

# Estacada youth is realizing a long-time goal

by SHANNON KELLEY  
For the Post

It's a long drive from Estacada to Portland, and so it takes a lot of time, as well as work and dedication, for an Estacada farm boy to play for the Portland Winter Hawks.

But Scott Shaw, a rookie Hawk player, has finally realized his goal.

Since the 17-year-old joined the Hawks, the club has accumulated a 25-10 record, and is currently rated number one in the Western Hockey League.

Shaw began skating the rinks at eight, and immediately was hooked.

So he joined his first team, in the Pee Wee "A" division of the Portland Amateur Hockey Association.

Things went well that first year, with the team he was on finishing fifth in the national tournament, which was held at Memorial Coliseum.

He liked the fast pace and contact, he said. From then on he knew he wanted to be a Winter Hawk.

"It's something I've been working towards," he said recently, "and I'm finally here."

"All the other teams I played on was just working towards the Winter Hawks."

Although the travel to Jantzen Beach (40 miles each way), and the cost of equipment, have caused his parents some inconvenience, "we backed him 100 percent," said Ray Shaw, Scott's father.

Joan Shaw, his mother, agreed. "Hockey is definitely something parents have to participate in," she said.

"We all live, eat and breathe hockey."

Both parents feel the time and trouble has been well worth it. "It taught him discipline and kept him out of trouble," said Ray. "We've never had any trouble with him."

The rewards came when Hawks Coach Ken Hodge noticed Shaw's abilities on the Bantam A team in the PAHA, which is for players age 13 to 14.

He then joined the Midget team a year early, as a 14-year-old.

The next year he participated in a two-week training camp at the Forts of Saskatchewan, where he was one of 20 to make the Traders. The Forts of Saskatchewan Traders are just a step below the Winter Hawks, and it was a good experience for him.

He played for the team, and lived at Forts of Saskatchewan, for about seven months.

One thing he learned about was winning as his team placed third against national competition in Detroit.

"He realized what he had when he came home," said Joan. "It gave him a much broader view about how people live."

And, Hodge was impressed with Shaw's ability.

"Scotty led the team in defense last year in points," he said.

Stepping up to the Winter Hawks has been a big change for Shaw. His

schedule consists of practice in the morning, school in the afternoon, and if there are no games at night, he has work to do on the 21-acre Estacada farm, or homework.

When he can find the spare time, he likes to hunt, fish and ride motorcycles.

"There's a lot of discipline and sacrificing," said Shaw, "but it's worth it. Everything revolves around the Winter Hawks."

The people, and players, that he works with are different, too.

"The people are really nice. They're involved and they take better care of you," he said.

"Everyone on the team gets along fairly well, and that's what a team needs to have to win—togetherness."

Hodge agrees, and added, "Scotty is one of the most popular players. Everyone loves him."

The game itself is faster at this level, and there's more floor checking, Hodge said.

And although Shaw hasn't seen as much action as Hodge would like, "Scotty is very competitive on the defensive aspect and a strong, aggressive player," he said.

"We just try to give the player time to handle it." And what is in the future for the 17-year-old Shaw?

The Winter Hawks, the Winter Hawks and the Winter Hawks.

At least until he reaches the age of 20.

After that Shaw hopes to play on a professional team, which is a definite possibility, according to Hodge.

"He has the capability and the confidence to play professionally," said Hodge.

When and if that happens, Shaw and his parents won't have to worry about expenses, or that long drive from Estacada to Portland.



Scott Shaw of the Winter Hawks in action.

Photos courtesy of Portland Winter Hawks

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Scott Shaw

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## Pioneer awards banquet Jan. 27

The Sandy Union High School booster club will be sponsoring its annual Scholar-Athlete Award banquet Jan. 27.

The featured speaker will be Bill Johnson, KXL sportscaster and voice of the Ducks.

Ticket prices have not yet been determined. When the ticket prices are set, which will be next week, tickets can be purchased at the principal's office at the high school.

## THE NEW IRA



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