July 2017

When the PJW Board surveyed our hockey families after last season, one of the issues that stood out the most was off-ice skills training. Over 80% of those surveyed asked that there be more off-ice opportunities for our kids. The importance of off-ice training for both skill development and team bonding is an important aspect of developing our players and falls in line with the proven research USA Hockey has done on the subject. We are pleased to announce that we have an exciting opportunity and partnership to announce with The Train Station, LLC in Beaverton beginning with our 2017/2018 season.

The Train Station is the brainchild of our new PJW President Paul Gaustad, who had aspired to open up a hockey-specific skills facility in Portland when he retired and returned home from his playing days in the NHL. Paul has been working to get the facility up and running and has been seeking out partnerships which will allow the facility to open in time for the 2017/18 season. Without Paul’s involvement and personal financial risk, this facility would have not come together for our hockey community.

Below is a description from Paul about the facility and his experience with off-ice training during his hockey career. The cost of using this facility is factored into the prices for all of our team packages, from Squirt through Varsity League. Please see our AGM PowerPoint presentation on our website for more details about the package prices and please don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions. The PJW Board is pleased to add this value to your child’s hockey development and experience as we continue to develop quality hockey players and life-long leaders.

The PJW Board of Directors

Dear PJW Families:

I would like to announce the opening of The Train Station, LLC. The Train Station is a 3,000 square foot hockey skills and training facility located inside the Soccerplex PDX building, directly across from Jesuit High School. The goal of this facility is to help hockey players develop their on-ice skills and their off-ice strength and conditioning. As we continue to deal with a short supply of ice time in the Portland area, I believe this facility will be an extremely valuable tool in developing our athletes.

To accomplish this goal, the Train Station will have over 1,000 square feet of synthetic ice for multiple shooting lanes and stick handling. The facility also includes a RapidShot Hockey Training System (www.rapidshot.com), The RapidShot shooting lane is a cutting edge shot trainer that gives instant feedback on accuracy, reaction time and shot speed. With this information, we can identify weaknesses and develop a training program to improve through progression. RapidShot has over one million hockey shots of data and has developed these programs through research and metrics over time. It is used by college, junior and NHL teams and we are lucky to have this system in our training arsenal.
We have also included stick handling stations, goalie slide boards and other skills equipment. On the off-ice side of the facility we have 2000 square feet of turf and training equipment. The Train Station will be working with a training staff that has an enormous amount of hockey training experience. We have outfitted the training facility with the proper equipment that these experts have recommended to develop hockey strength and conditioning of athletes of all ages.

The reason I pursued and founded The Train Station is because I felt there was a need for a sport-specific facility to help hockey players in our community improve. As my hockey career developed, I consistently focused on aspects of off-ice training. It was a large reason why I was able to move on to higher levels and achieve a 14yr career in the NHL.

As we said during our AGM meeting in June, we want to be clear and transparent as a PJW Board and I want to share with you the motivation and process behind opening this facility. As I moved forward with the process of this project I have been sensitive to the potential perceived conflict with my role as the President of PJW and as the owner of The Train Station. Through conversations with attorneys, I have been advised that there is no conflict of interest with my disclosed involvement with this business and the PJW 501(c)(3) organization.

The Portland Jr. Winterhawks will be a tenant of The Train Station. It will not be the only tenant or partner of the facility. For the health of the facility we will need other partners for the space to be stable/prosperous into the future.

Again, I want to be as transparent as possible and to make sure the members of the PJW Association feel comfortable with this partnership. In that light, I will be taking a further step of recusing myself from any PJW Board votes regarding The Train Station.

It was overwhelmingly clear through the past survey that a training facility was a desire from our membership. I am excited to add this opportunity for our hockey players and the program. I am even more excited to see our program and players continue to improve on and off the ice. We hope to have an open house at the Train Station at the beginning of the season so our players and parents can have a look for themselves. Keep an eye out for that announcement later this summer. In the meantime, enjoy the summer with your families.

Sincerely,

Paul Gaustad