



FULL STRENGTH

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

FALL 2022

FROM PRESIDENT WENDY JO HARTSOCK

Let me start my article by saying THANK YOU to all members who voted for our current Board of Directors, which includes Will Rusk, Richard Seifert, Brian Shull, Robert Schnitzler, Mark Stephens, Mark Toniatti, and Jane Whitaker. Joining me as Club officers are Wendy Rotz, Stacey Kelly, and Sara Becker. Our Past President, Linda Mateševac, serves in an advisory capacity, and Joel Sobel produces our newsletter. I am proud to work alongside of these individuals who are so giving of their time and talents; the FOPSMH would not exist without each one of them. We are always looking for new members to join us, please reach out to me directly if you'd like to play an active role in Club activities.

Wow!!! What a start to the season. The Lions were undefeated in their first 9 games (best start in team history), and lost only 1 game in regulation in their first 13 games. Penn State also earned 16 out of a possible 21 points in its first 7 Big Ten games. The players are on fire, and we are so excited to be back in Pegula to watch them as the rest of the season plays out, of course taking it one game at a time. The captains for this year are really stepping into their leadership role as we would expect nothing less from Paul DeNaples, Connor MacEachern, Tyler Gratton and Kevin Wall. This year there is an interesting twist with the captains as there are rotating alternate captains at home and on the road. We are fortunate to have so many fine young men serve as leaders throughout the season along with many others on the team who also play a leadership role. We are proud of all the players and what they accomplish on the

ice, in our community, and academically.

You will see some changes this year as our FOPSMH table is now located in the North corridor where we will have membership applications and our annual buttons (see photo) – this year's message is "Let's Go Skate." BIG NEWS – at our table in Pegula, you can get information about a new Club event – the first Alumni & Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey Golf Classic. It will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Penn State Blue Course. The tournament will be our primary fundraising activity in support of Penn State's



Photographer and PSU fan Heather Weikel captures the excitement of opening night and a magical stop by Liam Souliere.

hockey players. At the request of our coaches, we have teamed with the organization Success With Honor and with Penn State hockey alumni to sponsor what we hope will be a successful and exciting annual activity. Please stop by to find out more about the Golf Classic and ways you can get involved. We will soon have a website and brochures available, so don't delay if you want to participate. We also will

continued on page 8



» ON THE AIR WITH BRIAN TRIPP «

Question: Have you gotten to know any of the other Big Ten hockey play-by-play broadcasters? If so, tell us about some of these relationships. Do they generally encounter the same situations and challenges as you do?

BT: One of the things I missed the most during COVID was interacting with the other Big Ten hockey radio and TV broadcasters. I've been able to form a great relationship with so many familiar faces over the last decade. We all try to share as much information as we can with each other leading into games. Everyone gets along extremely well, and I always look forward to our group texts - they are fun and informative. Fortunately, there aren't many challenges. We are all very spoiled and treated wonderfully by our respective programs, and are treated equally well in visiting press boxes. Brian Posick (Wisconsin), Scott Moore (MSU), Darin Pritchett (Notre Dame), Wally Shaver (Minnesota), Al Randall (Michigan) are all terrific. Unfortunately, Herb Howenstine at Ohio State is taking a break this year due to a medical issue. I've learned a lot from each of them. I am the youngest of the group and was only 23 when I started with Penn State hockey.

Question: Compare doing play-by-play in the booth (hockey or baseball) with working the sidelines at a football game. For you, what are the most enjoyable and most difficult components of each assignment?

BT: The jobs are completely different. In football, I'm trying to serve as an additional set of eyes and ears for Steve Jones and Jack Ham, while providing insight on things (injuries, weather, dialogues) I observe on the sidelines. Doing play-by-play, my top responsibility is to describe the action on the ice to the audience. There are a lot of times during a football game I don't see the play on the field. It's incredible how big, fast, and physical college football players are on the field. I really enjoy listening to their conversations on the sideline and feeling the atmosphere of 110,000 rabid fans when on the field. However, weather conditions and sightlines can be difficult at field level.

Question: In your career, what are some of the biggest surprises you've encountered while on the air, and how have you handled these?

BT: This is a great question. I've been fortunate not to have encountered many surprises while broadcasting. The worst nightmare of any announcer is a technical issue. It's important to just stay calm and attempt to rectify the situation as quickly as possible. It's usually something entirely out of my control, like the few times that I've had to broadcast a game while holding my cellphone to my ear.

Question: Over the course of the week how do you familiarize yourself with the opposing team/players and their season/career accomplishments?

BT: I assemble detailed charts for each opponent that I use throughout the season. These include rosters, stats, biographical information, trends, team achievements, records, etc. Then, I'll use them as a reference throughout the game. In hockey, I also spend a lot of time memorizing the players' names and numbers. I try to use each team's most recent line charts, which is easier than trying to remember a list of 26 names.

Question: You've mentioned Eric Ohlson, who is the hockey analyst in the booth with you and your stand-in when you are doing football. What's his background? How do you two prepare as a team so that your broadcasts run smoothly?

BT: Eric started on our broadcasts as a student in the spring semester of the 2017-2018 season. He was studying broadcast journalism in Penn State's College of Communications when we had an opening on a few broadcasts. He is a hockey aficionado and a lifelong New York Rangers fan (I don't hold that against him). Most importantly, he is so passionate about the sport and I think it shows during our broadcasts. Interestingly, Eric's Dad, Dr. Carl Ohlson, previously served as Assistant Athletic Director for Performance Psychology at Penn State before retiring this summer. Eric is capable of serving as a play-by-play broadcaster and as an analyst (as he's demonstrated this fall in my absence), even though each of these duties requires a unique skill-set. And honestly, we both had instant chemistry and our conversations on-air are often just extensions of our daily hockey conversations outside the broadcast booth.



THE VOICE OF PEGULA, RODNEY MARTIN



Question: Once you put your headset on, how many different people are you communicating with throughout Pegula?

RM: The headset that I wear is used for both announcing and in-rink communication. One button on the console that I have goes out to the arena and the other to a communications channel. It's via this channel that I stay in touch with other staff coordinating the game presentation. Among these people are the producer, video director, DJ (and possibly the DJ's assistant), one or two video board operators, a theatrical lighting operator, in-rink coordinators (on remote headsets), and spotlight operators (for pre-game). More often than not, whoever is producing is also the DJ, though that was not the case for the first couple of seasons in Pegula.

There is another channel within Pegula that is dedicated to game operations. This links the scorer's table between the penalty boxes, the statistician located in the press box area, and the instant replay booth next to the production booth on the club level. This channel is where the official scoring is relayed (goals, assists, penalties, etc.). Typically, I have an assistant next to me who is on this channel and helps me get the right numbers/calls to be announced. However, if we are short-staffed, I sometimes need to switch to this communication channel and rely on direct communication with the producer.

For game production, I am typically just listening and taking direction about what element is coming next and when to start.

Question: How many different pieces of equipment are you operating?

RM: I have an easy time regarding the equipment for which I am responsible. All I have is my communications console and, more importantly, the button for the goal horn.

Sometimes I assist whoever is running the music/sound-board as well.

Question: How many people are in the booth with you and what are their functions?

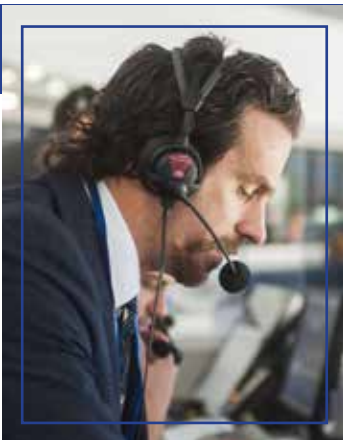
RM: There are at least four and up to as many as seven folks in the booth at any one time. From left-to-right as you enter the booth you have the theatrical lighting operator, one or two video board operators, my assistant (who is on the game operations channel), me, and the DJ (and his/her assistant on occasion). We sometimes even get the Nittany Lion stopping by for some inspiration!

Some people may not know this but the video director - the person responsible for the live content being shown on the video board - is not even in the building, but in a room in either the Bryce Jordan Center or Rec Hall. Believe it or not, the video director can work multiple games at the same time!

Question: How many of the above-mentioned people have you worked with over the course of several seasons, and how important is it to establish teamwork with the others in the booth?

RM: We have had several folks fill each of the roles in the booth over the time in Pegula. Every single one that I have worked with has been very professional, and it has truly been a joy to work with all of them. No matter who steps in, everyone is very supportive of each other and strives to make the best game presentation they can. It is critical to have that teamwork as we back each other up and make sure we are all on the same page.

continued on page 8



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS — FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY, Inc.

PRESIDENT	Wendy Jo Hartsock (wjh21@psu.edu)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Sara Becker
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Sara Becker
CLUB HISTORIAN	Linda Matesevac
SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR	Will Rusk
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Joel Sobel (jsobel475@gmail.com)

NEW FACES

Welcome to the 2022-23 Nittany Lion men's hockey season. Here's a look at the guys who will be suiting up in blue and white for the first time.

First - who's gone? Goaltender Oscar Autio, forward Adam Pilewicz, and defenseman Clayton Phillips.

And now - who's new? (from information posted on gopsusports.com). Seven players are new to the roster - 1 goaltender, 3 forwards, and 3 defensemen. There are 2 transfers from other collegiate programs, and 5 freshmen. All five freshmen played in the USHL last season, and 3 are Pennsylvania natives.

Remarkably, all five freshman and one transfer have some degree of familiarity with Penn State or current Penn State veterans. Jared Crespo and Alex Servagno were Green Bay Gamblers last year, and now join Gambler alums Ryan Kirwan and Tyler Paquette in Happy Valley. Carter Schade played for the Lincoln Stars and joins his former teammate and current Penn Stater Christian Sarlo; Noah Grannan of the Sioux Falls Stampede joins ex-Stampeder and current Lion vet Paul DeNaples. Freshman Dylan Gratton is from Pottstown, but he's not the only Pottstowner on the Penn State team; older brother Tyler is already a force for Penn State. Ashton Calder transferred to Penn State from the University of North Dakota, Penn State's opponent in last season's U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game in Nashville.

But be careful. Don't mix up Noah GRANNAN with the GRATTON boys.

WELCOME TO HOCKEY VALLEY

Noah Grannan – GOALTENDER

Freshman // 6'2" // 190 lbs // #33
Germantown, WI // Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)

Grannan spent the past two seasons with the Sioux Falls Stampede in the USHL, compiling an 18-24-5 record. Grannan saw time in 28 games this past season, going 10-13-3 with a 3.25 goals-against average and an .891 save percentage. Prior to his time in the USHL, Grannan spent the 2018-2020 seasons with the United States National Team Development Program playing on both the USHL team as well as the U17 and U18 squads.

GRANNAN ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the relationships I developed with the coaches and the atmosphere on campus."

Ashton Calder – FORWARD

Transfer // 6'2" // 200 lbs // R // #26
Sault Ste. Marie, MI // North Dakota (NCHC)

Calder comes to Penn State with four years of collegiate hockey experience already under his belt, taking advantage of the fifth year granted to him by the NCAA due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He will be working toward his master's degree in management and organizational leadership. The Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan native has played 141 games entering the 2022-23 season, the third-most among 2022-23 active players, and his 44 career goals and 100 points are each good for fourth, respectively, among active players. Calder spent the 2018-2021 seasons with Lake Superior State before transferring to North Dakota for the 2021-22 season. His best season came during the pandemic-altered year of 2020-21 when he registered career-highs in goals (16) and points (29), and helped lead the Lakers to the WCHA Tournament championship and a berth in the 2021 NCAA Tournament. Last season with the Fighting Hawks, Calder ranked second on the team with 11 goals and tied for fifth with 21 points in 34 games played. Prior to his collegiate career, Calder spent time in the NAHL, BCHL and USHL, playing his final junior campaign with the Lincoln Stars, registering 40 points in 64 total games with 16 goals and 24 assists.

CALDER ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the pride that comes with being a Nittany Lion."

Ture Linden – FORWARD

Transfer // 6'0" // 200 lbs // R // #20
Great Falls, VA // RPI (ECAC)

Linden arrives in Hockey Valley after spending the past four years at RPI, and will be one of the oldest players in the country when the puck drops in October. After sitting out the 2020-21 season due to the Covid-19 pandemic and RPI's decision to suspend all athletic competition, he had a career year in 2021-22, serving as team captain and leading the team with 39 points on 20 goals and 19 assists in 44 games. His 20 goals and 39 points each led the ECAC and tied for 11th and 23rd in the nation, respectively. In three seasons with the Engineers, Linden skated in 114 games, registering 68 points on 29 goals and 39 assists. Prior to joining RPI, Linden spent the 2017-18 season with the Lone Star Brahmas of the North American Hockey League, regis-

continued on page 5

NEW FACES

continued from page 4

tering 47 points in 52 games on 15 goals and 32 assists and adding 1 goal and 2 assists in 8 playoff games.

LINDEN ON PENN STATE: "Ever since I was a kid, I dreamt of attending Penn State. The facilities are the best in college hockey and no rink gets louder than Pegula Ice Arena. The coaching staff is top-notch, and it was an easy decision for me to make."

Alex Servagno – FORWARD

Freshman // 5'9" // 170 lbs // L // #8
Gibsonia, PA // Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)

Servagno skated in over 150 games with the Green Bay Gamblers over the past three seasons in the USHL and served as an alternate captain during the 2021-22 season. He had a career-year for Green Bay this past season, finishing fifth on the team with 41 points on 15 goals and 26 assists in 59 games. In total, Servagno registered 85 points on 35 goals and 50 assists in 156 USHL games. Prior to his time in the USHL, Servagno spent three seasons with Pittsburgh Penguins Elite.

SERVAGNO ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the culture and how they strive to make everyone feel like family. Also, by attending Penn State I will be provided with the best education and training."

Jarod Crespo – DEFENSEMAN

Freshman // 6'0" // 190 lbs // R // #24
Eastampton, N.J. // Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)

Crespo played the past two seasons with the Green Bay Gamblers, serving as team captain for the 2021-22 campaign. In 95 career games with Green Bay, Crespo scored 11 goals while adding 25 assists for 36 points, including a career-year this past season with 8 goals and 20 assists for 28 points in 58 games. Prior to his time in the USHL, Crespo spent time at the Salisbury School in Connecticut, seeing action in 56 games over 2 seasons, scoring 32 points on 7 goals and 25 assists. Crespo helped the Crimson Knights to the Elite 8 Championship while wearing the 'C' for Salisbury during the 2019-20 season, earning New England Prep All-West Team honors and the Salisbury Leadership Award.

CRESPO ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the culture. Penn State has a culture that everyone should want to be a part of."

Dylan Gratton - DEFENSEMAN

Freshman // 6'0" // 180 lbs // L // #25
Pottstown, PA // Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)

Gratton joins his older brother Tyler in Hockey Valley following three seasons in the United States Hockey League. While in the USHL, he played for 3 different teams in a total of over 150 games. Gratton spent the 2021-22 season with the Sioux City Musketeers, appearing in all but two games, scoring three goals, adding 15 assists, and ranking tied for fourth on the team with a +19 rating.

GRATTON ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the culture that has been built from the players that came before me. They've instilled a knack to win as well as a playing style that I think my game will fit perfectly. Penn State also gives you every opportunity to succeed not only on the ice but in the classroom."

Carter Schade - DEFENSEMAN

Freshman // 5'11" // 185 lbs // L // #2
Mars, Pa. // Lincoln Stars (USHL)

Schade played the past two seasons with the Lincoln Stars of the USHL after being selected with the first overall pick in the 2018 USHL Phase 1 Futures Draft. He appeared in over 100 games for the Stars, registering 47 points with a +23 rating. This past season, Schade had a career-year with 31 points on 4 goals and 27 assists while ranking third on the team with a +21 rating, the best among Stars defensemen. Prior to his time in the USHL, the Mars, Pennsylvania native spent four years in the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite system. He became a point-per-game player in his U16 year in 2019-20 when he scored 23 goals while adding 27 assists in 50 games with a +31 rating.

SCHADE ON PENN STATE: "I chose Penn State because of the culture and family atmosphere, and for me it's the best place to further my hockey career and get a top-level education. I'm excited to receive elite training & coaching from a proven staff that wants to develop their players to perform well on the ice and be good people off the ice. Having a degree from Penn State means something and is respected throughout the world. It will give me opportunities and help me succeed in life after hockey."

GAME ACTION

photos by Stephanie Corcino



Ture Linden (20) makes the perfect pass to Jimmy Dowd Jr (6) for a goal midway through the 3rd period of the season opener in the Lions 5-2 victory over Canisius.



Ryan Kirwan (11) lights the lamp for a 3-1 lead in game 2 and the Lions cruise to a 7-5 win and a series sweep.



With the score tied against Mercyhurst in the 2nd period, Kevin Wall stuffs in the go-ahead goal.



Tyler Gratton knocks in a juicy rebound for the final tally in Penn State's 6-3 victory over the Lakers.



This pass never got through to Connor McMenamin in the 2nd game vs. St. Thomas. It would not be his last chance.



It didn't take long – later in the opening period, the same play WORKED. 1-0, good guys.

GAME ACTION

Continued from Page 6



Ben Copeland (14) then puts Penn State up 2-0, but the Tommies responded and took it to overtime.



With under 30 seconds left in OT, McMenemy goes the length of the ice and nets the game-winner.



Ture Linden (20) opens the scoring in a 3-0 shutout of Michigan. It's the Lions' 1st ever win over a number 1-ranked team.



Game 2 vs. the Wolves. Down 3-0 in the third period, Tyler Paquette (23) slams it home with 8:08 left.



The Lions are relentless. Kevin Wall (21) makes it a 1 goal deficit 65 seconds later.



Xander Lamppa can barely be seen in the lower right corner, but his shot was heard 'round the hockey world. Michigan eventually won in OT, but the Lion comeback highlighted a historic weekend.

The President's Message

continued from page 1

be holding a post-tournament dinner and silent auction, so even if you don't play golf, you can join in the festivities for a fee and have dinner with us. If you have questions or wish to donate items for the silent auction, please contact Brian Shull at (717) 576-5483 or at blshull@verizon.net. If you have questions regarding playing in the tournament, you can contact Shawn Hinkle at shawnpasu01@gmail.com. Put this date on your calendars now as it is going to be EPIC.

The mission of the FOPSMH is to increase fan support for,

and involvement of alumni, students, and the community with, the Penn State Men's Hockey Program. Membership in the Club affords you the opportunity to interact with team players and coaches at events we hold throughout the season. Planning also is under way for game watching parties, an annual membership meeting, and a potential OVERNIGHT GROUP TRIP to watch our guys on the road. If you have concerns, suggestions, or ideas, I would love to hear them, please feel free to reach out to me directly at wjh21@psu.edu

The Voice of Pegula, Rodney Martin

continued from page 3

Question: With the improved facilities in Pegula (as opposed to Greenberg) and subsequent technological advances, is it easier to work in Pegula than in Greenberg, or have the improvements actually added to your workload?

R.M: While I miss doing some of the things I was able to do in Greenberg, it is far easier to work in Pegula. Towards the end of the "club" days, I wore several hats - announcer, DJ, webpage and social media updater - during a game. So, it is difficult to answer this question directly; it is easier for me because I have less to do and we have more people to do more things than were needed in Greenberg.

Question: Do you find that sometimes you are more "up" for big games, or does your experience result in more consistency over the course of an entire season?

R.M: I can't express enough how much of a privilege it is to be a part of the atmosphere at Pegula, and I hope I

never get over that. There are absolutely games that get me fired up more than normal, but once I start working, all are equally exciting, and I treat each one the same. I try to match my enthusiasm with that of the situation and with that of the crowd. If I (or whoever is directing) feel that we need a "boost" of excitement, I put a little more energy into the announcements.

I do feel pressure to be "on my game" more for some of the bigger games, particularly the ones on a national broadcast. While my audio doesn't go directly out with the broadcast, I just don't want to mess anything up. It was a bit of a shock last season with the Women's Frozen Four Championship. I was going over the script pre-game like I always do and saw a note "Wait for Cue from ESPN" surrounding some of the text in the script. It was then (about an hour before game time) that I found out my voice WAS going to go out on the national broadcast - first time for that.

a-MAIZE-ing Penn State Hockey

Against Michigan, Penn State has

- earned its 1st Big Ten victory
- earned its 1st Big Ten shutout
- earned its 1st Big Ten road victory (in its 1st game in Yost Ice Arena)
- won (in OT) the 1st Big Ten Tournament game ever played
- won 3 of 5 games in the 1st year of Big Ten competition

- won 1st game of Big Ten Tournament on way to Tournament championship
- earned its 1st victory over a #1 ranked team
- gained 1st victory as part of an NCAA record of victories in consecutive weeks over a #1 ranked team

And Michigan still is in Ann Arbor