



In tournament play at Proctor Academy's hockey rink, Kearsarge Mites' Finn Weber and Berlin's Alyson Blanchette compete for the puck.
Staff photo: Bob Bussey



Keith Davis of Andover played on the Kearsarge Peewees hockey team. Keith is at left in the front row and his dad, Coach Randy Davis, is at left in back.

KEARSARGE YOUTH HOCKEY

By Doug Windsor

Kearsarge Youth Hockey

The 2009 Kearsarge Peewees celebrated a great season with a final convincing win at the Berkshire West Invitational Tournament. Having secured a 14-10 season record, the team headed to North Adams, Massachusetts, to face three unknown competitors. [Wearing number 14 on the Peewees is Andover's Keith Davis.]

With their regular season completed two weeks prior and their home ice out, the peewees were limited in practices leading up to this tournament. Following a three-hour drive, Friday night's game found Kearsarge facing a strong and physically-minded Berkshire Bruins team.

Kearsarge dominated the first five minutes of the game but was unable to dent the twine, leaving the Bruins up by two. Down 5-0, Kearsarge fought back with three third-period goals, but time ran out.

An early-morning game found an injury-riddled Kearsarge facing a much fresher Manchester Avalanche team. Despite bad odds, Kearsarge took an

early lead. Soreness and numbers were on the Avalanche's side, and again Kearsarge was left on the smaller end of a 7-5 score.

Not to be denied, and rallying around themselves after pooling and hot-tubbing for most of the day, the boys and girls from Kearsarge committed to their final season and tournament game against a strong Bears team that had earlier beaten the eventual tournament-winning Avalanche.

Hitting on all cylinders, Kearsarge dominated the entire game on offense and defense, taking shots and making saves. The Kearsarge boys and girls looked like a swarm of hornets attacking their foes, who didn't know what hit them. Kearsarge won their final game convincingly, 6-1.

The 2009 Kearsarge Peeewe season was a resounding success. Of note was a Christmas win over Tier 4 Champions, and a runner-up at the 2009 Dunlap Tournament with a fine win over a strong Hanover team. With a number of strong players, many up from the Squirt team for the 2009/10 season, the Peeeweas are poised to continue their winning ways.



The Kearsarge Squirts won the state championship on March 8. Logan Marcus is the leftmost player, and Ronan Walsh is second from the right in the front row.
Photo: Becky Walsh

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ing event) finished 32nd, despite doing all three events on jumping skis, which certainly has never been done before – a prodigious feat.

Two Andover Outing Club families, the Bartletts and the Rauseos, had both parents competing along with their kids. It was a sunny and warm and wonderful way to finish off the winter.

Lion's Club in Lake Placid

On March 22, Andover Outing Club athletes competed in the annual Lions Club Ski Jumping Competition in Lake Placid, New York.

In the J2 Class on the K48 ski jump, Zach Daniels flew into a first-place win.

For the J3 Class on the K48 ski jump, Luke Daniels took first place, Warren Bartlett placed third, and David Rauseo followed in fourth place.

In the Open Class, Gavin Guay placed third.

In the Nordic Combined event, Luke Daniels skied into an impressive first place finish for the J3 class. Zach Daniels finished in second place for the J2 Class, and Warren Bartlett finished third in the J4 Class.

All in all, it sure has been a fun season!

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"I'm very proud of him."

Fairall hopes the improvements will keep on coming in time for next winter's Olympics in Vancouver.

"An Olympic medal is one of my top goals," Fairall said. "It's always been a dream of mine to go to the Olympics and represent the US."