



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

SPRING 2016

### FROM PRESIDENT LINDA MATESEVAC

Our home season is over, and I am writing this just after our Senior Banquet, where we said an early “good-bye and good luck” to our seniors. Over 300 Friends of Penn State Men’s Hockey members, fans, and hockey alums joined us at this lovely affair, and it’s time to start reflecting on this season, even though there are still games to be played.

I’d like to emphasize some of this year’s highlights: we held a small buffet for our members at Pegula after the Saturday Michigan State game, co-sponsored a bus trip to New York City for the men’s hockey/basketball doubleheader, had an exceptional season selling 50-50 tickets, and initiated specialty raffles. Plus our club has its own reserved table at Lettermans Sports Grill for Coach Gadowsky’s weekly radio show. Our board will continue to work throughout the year; look for new events and activities next season as we strive to support the team financially and promote fan participation and enthusiasm.

I am thrilled to announce that the FOPSMH is endowing a

\$50,000 scholarship over the next five years with early activation, so that a hockey student-athlete or hockey student-manager can benefit immediately. Such a commitment would not have been possible without your support through your FOPSMH dues, your contributions to the 50-50 tickets and raffle sales, and your attendance at the hockey games. Thank you from the officers and board members.



Please join us at our upcoming meetings and share your talents and expertise. We are always looking for new members, for individuals interested in serving on the board, and for additional ways to support the team and enhance the hockey experience for all. What a year for the Friends of Penn State Men’s Hockey, and, more importantly, what a year for the TEAM!

### OFF THE ICE



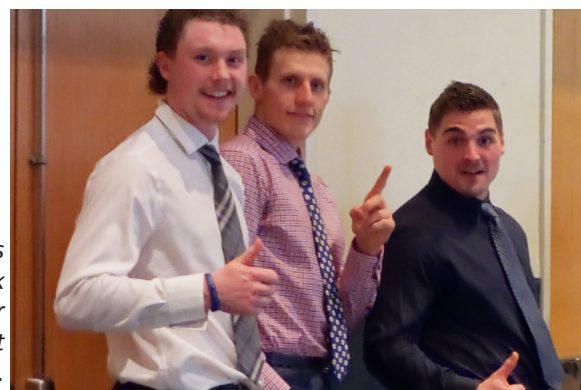
*Curtis Loik and Coach Gadowsky meet members at an FOPSMH post-game buffet in Pegula.*

*Chris Funkey and Eric Scheid join host Tyler Feldman on Coach Gadowsky’s weekly radio program. FOPSMH members regularly attend this event at Lettermans Sports Grill.*



*Captain David Glen speaks to the Senior Banquet audience at the Penn Stater.*

*James Robinson, Curtis Loik, and Tommy Olczyk show their feelings for Penn State hockey at the Senior Banquet.*





## ASK COACH GADOWSKY

**Question:** *Can a coach do anything to prepare players for the exuberance of a student section like the Roar Zone?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** Coaches do try. I'm sure some play music or pump in background noise during practice.

**Question:** *Are there other venues you've been at where the crowd could impact play?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** Yost (Michigan) for sure – absolutely 100%. Other places also, but Yost immediately comes to mind. When I had my first college coaching job at Alaska-Fairbanks, we were in the Central Collegiate Hockey League and played at Yost. When the snowball gets rolling there, the crowd pushes it down the hill quickly. But I love playing here at Pegula; it's meaningful. I don't know of any other arena where the students/fans have such a significant impact on the opposition.

**Question:** *How much on-ice practice do the players have during the season?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** We are limited to a maximum of 20 hours by the NCAA. Within those limits, ice time is always available to individual players to augment the team practices. Some players take advantage of that, others get extra rest or let their injuries heal.

**Question:** *Is significant practice ice time spent on preparing for opponents' tendencies, or is practice time mostly spent on repetition of how you want Penn State to play in particular situations?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** We obviously do both, but we don't adjust practice based on an upcoming opponent's tendencies until later in the week. Up until then, we focus on how we want to play.

**Question:** *Andrew Sturtz seems to always be creating havoc in front of the net - how's that working out?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** Let me answer that with some examples. In our 2-game home series with Minnesota, Andrew was responsible for drawing 5 out of



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the 6 penalties committed by Minnesota players. And in 3 of those, he paid the price by really getting "killed" in front of the net. I love that guy, he motivates his teammates with that style of play, he's got a lot of heart. He also has real tender hands, a goal-scorer's touch.

**Question:** *Recognizing that you have twice beaten Minnesota in overtime play, what do you think of the college overtime format and would you like to see college hockey adopt the NHL 3-on-3 overtime?*

**Coach Gadowsky:** I favor college hockey mirroring the NHL as much as possible. In this case, the problem has to do with how implementing the NHL overtime format might affect the determination of RPI – especially when factoring in conference "crossover" games. But I really enjoy watching the NHL overtimes, and I certainly like them more than watching shootouts. I think it would translate well to the college game.

## FUN FACT

Michigan Coach Red Berenson once autographed a children's book he wrote (about the 1972 Canada/Russia hockey series) for Coach Gadowsky's young son.



Stephanie Corcino

*The Roar Zone reminds Princeton why Guy Gadowsky is now at Penn State.*

## ASK THE LIONS

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

**David Glen:** I was recruited out of Alberta. Penn State was a good fit for me. With it being a new program, I knew I could get the chance for more playing time here than at other schools. And, of course, everything else – new team, new venue. Things came together all at once.

**Eamon McAdam:** There were lots of reasons. Most importantly, I was personally excited to play in a new program. I felt I could help create a path for kids in the area to follow. You don't get a chance to be in on the beginning of too many things. It also helped that I could be close to home and my family could watch me play, and that I would be playing Big Ten hockey.

**Question:** *What has surprised you most about Penn State?*

**Erik Autio:** The physical component of college hockey – it's different from junior hockey in Finland. I had to get used to it, and now that I am a sophomore, I think I have.

**Chase Berger:** How dedicated everyone is – to school, to being all-around good guys in the community. The team atmosphere is incredible. I've never been part of a team where everyone is on the same page. You put Penn State ahead of yourself.

**Vince Pedrie:** The character of the guys in the locker room. Their integrity is phenomenal. All the guys care about and love the program.

**Question:** *Have you encountered any of your teammates from juniors while playing for Penn State?*

**Alec Marsh:** Yes, quite a few. In the Notre Dame games, I played against one of my best friends, a guy I roomed with for several years in juniors. It was fun, and I don't think it affected my play.

**Chase Berger:** Yes, against Notre Dame and against Michigan State. It's no big deal – actually, while in juniors, I played against many of the guys I grew up with. So it wasn't too much out of the ordinary for me.

**Question:** *What changes in the team's play or your play have you noticed since you first came to Penn State?*

**Curtis Loik:** The team's progress and confidence immediately come to mind. In that first year, we were all learning a new system. Since then, the combination of our individual improvement and the things the newer guys have brought to the table has enabled us to win a lot more games than many thought was possible.

**Eric Scheid:** With regard to my play, I am much more mature and my play is more consistent than when I started here. I never lacked offensive skills, but now I am much more well-rounded, and I have learned the importance of taking care of the little things.

**Question:** *How would you compare the Big Ten style of play with that of the non-conference schools you've competed against?*

**Curtis Loik:** Each conference seems to have a somewhat different style. Maybe it's because we play each Big Ten team at least 4 times each year, but I think those schools have more skilled players than teams in most of the other conferences.

**Eric Scheid:** Most of the highly-ranked schools we played, like Boston College, have lots of highly-skilled players, and they usually are offensive powerhouses. Many of the other schools, perhaps due to smaller budgets or facilities, have fewer elite players, but they make up for that with more structured, disciplined play, and they work really hard. Both of these types of teams are hard to play.

**Eamon McAdam:** I think that actually the Big Ten teams may exhibit the most variation of all leagues. There are some teams, like Minnesota and Michigan, that are very skilled, very offense-minded. On the other hand, we're very hard-working, we stick to our system. But we don't prepare differently depending upon the opponent; if we do what we're supposed to do, it doesn't matter who we play.

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## NITTANY LION SPOTLIGHT

*Editor's note: Tommy Olczyk has a long list of accomplishments as a Penn State hockey player, including being the Nittany Lions' first varsity captain, and becoming an instant fan favorite through his hustle and determination. He is now adding another achievement to his resume, as a teaching assistant. Tommy spent some time filling us in on the details.*

**Question:** *What was your major as an undergraduate?*

**Tommy O:** I'm studying accounting – and I don't have my degree yet. I'm in the MACC (Master of Accounting) Program; it's a five-year program that leads to both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree – a great opportunity.

**Question:** *How did you wind up teaching a class?*

**Tommy O:** In the Accounting Department, the Program Heads look for Master's students to be teaching assistants in the introductory class. They sent an e-mail to qualified students. I was interested and was fortunate to get selected. I teach a small section every Friday.

**Question:** *Did it take long for you to get comfortable teaching?*

**Tommy O:** Not really. I've taken so many of the upper level accounting classes that I'm very knowledgeable about the basics, and I'm teaching students with little or no exposure

to accounting principles. Plus I have a lot of experience speaking in public, going back to my days in junior hockey.

**Question:** *What are your major duties?*

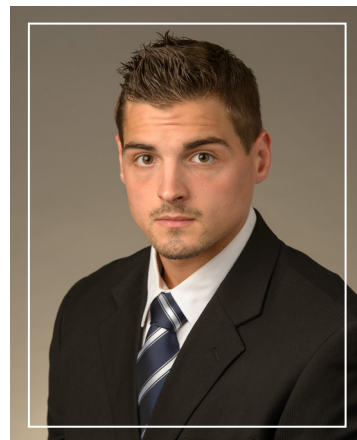
**Tommy O:** I prepare lesson plans and I teach/answer students' questions. (Laughing) The good thing (for me) is that I don't assign grades to the students.

**Question:** *How have students reacted to having someone of your notoriety as an instructor?*

**Tommy O:** One of the first things I did was tell the class that I play hockey. Some of the students didn't know, some didn't care. That's all OK, I'm there to relay information to them, to help them, regardless of their interest in hockey.

**Question:** *Do you see yourself teaching in the future?*

**Tommy O:** At his time I don't know. I'd like to continue playing hockey after I graduate, and maybe after that use my degree to work in the NHL. So we'll see.



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



It's hard to believe another season is already winding down. This time of year is always bittersweet. We celebrate the program's landmark achievements that continue to accumulate, yet we also prepare to say farewell to a handful of terrific seniors. This senior class is incredibly special, being the first class to endure and persevere through four seasons of D-1 hockey at Penn State.

Our broadcast team is fortunate to have a glimpse into the day-to-day commitments made by Penn State Hockey student-athletes, coaches and staff. I can attest that each of these individuals takes great pride in representing Penn State University. In numerous interviews, athletes and coaches have emphasized the importance of the entire collegiate experience, which certainly goes beyond the chaotic action unfolding each weekend on the ice.

Yet, on the ice, this season is one for the record books as well. Our Nittany Lions have amassed a program-record total for wins in a single-season and have scored an unprecedented number of shorthanded goals. Also, I doubt we will soon forget the program's first-ever wins at Minnesota and Ohio State.

On behalf of our entire broadcast team, thank you to the families, friends, alumni and fans that tuned in this season. It was an exciting year for us with Penn State offering free audio streaming of all games for the first time both online and on your mobile device. If you do not have the Penn State Gameday App on your smartphone, I highly recommend downloading it! It's an easy way to keep track of your Nittany Lions.

We Are ...



## BEHIND THE SCENES: PEGULA RINK MANAGER CHRIS WHITEMORE

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*Editor's note: Chris Whittemore has been at Penn State since 2000, and is a "Certified Ice Rink Manager." More importantly, he can drive a Zamboni, and he's friends with one of the Hanson Brothers. FULL STRENGTH interviewed Chris in January. This is the first part of that interview; look for more in the Fall 2016 issue.*

**Question:** Can you tell us about your background?

**CW:** I was born in Boston and started playing hockey when I was seven. We moved to Pittsburgh when I was twelve. I attended Bowling Green University; my degree is in Sports Management. I interned with the Penguins – that was in 1993. After college, I worked in retail sales, first at Rupp's Sporting Goods. After then working at the Island Sports Center (on Neville Island), I got involved in operating rinks and building facilities. Dave Hanson (one of THE Hanson Brothers of "Slap Shot" fame) had a major influence on me at that time, as did a gentleman named Dale Rossetti.

**Question:** What led you to Penn State?

**CW:** The position of rink manager at the Greenberg Ice Pavilion opened up in July, 2000. I applied, Joe Battista hired me, and I have been here ever since. Over the years, I have continued to take classes, participate in training sessions, and attend conferences to keep up with the profession.

**Question:** What do you remember most about Greenberg?

**CW:** It was a typical 1 ½ sheet ice arena. What was special was the atmosphere. The success of the hockey program led by Joe, the activity of the boosters and the Hockey Management Association, it all was tremendously exciting.

**Question:** Did you contribute to the design or building of the Pegula Ice Arena?

**CW:** A little bit. I remember suggesting a reconfiguration of the ice melt pit (where ice is dumped) so we would not have to turn the Zambonis (ice-resurfacers) around in a short space. I also influenced the ice plant. Lots of us had input here and there as needed – it was all part of the process.

**Question:** What unanticipated situations have you encountered at Pegula?

**CW:** None really, at least nothing major. It takes several years to become familiar with a new building, it's a process we still are going through, and as we learn more, we try to improve things. We once had some of the ceiling smoke detectors go off just before the doors opened for a game; we subsequently decided to identify these detectors not just by a serial number, but also by position relative to the (Big Ten school) flags hanging from the ceiling. This enables us to locate problems far more quickly.

**Question:** Besides Penn State hockey, what goes on at Pegula?

**CW:** Lots! We have many day-to-day activities that generate revenue, including public sessions, figure skating lessons, and hockey lessons. Figure skating and hockey user groups, the Musselmans Ice Shows, and the State College boys hockey team, also use the facilities. We have to provide a safe, high-quality ice surface for these activities just as we do for the Penn State varsity programs.

**Question:** How does it feel to change broken "glass" with 6,000 people watching?

**CW:** It's quite an experience. We try to make a change in 10 minutes or less. The one time it happened at Pegula, it was right in front of the student section. Of course the music was blaring, we all wanted to keep the students engaged, and it was a unique experience to say the least. But we practice this, we have people designated to perform each necessary function, and we take pride in minimizing the impact on the game.

*Editor's note: In our Fall 2016 edition, Chris will give us the lowdown on how the ice sheet is created and maintained. He'll also talk about making Pegula comfortable for the fans.*

### IN MEMORIUM:

We lost a dear friend and fan when Don Simmons passed away in December. Don served the club and the team for many years, helping with merchandise sales and 50/50 tickets at the Greenberg Ice Pavilion. He will be missed immensely.



## GAME ACTION

photos by Stephanie Corcino



*Kenny Brooks (13) and Chase Berger (8) tango with Sacred Heart.*



*David Glen (left) and Andrew Sturtz (16) are outnumbered by Princeton.*



*Eamon McAdam (34) ignores the scrum and keeps Michigan State from scoring.*



*Lions and Spartans battle close to the fans.*



*Eric Scheid pins Minnesota's Ryan Collins to the boards.*



*Alec Marsh goes for the puck against two Gophers.*



# GAME ACTION

Continued from Page 6



*Erik Autio waits for an opportunity against Wisconsin.*



*Alec Marsh (28) pounces on a loose puck versus the Badgers.*



*Chase Berger (8) rams the puck home against Michigan.*



*Wolverine goalie Steve Racine deflects a shot from Vince Pedrie (not shown) into the net.*



*Andrew Sturtz celebrates David Glen's goal against Ohio State.*



*Andrew Sturtz (16), David Glen (11), and David Goodwin (9) battle the Buckeyes.*





*Editor's note: In this new feature, we will present the people and the sights that make Game Day special at Pegula. It seemed obvious that our first subject should be "the man with the blue and white hair" – Rich Seifert. Rich epitomizes the spirit of Penn State hockey, and when you see him at the rink, you know all is well and you are about to have the time of your life.*



ABBY DREY, Centre Daily Times, file

*As an added treat, we also are including a picture of the Penn State Blue Band's first on-ice appearance at Pegula, during the Michigan game. Even though it's a still picture, "Hail to the Lion" seems to burst out of the image. Just imagine that fantastic sound reverberating throughout the arena!*

*For those who haven't yet been, we hope all of this makes you want to come to Pegula to see (and hear) for yourselves what the excitement is all about. If you've already been, we hope you keep coming back for more!*

What started out as a whim has turned Rich Seifert into a Pegula celebrity. When Penn State hockey was about to begin its inaugural season in Pegula and Rich was able to buy season tickets, he tried to think of ways he could visibly support the team. Thanks to the recommendation of a beautician friend, the long mane of white hair streaked with blue mousse became his trademark.

Early in the season, during a nonconference game when Pegula did not have its usual 'sold out' crowd, a staffer ap-

proached Rich and asked if he could get the crowd going – which he did; he stood up and began to cheer and Pegula erupted! Today he is a catalyst for excitement, and our fans, the Roar Zone, and the team feed off his enthusiasm. Rich also is a regular attendee at Coach Gadowsky's weekly call-in radio program at Letterman's Sports Grill in State College.

Rich was born in New York, attended public school in Queens, and later played goalie on a street hockey team in northern New Jersey; he readily admits "I can't skate for beans!" After his family moved to Binghamton, NY, Rich played high school basketball and, later, was introduced to professional hockey by a friend. The New York Rangers became his favorite NHL team. Not surprisingly, he is also a New York Giants fan, and follows professional soccer/Premier League as well.

Rich moved to the State College area in 1990 and began to work as a mechanic for the former Leitzinger Racing. He casually acknowledges that one of his most memorable experiences affiliated with racing was meeting Paul Newman, who was intent on keeping the conversation focused on racing, not acting. Rich currently works for Mercedes-Benz in State College.

Upon his arrival in the area, Rich began to go to Penn State club team events and, like many of us, caught "Nittany Lion fever" – and the rest is history. When asked what he liked best about PSU hockey, he quickly replied, "The excitement shown by everyone!" Even seeing Rich roam the concourse before the start of games elicits cheers from those passing by. Although he has not ventured to away games, Rich has become a welcome addition to the atmosphere at all home games at Pegula. And to think...it all started on a whim.



Stephanie Corcino

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