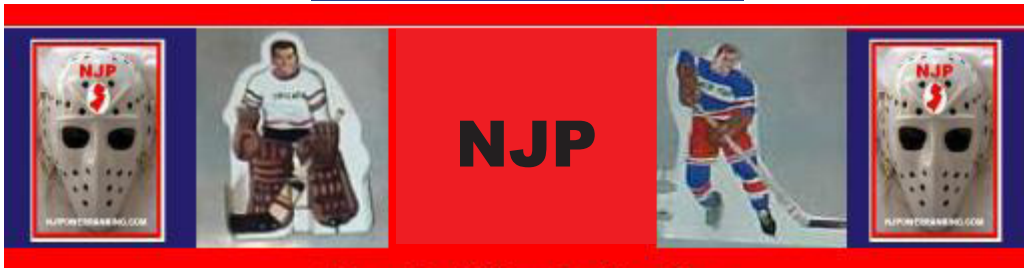
National Nielsen numbers are abysmal for hockey in the USA. Any national game usually does not even come close to a 1.0 share. The bright spots lately have been the "outdoor" games which have garnered ratings of well over 2.0 with the gimmick. Considering the SuperBowl was seen in 46% of US households, we have far to go. When ladies volleyball is beating you out, it's just not good. But encouraging news exits as well. "Local" ratings for professional hockey have been skyrocketing in certain markets. Buffalo and Pittsburgh have local shares of 8.9 and 5.7 respectively. And compared to last year, viewership is up dramatically as well. Washington local, with the help of Alexander Ovechkin, has increased 140%. Chicago saw a 71% increase due to the Blackhawks improved play. Double digit increases were seen in at least twelve other markets.

So lets keep our hopes up and at the same time, get those satellite subscriptions applications complete.... And I wish everyone could have seen an absolutely great college championship game as BU scored two goals in the last minute and one more on a floater in OT to hand Cinderella Miami of Ohio a heartbreaking 4-3 loss in their bid for their first national championship... There's always YouTube...

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NJP RESPONSE TO SURVEY CRITIQUE'S..

November 11, 2008

I am an RBC alumni and RBC lost Goalie Matt Langor 2nd team all state....that is a major KEY LOSS. Some key players to watch omitted are Sr. Andrew Serpico and Jr. Colton Braun. Sophomore core is solid with Armenti, Powell, Stickel, Chase.....Frosh Dunleavey, Keane will not see a minute of a varsity game as a player, too many strong sophomores.

Thanks for the info. We appreciate it. As noted on the pre-season ranking page, key additions and losses are not meant to show graduated players but rather player movement due to transfers and or moves to juniors. Thanks again for the additional info. We will update our list.

Why would Bishop Eustace be ahead of Delbarton?

Remember, no computer model on this one. Purely editorial opinion. We think both teams are outstanding. It is a new year and a new group of team leaders. Delby has lost some incredible talent with graduates and others going Junior. The remaining squad is anchored by Ambrosia, Agostino, and Velishek. BE has added Gentile, a strong balanced core of returning O and D, and has two great goaltenders coming back. As noted by our ratings, they are a virtual dead heat in our eyes.

You seem to limit yourselves to the big schools and not really do much with the lesser schools who may have talent. A more thorough vetting of all the schools would make your report more valuable. As it is if you aren't a part of the top 10 teams, you are left out.

OK, thanks for the comment. We hope to continue to vet our info throughout the season. Not sure about the top 10 comment as we have supplied a considerable amount of info for numerous teams. If you could be more specific, we will certainly weigh your concerns.

You missed a lot of great players from teams especially in the northern red.

Thanks for this observation and comments. If you could be more specific, we would love to incorporate your suggestions. E-mail us njpowerranking@yahoo.com or complete an additional survey response with new data.

Narrow down the player to watch list.

We debated this but decided to have an expanded list that includes players who should be getting considerable playing time. Again, tracking over 130 teams in not an easy task so we appreciate our fans insights and support.

You're putting week public schools way to high.

Thanks for completing the survey. This is a very general comment. Love to hear a bit more detail on the specifics of your comment.

RBC Craus, our best player, is spelled Krauss.

Sorry about that... We will correct on our next update.

Examples for losses/additions Paramus Catholic- Matt Minda, Tenafly- Sean Loeb and Nick Pappas, Vernon- Jeff Gallo, all huge players who carried their teams.

Almost all of NJ high school teams have lost some great players and leaders. There are well over 600 graduating players last season, certainly including the players mentioned. We did not attempt to list graduating seniors other than counts for each team. Our key losses/additions are representative of transfers and junior converts.

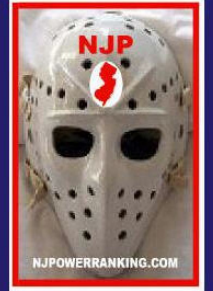
Oowski From Morristown-Beard is not a freshman.

Eddie? Help us out...you are a January 93 right?

Get any public school in a bad division less credit.

OK... love to hear more specific feedback. Additional info will be greatly appreciated.

KEEP THE QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK COMING...NJP



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DHI CUP STARTS TUESDAY...

October 25 2008

Congratulations to the Durham Hockey Institute for putting together a great event for Northeast High School hockey seniors with the DHI Cup. We were lucky enough to be one of the many coaches and advisors to give input on the players and the selection process. It was extremely obvious to us that the due diligence process to determine these selections was extensive. A tremendous amount of time and effort was given from these professionals to get it right. There is an incredible amount of talented seniors participating this year.

It would be more than worth the effort to make your way down to Flyers Skate Zone in Voorhees on Tuesday night to take a look at these outstanding players as we ready for the new high school season just a couple of weeks from now. The first semi-final game starts at 5PM with NJ South v. NJ Central. The 7PM game will have NJ North v. Eastern PA/Del. Winners will face off at The Spectrum in Philadelphia on November 3rd.

As far as the NJ teams go, North will be anchored by Nick Vanderlinden (Tenafly) and Sam Morelli (Paramus Catholic) in goal. D corp will be led by Aryton Doerr (Bosco), John Phillips (MKA) and Chris Staines (Tenafly) and the offense is packed with MKA linemates Purcell, Salinger and Devita as well as Ridge forwards Leddy, Kilyanski, and Palladino.

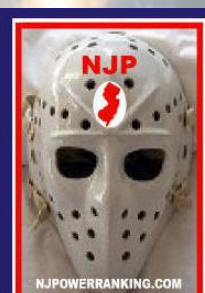
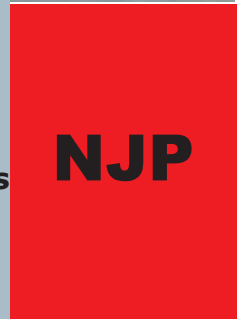
Central has LVille goalie Eric Zagorski and well as Notre Dame netminder Brandon DeLibero. Defensive squad includes Lawrenceville's John Ogden and Mike Clarke as well as Chris Swan (Wall), Scott Litwack (WWPS) and Eric Talty (Brick). Offense includes Lawrenceville Captain Don Kleckner, CBA's Kevin Carmichael, John Frost and Kyle McAlteer, Brandon Person from Brick Memorial and Correy Lunney from RBR.

South is filled with Eustace stars Van Osten (G), Casella (G), Green (D), O'Kane (D), Gentile (F), Guckin (F) and Toy (F). Also participating are Gloucester Catholic standout forwards Buddy Robinson and Nick Allison.

A full listing of players can be seen at our DHI menu tab or at <http://www.durhamhockeyinstitute.com/dhicup2008teams.html>.

Congrats to Coach Primeau and the entire DHI team.

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JON YARDLEY...

October 24, 2008

There are not many people in the world with the passion and devotion toward New Jersey hockey like Jon Yardley. The time and energy put forth each season for the benefit of the NJ Hockey community distinguish him as not only a passionate ice hockey contributor and webmaster, but a NJ High School Hockey legend. And all this from 1,000 miles away. Jon continues to put out the best coverage known to man for NJ High School hockey. His tireless efforts have not gone un-noticed. We asked NJ Ice Hockey Coaches to share some of their thoughts on Jon. We received all positive comments. Here are just a few quotes:

As long as I have been coaching in HS I have been in constant contact with Jon. He has been very instrumental in answering the oddest of questions for me (for instance the flip of the coin game to determine the winner of a semi-final tournament game against River Dell last season). Jon was able to direct me to the right people to get clear answers and did a great job covering all our incidents. There is no better place to find out when and where teams are playing and that does a lot for us when we are scouting our opponents. Thanks Jon.

Colin Church-Hackensack High School Head Coach

Jon has helped put NJ HS Hockey on the map with his coverage and dedication.

Mike Dianora-Wall High School Head Coach

Jon has been one of the premier advocates for NJ High School Hockey over the past 10 years. His blogs are very insightful, and the work he puts into updating his site on a daily basis is invaluable to any coach in the state. I don't believe I overstate when I say that his efforts have spurred great interest in the sport, and he has given Ice Hockey some much needed recognition. He puts a tremendous amount of hours into the site, and he does it for free. He's a guy who grew up involved in NJ High School Hockey and he loves it. His coverage of the sport has been terrific for years.

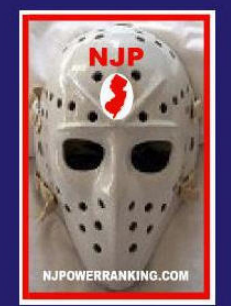
Pat Verney-Montclair High School Head Coach

Jon, we speak with all sincerity when we say... you're our hero! Thanks for all that you do for New Jersey hockey. EVERYONE appreciates it greatly. All the best to you as we begin another great season.

NJP



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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

RIISING ABOVE...

October 21, 2008

The people that succeed in life are usually the ones that can perservere through adversity. The ones that can adapt to change the best, embrace it rather than fight it, find a way to rise above and accomplish great things.

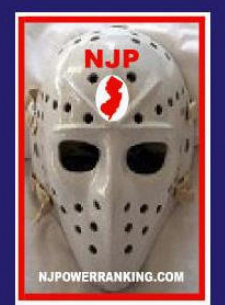
It's funny how the stars of tomorrow are often targets for the 5% rule. You know...the 5% of the population that is impos- sible to keep happy. The naysayers that poke fun and negativ- ity without regard to human decency. They exist everywhere in life. In the workplace, in your communities, and certainly on the hockey forums of the world. Our experience through life is that people are much better off focusing on the 95% rather than the 5%.

And for the victims? Enjoy the attention and rise above it. Know that down the line, you will be in a much better place than these bottom feeders. That when these people eventually come up from the rocks they are hiding under, they will realize that picking people up makes a world of difference compared to put- ting them down.

We are lucky enough to live in a great country that embraces free speech. Everyone is entitled to express their opinions. We thought we would share ours... How they are expressed is an- other story.

Have the courage to be a change-agent.

NJP



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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

CBA's FATE PLUS...

October 14, 2008

So the word is in regarding CBA. They are in The Gordon. And they are in the Shore A. Who would have thunk it.

They will not be playing Shore division crossover games which will allow them to stay under the the maximum number of games allowed at 26. They will play in Gordon Cup playoffs.

Gordon Cup games are scheduled for Saturday, February 28th and Sunday, March 1st.

The State and Divisional cutoff date is February 16th.

Quarter Final Dates are as follows:

Public March 7th and 8th

Private March 9th and 10th

Semi's will be played March 14th and 15th.

The State Finals are March 21st.

30 days to tryouts...

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Some thoughts for a rainy day... Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

NON-LEAGUE SCHEDULE INDICATIONS...

October 9, 2008

Non-league schedules are usually great indicators of team strength as coaches and AD's attempt to fill out their schedules against competitive and even stretch opponents.

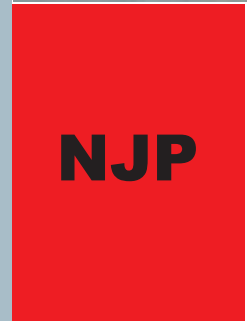
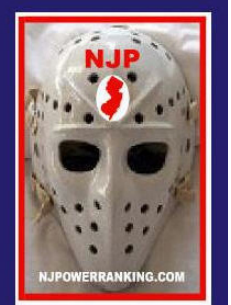
Looking at the Gordon division, the Elites are flexing their muscles. Delbarton and Eustace are reaching for the stars with the strongest non-league opponents in the state with games scheduled against top Prep schools like LaSalle, Hotchkiss, Hill, and Lawrenceville. Seton Hall, Bosco, and Pope John are playing some tough teams as well but not quite the intensity of the top 2. SA, BC and SPP yet to be determined.

In the other divisions, there are quite a few schools that are setting up tougher competitors, indicating their own strength. Gloucester Catholic, ND, Johnson and RBC are in this category so far. Bernards and Ridgewood are also starting to add some higher level competition.

On the reverse side, Bridgewater Raritan, Verona, Hudson Catholic, Princeton, Brick, TRE and TRN appear to be scheduling some weaker opponents from our point of view. As for the new teams in Shore C and the Independents, it looks like Monroe and Freehold Boro are trying to step up. Hudson Catholic has targeted these clubs with their non-league schedule so far which may indicate a challenging year for the Hawks.

Every coach may have different philosophies when it comes to non-league match-ups but it will be interesting to watch as the remainder of the schedule fills in.

NJP





Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

WPU PIONEERS OUTLAST RED HAWKS...

September 20, 2008

The Garden State Cup is in the hands of the William Paterson University Pioneers tonight after they squeezed by The MSU Redhawks 4-0. The Pioneers dominated play through most of the night outshooting MSU 49-13.

The Redhawks hung tough the entire game and entered the third period only trailing 1-0. They had some good scoring chances and quite a few powerplays in a penalty ridden game.

Matt Deering was perfect in goal for WPU and Justin Hoch had an outstanding game at D as well as scoring The Pioneers second goal of the night. The first period was scoreless but saw The Pioneers outshoot MSU 21-2. Albert Campbell put WPU on the board in the second period on a beautifully orchestrated 2 on 1 with Shaun McTigue getting the assist.

Bayonne native Matt Gillen made the score 3-0 midway through the third period with again captain Shaun McTigue on the assist. McTigue earned our vote for most valuable player of the game and was all grins as he hoisted the Cup in the post game ceremony.

Congratulations to Red Hawks netminder Charlie Kemmlein who kept MSU in the game all night making 45 saves overall. He was our MSU player of the game.

The Pioneers look to be in for a great season. Congratulations to all of the Pioneers, Coach Ken Scarpa, Coach Robert Carnathan, and the entire WPU staff.

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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

THE GARDEN STATE CUP AND MORE...

September 20, 2008

We had an opportunity to visit the Ice Vault last night to see The Garden State Cup tournament. Four solid teams representing New Jersey college hockey. The Montclair State Redhawks faced Rowan University in the first game followed by The Pioneers of William Paterson University against The College of NJ Lions.

First, let me say anytime I can get my hands on Ice Vault cuisine, I take it. What other ice rink in America can you get a plate of ribs followed by a choice of 6 freshly baked desserts? I noticed some barbeque stains on the skate laces of some players so it looked like everyone was partaking.

The games were high scoring and extremely fast paced. MSU looked very good as they skated past a spirited Rowan squad 7-4. They received quality goaltending from Charlie Kemmlein and some big hits from Captain Sean Guenther in route to their win. Hated to see RedHawk Matt Popan go down with a shoulder injury in the first period. Knowing Matt, he will want to be back on the ice tonight, even if he is in a sling. Rowan looked much stronger than we anticipated and should be in for a good season. More than half the team is made up of former Hollydell Hurricanes and Philadelphia Jr. Flyers Alumni as home grown talent dominates their roster.

The Pioneers looked great as expected with lots of firepower upfront. Shaun McTigue, Albert Campbell, and John Gomez were all impressive. They appear to be the team to beat tonight after blowing past The Lions 9-5.

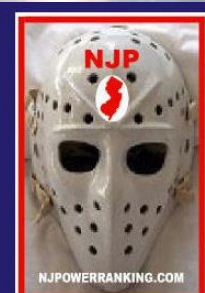
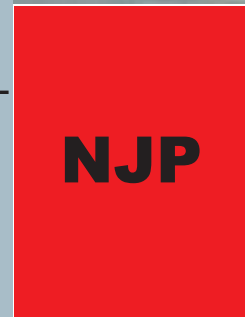
The Championship game is tonight at Ice Vault in Wayne, NJ at 8:15PM. The consolation game begins at 5:15PM. The Predictor makes his first official pick of the new season selecting WPU over MSU 6-3. It should be a great game. Make sure to stop by and check it out if you can. Hope to see you there.

We continue to get lots of feedback regarding our pre-season rankings. We encourage the entire NJ hockey community to continue to send us information that can help shape our "editorial" views. There are two survey devices on the site to facilitate this process. One of the surveys has collected hundreds of responses from fans on individual team information and players. We also encourage fans to pick their own pre-season rankings and we will publish them on the site. Not too many takers yet. We also are running our contest on who can pick the most division winners. Check them out on our Pre-Season Ranking page.

And for seniors, make sure to check out the DHI Cup info posted on the site as well. Don't miss out on a great opportunity.

All the best.

NJP





Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

TOO CLOSE TO HOME...

September 12, 2008

So we finished our club survey report about two weeks ago and NJ Clubs performed pretty well on customer satisfaction across the board. In general, I think many New Jersey clubs are living up to expectations from a satisfaction point of view in most categories. There was one area that consistently scored the worst and it certainly was not a surprise.

"Selection process" has always been our clubs major sore spot for parents and players. This is not just a NJ phenomenon. Human nature being what it is, it is pretty much impossible to meet expectations in this category. Unfortunately, the trickle down to youth players from parents comments is sad and at times hysterical. I once heard an 8 year old tell me he didn't make the AA team because the AA coach only picked the kids that he was friends with their parents. He then told me that the coach was a real "asshole". Yes at eight years old! I wonder who may have put the words into the mouth of that babe? Certainly not a gem.

It's typical for tryouts to occur about one month after the travel season ends. One might think that a proper assessment could be made by coaching staffs at the end of the season and save players, parents and families from agonizing over who they will be playing with, what level, which coach, etc... And yes, it does seem insane to subject an 11 year old to 5 intense nights of anxiety and diarrhea to find out if he made a team and at which level just so he or she can spend the entire summer wondering if the choice would have been different if he had just converted that 2 on 1 break in the last session.

But let's look at the reality of the situation. Most clubs offset their tuition fees by the revenue they produce from the tryouts. It's quite a necessity for some clubs to keep tuition costs reasonable. So we ask little Johnny, and Johnny's family, to come down for 3-5 sessions over a weeks time, and we convince everyone it really matters if they do the drills well. It's all part of the game.

And let's talk a moment about the many volunteers that drive our club organizations. In my experience, these people are golden. They deserve wings. Countless hours devoted to the program and the kids. Do I think they are doing their best? The answer is yes. Is their best living up to expectations? On a whole, I would say a resounding yes. But the selection process is another story. It's too close to home. It's too personal a process.

So is there a solution? Maybe... What if we held our tryouts in September? What if we told our kids to go play baseball during the summer? What if our kids actually concentrated on skills development in a couple of camps from April until August rather than play Spring and Summer leagues?

Or even more radical, what if we trusted our club to do the right thing? What about a closed tryout process where no matter what, we support the clubs decisions on who makes a team and at which level, to our kids, and to ourselves?

What if we all won the Mega Millions jackpot tomorrow? It all sounds like a pipe dream...

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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

BE A CHANGE AGENT...

September 8, 2008

We hope all New Jersey hockey fans get a chance to bookmark the USA Hockey website in their favorites file. There is an abundance of great information on the many facets of the game including some great training materials for coaches and players and layers of educational and informative content. We love the research and thought it would be a good idea to share some of their survey results. Two areas of particular interest to us are players continued participation levels throughout their careers and also sportsmanship displayed by players, parents, and fans. We consider these two areas critical to the success of youth hockey in the future and we find them intensely linked.

Here are some raw data points that we found incredibly impactful:

70% of children drop out of organized sports by age 13.

45.3% of young athletes have been called names, yelled at, or insulted while participating in sports.

17.5% of young athletes say they have been hit, kicked or slapped while participating in sports.

21% of young athletes say they were pressured to play with an injury.

8.2% of young athletes report that they were pressured to intentionally harm others while playing sports.

15% of parents at youth sports events display obnoxious, unruly, or unsportsmanlike behavior.

19,000 members of the National Association of Officials are now offered assault insurance.

1 million young athletes between the ages of 10 and 17 suffer serious injuries annually.

33% of USA Hockey Officials do not re-register annually.

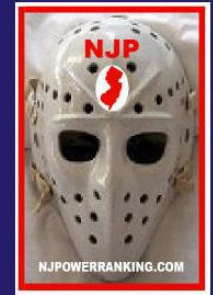
55 % of parents said they have seen parents engage in verbal disputes at youth sporting events.

21 % of parents said they have witnessed a physical altercation between other parents at a youth sporting event.

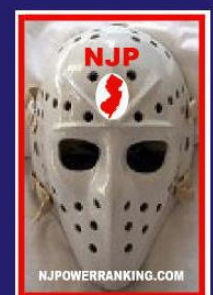
73 % believe that parents who become physically or verbally abusive during games should be banned from youth sports.

This survey was the inspiration of the establishment of njpowerranking.com. We don't think any member of the New Jersey hockey community can read this data and not be moved by its substance. This data supports all the reasons our website was created in the first place. Education and perspective can drive a positive impact on these statistics. Players, Coaches, Parents and fans owe it to themselves and the future of youth hockey in NJ to be change agents. Let this data sink in... be courageous...and channel your passion for hockey in ways that will turn these statistics around. One day at a time.

NJP



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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

WELCOME TO THE ROCK...

March 18, 2008

The last two months have been a blast. We've seen some awesome hockey, some great teams, incredible individual play, and many thrill and chills for NJ High School hockey fans. We have seen teams like Wayne Valley and Roxbury, deal with adversity, rise up, and persevere through it. We have seen the Delbarton machine wreck any team that got in their way on a 22 game win streak. We have seen last years defending champs from St. Augustine quietly navigate their way to The Rock and earn a chance to repeat. We have seen many doubters of the Colts along the way and Kinnelon will get the opportunity to put the explanation point on a fantastic season. The Falcons stand in their way as they get the chance to make their own statement to culminate a great year. And two Central powers that split during the season will have their chance to fight to the death for the Public A crown. Ridge v. Hills: a perfect match-up. The Predictor has made its picks, but no one should care. Sit back in a beautiful new arena on Saturday and enjoy every second of every game as the 2007/08 season comes to a fantastic finish. Good luck to all players, coaches, and teams. It will be an experience you will remember the rest of your lives...

NJP

THE NEW JERSEY FROZEN FOUR...

March 15, 2008

Some awesome matchups in the NJ Frozen 4's. It should be a great weekend of hockey at Mennen. Where will the upsets be? That's the best part... NJP expects Final matchups to be:

CBA vs. Delbarton
Ridge vs. Watchung Hills
Kinnelon vs. Ramsey

What are the chances of upsets? In States, you would have to say pretty good. Last year, Delbarton and CBA were clear favorites to meet in the finals and St Augustine and St Peters made their way through. So hold on to your seats and may the best teams win! Movers this week were Brick Memorial, Randolph and Jefferson. Shakers were Bosco and Vianney. Hey make sure you be-friend us on Facebook, Myspace, and LinkedIn when you get a chance... NJP



NJP





Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

ELITE 8'S ARE SET...

March 8, 2008

Congratulations to Our Elite 8's: Private: Delbarton, Mo Beard, Bishop Eustace, Bergen Catholic, St Augustine, Seton Hall Prep, Don Bosco Prep, and CBA. (Delby and BE first of the Private NJ Frozen 4) Public A: Steinert, Brick Memorial, Morris Knolls, Watchung Hills, Randolph, Montgomery, Middletown North, and Ridge. Public B: Ramsey, Cranford, Wall, Jefferson, Kinnelon, West Essex, Johnson, and Northern Highlands. 99 teams are done for the year. Let's root on these last 24 teams as we wind down to three Champs. Obviously, Steinert jumped up the most last week and is our biggest "Mover". Randolph, Bosco and Ridge also jumped up. Shaking downward was Fair Lawn, St. John Vianney, and St Joe Metuchen. Once the NJ Frozen 4's are set, watch for polls on the site to gauge who you think will win! Good luck to all teams during crunch time.

NJP

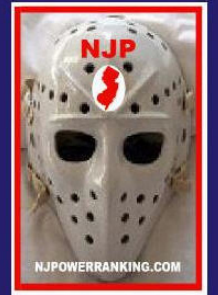
Tourney Brackets set... Let the Tourney begin!! View brackets at: <http://www.njhockey.org/2008states.html>

THE END IS IN SIGHT...

March 1, 2008

We are heading into the home stretch. There still is the best of the season ahead of us with state tourneys under way. The past week saw some upsets but not too much movement near the top of the ranks. Greater volatility occurred in the middle of the ratings. Biggest movers were Middletown North, Hopewell Valley, Sparta, Pequannock, Bosco and Wayne Valley. Shaking downward were Morris Knolls, Robbinsville, Park Regional, Bayonne and Monroe. Some great matchups in the playoffs. Enjoy every second...

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Some thoughts for a rainy day...Thank God Hockey doesn't get rained out!

THE SEEDS ARE PLANTED...

February 22, 2008

Well, the state seeds have been issued. All hail to the seed Gods. I thought we lost 50% of the NJ hockey community to heart attacks when they weren't published at exactly 4PM. Oh yes, these hockey fans are passionate! Remember to give these guys the benefit of the doubt. They probably know a number of things we don't. NJP was pretty close on most rank prediction but far off on some others. Heck, we didn't even have Ramapo making the cut. And West Essex was much higher in the seeds than we anticipated.

All in all, let's sit back and enjoy the hockey. In the road to the NJ frozen 4's, you will usually have to beat at least a few teams anyway so who you are playing in Round 1 is not that important in the big picture. Unless you are the winner of PJ and GC that is... It was a short week since our last update. The big "Movers" up in the ranks were Hamilton, Robbinsville, WWPS, Manasquan, and Watchung Hills. The biggest "Shakers" moving down were Nottingham, Ewing, Chatham and Wayne Valley. Enjoy the Cup finals and watch for daily predictions.

NJP

MOVERS AND SHAKERS...

February 22, 2008

2-18-08

It was quite a week. Regards go to a number of teams who climbed the ladder this week. Manasquan and Vernon moved up considerably along with Old Bridge who picked up their first two victories. Not to gloat, but we picked winless Old Bridge to get their first victory. Good to see that squad have some success after a tough year record wise. Bayonne and Mo Beard also had a great week.

Slipping in the ranks were Passaic Valley and Paul VI dropping 9. Princeton and Nutley lead the way with the biggest drops of the week, with 10 and 12 respectively. Everyone seems to be getting involved in seeding predictions. It's the best time of the year for debate. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am sure there will be some emotionally sparked discussion once the seedings are issued on the 20th.

Keep in mind, if you are going to get to the Rock, no one will have an easy ride. And always remember, no wagering!

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