



FROM PRESIDENT LINDA MATESEVAC

What an exciting season for our men's hockey team and the Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey club! Prior to the holidays and the semester break, we held our second annual post-game social for the team, coaches, and club members. Everyone had a wonderful evening, especially following the win; the players were so personable interacting with those in attendance, allowing many photos to be taken, and sharing their excitement for the remainder of the season. At the end of December, many of our club members and their families attended the open practice and participated in the annual skate with the team. Once again, the players were such good sports skating around the arena with one, two, and more novice skaters holding on!

Finally, we are looking forward to the Senior Celly on March 4th, following the last home game with Wisconsin. The club will be presenting a senior gift to all graduating athletes and student managers. Once again, it will be difficult to say "good bye" to such an outstanding group of young men—David Goodwin, Ricky DeRosa, Dylan Richard, David Thompson, Zach Saar, and Mike Williamson. We wish all of them much success and happiness in their next venture.



Thank you for all your support this year: buying 50/50 and raffle tickets to fund our endowed scholarship, attending our events, sharing your ideas for additional ways to interact with and be supportive of the team and the coaches, and volunteering your time to sell tickets, to serve on our Board of Directors, and/or to be an officer. Even after hockey season officially ends, the club will continue to work behind the scenes in preparation for the 2017-2018 season; I shall keep you posted on our status, our activities, and our membership campaign. We are...Penn State!

Stephanie Corcino



Andrew Sturtz with FOPSMH President Linda Matesevac and superfan Rich Seifert at the post-Michigan game social on December 2nd at Pegula.

Early in January, twenty-three club members and friends journeyed to the Penn State-Ohio State game in Columbus for our first-ever overnight excursion. Everything went flawlessly; the accommodations were excellent, the bus driver did a fabulous job, the atmosphere was electric, and our team saluted us in appreciation after winning the game. We couldn't have asked for anything better. You can read more about our trip on page 5.

The club also sponsored its first 'watch party' on Saturday, February 4th, at Champs on North Atherton Street. Almost thirty people were in attendance to cheer on our Nittany Lions as they battled the Minnesota Golden Gophers; the club provided appetizers and hockey-related merchandise for all. We hope to schedule more parties in the future, perhaps at different venues.



Linda Matesevac

Penn State Hockey players and their new friends at the annual skate with the team.

ASK COACH GADOWSKY

Question: Given the large number of players from junior hockey on the team, do you and the other coaches spend much time at camps and clinics?

Coach Gadowsky: Oh yes. We actually travel MORE in the summer than during the season in the winter (and we do travel a lot in the winter). If we wanted to, each coach could be at a camp, clinic, tournament, or showcase every weekend! If we want to be successful in recruiting, we have to put in that extra work.

Question: When did (freshmen Russian-born players) Nikita Pavlychev and Denis Smirnov first get on your radar?

Coach Gadowsky: Believe it or not, they were right here in Pennsylvania. They played for Wilkes-Barre, and we first took note of them at that time. Later, they both played (for different teams) in the USHL, and they really opened some eyes there. We always look for the best players who fit our program, regardless of where they are from, but we almost look at these two guys as local kids.

Question: When players you are recruiting decide to come to Penn State,

what reasons do they give for their decision?

Coach Gadowsky: This varies with each individual. For some, our academics stand out. Of course, the atmosphere at Pegula, including the Roar Zone, impresses a lot of them. And our style of play is very attractive. But here's something else: we had one recruit from Canada, and his father told me that from the time he was six, his son hadn't ever missed a Hockey Night in Canada broadcast, but that the other night he did miss the hockey game so he could watch Penn State football. And his son said "Penn State is the coolest university in the country."

Question: Evan Barratt of the U.S. National Development Team has signed a letter of intent to play here next season – he's the first player from the National Development team to come to Penn State. Is this a breakthrough or milestone for Penn State?

Coach Gadowsky: I don't see this as a breakthrough. We had identified Evan as a player we wanted before he tried out for (and made) the National Development Team. He had the attributes we look for, he fit within our local foot-



PSU Athletic Communications

print, and so his status as a National Team member did not influence our decision. One of the major differences between the National Team and junior hockey teams is that although the National Team plays a lot of junior teams, it also plays a few games against NCAA teams. We are happy to have him join us.

Question: Are you past thinking of the freshmen on the ice as freshmen?

Coach Gadowsky: I think so – yes, we are past that point. I don't know exactly when this happened, and it varied by individual. For example, Nate Sucese and some other players got early ice time on specialty teams – penalty kills, four on four, those kinds of situations. Others did not have those opportunities for a variety of reasons. But by now, we look at them only as part of the team, we don't think of them as freshmen any more.

Question: How have you evolved as a coach since coming to Penn State?

Coach Gadowsky: I have learned a lot – from the players, the staff, the coaches. I have grown a ton in so many ways. As the team culture gets better, well, that's a reflection of how we learn a lot about and from the Penn State culture.

Stephanie Corcino



ASK THE LIONS

Question: What has surprised you most about the season so far?

David Goodwin: The immediate success of the freshmen. It's tough coming into a program like ours right out of juniors. But it hasn't looked to me like they've experienced any growing pains, they've contributed from the beginning.

Andrew Sturtz: The fact that we can go into any game with either of our goalies and feel confident that we will win. Our two guys just jumped right in.

THANK YOU

The Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey wants to acknowledge the Driscoll Automotive Group/Mercedes-Benz of State College for their generous donation to the club. Their gift allowed us to produce the Senior Night signs seen around the arena.

Thank you Mercedes-Benz of State College!!!

Question: *Is the Penn State style of play where there is a concerted effort to put pucks on the net a style you are familiar with from your junior hockey days, or did you have to make significant adjustments?*

James Robinson: Coaches are always recruiting players who fit their system. A particular junior team might not play the style that Penn State plays, but a particular individual on that team could still fit in very well at Penn State.

Denis Smirnov: ALL forwards like to shoot!

Question: *You are a new player in the program, but older than the other freshmen. Has this presented special challenges for you?*

Trevor Hamilton: Not really, the guys welcomed me with open arms, and put me in a good position – especially David Goodwin, who is my roommate. Being older than the freshmen, I try to help lead them, and at the same time I look to the team's veterans to teach me what Penn State

hockey is all about. With my experience, I feel I can still be a leader both on and off the ice.

Question: In past years, Tommy Olczyk kept the locker room loose. Who has taken over that role now that Tommy has graduated?

James Robinson: It's not just one guy. Of course, if you asked Chris Funkey, he'd tell you he is that guy. I'd say we have several guys who are good at keeping it light.

Andrew Sturtz: Chris Funkey. (Kevin Kerr seconds this.) He's the ultimate teammate, he's a one-of-a-kind guy. I am very grateful to the staff for getting him and guys like him.

Question: Are you surprised by the scores of the Michigan games at Pegula this season?

James Robinson: I wish we could have put those up last year. To have those scores this year - I don't know, Michigan is a really good team, they'll always be a really good team. I think this year we were hungry, we really wanted those two wins.

Question: Some crowds/environments are much more se-date than Pegula – what challenges does that present to you?

David Goodwin: You've got to create your own energy, because there's no crowd cheering for you or rooting against you. For me, after the first few minutes, I don't think about it.

Peyton Jones: We all get pumped up by the Roar Zone. On the road, we tell ourselves in the locker room that we don't have the Roar Zone, we have to get ourselves excited. Speaking as a goalie, it's probably a bit easier on the road in a quieter environment – you don't get the same fans constantly yelling at you.

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>

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

PRESIDENT	Linda Matesevac (lrmphd@gmail.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Wendy Jo Hartsock
SECRETARY	Jane Whitaker
TREASURER	Richard Shore
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	Dale Lamke, Jen Cowher, Anna Whitaker



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

As we reach the final weeks of another thrilling season, let's cherish the lasting memories already created by this special group of Nittany Lions. This season, despite a roster featuring 13 newcomers and 11 freshmen, Penn State climbed to #1 in both the Pairwise and USCHO.com

poll for the first time in program history. The team is poised for a postseason run, thanks to an unforgettable program-best 13-game unbeaten streak.

Our broadcast team is fortunate to have a glimpse into the day-to-day commitments made by Penn State Hockey student-athletes. More important than wins and losses, I can attest that each of these individuals takes great pride

in representing Penn State University. The large freshman class became immediately ingrained in the program's proud culture, dedicating itself to excellence at the rink, in the classroom, and in the community.

It's been a delight interviewing players and coaches each week for video segments on GoPSUsports.com and during the Penn State Coaches Show at Letterman's Sports Grill. I hope that families, friends, alumni and fans enjoy learning about the team and players as much as I do during our conversations. All our guests are incredibly well-spoken, thoughtful and honest, another testament to the high-character individuals recruited by Coach Gadowsky and his staff.

On behalf of our entire broadcast team, including Tim King and Bob Taylor, thank you for tuning in this season. We are very fortunate for the opportunity to cover this tremendous hockey team and document its rise to national prominence.

THE VOICE OF PEGULA

Ever since my first Bears' games at the Hersheypark Arena, I have been fascinated by game production. I absolutely loved the hockey, but I was also curious about all of the "behind-the-scenes" stuff that went into the whole presentation – music, promotions, and fan experience. I definitely got that from my brother Ken, who was starting a successful career in the radio industry as a Program/Production Director when I was in high school.

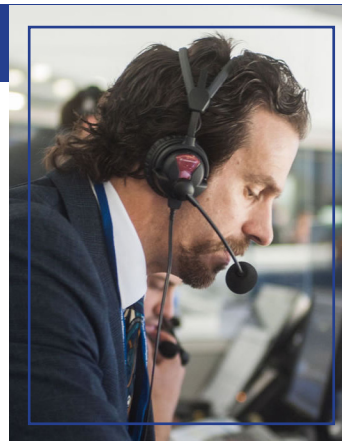
When I started working with Penn State Hockey in 1996, our game presentation was well above-average for club hockey. As I reflect back, I don't know how we did it. We would shuffle stacks of CDs into two portable players hooked up to a mixing board about the size of Delaware. We also had a cart machine for canned organ music that we had to memorize, so that if play on the ice resumed while the music was being broadcast, we knew how to cue to the correct position for the next stoppage. Around the 1999-2000 season, we finally transitioned to using a laptop - what a huge difference that was!

Fast-forward to today - the mixing board is still about the size of Delaware (though we don't have to carry it back and forth to each game), but it has inputs for video (both in-arena and remote production room), six microphones, radio, and a laptop with a ton of music. We have anywhere from 6 to 10 people in our control room running a well-

rehearsed script. Video, game promotions, instant replays, lighting, on-ice promotions, music, and time for the Blue Band - all of this is choreographed to fit within the flow of the game.

Even though I'm now part of the production team, I still am amazed at how we are able to pull it all off! At the helm is a familiar name and face – Dana Crouse. As game director, Dana's the one who controls all of the various elements of the script. Then there's PJ, Brian, and Melso with music and on-ice promotions, and Alex and Danielle working the team tunnels and helping with in-arena promotions. Andy, Jeff, and others run the video boards, while Jess, Tommy, and Wags handle video production – sometimes from the other side of campus in Rec Hall. Eric and his crew keep the Blue Band rocking, and members of HMA serve as spotters both in the booth and at ice level. It's a great group.

So as you are enjoying this historic season, please take a moment to appreciate the hard work that is put into the non-hockey stuff and helps makes Pegula Ice Arena "the best atmosphere in college hockey!" We Are...



ANATOMY OF A ROAD TRIP

Editor's note: The Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey sponsored its first overnight bus trip (to Ohio State this past January). Here's what happened:

Saturday January 7, 8:30 am. It's cold and cloudy as we pull out of the Fullington Bus Terminal. Everyone is on time, bodes well for a successful trip. Two plus hours of sleep and it's time for lunch.

Saturday noon. It's sunny, the bus is eating up the miles, we're watching The Opening of the Pegula Ice Arena DVD. Now for some trivia, with prizes donated by the PSU Hockey Program and the FOPSMH. Chick-fil-A coupons for all passengers.

Saturday, 3:30 pm. This is Lion Country! Penn State's Fencing and Men's Volleyball teams are in Columbus also, and staying at our hotel.

Saturday, 5 pm. Many of us gather at the hotel restaurant for dinner, others venture across the street to one of several optional restaurants.



Saturday, 7:15 pm. We have seats inside the blue line watching the Lions attack in the 1st and 3rd periods. We are joined at the game by Kevin Jaeger, the all-time leading goal-scorer in Penn State Icers (club hockey) history! Kevin's in-laws live in Stormstown.

Saturday 7:55 pm. Player intros – we are standing and yelling, led by blue-haired Rich Seifert (yup, he's part of our group). Coach Gadowsky spots us, and alerts the team.

Saturday 9:30 pm. Brandon Biro breaks the scoring drought!!! Lions 1, Bucks zip.

Saturday 9:40 pm. Two minutes of 5-on-3 for OSU. Peyton Jones is out of his mind. Still 1-0 Lions.

Saturday 10:20 pm. Erik Autio skates right by us and wrists it into the net. Good guys up 2-0. Ricky DeRosa breaks away for a shortie – now 3-0.

Saturday 10:30 pm. Double dang. Bucks score on another 2-man advantage, then again before the 2nd penalty expires. Gotta hang on for 10 more minutes. Seems more like 100 minutes, the clock is barely moving.

Saturday 10:55 pm. Final minute of play. Buckeyes skating 6 – everyone on their feet. The Lions clear, that does it, and now an empty-netter at the buzzer. Big Blue sweaters pouring over the boards, coming right at us, sticks raised in salute!



Saturday, 11:40 pm. Back at the hotel. Sack time for some, a few libations at The Rooster across the street for others. Getaway time tomorrow is 8:30 am.

Sunday, 7 am. Hot breakfast is part of the hotel deal. Good enough that the group decides to pass on a full lunch break – we'll just stop at a travel plaza for 20 minutes – want to get home as soon as possible.

Sunday 11 am. Lake effect snow hitting us in northern Ohio. Bus driver is unfazed. More trivia.

Sunday 12 pm. We're in PA, snow has stopped, we are rolling!

Sunday 2:30 pm. Pulling into the Fullington Terminal. Travelers unanimous – trip was a blast!

Wednesday January 11. We made the big time. Glimpses of us are part of the 2016-17 Penn State Hockey Story Episode 1. Find it on YouTube.

GAME ACTION

photos by Stephanie Corcino



Andrew Sturtz cuts on a dime to score against Niagara.



Denis Smirnov fires away.



Vince Pedrie takes direct aim versus Alaska Anchorage.



Five-on-three vs. Michigan – not good odds for the Wolverines.



Vince Pedrie's shot shows the flex in today's sticks.



Zach Saar gains control of a bouncing puck.

GAME ACTION

Continued from Page 6



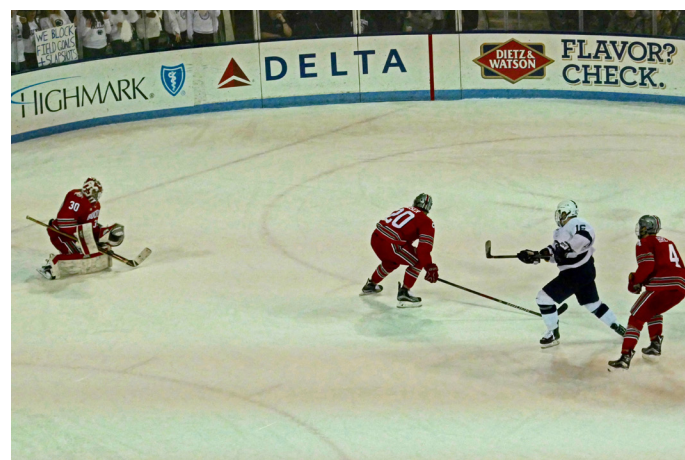
Can you believe it? Trevor Hamilton's shot versus Michigan State does NOT go in!



Denis Smirnov (far right) speeds through the neutral zone into MSU territory.



Ricky DeRosa evens it up with 10 minutes to play against the Spartans.



Andrew Sturtz tries to get the lead against Ohio State.



Alec Marsh puts the Lions ahead of the Buckeyes late in the game.



Nikita Pavlychev tries a wrap-around versus the Bucks' Christian Frey.



The Roar Zone had a strong start to the semester, selling out both games against Ohio State with students filling the aisles. The Friday match was a whiteout and we had an additional surprise for the crowd. While the Ohio State players gathered in their huddle directly in front of us, we pulled out our third and largest TIFO yet. (A TIFO is a large painted banner; TIFOs are well known at professional soccer games, and they've become somewhat of a tradition in Pegula as well.) Sam Watson, Roar Zone Vice President, coordinated the project and says, "For me, the TIFO is the ultimate pump-up event and it's something that has helped grow our reputation both in the hockey community and with other student sections. Making them has become part of our traditions, and I think that it's another reason why Pegula has the best atmosphere on campus."

Looking at the schedule in the fall, we knew we wanted to launch it against Ohio State, a big rival from a neighboring state. (At that time, we had no idea we also would be number one in the country come January 20th.) From a group brainstorm, we arrived at the idea of the Nittany Lion as a nutcracker intimidating Brutus the Buckeye. Sketching out a scale drawing, we scanned it into a computer and, like a giant outdoor movie theater, projected the drawing onto the blank canvas. After tracing the outline, the canvas was painted and ready to be unveiled.

Before the game, everyone was bouncing with excitement. Once the signal was given, we passed the TIFO up the lower student section to unroll it – the Roar Zone's newest masterpiece! As for the future of TIFOs in Pegula, Sam predicts they will be an ongoing feature, "because most if not all of the feedback I've gotten about each one we've done has been positive. Whether it's talking to Coach, the players, or some of my professors, people always seem to enjoy the spectacle."

The Roar Zone was on the road January 28th to watch the College Hockey Faceoff. Selling out almost immediately, we had 92 students make the trip to Philadelphia. Sitting in our usual position behind the opposing goalie for the 1st and 3rd periods, the Roar Zone was excited to bring a college environment to an NHL arena. "We had people on the opposite side of the arena say they could hear us, and I was impressed at how many Penn State fans were there," said Matt Moran (junior, Secondary Education). "Bus trips are a good way to bond with other people in the student section, and have fun outside the rink."

We have a few more home games this season, so we hope to see you all at Pegula!



Stephanie Corcino

Pick one - Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, or the Roar Zone's?