



## FROM PRESIDENT LINDA MATESEVAC

Hockey season is here! Your FOPSMH officers, board, and local members are planning to make the 2015-2016 season a memorable one for both fans and the team. What an exciting beginning it has been, with an exhibition victory over Windsor, followed by a win at Canisius. The team split its series with Notre Dame and swept AIC. The freshmen have quickly proven themselves, and the veterans continue to showcase their skills and experience.

Our members began selling 50-50 tickets at the exhibition game and we are attempting to increase our volunteer base to give more members the opportunity to interact with fans on the Pegula concourse. We used our 50-50 earnings from last season, along with membership dues, to purchase a 6-passenger customized golf

cart for the hockey staff; the cart was displayed at Pegula on October 30<sup>th</sup> during the St. Lawrence game. Later this year, we will conduct large raffles to raise funds as well.

The FOPSMH mission is to provide financial support for our student athletes while encouraging fan enthusiasm and involvement. We obtained discount tickets for members for the November game against Vermont in Philadelphia. We also worked with the men's basketball Hoops Club to charter a bus to the Madison Square Garden Michigan doubleheader in late January; these games are considered PSU "home" games and we need to have a big crowd in attendance. Join us!

Encourage your friends and other season hockey ticket holders to join

the FOPSMH. Please visit our website, Facebook page, and Twitter to keep abreast of our activities and see photos of our events. The annual team banquet will be held Saturday, February 20, 2016 following the Ohio State game; we hope you will be able to attend and share a very special evening with the team, coaches, and FOPSMH. In the meantime, please stop by our table at all home games and introduce yourself. On behalf of the officers and board, we appreciate all your support.



## OFF THE ICE

Ever wonder how the FOPSMH uses the money collected from membership dues and the 50-50 raffle? If you were at the October 30<sup>th</sup> game vs. St. Lawrence, you saw a brand new 6-passenger golf cart decked out with Penn State graphics on display, purchased by the FOPSMH with some of these funds.

The Penn State coaching staff indicated this past January that they needed a golf cart for campus tours for recruits



and their families, promotions, summer hockey camps, and conducting business. We began the 50-50 raffle at that time, and thanks to the generosity of

our fans, we were able to make the purchase.

A four-member committee contacted suppliers, and researched cart makes and models. We chose the Club Car brand and selected Jake's Golf Carts in McVeytown, PA as the supplier/builder. Our coaches provided input, and the staff at Jake's helped us choose the right model and options. The cart was delivered to Coach Gadowsky, coaches, and staff on October 28th.

**Cart Description:** 2016 Club Car, six-passenger electric cart. We chose the electric model over a gas-powered model to reflect the Pegula 'green' environment theme. The cart is equipped with safety features for traveling the various roads and areas of campus. A notable feature is the lighted photo on the back of the cart; presently, that photo shows the hockey team singing the alma mater in front of the Roar Zone.

Thanks again to all of you who have supported the Penn State men's hockey program!

## ASK COACH GADOWSKY

**Question:** *What rule changes have been enacted for this upcoming season?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** There's one important change, and Penn State had a major impact on it. They have loosened the standards for goalie contact OUTSIDE of the crease. Last year, Dylan Richard had a goal disallowed against Holy Cross because of such contact. NBC Sports showed the replay many times. That type of goal will now be allowed.

There still is emphasis on not allowing hits on a player in a vulnerable position. If it looks bad, it will be called. It's tough sometimes because the game is so fast. We show examples to our players, especially the new ones, on video, and hope they catch on.

**Question:** *You previously coached at Alaska-Fairbanks, a school that didn't have much of a hockey history. Have you noticed any similarities between your experiences there, and the situations you have encountered here in transitioning to Division I hockey?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** Absolutely. In Fairbanks, although they had not had much success, they had phenomenal support. The community was hungry for hockey and got behind the team; they were a huge part of the success that we achieved. I didn't know what to expect when I came here, but what happened in Fairbanks is exactly what happened here. The student body, the community, they all came together, and that's why we have progressed so well.

**Question:** *Do recruits usually visit campus and go to a game at Pegula Arena before they enroll?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** Several do, but a lot more visit during the week. That's because about 90% of the college hockey players come from junior leagues. These leagues now have games on weekends; there's also a lot more pressure on coaches there to win. It's a lot more difficult to get a player to miss some games, or to get a coach to give his consent for such a trip. But all recruits certainly have heard about what it's like in Pegula.

**Question:** *You have a number of players from Pennsylvania and bordering states – is this by design, and is it easier to recruit such players because of their familiarity with Penn State?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** A little of both. The top players look at success first. So the better we do, the easier recruiting is. This is true for players from North America and also Europe. Right now I think we have the most Pennsylvania players of any D-I team. As the program gets better, we expect to get the best players from both inside AND outside of Pennsylvania.

**Question:** *You've already played freshmen in a number of key situations – is this how you usually try to get them game experience?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** It's a numbers game. Between graduation, injuries, and illnesses, we've had no choice but to play the newer guys in a number of key situations. Ordinarily, we would have protected them more. To give you an idea of the problem, we've had four healthy forward lines



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for only 1 minute and 12 seconds in our first three games. So we've been forced to play them more than we'd initially planned.

**Question:** *Wisconsin and Minnesota play on wider "Olympic-size" rinks. How do you practice at Pegula Ice Arena when you are about to go play on a larger rink, and do you wait until the week before you play these teams?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** We don't practice differently at any time for these rinks. The dots are still the same distance apart as in NHL-size rinks, the width difference comes from the dots to the boards. I think it's a mistake to change the way you play. So we don't even talk about it. I've coached and played on teams that had to play on the larger surfaces – look, hockey is hockey, if you focus too much on these things, you end up playing slower. Oh, and Wisconsin's ice is only 96 feet wide. Minnesota's is 100 feet wide, though sometimes it looks like 108 feet wide (chuckle).

## FUN FACT

Penn State has more players from Pennsylvania than any Division I team (7), followed by Ferris State (4), defending national champion Providence (3), and UMass Lowell (3).

## ASK THE LIONS

**Question:** Which (opposing) Big Ten arena do you most enjoy playing in?

**Matthew Skoff:** Michigan's Yost Arena. The fans are good, they really get into the game. Their team is always good, and so we've had some really competitive games there.

**Connor Varley:** Minnesota. It feels like everything is hockey there. I really like skating on the Olympic-size rink.

**Eamon McAdam:** Michigan. It's loud, really fun to play in. The fans are right on top of you, they try to get in your head. It's a good rivalry.

**Question:** What have you worked on most during the off-season to improve your game?

**David Glen:** I worked on my strength, and especially goal scoring. I practiced a number of shooting techniques.

**Eamon McAdam:** I stayed at home, and worked on a number of goalie-specific items with my goalie coach. Some college teams have specific goalie coaches, a lot don't. I like not having a specific goalie coach here, because I don't have to get locked in to only one coach.

**Question:** Do you have any routines or rituals that you follow before a game?

**David Goodwin:** First, I get a large spaghetti and meatballs with spicy marinara from Noodle's & Company. Then, for a 7:00 game, I arrive at the rink at 4:50, I get the same athletic trainer to tape me, stretch the same way, tape my sticks, and then play soccer with some of the guys. But the spaghetti and meatballs, that's the big one.

**David Thompson:** I have to get dressed the same way before each game, left to right. That means shin pads, skates, elbow pads, everything – first the left, then the right. I've done this since I first started playing hockey.

**Alec Marsh:** I listen to the same playlist before each game. And after the team stretches, I always do the same individual warm-ups.

**Question:** Which guys are best at keeping the locker room loose?

**David Glen:** (immediately) Tommy.

**Eamon McAdam:** Oh yeah, Tommy. He keeps things loose every day.

**Erik Autio:** Olczyk. He's a funny guy. He makes us all laugh every day.

**Alec Marsh:** Tommy Olczyk. He's got a good attitude, shows up relaxed every day, and he knows how to keep everyone under control.

**Question:** Why did you choose to come to Penn State?

**Kevin Kerr:** I'm from Philadelphia, I grew up a Penn State fan, I attended many football games. In high school I began hearing rumors that Penn State might be going to Division I, my dad told me to set my sights on perhaps playing here. It was awesome when they made the switch, and it's a thrill for me to play for the only Division I team in my home state. The academics and the coaching staff made it a no-brainer. I want to major in either accounting or finance.

**Vince Pedrie:** The academics, the program itself, the facilities, the coaches, the resources. If you can't succeed here, it's your own fault. I'll keep playing hockey until they tear the jersey off of me. But my dad was a coach for 15 years, so I'm majoring in communication arts and sciences and I hope one day to get into that field when I stop playing.

**Chase Berger:** My older brother played for Coach Gadowsky, he loved playing for him and everything about him. So that's the guy I wanted to play for. Plus playing in the Big Ten, and the facilities here. I want to major in finance.

**Question:** What is your favorite P. J. Musico memory?

**Matthew Skoff:** After every win, regardless of who played in goal, we showed our mutual respect. We had a special handshake that represented our commitment to the team and each other.

### OFFICERS — FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY, Inc.

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## BEHIND THE SCENES: DR. MICHAEL CROSS, ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

*Editor's note: Dr. Michael Cross was selected this past summer as the Assistant Athletic Director for New Business Development. He will be the sports administrator for the men's and women's varsity hockey and tennis teams and the rugby club programs. Dr. Cross earned three letters in basketball and graduated from SUNY Buffalo with an economics degree (1991), and also earned a Master's degree there in education (1993). His Doctorate is from the University of Michigan in higher education (1999). He most recently was the very successful Athletic Director at Bradley; before that he held various administrative positions at Assumption College, Michigan, and Princeton.*

**Question:** *Being from Buffalo, did you play hockey either formally or recreationally?*

**Dr. Cross:** Three houses on the street where I grew up had backyard rinks. So yes, I played neighborhood hockey, and street hockey also. But I turned out to be a better basketball player and wound up going that route at the high school and college level.

**Question:** *What did you take out of your athletic experiences at Buffalo?*

**Dr. Cross:** I had the good fortune to be in an environment where academic expectations were high – you had to perform in the classroom. I learned the value of hard work, of doing things that contribute to a great team environment. I learned to play for the name on the front of the jersey and doing things that will make yourself, and the people around you, better.



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**Question:** *How did you get into athletics administration?*

**Dr. Cross:** As a former student athlete, I have always loved being around a team environment and I am a strong believer in the educational value of athletics. When I was looking at graduate schools, Michigan offered me an opportunity to work in the department while I was pursuing my degree. It was an opportunity that was too good to pass up.

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## ))) ON THE AIR (( WITH BRIAN TRIPP



As with any new season, hope and optimism abound as we enter the Penn State Hockey 2015-2016 campaign. Over the last three seasons, we've watched a young program mature and, at times, flourish both on and off the ice. The next step, in year four of Penn State's D-1 venture, will be an on-ice evolution as a new wave of players descend on Hockey Valley.

I know I'll never forget Casey Bailey's 22 goal season, Taylor Holstrom's knack for finding an open man, or P.J. Musico's sprawling save to help beat Michigan on Senior Day last March. However, I'm even more excited about the future for Guy Gadowsky's gritty Nittany Lions. We should see a fast, fan-friendly brand of hockey this season, thanks to a great mix of veterans and young puck-moving freshmen. Players such as Eric Scheid, Curtis Loik, Kenny Brooks, David Glen, Dylan Richard, Tommy Olczyk and David Goodwin will try to enhance their already impressive hockey resumes. Meanwhile, young defensemen Vince Pedrie, Kevin Kerr and Derian Hamilton are exceptional puck movers who will help establish an offensive presence on the the blue line.

As an added plus for fans this year, online audio and video streaming on GoPSUsports.com through GoPSUnow is available at no charge. Whether the team is at home or on the road, you can always keep track of your Nittany Lions with live play-by-play coverage.

Hockey is back! I can't wait to see what's ahead this season. We are ... Penn State.

## MEET THE COACHES

PSU Athletic Communications



*Editor's note: Matt Lindsay (left) and Keith Fisher joined Guy Gadowsky at Penn State after serving on his staff at Princeton. FULL STRENGTH interviewed them in May, 2015. This is the second part of that interview; the first appeared in the Spring 2015 edition of FULL STRENGTH.*

**Question:** Most recruits come out of the several junior hockey leagues in the U.S. and Canada. How do you first become aware of a potential recruit?

**KF:** That's why we watch 250 games a year; we've been evaluating guys since they were 15. We see them at the U.S. Hockey and Hockey Canada development camps, in the various junior leagues, really, any venue where we are likely to spot potential Division I talent. Usually that means scouting them for 3-4 years before offering a scholarship.

**Question:** How has the growth/improvement of the PSU hockey program changed recruiting?

**ML:** A few years ago, elite young players recognized that Penn State WOULD BECOME good, but they didn't know when. Now we are at point where these types of players recognize that Penn State IS good.

**KF:** When Casey Bailey signed, it showed that we can develop talent for the NHL.

**ML:** Many of our current players committed to Penn State before we became D-I; now elite 15 year olds look at us as a top destination. We are a legitimate player in these guys' minds.

**Question:** In what areas does Penn State still lag behind the traditional college hockey powers?

**KF:** We don't have the tradition and history, or any Hobey Baker Award winners, or any championships

**ML:** And we spin it as a positive – be a pioneer. Casey

Bailey will always be Penn State's first NHL player and goal scorer.

**Question:** Now that Casey Bailey is in the NHL, can Penn State maintain its shooting/scoring numbers from last season?

**ML:** Yes.

**KF:** Maybe not remain in top 5 in shots and scoring, but we want to get as many shots on net as possible – shots lead to goals. That philosophy will continue.

**Question:** What are a captain's responsibilities both on and off the ice?

**KF:** He must make sure players are prepared to practice and to play. He is the bridge between coaches and players, he can speak to the coaches about player concerns.

**ML:** He sets the tone, not just at games and workouts, but in terms of off-ice behavior - he's the guy the players look to.

**Question:** How do players become aware that the coach wants to make a line change? Is any practice time devoted to line changes or defensive pair changes?

**ML:** It's a combination of players knowing when they have been on too long, and also recognizing when the game situation allows/doesn't allow for a change – for example, a player won't change if an opponent is coming at him. All of this requires awareness and anticipation.

**KF:** We talk about it all the time.

**Question:** Which opposing Big Ten player gave you the most problems last season?

**KF:** (without hesitating) Mike Reilly (Minnesota) – dangerous every time he touched the puck.

**ML:** Yeah, Mike Reilly, and also Jake Hildebrand (Michigan State goalie).

**Question:** Anticipating the 2015-16 Big Ten season, what opposing teams should we look out for?

**KF:** Wisconsin will be better, Michigan will be very strong, Michigan State with (goalie) Jake Hildebrand can win on any night.

**ML:** Minnesota is the champion, they always have great players; Ohio State had one of best teams in the Conference by end of last season, and their core returns in 2015.

**KF:** (laughing) Did we leave anyone out?

## GAME ACTION

photos by Stephanie Corcino



*Matt Mendelson fights off the Windsor defense.*



*Chase Berger wins this face-off.*



*The Roar Zone welcomes Notre Dame!*



*Kenny Brooks comes in for a landing against the Irish.*



*Sitting in the penalty box has its disadvantages.*



*Coach Gadowsky workin' hard.*

# GAME ACTION

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*Andrew Sturtz lunges for the puck vs. American International.*



*Dylan Richard and Erik Autio challenge American International.*



*Alec Marsh is surrounded by American International defenders.*



*Luke Juha draws a bead on St. Lawrence's goal.*



*Matt Mendelson avoids a St. Lawrence defender.*



*Andrew Sturtz gives new meaning to the term "splitting the defense."*

## BEHIND THE SCENES: DR. MICHAEL CROSS

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**Question:** *Did you work directly with Coach Gadowsky when you were at Princeton?*

**Dr. Cross:** Oh yes. I was there when he was hired. His infectious personality, core values and high standards were immediately evident. It was clear from the beginning that his approach would translate very well into a high achieving academic and athletic environment. The team's style of play was incredibly enjoyable to watch and his success is a reflection of a strong culture, personal and team accountability, and a fun environment.

**Question:** *What are your major responsibilities at Penn State?*

**Dr. Cross:** First of all, I am the sport supervisor for the men's and women's hockey, tennis, and rugby (club) programs. I also am responsible for new business development – I look to identify opportunities to generate revenue that can enhance the student athlete experience at Penn State. We want to be able to provide an exceptional education and competitive athletic environment for all 800 student athletes, and identifying revenue opportunities to support that goal is important.

**Question:** *In your first few months here at Penn State, what has impressed you the most, and what has surprised you the most?*

**Dr. Cross:** I have been tremendously impressed with the comprehensive excellence across the board. The high quality administration, leadership, and great coaches are very noticeable. And we have unbelievable student athletes here who can handle the rigors of a strong academic environment and simultaneously the highest level of competition.

Just as impressive is the very deep passion for Penn State from the community and in particular the alumni. When I got this job, I was amazed at the number of people who came to me with Penn State stories of their own that they wanted to share. There's something almost tangible about their feelings for Penn State. It's easy to be excited about this place.

As good and as special as Penn State is in so many ways, there still are opportunities here for athletics to grow and continue to be excellent for a long time. This is due to the power of the brand and the comprehensive excellence of the University. We need to identify and nurture these opportunities.

**Question:** *In what areas do you see yourself making a difference here?*

**Dr. Cross:** The way for me to make a difference varies from day to day. My job involves leadership, vision, execution, and personal interaction. Ultimately, I will bring flexibility and awareness so that I can help wherever help is needed. No task is too big or too small.

**Question:** *What's the perception of Penn State men's hockey outside of Pennsylvania?*

**Dr. Cross:** We most definitely are on everyone's radar. This awareness started with the transformative gift from Terry and Kim Pegula. And the positive perception of our programs will grow even more as our men's and women's programs move forward competitively. We are a formidable foe. Not a lot of people are excited to see us show up in their building or to come to one of the most difficult places to play in the country in front of the Roar Zone at Pegula Arena.

**Question:** *What message do you want to deliver to the Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey and the community at large?*

**Dr. Cross:** First, we appreciate and need everyone's support, in any of a number of ways. Wear a jersey, attend a game, listen to our radio broadcasts, donate, follow us on social media. We think that what we are doing here is positive, fun, entertaining, and easy to support.

I also want to correct one perception. I think many people believe that since we are "sold out," they can't get a ticket to a game. Well, we did sell out, but for any game people still can attend. We make standing room tickets available the day of the game EVERY GAME. Also, fans should check the TICKETS link on goPSUsports.com because there are always tickets available through Ticketmaster Plus. We want to fill Pegula Arena and utilize every seat. If you want to go, there's always a way! We need your voice, we need your enthusiasm, and we need you in the building in order to have the best chance for success.

### LOOKING FOR THE FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY ON THE WEB?

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