



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

Fall 2020

### FROM PRESIDENT WENDY JO HARTSOCK

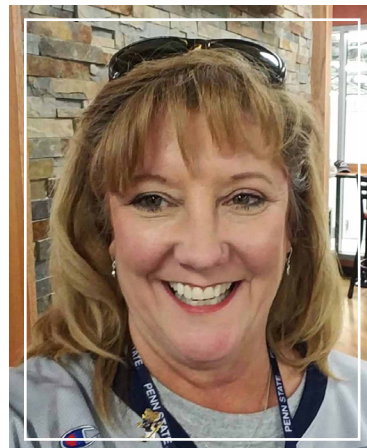
We hope you are healthy, safe, and ready for the upcoming hockey season, which with luck may start in November; I know I am.

With an abrupt end to our 2019-20 season and now an altered version of our 2020-21 season, we have all been aware of the many ongoing and daily changes within Penn State athletics and our community. We love our Nittany Lion fans; they are the best, so the University is putting its students, staff, faculty, and student-athletes at the forefront of every decision it makes regarding athletic events. No public tickets will be available for sale; while we may not be able to socialize in Pegula, we can still support our student-athletes and cheer our teams on. Watching the games in our living rooms' comfort can help everyone stay safe and reduce the possibility of spreading the coronavirus. It isn't our first choice; it is necessary to help us get back to some normalcy in the future.

We welcome a new incoming class of talented players; we look forward to our skilled veteran players bringing their flair back to the ice and to our coaching staff bringing out the best in each player. The 2020-21 Big Ten hockey schedule, including times and television designations and further details regarding the Big Ten Hockey Tournament, will be announced soon; to stay up to date on everything hockey, please go to [www.gopsusports.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey](http://www.gopsusports.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey).

As the season draws closer, we encourage you to join the Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey group or renew your membership. We are excited to bring an online option for membership payments; you may find out more about this on our website [www.fopsmh.org](http://www.fopsmh.org). By becoming a mem-

ber, you will have access to club discounts at local merchants, our newsletter with behind-the-scenes interviews and information, and some exclusive virtual opportunities to interact with the current team and coaching staff. Don't delay - our membership application is available on our website, please consider signing up today.



Our mission continues to be to increase fan support among alumni, students, and the community for the Penn State Men's Hockey Program. I look forward to our upcoming season, and if you have ideas for the club, please share these with me directly so together we can see what is possible. Until we can all meet together again at Pegula, stay safe.

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

**WEBSITE:** <http://fopsmh.org>

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/mhbci>

**TWITTER:** [@mhbctweet](https://twitter.com/mhbctweet)

**GOOGLE+:** <https://plus.google.com/+FopsmhOrg>

We Are ... and always will be ... Penn State.

Wendy Jo Hartsock ([wjh21@psu.edu](mailto:wjh21@psu.edu))  
President, Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey

*A message from the editor: With the cancellation of last season's championship tournaments and the delayed start of the 2020-21 men's collegiate hockey season, this fall's FOPSMH Newsletter takes on a different look. Several of the usual features are understandably missing, but we've tried to make up for their omission with alternatives. Brian Tripp and Rodney Martin have taken the time to answer questions about their respective roles in bringing the games to fans in Pegula and those hunkered down by their radios or computers, and Lou Prato has graciously accepted an invitation to contribute to this edition of the Newsletter. We've also added a list of players from last season's team who have signed professional contracts, information about this year's new players, and a summary of last season's individual awards.*

*I hope you find this edition of the Newsletter informative and enjoyable. Please feel free to e-mail me with your reactions to these features or ideas for future editions. JS*



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

**Question:** *You are the voice of Penn State men's hockey and baseball. Have you broadcast other sports, either at PSU or other locations?*

**BT:** I've broadcast nearly every sport on campus if you include my time as a Penn State student! Prior to working

with the men's hockey program, I was the play-by-play voice for women's volleyball and an analyst on Lady Lion basketball broadcasts. I've also filled in for Steve Jones on men's basketball, including a trip to Puerto Rico in 2012 – that was a tough assignment! Additionally, each fall I call a package of high school football games in our region. Finally, I occasionally work as a reporter covering football and basketball for the Big Ten Network.

**Question:** *What is your hockey background?*

**BT:** The pinnacle of my hockey career was winning the Club Floor Hockey championship with the Dizzy Ducks in a Penn State student league! So, I certainly don't have much playing experience. However, I always loved the sport growing up and spent hours watching games and memorizing information about the players and teams. I am from the Lehigh Valley and am a Flyers fan, so I vividly remember watching the Legion of Doom line during my childhood.

**Question:** *Is there an interesting "back story" as to how you were selected to broadcast hockey?*

**BT:** The most unique part of my selection is probably that I had never actually broadcast a live hockey game on-air prior to my selection. When I learned there could be an opening with the men's hockey program, I recorded a demo tape at the Penn State vs. Ohio University game at the Giant Center in Hershey. Fortunately, that tape and my reputation working with other Penn State programs was enough to land me the job.

### JUST IN

Sophomore forward Connor MacEachern is the 2020-21 recipient of the FOPSMH Hockey Scholarship.

**Question:** *Hockey is one of the most difficult sports to describe to a radio audience because of its speed. Do you have any "professional secrets" that have helped you to describe the action as clearly as you do?*

**BT:** I think my preparation during the days leading up to the game is crucial. It allows me to keep my focus on the ice when the puck is in play as opposed to digging through notes and rosters. I also spend a lot of time listening to my previous broadcasts – I listen to every game in its entirety in the days after a broadcast and critique my own work. Additionally, I send portions of my work to others in the industry for feedback and advice. Finally, if I'm watching a hockey game on TV or listening on the NHL App, I pay attention to how other broadcasters describe the action or handle particular situations; if I hear something I like, I'll add that to my repertoire.

**Question:** *Excluding Pegula, which Big Ten arenas do you find the easiest and the most difficult to broadcast from?*

**BT:** We are spoiled at Pegula with one of the best views in college hockey. I also find it easier to broadcast a game in an arena with a raucous environment. The roar of the crowd amplifies the energy I hope we bring to the broadcast and provides great audio for the audience listening at home. So, based on those criteria, my favorite trip is to Notre Dame because of the incredible sight lines and spacious press accommodations. I also love Yost Ice Arena at Michigan because of the building's history and atmosphere. There isn't a bad arena in the Big Ten, but I find Munn Ice Arena at Michigan State the most challenging to broadcast from because the angle from our broadcast position is low and deep inside the attacking zone and the lighting in the arena always gives me trouble.

**Question:** *Can you tell us about the crew you have working with you during your broadcast, both on-site and off-site?*

**BT:** First, there is only one adjective to use when describing our crew – exceptional. Eric Ohlson is the analyst and has been an incredible addition to our broadcast team. He has tremendous hockey knowledge and articulates it as it applies to each game clearly and concisely. Eric also has a bright future in the industry as a play-by-play broadcaster and his versatility paid dividends last season when I reluctantly missed the season-opener with an illness. Also, on-site for most home games is our engineer Bob Taylor. Bob is a technology wizard. He has been invaluable in helping deliver our broadcasts with impeccable audio quality and adding microphones throughout the arena to amplify the sounds of the game for our audience. Finally, we work with a small rotating cast of producers in the Learfield/IMG College studios in Jefferson City, Missouri; they are responsible for playing commercials and providing audio highlights.

## THE VOICE OF PEGULA, RODNEY MARTIN

**Question:** *How did your very first game as a rink announcer go, and was someone available to “show you the ropes” before you got started?*

**RM:** My first game went very well - it was the home opener for the 2000-2001 season. The person who was originally slated to be doing the announcing for that season did the Blue-White Hockey Game the previous week and had difficulty with it (probably just nerves). Coach Battista asked us to find someone else, so I volunteered. I had been in the booth at Greenberg for the previous three seasons doing various work, so I had been able to observe the previous announcers doing the job. There really wasn't one person who gave direction - it was and still is more of a “feel” than a fixed set of rules to follow.

**Question:** *Who makes the official determination of goals, assists, and saves at games at Pegula, and how is this information conveyed to you?*

**RM:** Official scoring comes from the Sports Information Director (SID) who sits with his/her assistants in the media booth above center ice. They have access to the game feed and can quickly rewind to review any play. I have an assistant in the control booth who sits next to me and is in communication with the SID and the officials in the booth between the penalty boxes - they relay the scoring/penalty information to me. I follow the action as much as possible to help with official scoring and on rare occasions can catch something they missed.

**Question:** *Which Penn State skater of the Guy Gadowsky era most commanded your attention when he was on the ice?*

**RM:** This is a tough one. We have had several impact players that grab your attention - Casey Bailey, Trevor Hamilton, Brandon Biro, to name a few. However, if I had to choose just one, it would have to be Andrew Sturtz. To me, it just seemed like he was constantly in motion when he was out there, constantly working.

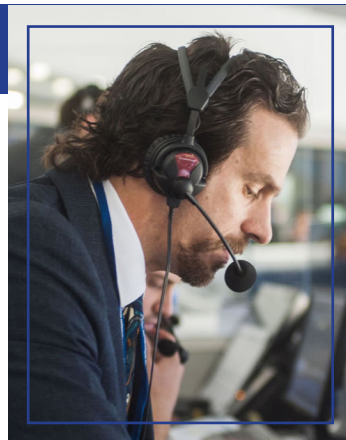
**Question:** *In your time at Pegula, have you encountered any “unique” game situations that were challenging for you in your role as rink announcer?*

**RM:** Last season was the first time that I can recall that we had almost an hour of penalty minutes called after one altercation. It can get a bit hairy trying to sort that out with the penalty box officials who are just trying to keep up with the on-ice officials. Announcing the correct penalty (for example, a game misconduct and a game disqualification are totally different) and then assigning it to the appropriate player can be a challenge in these instances. Also, trying to get information about a review can be difficult. Sometimes the referees don't provide that information.

**Question:** *Any “fond memories” pertaining to the penalty boxes at the Greenberg Ice Pavilion?*

**RM:** Oh, definitely! Many of the memories were the result of listening to or talking with opposing players.

There was a door between the opposing team's penalty box and the center booth where we sat, and 99% of the time that door was open. On occasion, we would have to shut it when we would get a particularly cantankerous player in there. But most of the time, the opposing players were cordial and even down-right pleasant. One time, we were playing an exhibition against a Canadian college team and a player was called for a penalty towards the end of the game. He was chirping at one of our players, calling him a “Yankee” (a term of derision coming from a Canadian). I leaned over and let him know that the player he was chirping was from British Columbia. Stunned, he said, “Oh...sorry...hey, can I have a puck?”



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

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## NEW FACES

There's been lots of turnover since the Lions clinched their first Big Ten regular season title. Nine seniors are gone, five of whom have signed to play professionally; two underclassmen also have inked play-for-pay contracts. These losses are huge in terms of quantity and especially quality. However, as Penn State hockey continues to evolve, look for even more highly-skilled players to come aboard, and for Penn State to "reload" each year.

## Who's gone?

Seniors Brandon Biro, Liam Folkes, Blake Gober, James Gobetz, Peyton Jones, Kris Myllari, Nikita Pavlychev, Denis Smirnov, Nate Sucese.

Juniors Evan Barratt, Cole Hults.

## WELCOME TO HOCKEY VALLEY

**Liam Soulière - GOALKEEPER**

Freshman // 5-11 // 180 // L

Brampton, Ontario // Victoria Grizzlies (BCHL)

Soulière was named the CCHL's Goaltender of the Year in 2018-19 with the Brockville Braves after compiling a 26-8-0 record with a .930 save percentage and a 2.13 goals against average to rank second in the league for both categories. Soulière will wear number 31.

## COACH GADOWSKY ON SOULIÈRE:

"Liam is a goaltender who has been one of the best everywhere he plays, he is quick and handles rebounds very well."

**Tim Doherty - FORWARD**

Grad // 6-0 // 190 // L

Portsmouth, R.I. // Maine (Hockey East – NCAA)

Doherty finished his career at Maine with a career-best 37 point season to rank tied for 18th nationally, leading the Black Bears with 14 goals and adding 23 assists in 34 games played. On face-offs, he ranked 16th in Hockey East, winning 54.4 percent of his draws. In his three years at Maine, Doherty played in 101 games, registering 77 points on 34 goals and 43 assists. Doherty will wear number 17.

## COACH GADOWSKY ON DOHERTY:

"Tim will bring some veteran leadership to our group this year. He should be able to play in a lot of situations right away and help with some of the scoring we lost."

**GOING PRO:** Four players from the 2019-2020 Penn State Nittany Lions have signed contracts with National Hockey League (NHL) teams: **Evan Barratt** (F) – Chicago Black Hawks; **Brandon Biro** (F) – Buffalo Sabres; **Cole Hults** (D) – Los Angeles Kings; **Nate Sucese** (F) – Arizona Coyotes.

Three other players have signed American Hockey League contracts (NHL parent team in parentheses): **Liam Folkes** (F) – Bakersfield Condors (Edmonton Oilers); **Peyton Jones** (G) – Colorado Eagles (Colorado Avalanche); **Nikita Pavlychev** (F) – Syracuse Crunch (Tampa Bay Lightning).

**Xander Lamppa - FORWARD**

Freshman // 6-1 // 205 // L

Rochester, Minn. // Waterloo Blackhawks (USHL)

Lamppa led the USHL Waterloo Blackhawks and finished tied for 17th in the league in scoring with 15 goals and 30 assists. Lamppa will wear number 13.

## COACH GADOWSKY ON LAMPPA:

"Xander is a big power forward who makes plays, he is very creative for a kid his size and should be able to get bigger and stronger during his time here."

**Chase McLane - FORWARD**

Freshman // 6-2 // 183 // R

Trenton, Mich. // Tri-City Storm (USHL)

In 106 total USHL games over the past three seasons, McLane has scored 13 goals while adding 37 assists for 50 total points. He was taken in the 7th round of the 2020 NHL draft by the Nashville Predators. McLane will wear number 11.

## COACH GADOWSKY ON MCLANE:

"Chase is a power forward who is very good on faceoffs, goes hard to the net, and has a consistent intensity to his game that you rarely see. He is the type of leader that you hate to play against but love to have on your team."

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## NEW FACES

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### **Tyler Paquette - FORWARD**

Freshman // 6-3 // 200 // R

Collegeville, Pa. // Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)

Paquette played two seasons in the USHL with the Des Moines Buccaneers and the Green Bay Gamblers, appearing in 151 games and finishing with 21 goals and 24 assists. Paquette will wear number 23.

COACH GADOWSKY ON PAQUETTE:

"Tyler is a big power forward who skates very well. By going hard to the net and playing physical, he should have a seamless transition to Big Ten college hockey."

### **Christian Sarlo - FORWARD**

Freshman // 6-0 // 188 // L

Lynbrook, N.Y. // Lincoln Stars (USHL)

Sarlo led the Lincoln Stars last season with 21 goals while adding 23 assists to rank second on the team with 44 points, a mark good for 21st in the entire league. His 21 goals ranked tied for 13th in the USHL. Sarlo will wear number 10.

COACH GADOWSKY ON SARLO:

"Christian is a smart forward who has good hands and can see the rink very well. His intensity and hockey sense allow him to win a ton of battles and make plays."

### **Jared Westcott - FORWARD**

Freshman // 6-1 // 175 // L

Imperial, Mo. // Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)

Westcott helped his team capture the 2019 Clark Cup (given to the USHL champions) with a three-game sweep of the Chicago Steel. The Stampede went 11-1 throughout the 2019 playoffs with Westcott scoring five goals and adding one assist for six points following a 39 point regular season (15 goals, 24 assists). In 2019-20, Westcott scored 16 goals and added 18 assists for 34 points to lead the team in each category while playing in 44 games. Westcott will wear number 25.

COACH GADOWSKY ON WESTCOTT:

"Jared is an extremely smart forward who uses his unique hockey IQ to make a ton of plays, he was a big part of Sioux Falls winning the USHL Championship last season."

### **Christian Berger - DEFENSEMAN**

Freshman // 6-0 // 182 // L

St. Louis, Mo. // Omaha Lancers (USHL)

In 44 games this past season, Berger scored five goals while adding 17 assists for 22 points from the blue-line. Christian will become the third Berger to play for head coach Guy Gadowsky when he laces up his skates in Hockey Valley next fall, joining oldest brother Jack (at Princeton) and former Nittany Lion captain Chase Berger. Christian Berger will wear number 5.

COACH GADOWSKY ON BERGER:

"Christian has a very complete game. He excels at both ends of the ice and is a D who moves pucks very effectively and is tough to play against."

### **Jimmy Dowd Jr. - DEFENSEMAN**

Freshman // 5-9 // 161 // R

Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. // Chicago Steel (USHL)

Dowd, the son of former NHL centerman Jim Dowd Sr., just finished his second season with the Chicago Steel, registering 26 points on four goals and 22 assists in 48 games played. Dowd will wear number 6.

COACH GADOWSKY ON DOWD:

"Jimmy is a very smart hockey player, with high IQ and vision at both ends of the ice. He fits in very well at Penn State because of his ability to move pucks well and make the right play."

### **There's one more newcomer – well, sort of.**

Forward Bobby Hampton ( 6-0 // 197 // Middletown, N.J.) is new to the fans, but was in Hockey Valley last season, where he redshirted after transferring from Northeastern; he retains his junior eligibility. Hampton wears number 12.



## GUEST CORRESPONDENT — LOU PRATO



*Editor's note: Lou Prato is a distinguished journalist and author. Although he is best known to Penn Staters as the author of several Nittany Lion football books, Lou also has written about Penn State Hockey history for both Blue-White Illustrated and Town & Gown. In trying to prepare this edition of the FOPSMH Newsletter, I immediately thought of asking Lou to help by contributing an article to replace some of the usual content that was now not feasible. No surprise – he quickly accepted, because that's the kind of guy he is.*

*Along with his various writing and research endeavors, Lou was the first Director of the Penn State All-Sports Museum in its current location and format in Beaver Stadium. But most of all, Lou's a newspaper guy through-and-through. How do I know? When he submitted the following article, he closed it by adding "-30-" at the end.*

I saw my first NHL hockey game on Thanksgiving night in Detroit in 1952 while visiting my uncle, and I was hooked. The Red Wings became my team. Subsequently, I covered the NHL's expansion draft in Montreal in 1967 for a Pittsburgh TV station. Then, as a sideline, I was the Pittsburgh Penguins correspondent for *Hockey News* from 1967 to late 1969, frequently taking my young son, Scott, into the Penguins locker room where the players gave him battered pucks and broken sticks. He was hooked too. Another TV news job took me back to Detroit where Scott and I were regular patrons at Red Wings games.

When Joe Battista was overseeing the construction of the Pegula Ice Arena, I decided to look into the history of ice hockey at Penn State. As I started researching Penn State's

### HONOR ROLL

Going into last season, the eighth as a varsity program, no player in Blue and White had ever been chosen as an All-American. Now there are two – defenseman Cole Hults and forward Nate Sucec, who both were named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team West. Hults and Sucec also were named to the All-Big Ten 1<sup>st</sup> Team.

Entering last season, no player in Blue and White had been named Big Ten Player of the Year. Cole Hults became the first; he also was named the Conference Defensive Player of the Year, joining former Nittany Lion Trevor Hamilton, who won the award in 2018.

hockey history I was shocked by what I learned about the first team in 1909. The students organized it. Although Penn State's Athletic Department officials did not sanction the team, they helped build a couple of outside rinks where the team could practice. What I also learned was that Pittsburgh was a hotbed of amateur hockey dating back to the 1890s. A trolley car barn was converted into an ice arena in 1896 and renamed the Duquesne Gardens. Seating capacity was 5,657 but often 8,000 spectators were there for amateur and professional games.

To help promote the sport, the owners of the Gardens formed the Pittsburgh Intercollegiate League with Pitt, Carnegie Tech and Penn State, and paid all the expenses for the teams. A 10-game schedule was set. Christmas night 1909 was the inaugural game with Penn State playing Carnegie Tech and a week later on New Year's night it was Penn State vs Pitt. Penn State lost both games, 7-0 to Tech and 2-1 to Pitt. Alas, the Penn State Faculty Athletic Committee withdrew its support and a student vote on January 21 rejected varsity status for the team, forcing it to disband. I continued researching the school's ice hockey history and gave all my information to Joe.

My journalism career took me from Detroit to Chicago to Dayton-Cincinnati to Washington, DC, and my son and I went to the pro hockey games in each city. Nowadays, he watches hockey on TV all he can and is a big-time Capitals fan. I still root for the Penguins and Red Wings.

Scott can't skate a lick. Neither can I.



*Cole Hults, Penn State's most decorated player, puts the pressure on.*

Stephanie Corcino