



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Hockey Fans! This summer, I started my tenure as the 4th President of the FOPSMH Booster Club. I'm honored to follow in the

footsteps of those who have held this position through our first decade, and I'm excited to see where the club is headed in the future.

First, I want to extend a huge thank you and congratulations to Wendy Jo Hartsock, our immediate past president. Wendy Jo deftly guided the club through the challenging years of the pandemic and all the changes that brought to our interactions with the team. She also oversaw the club's inaugural golf classic (read more about it later in the newsletter) which was a tremendous success. Many kudos go to her and the rest of the steering committee, comprised of board members and hockey alumni.

So far this season, we've manned our table in Pegula for every home game and handed out our newest button to new and old fans alike. Please make sure to stop by the table and say hi! Club members also had the opportunity to watch a team practice in October and meet some of the team afterwards. The turnout was outstanding and we're hoping to repeat the event in the spring.

On the ice, it's been a season of learning new names and welcoming seven new faces to the Nittany Lions. The new players have made their presence known and helped the team bring home their milestone 200th program win (at Michigan's Yost Arena!), and most recently an im-

pressive sweep of Lindenwood during the Thanksgiving Break. In particular, the "Kid Line" of freshmen Fink, DiMarsico and Laubach has come into their own over the last 8 games, scoring a combined 14 goals! Behind the bench, we're thrilled to welcome home Andrew Sturtz as our newest Assistant Coach. I think it's a testament to how special Hockey Valley is that it's Andrew's first stop after retiring from professional hockey. Don't take my word for it, read his interview in the newsletter and hear from Sturtz himself.

If you have friends who haven't joined yet, please encourage them to sign up at fopsmh.org (we now take online membership payments!) so they can participate in all the fun activities coming up the rest of the season. Members will receive invitations to watch parties, virtual bingo with the team, practice watches and a special new event with the team in the spring (details coming soon!).

See you at the Peg!

Sara Becker



Dates to Remember:

- DEC 9 - WATCH PARTY AT MARZONI'S
- JAN 27 - WHITE OUT VS OHIO STATE
- MAR 1-2 - POSSIBLE BUS TRIP TO OHIO STATE
- MAR 23 - B1G CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
- MAR 28-31 - NCAA REGIONALS
- APR 11-13 - FROZEN FOUR
- MAY 17 - GOLF CLASSIC

Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
INTERVIEW WITH GUY	2
GOLF CLASSIC	2
OLD AND NEW FACES	3
INTERVIEW WITH STURTZ	4
BOARD MEMBERS	4
HELP WANTED/GROUP PIC	6

PSU Athletic Communications



ASK COACH GADOWSKY

Q: What makes this year's team unique?

GADS: Every team is unique in its own way and often you have to go through peaks and valleys before finding out what that is. In this year's case I definitely think that the D core will have a lot to say about our identity as it is the best in over-all group we have had that really fits with how our team must play to be successful against the top teams in the nation.

Q: How have transfers helped build the program?

GADS: Both Jacques and Tanner are veteran players that have played major roles on the ice and for the leadership for their respective past programs. We have quickly learned why that is on both fronts. I really like both of their leadership styles as they are definitely inquisitive in comparison to loud and definitely by example guys rather than do what I say. They have both ingratiated themselves to our entire locker room very quickly.

Q: What is one thing you wished more fans would understand?

GADS: The question I receive most often is about when our players know to change; if it is on their own or if the coaches call them to do so. Changes are a very underrated yet important aspect of

how a team plays with tempo - meaning changes are very important to a very high tempo team like us. When we are playing our best we change very well, and vice versa.

Q: The team has been off to a great start - how do you keep the focus and the momentum going?

GADS: Keeping focused on the boulders not the pebbles. It is sometimes easy to take early success for granted and want to pay more attention to smaller aspects instead of the really important ones that take the most effort and commitment.

Q: I saw some interesting video recently - what can you tell us about the San Jose Rhinos?

GADS: Ha! The San Jose Rhinos were one of the inaugural teams in the now defunct RHI - Roller Hockey International. The majority of teams played out of NHL buildings so the league was a ton of fun and had really good talent as well. Because roller blades were brand new we hadn't figured out yet how to stop sweat from seeping out of the skate boot and onto the wheels so practices usually lasted less than 40 minutes (because no one could stand up after that) and then everyone went to the beach!

[Editor's note: For video footage of Guy Gadowsky's Rhino action, go to <https://funwhileitlasted.net/2014/02/05/1994-1999-san-jose-rhinos/> - a Gadowsky mention at 16:50, a wicked slapshot starting at 17:38 and some last-minute ice time closeups after the 21:00 mark]

"Changes are a very underrated yet important aspect of how a team plays with tempo."



ESPN video footage

Captain Gadowsky reads his slapshot with the San Jose Rhinos. He later coached the Rhinos for a season.



GOLF CLASSIC - PAST AND FUTURE



On May 19, 2022, the club held its inaugural Alumni & Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey Golf Classic at the Penn State Golf Courses. The event was planned as the primary fundraising activity for the club's support of the team. Bringing together club members, over 40 Penn State Hockey alumni (including both Icers and Varsity team alumni), and fans, 120 golfers in total sold out the event months ahead of time in just its first year.

The event featured a scramble golf tournament with various prizes, on-course contests, raffles, and opportunities for players to win a

car for a hole in one on select holes. Players had the opportunity to meet and tee off with Coach Gadowsky and have their photo taken with the Nit-tany Lion. The day's festivities were capped off with a post-golf dinner and silent auction. Proceeds from the event raised over \$20,000 that directly support the Penn State Men's Hockey team, far exceeding expectations for its first year. Coach Gadowsky was blown away by this joint event between FOPSMH and the alumni and the incredible support it will provide the team.

Next year's Golf Classic is scheduled for May 17, 2024 with a 10 AM shotgun start. Given the success from the inaugural event, it will be expanded

Continued on page 5

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you ever wonder where some of your former PSU hockey stars may be playing these days? As of early November, here are the locations of several of them (subject to roster changes). Best of luck to all, now and in the future!

COLLEGE: CONNER MCMENAMIN (A) is playing his final collegiate season at the UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-DULUTH and TYLER GRATTON (C) is at ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY.

EUROPE:

CASEY BAILEY: Germany
EVAN BARRATT: Germany
CHASE BERGER: Slovakia
PAUL DENAPLES: Denmark
DAVID GOODWIN: Spain
COLE HULTS: Slovakia
LUDVIG LARSSON: Sweden
AARNE TALVITIE: Finland

AHL:

BRANDON BIRO (A): Rochester Americans/Buffalo

Sabres—**Congrats on your first (and second) NHL goal!**

ALEX LIMOGES: Hershey Bears
BRETT MURRAY: Rochester Americans
NATE SUCESE: Chicago Wolves
KEVIN WALL: Milwaukee Admirals

ECHL:

ASHTON CALDER: Worcester Railers
BEN COPELAND: Kalamazoo Wings
TIM DOHERTY: Maine Mariners
BOBBY HAMPTON: Wheeling Nailers
KENNY JOHNSON: Reading Royals
PEYTON JONES: Iowa Heartlanders
TURE LINDEN: Fort Wayne Comets
CONNER MACEACHERN: Wichita Thunder
KRIS MYLLARI (A): Allen Americans
NIKITA PAVLYCHEV: Greenville Swamp Rabbits
DENIS SMIRNOV: Norfolk Admirals
SAM STERNSCHEIN: Toledo Walleyes



Brandon Biro scores his first NHL goal in his second game of the season with the Buffalo Sabres
(Photo by Tim Nwachukwu/Getty Images)

WHO'S GONE? WHO'S NEW? WHAT'S CHANGED?

GONE: The end of last season saw some great players graduating and/or moving on. Besides their captain, Paul DeNaples, we said goodbye to Ben Copeland, Kenny Johnson, Connor McMenamin, Ture Linden, Kevin Wall, and Connor MacEachern. Some of their continuing successes are highlighted in the article above. We also lost Matt Morrow, Director of Analytics and Assistant Director of Operations, who is now coaching the Rockets Hockey Club in the USPHL Premier League.

NEW: With big shoes to fill, the recruiting team went all out to bring in some key players with potential. With information from gopsusports.com, here are the newcomers in alphabetical order:

Casey Aman - DEFENSEMAN

Freshman | 6'0" | 185 lbs | #3 | Johnstown, PA

Aman spent the last two seasons in the British Columbia Hockey League, with the Powell River Kings. Casey was named the River Kings' Top Defenseman for both seasons, was the 2021-22 Team MVP, and the team captain last year, when he had 10 goals and 25 assists in 54 regular season games.

Jacques Bouquot - FORWARD

Transfer | 6'2" | 190 lbs | #27 | South Windsor, CT

Bouquot comes to us from the University of Vermont Catamounts, where he had a record season of 6 goals and 10 assists as captain. "You can see why he's been a captain everywhere he goes," says Gadowsky, "He doesn't try to do too much, and I'm really impressed with how he fits into what we're trying to do."

Matt DiMarsico - FORWARD

Freshman | 6'0" | 180 lbs | #14 | Wexford, PA

DiMarsico was with the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite for 3 years, averaging almost 80 points per season. Last season he played with the Green Bay Gamblers of the US Hockey League and scored 25 goals (a team high) and 21 assists in 59 games.

Dane Dowiak - FORWARD

Freshman | 5'10" | 180 lbs | #19 | Pittsburgh PA

Another Pens Elite Alum (2016-2018), Dowiak spent the previous two seasons with the Tri-City Storm (USHL), scoring 32 goals and 31 assists. In his first year Dowiak helped the Storm to the Anderson Cup Championship.

Aiden Fink - FORWARD

Freshman | 5'10" | 160 lbs | Calgary, Alberta

Fink was drafted by the Nashville Predators in the seventh round (#218). He has been with the Brooks Bandits of the Alberta Junior Hockey League the last two seasons, being named the top forward and MVP of both the AJHL and the Canadian Junior Hockey League. He scored a league-best 97 points in 54 games. He also led the scoring at the World Junior A challenge with 12 points for Team Canada.

Reese Laubach - FORWARD

Freshman | 6'0" | 170 lbs | San Jose, CA

In 2022, Laubach was selected by the San Jose Sharks in the seventh round of the draft. In 52 career USHL games with the Youngs-

"I think the culture is the biggest thing," said Fink on why he chose Penn State. "Even talking to the guys, the coaching staff, I just felt like this is where I should be."



Freshman Aiden Fink celebrates his first NCAA hat trick in the Michigan victory on 11/18/23. That's the 11th hat trick in program history, just the second on the road. Congrats!

Photo courtesy PSU Athletic Communications

Continued on page 5

FULL STRENGTH

ASK STURTZY

There's a new assistant coach on the bench but it's a familiar face as former Nittany Lion forward **Andrew Sturtz** returns "home" after a brief professional career. Sturtz, a fan favorite during his time in Hockey Valley from 2015-18, helped lead Penn State to the 2017 Big Ten Tournament Championship, its first in program history, and its first two NCAA Tournament appearances in 2017 and 2018 before signing a two-year, entry-level contract with the Ottawa Senators following his junior season. After playing in the AHL and battling multiple injuries he announced his retirement this spring.

Q. I'm sure the most-asked question you get is: "What's it like coming back to Hockey Valley?" How does it feel to coach players not far removed in age, and how do they respond to you?

STURTZ: Coming back to Hockey Valley was in all honesty a dream come true for me. I always knew that when my time as a player came to an end that the end goal for me was to come back to Penn State and help this team reach its goal of winning national championships as well as helping future Nittany Lions accomplish their dreams of playing in the National Hockey League. I didn't know I would be so lucky to be back here right at the start of my coaching career but I never forget how fortunate I am and I make sure every day I work just as hard as I did as a player. I feel that being closer to the players in age helps me in a lot of ways as they can come to me for advice on situations that they are going through during the season such as rough patches in their game, injuries, or even just questions on what they can do to help them get to the next level. I truly believe all of the adversity I faced in my pro career makes me more relatable to every player on our roster so I really try and take that as a positive as I have a good grasp on what it is

like to be in all situations that most of our skaters will face in their career.

Q. What is the main quality you bring to the coaching staff?

STURTZ: I believe the main quality I bring to an already amazing coaching staff is my energetic personality. I believe that if I come into work every day and just be myself it makes the people around me enjoy what they're doing. I am very blessed to live the life that I have for the last 29 years and I believe my day to day energy can really rub off on people and make for an extremely positive, enjoyable environment.

Q. What would you say has been the biggest struggle for you?

STURTZ: The biggest struggle for me with transitioning from playing to coaching so far has been the non-hockey related parts of the job. There have been things such as learning all of the NCAA recruiting rules, getting behind the computer and using all of the different databases and programs we need to use. It's been great to do that here with our staff because they have helped me so much in that side of things. They have really tried to help make the transition as smooth as possible for me which I am very appreciative of.

Q. What's your personal goal for the season?

STURTZ: My personal goal for this season is to grow as much as I can as a coach. I still have so much to learn in every aspect of coaching. I believe that being here working under an amazing director of hockey operations who has multiple years of coaching experience as well as 2 Associate Head Coaches with 10 and 20+ years of coaching experience that I am putting myself in a great situation to learn what it takes to climb the coaching ranks. Adding in everything that I learn every day from a head coach with almost 30 years of head coaching experience I just try to come in every day and be a sponge. I can learn so much from this staff and I am truly lucky that this is where I was able to begin what I hope to be a very long coaching career.

PSU Athletic Communications



"Coming back to Hockey Valley was in all honesty a dream come true for me."



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

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WHO'S GONE? WHO'S NEW? WHAT'S CHANGED? Cont'd

town Phantoms and the Omaha Lancers, Laubach scored 11 goal and 13 assists.

Tanner Palocsik - DEFENSEMAN

Graduate | 5'11" | 190 lbs | #22 | Aliquippa PA

Palocsik is happy to be back in PA after playing four years in Dartmouth College, where he was team captain, a two-time All-Ivy League selection and a Third Team All-ECAC honoree. The Aliquippa native said "It felt like coming home for me... it was a pretty obvious choice." Said Gadowsky, "He's a guy that's really going to push everybody, and he's making the team better for sure."

RETURNED:

Andrew Sturtz - ASSISTANT COACH

A big Pegula welcome goes out to Sturtz, our new Assistant Coach. As a PSU player from 2015-2018, Sturtz energized the fans and helped lead Penn State to its first Big Ten Tournament Championship in 2017, as well as its

first two NCAA Tournament showings in 2017 and 2018. When he left in 2018, he was the Nittany Lions' all-time leading goal scorer and only the second PSU player to score more than 100 career points. "My time as a student-athlete in Happy Valley truly changed my life and I look forward to working with Coach Gadowsky and his staff to give that same experience to our current and future Nittany Lions. I will embrace the challenges that my new role is going to bring and do my very best to make all Penn Staters proud! WE ARE..."

CHANGED:

- Christian Sarlo's sweater number changed from #10 to #15 (Kenny Johnson's old #)
- Juliano Pagiero, promoted from Assistant Coach to Associate Head Coach.



Photo from the FOPSMH website

GOLF CLASSIC CONTINUED

to use both the Blue and White Course of the Penn State Golf Courses. For more information or to view sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://www.psu hockeygolffclassic.com/>. FOPSMH dues-paying members will receive information shortly to register with an early bird rate to save \$10 off their player registration.



Anchorage, game 1 - Tough board work and stellar goaltending from goaltender Noah Grannan (33) gives the Lions a 2-1 victory. (Joel Sobel)

Photo—Stephanie Corcino

"It felt like coming home for me... it was a pretty obvious choice."

- Tanner Palocsik



Danny Dzhaniyev (13) scores on a redirect in the first period of the Notre Dame opener. (Joel Sobel)

Photo—Stephanie Corcino



The official friends club for Penn State Men's Hockey

THE FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY, INC.



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Email us at membership@fopsmh.org



<https://twitter.com/fopsmh>

Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey ("FOPSMH") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations to FOPSMH are tax deductible.

WATCH PARTY!

Come to **Marzoni's** on Saturday, December 9 to cheer on our team as they battle Wisconsin. Puck drop is at 8PM.

RSVP to Linda Schenck Matesevac (lrmphd@gmail.com) by Monday evening, December 4th even if you might be arriving late so we can reserve an adequate number of spaces to accommodate our group during this busy holiday season.



Golf Classic Banner

Photo by Brenda Ruby

FOPSMH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Want to help make your club better? Let a current board member know if you might be interested in serving on the board or a committee in the future.

In particular, we'd like to find the right person to train to become treasurer in the future.

If you want to volunteer your time for a great organization, contact a board member or email membership@fopsmh.org

We're on the Web!

<https://fopsmh.org/>



Photo by Dana Crouse