



December 22, 2014

Dear friends of West Ranch Hockey Club,

I hope everyone is getting in the holiday spirit and enjoying this wonderful time of year. It is always a great time of year for hockey and 2015 is going to be a very special year as our Wildcats take the ice for the first time!

As most of you know, West Ranch Hockey Club (WRHC) held an introductory parent meeting last month that was attended by over 25 families. Since that meeting our interest list has grown to over 40 players and families simply through word of mouth. Thank you all for sharing your enthusiastic support of the WRHC vision of bringing high school hockey into our community and building a championship high school hockey program for our kids today, and future generations. There's already a buzz around campus as the excitement builds for Wildcat hockey in 2015!

There were a few questions asked in the parent meeting that I wanted to follow up with answers on, as well as inform you of our first club event coming up in January. Parent questions first:

Timing of tryouts – clinics and tryouts will be held before club tryouts which are typically in June. Exact dates are not set yet but we are targeting April or May dates. This way you can be certain that your player is on a Wildcat team before various club tryouts begin.

Open enrollment – some parents asked if tryouts would be completed before the open enrollment deadline. While open enrollment dates are yet to be published, we are coordinating with our West Ranch faculty sponsors on timing and are fairly confident that tryouts will be completed before the open enrollment deadline. We will confirm once these dates are announced.

Coaching – we understand how important coaching is to building the type of program we intend to create at West Ranch. Finding the right coach is probably our most important task. We are demanding a lot

from our coaching staff. There are coaches with the right hockey resumes, but are they dedicated to coaching five or six days per week? There are coaches who have the time, but do they have the experience required to develop Junior and college players? Do they share our commitment to skill, academics, and character? Are they passionate about the WRHC vision and objectives? We have and will continue to interview coaching staff until we have exactly the right fit.

Number/level of team(s) – the number of teams that will compete in the Anaheim Ducks High School Hockey League (ADHSHL) will be the result of the number of players that attend tryouts. As Matt Blanchart, ADHSHL Commissioner explained during the parent meeting, there are three levels of competition – Developmental, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. Skill, not age, determines the level of the team. Schools can have any number of teams at any of these levels. For example, some schools start with a Junior Varsity team, some have two Junior Varsity teams, many have Varsity and JV teams.

Matt Blanchart mentioned that last season JSerra’s Varsity team beat the CAHA 18U AA State champions 5-2 and 6-1 in the two games they played – and remember JSerra’s Varsity team has 15 and 16 year old players on the roster. ADHSHL is elite hockey, and why it is important that every one of us spread the WRHC word so we get the best hockey players in Santa Clarita to our tryouts this spring. We have the opportunity to create a “prep school” hockey experience for our kids’ right here at home.

I was talking to an amateur scout recently and he told me that California is producing a lot of hockey talent, however, many California hockey players struggle to meet the academic standards needed for college scholarships. He is very aware of the ADHSHL and is a fan of it. He said it promotes a “well rounded athlete”, and those are the hockey players that are most successful at the Junior and college levels. Balanced emphasis on skill, academics and character is the foundation of our WRHC mission.

The best way to generate excitement for high school hockey is to experience it for yourself. **WRHC is planning an event in January to watch an ADHSHL Varsity game in Anaheim.** Possible dates are January 17, 24, and 30. We will finalize the date in the next couple of weeks and send out an email with additional information including RSVP for the event. We are planning WRHC events in February and March as well, details will be provided soon.

Please follow WRHC on Twitter ([@westranchockey](https://twitter.com/westranchockey)) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/westranchockey) to get engaged and stay up to date. We will announce our website in the coming weeks.

If you have other email addresses you would like added to our list, please forward them to Stacey Titter at staceytitter@gmail.com

Happy Holidays and best wishes for an exciting 2015!



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