



The North Kingstown ice hockey team hopes to protect their state championship. The team is currently undefeated after 13 games. Thomas Abbood of Jamestown, back row, third from left, said team chemistry has been key in the team's success.

## North Kingstown hockey squad looking to repeat last year's successes

By Jordan Segal

Last year, the North Kingstown hockey team did something that has never been done in its five year existence: it won its first state championship.

This year, the team continues to skate past the competition after moving from Division-III to Division-II. The team is currently sitting at the top of the standings and is two games ahead of second place Portsmouth High School. The team is 12-0-1 in division play and has been raining terror on its opponents.

The hockey team is coming off back-to-back wins last week, against East Providence and Smithfield, which brings them to two games shy of an undefeated season. They worked almost flawlessly for the win, and if they continue to play at this level, an undefeated season is highly possible.

The Skippers are coached by Keith Higgins. Most people know him as a physical education teacher at NKHS, but he is also one of the reasons the team is having great success this season.

"Coach Higgins is one of the most dedicated coaches I've ever had," said island resident Thomas Abbood. "He comes all the way from East Providence for our 5 a.m. practices and is always trying to make us better players. He works so hard to teach us to sense our weaknesses and fix them to become better players."

Higgins has been a part of the team since its first season in 2002, and has since been made head coach. He coached the team to its first state championship last year and hopes to do it again this season.

The team may have lost some talented players from last year, but this year, talent is something the team does not lack. Abbood, a recent transfer from the Moses Brown School, is one of these additions to the team.

"Tom joined the team and currently is a contributor on defense. They call themselves the D-Squad," Higgins said of Abbood.

Switching schools is always a hard thing to do, but switching a sports team is even harder. Watching Abbood and his teammates, one would guess they have been friends for years, when in reality, they have been friends only a few months.

"I was immediately accepted by everyone on the team," said Abbood, "Everyone was so wel-

coming and treated me as if I was already on the team. Our chemistry off the ice makes us an even better team when it comes time for games."

The chemistry on the team has been amazing, as they outscore opponents by an average of six goals a game.

"I definitely see a repeat in winning the state championship," said Abbood, "This is one of strongest teams I've ever played on, both offensively and defensively."

Only two teams stand in the way of an undefeated season, and those teams are Portsmouth and Saint Raphael. The team was scheduled to play Portsmouth last night, Feb. 13. Results were not available at press time. They will face St. Raphael's this Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bradford Boss Ice Arena on the University of Rhode Island Kingston campus.

The team will continue to fight for a spot in the D-II State Championship and will vie for another state title.



### High School Happenings

By Erin Brennan

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Speaking of sports, there is an important informational meeting for all students interested in playing baseball for the 2008 season at the NKHS cafeteria on Monday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. For questions or concerns, email Coach Kevin Gormley at kevin\_gormley@nksd.net. Parents are requested to attend this meeting with their athlete.

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There is no school this Friday at the high school due to a professional development day, which means an extra day of vacation!

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Keep your high school memories alive, and purchase a yearbook. Go to room 304 to pickup an order form. There are about a hundred yearbooks left, but they go fast so get one while you can!

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Want to read more about high school events, or read more writings by high school students? You can subscribe to the Current Wave, the high school paper, by emailing Ms. Martin at elizabeth\_martin@nksd.net.

The new graduation by proficiency standards could have been daunting for some, but senior Molly Welsh took the demands in stride. All seniors were required to write a 10-page paper, and then create a project that relates to the paper in some way. The project, due in late spring, should be a compilation of research and findings. Molly wrote her paper about marine debris, and the impact it can have on the bay and coastline. Molly is giving back to the community, and for her project, she is organizing a beach clean-up. She isn't only helping to raise awareness about this important issue, but is helping to make our community a better place. Molly will be looking for volunteers for the event when the weather gets warmer, so stay tuned for more updates.

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Seniors: Get you cap and gown order forms into Mr. Doran ASAP, or suffer the penalty of a late fee.

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Want to support your high school athletes? Attend the Booster Club's evening of Champions at the Quonset O' Club in North Kingstown on Saturday, March 29.

The proceeds benefit the Skippers for uniforms, equipment, etc. Tickets are \$35 and the Booster Club is also looking for donated raffle items. To get more information or to purchase tickets, call Vinny Siatti at 295-2884.

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