

# **Coach Stanbro Named Girls Varsity Coach of the Year by Star Ledger**

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

**The 2008-2009 Hockey** season has been an exciting year for the Girls Summit High school. After many years in the making they were awarded Varsity status. In addition to having a new found team spirit, they also benefited from the direction of the new coach Matt Stanbro. Matt comes to the program as a teacher at Brayton School and brings many years of playing experience and passion for the game of hockey. Because of the infancy of girls' varsity hockey in the state, there are limited public schools with programs, leaving established private school programs as the bulk of competition. Coach Stanbro's enthusiasm and experience were instrumental to igniting the girls' competitive spirit and stabilizing the group to forge a competitive 4-8 first year record. Notable was beating Pingry twice in one season for the first time ever. Coach Stanbro has been recognized as coach of the year by the Star Ledger. In a quote to the Star Ledger, coach Stanbro sums up: "I love hockey and I love the girls. I'll be back next year. My goal is to bring Summit up to the level of the other teams in the state."

The girls Hockey program would not be where it is today if it were not for the parental support, the Summit Hockey Association, the Summit Boosters and vision of Athletic Director, Mike Sandor. The varsity-jv hockey programs are partially funded by the school board, with the balance raised through the fundraising efforts of the Summit Hockey Association, donations by from the Booster Association and player tuition. We would like to especially thank Mike Sandor in recognizing the importance of launching a pioneer program for the girls. While the hockey program has operated for the last five years for the girls on a club level, moving to a school recognized varsity program has motivated the players, and should inspire more girls in the future to pursue ice hockey. We all look forward to more successful years ahead!

The 2009 varsity girls' players are:

**Seniors** - Maggie Groves, Gina Stelluto, Katie Gramigna, Kristen Toffey

**Juniors** - Jenny Caputo, Erica Hartwyk, Emma Lucaci, Clare O'Malley, Torie Round

**Sophomore** - Molly Groves

**Freshman** - Grace Berkery, Katie Birle, Laura Groves, Torie Weeks