

SEASON REPORT 2020-2021

BACKGROUND

Since 2017 there has always been some resistance towards the new project and its principals and philosophy but together we have succeeded to push through the negative doubts and rumors and finally can be proud of the success and results made.

Some remarkable achievements which I wish to highlight from the last four years:

- U18 Division 1 Champion (2017-2018)
- Very good co-operation and relationship with Skien Kommune and Fylkes Kommune
- CAN/AM CHALLENGER Cup Champion in Lake Placid, USA (2017-2018)
- Entitled to play for U18 Elite for the first time in Skien Hockey history (2018-2019)
- Increased the amount of athletes from 18 players (2017) to 72 players (2020) in four years
- 14 national team players (NOR, SVK, AUT, HUN, GBR, LAT, SPA)
- 2 players attended World Championships and won U20 Gold Medal (Garcia, Schmid)
- Entitled to play for U21 Elite for the first time in the Norwegian hockey history (2019-2020)
- ECEL participation in Boston, USA as the first and only European organization (2019-2020)
- Historical results for U18 & U21 Elite teams to achieve Play Off positions (2019-2020)
- 75 new applicants who showed interest to start in NHA/ Skien Hockey for (2020-2021)
- Successful co-operation with Club teams and NHA (U15- senior team- SFO- summer training- summer & development camps)

These results make Skien hockey Club a more professional, serious, attractive and ambitious organization for all the members, local community as well as to new players and families that wish to start in the program. Skien Hockey Club is finally there where all the hard work for many years has led us to, a Club where hockey player can play hockey for fun- learn the great game of hockey with dedicated and educated coaches and instructors- complete high school studies in combination with Elite hockey - stay in Grenland/Telemark for University studies and/or work and play for our senior teams both in Elite level and for recreational fun.

Alone the amount of international players, media interest and even clicks on the Eliteprospects.com profile shows the enormous interest and respect the program is enjoying.

*"Skien U21 had 1,137 page views in August 2020 (22.3.2021: 8500) .
Skien U18 had only 31 page views in August, 2017 (22.3.2021: 10 000).*

Cheers,

*Eliteprospects **JOHAN NILSSON** Founder / Business Manager"*

U21 ELITE

Team had 16 + 5 players in the roster this season.

1 x 2000
11 x 2001
9 x 2002

3/21 local Skien players
7/21 BTV krets players
12/21 norwegian players
9/21 international players

SIHK/NHA had its first U21 elite team ever in season 2019-2020 and ended up in top 8 ranking and qualified for Norwegian NM play offs that were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid 19.

SIHK/NHA players Eetu Rasalahti and Jere Väisänen were top 3 scorers in the U21 league in Norway in season 2019-2020.

Paul Schmid represented Austrian U20 national team in the World Championships as their assistant captain and won Gold and became World Champion in January 2020.

Jere Väisänen (two years in the NHA) and Paul Schmid (3 years in the NHA) both got drafted to the North American Hockey League NAHL in April 2020.

Jere Väisänen and Paul Schmid are playing very well for their current team Amarillo Bulls in the NAHL and Jere has already committed himself to the NCAA D1 College league for the season 2021-2022.

SIHK/NHA started their second season in the U21 elite league in their history and started well by playing tight games and competitive hockey all the way until Covid-19 stopped the league.

All 2000- 2001 and 2002 born players in SIHK/NHA has graduated from their high schools with good marks which is one of the main priorities for the program.

Very little players have left or quit the program since 2000-2001 age group started in the Academy in August 2017.

One player left to Canada to play ice hockey, one left to another Norwegian U21 elite program, one player quit and 5 players played their high school VG 3 year to its end and then started working life and/or university studies.

Overall a fantastic appearance and success in the Norwegian U21 Elite hockey as a new program.

SIHK/NHA is the only club and organization that has qualified to play U21 elite hockey that dont have a senior team in the highest division.

Team has had two players attending to the world championships (Emilio Garcia U20 Spain- Paul Schmid U20 Austria) and Marian Haborak represented Slovakian U16-U18 national teams in seasons 2017-2019 and Raphael Nemeth was called into Austrian U19 national team camp in 2019 and Håkon Bråthen represented Norway U16 in season 2017-2018.

U21 elite team trains between 10-12 sessions a week including on and off ice training and school / morning hours + 2-3 games a week.

Furthest traveling student in the team comes from Montpellier, France :D

U18 ELITE

Team had 21 + 5 players in the roster this season.

15 x 2003

10 x 2004

1 x 2005

3/25 local Skien players

11/25 norwegian players

15/25 international players

Most of the 2003 born players qualified to the U18 Elite Norwegian NM play offs in season 2019-2020 but were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid 19.

For season 2020-2021 U18 elite has most national team players than ever before, representing countries as (AUT, SVK, LAT, GBR, NOR).

U18 elite team is a unique team due to its variety of nationalities. Its the only team and program in the country with such variety and cultural differences in the group that truly increses the everyday working quality and mindset.

U18 elite team trains between 10-12 sessions a week including on and off ice training and school / morning hours + 1-2 games a week.

More than 15 players have joined U21 trainings and games as well as played games for U18 division level if needed and seen beneficial.

This is a unique opportunity SIHK/ NHA has compared to any other club/ organization in Norway.

The furthest traveling student in the team comes from Kirkenes, Norway. :D

U18 DIVISION

Team had 20 + 4 players in the roster this season.

12 x 2004

9 x 2005

1 x 2006

2 x 2007 (local hospitants)

7/24 local Skien players

9/24 BTV krets players

19/24 norwegian players

5/24 international players

SIHK/NHA has had a U18 division team in season 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.

We see a tremendous benefit with the division team for 15-17 year old players to compete in different levels according to their individual needs and development speed.

Division team has had same amount of training than U21 and U18 elite and therefore is following the same development path and philosophy like an elite team.

Over 10 players have joined U18 elite trainings and league games and even some U21 trainings and games this year.

U18 division team trains between 10-12 sessions a week including on and off ice training and school / morning hours + 1-2 games a week.

Player movement is a large part of the development philosophy SIHK/NHA is standing for and the results are clear to see.

One player moved all the way from Washington DC, USA to Skien with his family this season which is by far the furthest traveler ever to our hockey program :D