

THE FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY, Inc. NEWSLETTER

**FALL 2018** 

# FROM PRESIDENT LINDA MATESEVAC

What an exciting start to the 2018-2019 hockey season! October seemed to take forever to arrive but once it did, we were off and running—or, rather, skating! The summer was a busy time for your officers and board members but we, too, have been energized by the start of the season.

Coach Gadowksy's radio shows have provided several informative and fun gatherings for club members and I hope that more of you are able to join us for future shows. Our annual social following the game with Michigan on November 17<sup>th</sup> was well attended and enjoyed by all. A special thank you goes to the Special Events Committee for such a lovely evening and to our Penn State Men's Hockey team and coaches for joining us. Your continued support of our 50/50 sales and our basket raffle has been greatly appreciated as we raise funds for a second \$50,000 pledge to our endowed scholarship. We are so pleased that Brandon Biro is, once again, our scholarship recipient.

#### Brandon Biro's "Hat Trick"

For the third consecutive season, forward Brandon Biro is the recipient of the FOPSMH scholarship. Entering the Big Ten season opener vs. Michigan, the junior assistant captain from Sherwood Park, Alberta, had 3 goals, 5 assists, a plus/minus rating of +10 in 9 games, and had taken only 1 minor penalty. He is part of a dynamic line that includes fellow junior Nate Sucese (4 goals, 6 assists) and graduate transfer Ludvig Larsson (3 goals, 3 assists).

The club has several other events on the calendar. Many members are planning to travel to the Wells Fargo Arena in Philadelphia for an encore matchup of Penn State and Princeton on December 15<sup>th</sup> and on January 26<sup>th</sup> the club is sponsoring a bus trip to Madison Square Garden to watch Penn State and Michigan play (we will return to State College immediately following the game). Our two-night, twogame bus trip to South Bend, IN will be from March 1-March

#### IMPORTANT BIG TEN RULES CHANGE

3, 2019; we are looking forward to cheering on our hockey team as it battles Notre Dame. If you are interested, see the notice on page 4 of this newsletter.

Additionally, we shall be holding several watch parties for away games with Big Ten rivals. You will be sent information on the dates, times, and places. Please follow our social media outlets to stay up to date on all meetings and



events. Behind the scenes work continues on many fronts and we invite you to help us sell 50/50 tickets, join some of our committees, or indicate interest in joining the Board of Directors or becoming an officer. The success of the club is dependent on your involvement and support; we want to be responsive to your interests and ideas so feel free to share your input with us. Hopefully, we shall see you at many of our events and, of course, at every game in Pegula.

### We are!



The Nittany Lions warm-up for their opening-round NCAA game versus defending 2017 national champion Denver in Allentown last March.

The rules for determining the winner of a Big Ten ice hockey game that is tied after regulation have changed. Beginning this season, if the game remains tied after the usual 5 minute 5-on-5 sudden-death overtime period, each team will earn 1 point in the Conference standings, and a second 5 minute sudden-death period will be played – but with only 3 skaters per team. If the game is still tied after the second overtime, a "sudden-death" shootout will take place. The team that wins in either the second overtime or the shootout earns another point in the standings.

# ASK COACH GADOWSKY

**Question:** Other than the rules pertaining to overtime, what are the significant changes fans should be aware of for the 2018-2019 season?

Coach Gadowsky: There are 2 rules changes, both of them getting things more in line with NHL rules. First, the rule for changing players is being tightened. Up until this season, referees were somewhat liberal in allowing substitutions if the player exiting the ice was in the vicinity of the bench. Now, the player coming off must be within 5 feet of the bench or it will be a minor penalty. (Editor's note: In the season opener against Clarkson, the Golden Knights were penalized for too many men on the ice midway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, and Sam Sternschein scored the Nittany Lions' first goal of the season to tie the score on the ensuing power play.)

ever played start-to-finish. Did you have any inkling that this would happen due to how the team practiced before those games?

**Coach Gadowsky:** First of all, I agree that this was probably the highest quality hockey we've played, although I know some people think the Big Ten Tournament wins the year before would also qualify. But top to bottom, I think these were our best games. As for our practices before those games, you never really know. I do know that you can't just turn the switch on, so poor practices generally don't lead to victories on the weekend. You do need a good week of practice to be able to win, but just as important is the right mentality when the puck drops.

**Question:** Face-off success so far this season seems improved over last year – is this due to emphasis in practice, or





Coach Gadowsky fires up his guys.

The second rule relates to the action of a player closing his hand on the puck. When this action occurred in the past, the whistle blew, thus stopping play; now, it will be a minor penalty.

**Question:** Many people feel that the final games versus Minnesota last season were among the best the team had

are some players just naturally better at taking face-offs?

**Coach Gadowsky:** Our team actually hasn't been great at face-offs, but one player (Ludvig Larsson) is excellent. So we need to work on this. Hockey is a fast, physically-demanding game, we can't just keep the same guy out



there to always take face-offs. Some players are very good at face-offs due to their quickness, some their strength, and still others by outthinking their opponents. There are some players you don't think will be good at face-offs but are, and vice-versa. In general, I think the most competitive guys are the best.

**Question:** Through the first 4 games, 14 different players have scored 21 goals, 5 players have scored multiple times. In your experience, is this an unusual distribution, and does it impact decisions regarding lineups and ice-time?

**Coach Gadowsky:** I hope that this is due in some part to design, and yes, we've had similar results before, it's not a unique situation but one we strive to attain because it's necessary given the tempo we play. As for lineups and ice-time, we evaluate these things every week. I will say that if opposing teams are designing their plans based on the way we play, then our lineup and scoring distribution will cause them problems.

**Question:** You've spoken about Nikita Pavlychev's competitive nature at any game he plays. Can he beat you at ping-pong?

Coach Gadowsky: (Without hesitation) No!

# ASK THE LIONS

**Question:** Penn State traditionally has been a tight-knit team. Yet with each season, teammates depart and new-comers arrive. What are the challenges that veterans face?

**Brandon Biro:** It can be tough – in many cases guys leave unexpectedly, and you are suddenly without a close teammate. I think a lot of credit goes to Coach Gadowsky, he's fostered a great culture here, and so even when respected, talented guys leave, the core culture always remains, and this fosters the successful integration of newcomers into the team.

**Peyton Jones:** The coaches do a great job recruiting, they recruit good guys. We players concentrate then on getting them acclimated to the system and how we do things.

**Chris Funkey:** I would say there really aren't challenges, because the coaches bring in the right guys, they are high quality, high character players. So, as upperclassmen, it's important to realize that how we act in the locker room has an impact on newcomers. And if you are a newcomer, you see how every guy acts and how well everything works when everyone is part of and contributes to the culture.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The NCAA has established a "transfer portal." Student athletes considering transferring to another school must, through their coach or school administrator, notify the NCAA, which then places their name and contact information on the portal. Coaches at other schools, who have access to the portal, may then contact the student-athlete.

**Question:** Are veteran players asked to help coach, and not just encourage, new players?

**Chase Berger:** Yes, and this is part of the culture here. Coach Gadowsky gives his veterans power to help in many ways, including giving advice. He expects this from us, he trusts the guys on the team and what we're doing, because we've learned that even little things are very important. Also, it's not just captains helping, but everyone on the team, and sometimes that means veterans helping other veterans. I guess you could say Coach Gadowsky gives us the ability to coach ourselves as needed – that's a big part of the culture.

**Question:** As a goalie, what goes through your mind when facing a breakaway? Do you have the time to size up who your opponent is and what his tendencies are?

**Peyton Jones:** No, I just stay in the moment, I read and react, there's no time for anything else.

Chris Funkey: I read and react. I don't memorize opposing players' numbers, I don't want to know what they've done in the past, there's not enough time to process it. Even in practice, where I know the guys, I don't want to be encumbered by all this information to the detriment of my concentration.

**Question:** You and Sam Sternschein are both from Long Island – any connection between the two of you before Penn State?

James Gobetz: Actually quite a bit. I'm from St. James (Suffolk County), he's from Syosset (adjacent Nassau County). As kids we were both with the Long Island Gulls organization, and although we were in different age groups, we knew each other. Then in juniors, we were both drafted by the same team. It wasn't planned, it was just a neat coincidence.

**Question:** How have you adjusted to being on a large campus after playing for three years at Merrimack College?

Ludvig Larsson: Merrimack College has only about three thousand students. I was able to walk all around very easily, so I really had to adjust to the size of Penn State. I bought a bike, and I had to learn all about the bus system. Of course now my time management has become quite important. At Merrimack I could sleep in until 15 minutes before class and still get there in time. Here, I have to leave myself at least an hour. But there's so much to do here, I'm really enjoying being at Penn State.

#### continued on page 5

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

PRESIDENT.	Linda Matesevac (Irmphd@gmail.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Wendy Jo Hartsock
SECRETARY	Jane Whitaker
TREASURER	
PAST PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	John Gilger (gopens68@gmail.com)
SOCIAL CHAIR	Susan Geering
WEBMASTER/SOCIAL MEDIA	Will Rusk
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Joel Sobel (joelsobel@hotmail.com)
ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS	Duane DeArmitt, Mark Toniatti, Mitchell Hutula (Roar Zone)



For me, the start of a new hockey season is always met with anticipation and hope. After all, I am truly a fan at heart. Every time the team takes the ice, I am unquestionably rooting for the Nittany Lions. The players and coaching staff are among the best at their craft. On the

ice, they compete with tenacity, grit and determination, yet they consistently display admirable character and class both on the ice and away from the rink. That's what makes broadcasting games for my alma mater so enjoyable and rewarding, regardless of the result. Happily, there have certainly been more wins than losses the last few seasons!

### "Baltic Bombers"

Transfer Ludvig Larsson is Penn State's first Swedish-born player. He joins Finnish freshmen Aarne Talvitie and Oskar Autio, and Russian mainstays Denis Smirnov and Nikita Pavlychev, to give the Lions a unique northern European flavor.

Once again, The Penn State Sports Network is providing audio coverage for every home and away hockey game this season. Broadcasts can be heard on our regional radio affiliates and online via GoPSUsports.com's LionVision. I am

# )) ON THE AIR WITH BRIAN TRIPP ((

thrilled to be joined by our new analyst, Eric Ohlson, in the booth this year. Eric is an extremely gifted Penn State graduate with a passion for hockey and broadcasting. I know you'll enjoy his commentary. Additionally, "The Penn State

#### As we "went to press"

The Nittany Lions split their first 2 Big Ten series (home to Michigan and at Ohio State), and are ranked 6<sup>th</sup> nationally. Evan Barratt leads the team in goals (10) and points (21), and is tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with Liam Folkes for assists (11) behind Alex Limoges (12). Barratt saw his 11-game point-streak and 7-game goal scoring-streak ended in the second Ohio State game.

Coaches Show Featuring Guy Gadowsky" returns this season on select Tuesdays from Primanti Bros. restaurant in downtown State College. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and hear from Coach Gadowsky and select players in a fun atmosphere. If you have not attended a show in the past, I highly recommend taking advantage of the great access these broadcasts provide. We are so thankful for the great crowds already this season!

It's hard to believe the college hockey season can encompass up to seven months! Each spring as the program bids farewell to another outstanding class of seniors, it always feels as if their careers, let alone a particular season, just began. So, I encourage you to enjoy every moment of this promising new season. I know I already am!

# ROAD TRIP!!!!! THERE'LL BE NO LUCK FOR THE IRISH!!!!!

The Penn State men's hockey team will play at Notre Dame on Friday, March 1, 2019, and Saturday, March 2, 2019; the Irish are the defending Big Ten champions and national runners-up. The Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey (FOPSMH) is sponsoring a 3-day/2-night trip to attend these games.

We will leave State College early on Friday, March 1, and return to State College Sunday afternoon. The registration fee is \$260 per person; this price includes bus transportation, transfer to/from the arena, driver tip, and a game ticket for each game. The registration fee DOES NOT include meal costs or hotel costs, which must be paid by each traveler. The FOPSMH has reserved rooms at a price of \$102 per room per night (maximum 2 persons per room); this price includes all taxes, and a hot breakfast for each person.

Please go to our website (www.fopsmh.org) or contact Joel Sobel by phone (814-231-0470 – this is a landline) or email (joelsobel@hotmail.com) for more details or to make a reservation.

# THE VOICE OF PEGULA, RODNEY MARTIN

Another season is upon us and, as always, it is good to be back in the booth. Entering this season, I had called 93 regular season/playoff games for the Nittany Lions at Pegula. The November 3<sup>rd</sup> game against Arizona State was my 100<sup>th</sup>. I find that hard to fathom and I think that speaks to just how great my "job" is. Coming to the rink is always an exciting thing for me, even now. The team is so much fun to watch, the fans and atmosphere are amazing, and I still catch myself marveling at the building on some nights.

Being up in the club level offers a bit of anonymity. But on the rare occasion I get recognized, folks sometimes ask what I do to get ready for a game. After nearly 2 decades, I have a pretty well-defined routine.

Monday or Tuesday of game week, I get the opponent's roster, stats and (hopefully) pronunciations from their team website. I have a spreadsheet that has the rosters side-by-side, in numerical order, and columns for current goal count. Wednesday or Thursday, we usually have a production meeting to go over the script and promotions for the upcoming games. While I really don't have much to offer in setting this up, it's a great excuse to cut out of work for a bit.

Game days have their rituals as well. I get to the rink about 2 hours before game time and grab the line-up sheets for the night. I then head up to the booth to review them and cross-out the names of inactive players on my spread-sheet. (This is a lesson I learned the hard way when, for

an Icers' game, I announced an assist for a "scratched" player. This player then rose from his seat in the bleachers and waved to the crowd as I hung my head in embarrassment.) I get my notepad ready for the game with the starting line-ups, review the production script, and do a



quick read-through of the announcements that are coming up (I can recite all of these in my sleep, but as you can probably attest, I still mess them up on occasion). After that, I set-up my water, Earl Grey tea (with honey), and four sugarfree cough drops at my station, and then go on a short walk to calm my nerves.

I've often described what comes next as "intoxicating." I've sometimes come to the rink feeling tired or unenthused, but when we drop the lights, cue the intro video, and bring the team onto the ice, it is an absolute rush and I am suddenly ready to go. As for the rest of the night, well, you know how that goes.

Suffice it to say, it is an absolute honor to be able to do this. I'm blessed to have a family that supports me, and grateful that Penn State has selected me to keep doing what I love. Here's to the next 100 games – I have no doubt they will be as much fun as the first 100 were. We are...

### ASK THE LIONS continued from page 3

**Question:** You did not play junior hockey in North America, how did you get on Penn State's radar?

Aarne Talvitie: I was on the Finnish National Team that played in tournaments in North America the last 3 years, and so the Penn State coaches got to see me in action. And, because Erik (Autio) played here, the coaches were in contact with Oskar (Erik's brother), and so it was easy for them to get to know me better as a result.

Question: What were your first impressions of playing at Pegula?

Aarne Talvitie: Wow, it was awesome. I was here on a recruiting visit during the Notre Dame whiteout and it blew my mind. Now that I've played a few games here, I can say that it's a whole new experience, it's the best atmosphere I've ever been a part of. **Question:** Do you room with any of the players on the team, and, if so, how did this come about?

Kevin Kerr: Yes, Chase Berger and Derian Hamilton. Chase and I played together in juniors, and at Penn State we roomed together in the dorms. Derian's a guy we always got along with, and so it made sense. On the road, a staff member (not sure which one) usually assigns road roommates, I think it's pretty random, and the pairings change throughout the season.

Adam Pilewicz: I live in a house with Chris Funkey, Alec Marsh, and Ludvig Larsson. Originally some of the guys and I were looking for a house, couldn't find one, and the other guys decided to get an apartment. I wasn't interested in that, and when Andrew Sturtz left, I was invited to join Chris and Alec. Then we heard there might be a transfer coming in, and when we saw what a great guy Ludvig was, we invited him in.

### FALL 2018

# GAME ACTION photos by Stephanie Corcino



Liam Folkes (26) started the season on fire with 3 goals and 2 assists in the first three games.



Brandon Biro (10) and Nate Sucese (14) are always a threat.



Graduate transfer Ludwig Larsson (12) is dominating face-offs.



Despite losing some key players from last year's team, the defense looks strong. Here Brandon Biro (10), Blake Gober (23), and Paul DeNaples contain Clarkson.



Peyton Jones was on his A-game against Clarkson, Niagara, and Princeton in his first 3 games, with a 1.33 goals against average and a 96.3% save percentage.



Chris Funkey and Peyton Jones are still each other's biggest fan.

### FALL 2018

### FULL STRENGTH





Nikita Pavlychev strains to stay onside as puck-carrying Brandon Biro and Blake Gober enter Clarkson territory.



Penn State's Evan Barratt (17) scores his first goal of the season in the series opener versus Niagara.



Nikita Pavlychev (13) opens the scoring with a power play goal against Niagara on Saturday afternoon.



Clarkson's Haralds Egle and Nittany Lions Derian Hamilton (19), Sam Sternschein (27), and captain Chase Berger (8) converge on a loose puck. Penn State swept the season-opening series from the Golden Knights.



Alex Limoges and the Purple Eagles' Niko Kovachis duel for puck possession as the Lions hammered out an 8-2 victory.



Peyton Jones shrugs away a shot as Penn State pulls away from Niagara for a series sweep and a 4-0 start to the season, their best as an NCAA program.



Editor's note: Mitchell Hutula, a senior from Charlotte, North Carolina majoring in Economics, is the new President of the Roar Zone. Mitchell is also a member of the FOPSMH Board. I think you will enjoy his fresh take on what a good thing we have going on here.

What makes Hockey Valley? Hockey Valley is many things, it is a chant, it is a mentality, it is an atmosphere, and most importantly it is a community. As I approach the mid-point of my senior year at Penn State, I cannot help but reflect on my favorite experiences here. The best memories, oddly enough, come not from the games where the Roar Zone is packed to the rafters and giving some opposing goaltender the business, but from the eight or so home games I have attended during school breaks.

During these breaks, the Roar Zone as a physical place may still inhabit Pegula, but its soul is temporarily home with its members. At such times, the games belong to the local community that has supported hockey here for decades. One gets a new perspective about what makes Hockey Valley so special. With the rhythmic chants of students missing, there is a different vibe in the Building. These games might not be as loud as the average Friday night game in February but it doesn't matter, Pegula is still packed with people enjoying hockey with family and friends. Experiencing this always reassures me that no matter what ups and downs the program may experience in the future, the Hockey Valley community will be here to give the team the unconditional support that it so richly deserves. I know that when I graduate this spring, I will be leaving the team I love so dearly with a community that will look after it and care for it exactly as I would.

Looking for The Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey on the web?

WEBSITE: http://fopsmh.org FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/mhbci TWITTER: https://twitter.com/mhbctweet (@mhbctweet) GOOGLE+: https://plus.google.com/+FopsmhOrg

Hockey Valley is not a mentality created by the Roar Zone, it is a family that has been molded by each and every member of the local community who gives his/her wholehearted and earnest support to the team. Thank you for being the part of Hockey Valley that will always be here.



The Roar Zone is back and the world is a better place!