

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Ken Murchison

Anaheim Hockey Club

www.anaheimhockeyclub.com

June, 2007

ANAHEIM HOCKEY CLUB HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Top schools from across the country compete in AAU High School Nationals

(Anaheim) – Champion interscholastic roller hockey teams from across the country gathered over the Memorial Day weekend at the Anaheim Hockey Club in Anaheim, CA to compete for national recognition in the prestigious Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) High School Nationals. Following rigorous tournament play to qualify within their respective states, sixteen teams in the Varsity division, eight Junior Varsity, and four Middle Schools paid their way to play for the trophy against the toughest teams in the country and proudly, although in many cases unofficially, represent their schools.

They came. They saw. Would they Conquer?

Representative state champions and top-ranked teams competing for coveted varsity trophies included: Arizona's Gilbert HS, Prescott HS and Sunrise Mountain HS; California by defending high school champ Marina HS and IHF runner up Santiago along with top-ranked teams from Esperanza HS, Los Alamitos HS, Pioneer HS, and Villa Park HS; Colorado's Douglas County HS (Varsity 5A), Arvada West HS (Varsity 4A) and teams from Highlands Ranch and Broomfield; Florida champions Monarch HS and Columbus HS; Michigan champion Howell HS, and Pennsylvania State champions Baldwin Highlanders.

As expected, the varsity division took the spotlight as teams vied for championship bragging rights and even scholarship monies as some seniors look forward to their next school year playing collegiate roller or ice hockey. Defending 2006 AAU Varsity champs, Marina High School of Huntington Beach, hot off of their three-time wins in Southern California's IHF high school championship earlier in the month were the favorites coming in. But there were the grueling round-robin games ahead for seeding order and tier placements and the competition would be stiff.

The varsity division was set up with 4 pools of 4 teams each to begin round-robin games. Once pool play was over, teams would be seeded into tiers (brackets). Winners from pool play and the top two teams would make up Tier 1. Similarly, second place finishers and the top two remaining teams Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the 4 teams that finish 3rd in pool games.

At the top of their A game, Marina HS cruised thru their pool scoring 26 goals and allowing only one to finish undefeated and secure the number one seed. Monarch HS of Palm Beach, FL scored 24 goals and allowed only three as they breezed to the second seed and chasing close behind was Santiago HS scoring 19 goals and allowing five to also finish undefeated in securing the third seed. Rounding out Tier 1 would be California's Villa Park HS and Esperanza HS as fourth and fifth respectively, and Douglas County HS from Colorado in the sixth slot.

As top seeds Marina and Monarch received first round byes, the pack took to the rinks for playoff berths. Santiago faced Douglas County in a rough game with Santiago coming out on top in a come from behind victory while Villa Park faced Esperanza. Esperanza had Villa Park down by one at the end of their match until a near full-rink slap shot with only 4 seconds left deflected into Esperanza's net to tie the game. Villa Park went on to win in a shoot out and would join Santiago with the top seeds entering into the semifinal round.

The semifinals matched Marina with Villa Park only to see the top seed handily win this match. While skating in the other match up were Monarch and Santiago. Monarch, the bigger, stronger and faster met their match with the talented Santiago. Skating without their prime goalie Darrell Newsome, stand-in goalkeeper, Ryan Meyer, held off the Monarch attack as Santiago's high power offense jumped out to an early lead and never looked back.

The consolation game matched up Villa Park with Monarch. Each team put their best to the rink in a hard fought battle for third place with California's Villa Park eventually taking the trip to the podium.

The Final - A Classic Rematch

Having met only two weeks before in the IHF high school championships, these two teams came to the rink ready to play and ready to pay the price to take home the trophy in their re-match. Marina, the defending AAU national champions, had given up only one goal coming into this match while Santiago was still flying high from their win over Monarch. And now was the opportunity to mix it up again with Marina.

Absent from earlier games, goalie Darrell Newsome made his way back to join his Santiago teammates just minutes before the drop of the puck. With the re-match on, Santiago's Joey Doran successfully tested Marina keeper, Matt Case, and opened the scoring early in the first period only to see Marina's Kenny Gibo come back late in the period to tie the game.

A fast-paced, back and forth second period saw Marina take the lead at the half way mark with a goal by Jonathan Gibo. A go-ahead goal by Sam Robinson was called back as officials ruled that a Marina player was in the crease. But Santiago kept pumping shots at Marina's Case, and with only minutes remaining, Santiago's Michael Logan found the back of the net to tie the game in regulation at 2 goals each.

While a shoot-out was in order for the tie-breaker, officials opted for an 18 minute overtime period to decide the outcome. From the drop of the puck, a back and forth, see-saw game ensued as both teams rushed and battled up and down the rink. It was nearly half-way through overtime when Santiago's Taylor Kane drew a roughing penalty giving Marina the one man advantage. While on the power play, Marina turned over the puck to Santiago's fast-breaking Joey Doran who skated the open rink to shoot and score short-handed giving Santiago the upset victory over Marina and a much-deserved trip to the podium.

Following three days of grinding roller hockey competition and, in some cases traversing thousands of miles, 26 teams and over 200 student athletes from eight states traveled to Anaheim to play their best against the best. With pride in their accomplishments over a grueling climb to the pinnacle of championship level play, every individual player and each team returns home just as they arrived – a champion.

Tournament Results:

See chart below of results by scholastic division and team and by home city and state.

Division	Team	Finish	City	State
Varsity Tier 1				
	Santiago HS	1	Corona	CA
	Marina HS	2	Huntington Beach	CA
	Villa Park HS	3	Villa Park	CA
	Monarch HS	4	Palm Beach	FL
	Esperanza HS	5	Anaheim	CA
	Douglas County HS Gold	6	Castle Rock	CO
Varsity Tier 2				
	Los Alamitos HS	1	Los Alamitos	CA
	Howell HS	2	Howell	MI
	Pioneer HS	3	San Jose	CA
	Broomfield HS	4	Broomfield	CO
	Arvada West HS	5	Arvada	CO
	Douglas County HS Silver	6	Castle Rock	CO
Varsity Tier 3				
	Baldwin HS	1	Pittsburgh	PA
	Prescott HS	2	Prescott	AZ
	Columbus HS	3	Westchester	FL
	Gilbert HS	4	Gilbert	AZ
Junior Varsity				
	Sunrise Mountain HS	1	Peoria	AZ
	Chaparral HS	2	Parker	CO
	Los Alamitos HS	3	Los Alamitos	CA
	Lewis Palmer HS	4	Monument	CO
	Highlands Ranch HS	5	Highlands Ranch	CO
	Villa Park HS	6	Villa Park	CA
	Loara HS	7	Anaheim	CA
	Mountain Vista HS	8	Highlands Ranch	CO
Middle School				
	Sowers MS	1	Huntington Beach	CA
	Woodlands MS	2	Palm Beach	FL
	Saguaro Ranch MS	3	Glendale	AZ
	Yorba Linda MS	4	Yorba Linda	CA