

sports & outdoors

Skaters make fundraising waves

By CHRIS EDMONDS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They have sold cookies and bulbs and now they are auctioning off tables, sort of. In an on-going effort to fundraise creatively, the Island Waves — Nantucket's synchronized skating team — will host a fundraiser Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 and 10 at Preservation Institute, complete with silent auction for tables designed by designers, business people and restaurants.

Members of the community have volunteered to design tables, be they for the holidays, birthdays or other special events, which the public will have the opportunity to bid on during the two-day fundraiser. Winning bidders will have the table designs boxed and sent to their homes.

"We've done a lot of fundraising, but we're trying to think of different kinds of fundraising events," said Amy Wiggin, one of the coordinators of the event.

Friday's reception launches what the Waves hope will be a fruitful weekend. Tickets for Friday are \$50 and come with a private showing of the tables, drinks, food, raffle and viewing of a video of the Waves competing. Saturday's tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors, and entitle buyers to see the tables and the competition video.

Nantucket Golf Club Foundation has set forth a matching challenge grant. If the Waves can raise \$10,000 at the Preservation Institute event, the foundation will donate the same

amount to the team.

"We're excited about it," said Carolyn Thayer of the club's matching offer. "We're happy to meet the goal because it will make a huge difference."

Thus far, the response has been positive, said Thayer. A variety of island businesses have elected to sponsor tables. Among the many entries, Holly McGowan of Coastal Design and Cheryl Emery of Nantucket Sewing and Design have teamed for a table, with wedding planner Christina Boling and salon owner Darya Afshari also donating their time and efforts.

"A lot of people are curious about it," Thayer said. "It's a commitment for someone to take on a table. There's the expense, and it's time-consuming, but the people who get it are really into it."

Just as the Waves skaters themselves are really into their sport. The Waves won their division in their very first competition in December 2005, for which the team pushed through a snowstorm on the Cape, with just 10 skaters. Now, nearly two years later, the Waves have three separate teams, with the top team planning a trip in January to a competition in Virginia.

The Nov. 9 and 10 fundraiser, like previous efforts by the Waves, will be used to offset the numerous expenses of training and competition, from purchasing ice time to plane and ferry tickets to competition costumes.

"It's a way to defray the cost," said Thayer. "Some people have a tough time meeting the expenses, especially people with more than one child in the program."



The Independent file

The Island Waves won gold medals this season and last season at synchronized skating competitions in Bourne and Connecticut.

Waves skate in the house, beginner or pre-juvenile teams. Advancement through system depends on a skater's individual ability, which coaches Kristin DeFrancisci and Belinda Yancy refine in individual practice sessions, a requirement for all Waves skaters.

"The difference from being on one team to the next is how far a skater has moved along in her Moves in the Field testing," said Thayer, whose daughter Lizzie is a member of the Waves. "You have to reach a certain level to be on a particular team, and that requires individual coaching, which is expensive."

The pre-juvenile team, the Waves'

most advanced group, will travel to the Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional in Richmond, Va. in January. The team skated in last year's Easterns when they were held in Providence.

"It's exciting because we wouldn't even have considered such a trip before, but the girls have come so far so fast," said Thayer. ■

For tickets or information, call (508) 654-5617 or Nantucket Ice at 228-2516. Tickets are available for purchase at the rink and at the door Friday, Nov. 9. Advance purchase is encouraged.

Middle school soccer finishes season strong

By LINDA WILLIAMS
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Both CPS middle school soccer teams had strong outings this fall. Comprised of seventh and eighth graders, the girls and boys squads posted winning records that rivaled any other school fall sports team this season. The CPS girls finished up the season with a 6-2-1 record. The squad traveled first last Tuesday to face off against Mattacheese, a team that had proven to be one of the toughest opponents for Nantucket, other than Barnstable, which accounted for the only losses of the season. There was a little bit of everything in what turned out to be the most exciting game of the season. After a first half that saw back and forth action, give and goes and several shots on both goals, neither team was able to score and went into the break knotted at 0-0. Nantucket keeper Kate Freed racked up seven saves against Mattacheese's keeper's nine.

Mattacheese jumped on the board first, about five minutes into the second half, off a corner kick. Nantucket answered back ten minutes later off a picture perfect give and go from Alexa Crosby to Cara Garufi back to Crosby and into the net to even the match. Both teams stepped up their attacks trying to break the tie. The game finally ended deadlocked at 1-1. Keeper Freed added ten more saves for a season high total of seventeen with Nantucket firing off another twelve quality shots on

Mattacheese. The strong defense of Blair Congdon, Kylie Maguire, Kyra White and Maddie Malenfant were a key factor in keeping Mattacheese out of the net.

In the last game of the season, the girls hosted Lighthouse Charter School on Wednesday for their second match up. Crosby netted the first goal for Nantucket within three minutes of the opening kick on an assist from Venecia Ferginson, with a shot the keeper could not hang on to. Back and forth play continued until a minute before the end of the first half when Kali Sherburne crossed the ball to Crosby who volleyed the shot into the net. Due to the strong Nantucket defense of Congdon, Maguire, White and Alexa Dragon, keeper Freed saw no action and had time to read a book in the first half. Nantucket, on the other hand, had thirteen shots on goal and dominated the action and possession.

Nantucket again rammed one home within the first three minutes of the second half when Ruby Fee passed the ball to Sabrina Dawson who netted a left footer into the net for Nantucket's final goal and a decisive 3-0 win to end the season with a record of 6-2-1.

The CPS boys took two last week to improve to a record of 6-1-1. First up was a match against Mattacheese away last Monday in which Nantucket tallied another in the win column 4-2. On Wednesday, the boys hosted the Lighthouse Charter School. Conrad Troast scored his second

goal of the season off a text book cross from Ocean Kane, to put Nantucket up. Keeper Christian Lombardi had time for a pizza in the first half as he never touched the ball but made a great save seconds before the break off a corner to preserve the slim lead. After the half, the defensive trio of Nick Larrabee, Caleb Gome and Josue Figueroa continued to smother all attacks. Anchor Gomes, who was playing up around the opponent's 30, scored the insurance goal after being fed a back-pass from Figueroa, by one touching it over the head of the entire defense line and the keeper.

"Even though we had trouble putting the ball in the net the quality of play overall was quite good, with attractive passing, ball possession and good supporting movement off the ball," commented Coach Matt Parker. The offense had to thank the defense for this one. "The defense was solid and did a great job protecting our lead and shutting down any real threats." Parker was upbeat about the level of play. "The midfield won most of it's tackles, showed patience on the ball, distributed the ball nicely down the flanks and had some good penetrating runs. When we play well it's a pleasure to watch."

With one more game left on the season, Parker was looking ahead. "It's been a great season and I look forward to seeing this team continue it's success and improvement in the NSSA Spring Travel program and in high school in the years to come." ■