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Kenmore West students
Laura Pavone (left) and
Ashley Bennett hope
Women's Olympic hockey
can be a spark that lights the
fire locally. (WBEN
Photo/Barbara Burns)

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Local Hockey Players Inspired by US Women's Team

As the US Women's ice hockey team goes for gold in Vancouver against Canada, some local girls will be watching, local girls who have ice dreams of their own.

There's no doubt Ashley Bennett and Laura Pavone will be watching.

The Kenmore West senior and sophomore both play ice hockey including exhibition games against other schools. Bennett says the US Women's Olympic team has been an inspiration. "It's great to see other girls out there, doing what they want to do and doing what they love and not being repressed for it."

Its been a long, drawn out battle to bring girls ice hockey to many local high schools. But Bennett and Pavone are hoping league play will begin by the next school year. Bennett will be off to college at Buff State where she plans to try out for the women's team but she is thrilled to have been part of the effort.

Pavone still has two years to play high school ice hockey. She says its hard to describe how much she loves hockey. "The thrill everytime on the ice, going into the locker room, skating up, getting dressed...the thrill just excites me for hockey."

Both girls believe it will be a tough game but they believe the women will bring home the gold for the US.