



FROM PRESIDENT WENDY JO HARTSOCK

It's hard to believe that our 2021-22 season is over. Despite all of the stay-safe health challenges put forth and having to wear masks indoors, we finally got back together in Pegula Ice Arena for an entire season. It was great seeing and hearing everyone come back in true Penn State spirit to cheer on our players and coaches.

On Saturday, February 19, at the conclusion of the Minnesota series, we honored seniors Paul DeNaples, Clayton Phillips, Adam Pilewicz, and Oskar Autio at our annual "Senior Celly," which has become somewhat of a rite of passage. The seniors all look forward to it; a recurring theme for this year's edition was how these four young men stepped up throughout their hockey careers as leaders of the team. We wish them the best in everything they do and become in the years ahead, confident that leadership will continue to be a cornerstone of their futures. The FOPSMH again this year will present an engraved Waterford Crystal puck to each of the seniors, and we know that these will serve as a reminder of the great times they had and the lifelong friends they made while in Hockey Valley.

A NEW LEADER

On November 29, 2021, Buffalo Sabre Brett Murray scored his first NHL goal and became only the second Nittany Lion to light the lamp in the big leagues (Casey Bailey of the Toronto Maple Leafs was the first). Eleven days later, Murray scored again and became the new king of NHL goal-scorers from Penn State.

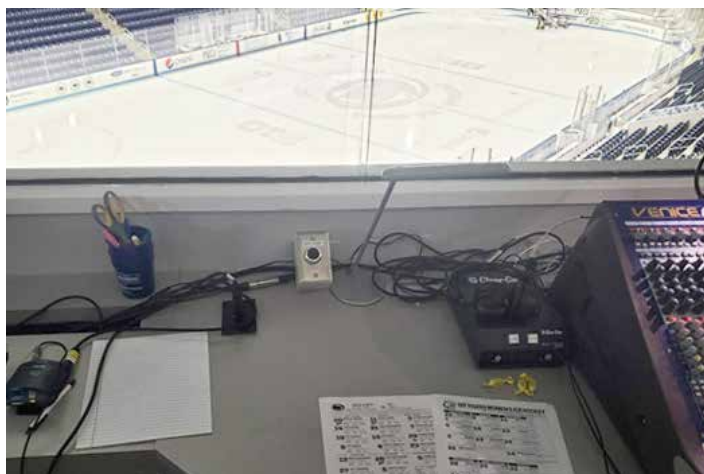
I want to say a HUGE thank you to all our members and the fans that helped raise funds to support the FOPSMH Hockey Scholarship. I am proud to report that our club is donating another \$10,000 to this scholarship. It is you, our members, through your membership dues and your time spent with fans selling 50/50 tickets, who make this possible, and we appreciate your support. Over the next several months, we will be reviewing our mission, goals, and strategic plans to

grow and to support the Penn State Men's Hockey Program.

It's not too early to start thinking about next season. I encourage and challenge all of you to submit a slogan for next year's FOPSMH button. If you have a thought or idea, please send it directly to wjh21@psu.edu; the deadline for submitting an idea is August 1, 2022. The winning entry will earn both a surprise token of our appreciation and, far more importantly, bragging rights for an entire year. So put on those hockey thinking caps and send me your submissions; who knows, your idea may be pin-worthy.

As President of the FOPSMH, Inc. I appreciate all your support, encouraging words, and ideas; there is no idea too small to bring to my attention, so please reach out at any time. Have a safe, healthy, and wonderful spring and summer, and hopefully, we will see you next year in Pegula.

Wendy Jo



Rodney Martin

This harmless looking button gives opposing teams a big headache (see page 3).

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

WEBSITE: <http://fopsmh.org>

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)) ON THE AIR WITH BRIAN TRIPP ((



Editor's note: In last fall's newsletter, when describing the best part of going on the road for Penn State broadcasts, Brian noted that last season he "really missed visiting some of my favorite restaurants in other Big Ten towns" and that "we could do an entire

Q&A on best and worst food joints in the conference." So I wrote to Brian "let's do it!"

Question: Do you travel with the team, or on your own?

BT: I am extremely fortunate to travel with the team to all road games. The travel party includes student-athletes, coaches, and additional support staff. Everyone stays at the same hotel. Director of Operations Alex Dawes does an unbelievable job of orchestrating all elements of travel. He's the absolute best.

Question: Does the team have its meals together, or do groups of players go out on their own?

BT: The team eats all of its meals together, however players can meet up with family members or friends after their team commitments conclude.

Question: Do you ever dine with the team or individual players?

BT: Rarely. This is something that has changed over the years. The support staff doesn't participate in team meals at the hotel. Personally, I think it's great, it gives us a chance to check out the various restaurants! So our group usually includes radio analyst Eric Ohlson, assistant communications director John Hanna, equipment manager Ben Kogut, student managers, and team physician Dr. Phil Bosha (when he travels with the team).

Question: How much input do you have in deciding where you dine?

BT: A lot! Some of our staff members are more particular than others, so we try to choose a place that accommodates everyone's taste. I always do a quick Google search of potential restaurants and ask my broadcast colleagues from other schools for their

recommendations.

The following questions pertain to food and restaurants in Big Ten country (excluding State College), and in particular in the vicinity of campus. We'll save the individual award winners for the final questions.

Question: What types of food do you most often order?

BT: I'd describe it as American bar food. These restaurants usually have the widest selection to appease everyone in our group. I never pass on a great fried chicken sandwich.



Photo courtesy of Brian Tripp

Foodies John Hanna, Tyler Millen, Ben Kogut, Brian Tripp, Jackson Dolge, and Eric Ohlson are set to experience the East Lansing restaurant scene.

Question: Are you a creature of habit, going back to the places and/or dishes you've previously enjoyed and look forward to, or are you often in search of something new and exciting?

BT: I'd say it's a bit of both. I want to try new places, but there are a few staples I look forward to every year. Sometimes these are the most convenient places, or are selected due to previous good experiences. Some notable examples are *Roosters* and *Condado Tacos* in Columbus, *O'Rourke's* and *The Lauber* in South Bend, *Stub & Herb's* in Minneapolis, *Mickies Dairy Bar*, *Nitty Gritty* and *Potbelly's* in Madison, and John Hanna's personal favorite, *Hopcat*, in Ann Arbor and East Lansing. If we are in Madison, we order the cheese curds appetizer at every restaurant we go to.

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THE VOICE OF PEGULA, RODNEY MARTIN

Question: Can you describe the layout of the public address “booth” in the 2013 inaugural season in Pegula? What new technology/equipment did you have that was not previously in the old Greenberg Ice Pavilion (now the Morgan Academic Center)?

RM: The control booth at Pegula is packed with equipment. For those who haven’t seen it, it is one of the two open air booths in the club level directly above the Gate A overlook (the other being the booth for office officials and instant replay analysis). Despite 10 years, the layout is close to the same as it was for that first game against Army.



The control booth at Pegula allows for maximum viewing of the action.

As with Greenberg, we have a stack of sound equipment (though significantly larger) in the back-right corner of the booth. This contains controls for which speakers are active in the arena, a patch board, and other processing equipment. Directly in front of that is where the DJ sits with a laptop containing all the music you hear in-game. He/she also manages the massive

mixing board where all the audio inputs from throughout the arena come in - microphones (both mine and the remotes), video sources, radio, music... everything.

Just to the left of the board is where I sit with my announcer console which I use to either communicate with others in the booth (Pegula gets so loud that we need it to talk with someone else in the booth) or to make an actual announcement. Of course, my favorite piece of equipment in the booth is right next to the console - the glorious Goal Horn button (see picture on page 1)!

Immediately to the left of my perch are the controls for the video board source and content, operated by employees of ANC. All the promos, videos, and ribbon board content are loaded for each game according to a pre-defined script; these elements that we must hit during the game are driven by sponsorships. Special graphics (penalties, goals, etc.) can be loaded on-the-fly with a simple click, and content can be previewed within the program prior to being projected.

Question: Fast forward to 2022 – how different is your booth from that first one in 2013?

RM: One major difference is with the lighting controls. Out are the large, canned lighting fixtures that were “turned-off” by closing shutters on each one, and in are LED lights that are much more energy efficient and enable us to create a wide variety of effects - like you

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

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ROAD TRIP



Editor's note: Former FOPSMH President (Fall 2015-Spring 2019) Linda Matesevac isn't one to sit by when there is hockey to be watched somewhere – hockey with former and current Nittany Lions that is. Here are some snippets from her travels, sometimes by herself, sometimes with FOPSMH companions, but always "for the glory."

As the darkest days of the pandemic and resultant quarantine slowly started to abate last year, the AHL Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins opened the Mohegan Sun Arena to a limited number of fans. That was all it took for me to venture there on March 24, 2021 to see Penn State hockey alums Chase Berger and the Penguins take on Nikita Pavlychev and the Syracuse Crunch (Tampa Bay Lightning affiliate). Kudos to the Penguins and the arena staff for a Covid-cautious experience: only a few fans per section, 100% masking, contactless tickets and concessions, as well as easy access and departure. The game was decided early on as the Crunch took a commanding lead and won 6-3. However, it was an enjoyable evening watching the former Lions warm up, seeing them spend some time 'visiting' the penalty box, and easing back into in-person hockey. I can't wait for the 2021-22 season!

The 2021-22 couldn't come fast enough! Darn, I missed watching the Lions upset college hockey royalty – North Dakota – in the Hall of Fame Game. A week later, four of us traveled to Columbus to watch PSU battle Ohio State in the cavernous Schottenstein Center (the destination of our first overnight FOPSMH bus trip in January 2017). Shooting flames accompanied the OSU player introductions, then it was down to business. Kevin Wall scored the first goal of the game, but the rest of the game went OSU's way and PSU lost 5-2. We noted several familiar faces from Pegula in the crowd, confirming that PSU fans travel well in more sports than just football and wrestling.

One more road game beckoned. I made a return visit to Wilkes-Barre on November 10, 2021 to watch the Berger-less Penguins play the Rochester Americans (Buffalo Sabres affiliate) with ex-Penn Staters Brandon Biro (our FOPSMH scholarship recipient for his four years at PSU) and Brett Murray in action. Seats

on the glass gave us an up close and personal vantage point. Once again, it was a fairly lopsided game, with the Americans winning 5-1. Murray scored one of Rochester's goals and Biro was omni-present in the face-offs. Since then, Murray played in several games for the Sabres and scored his first NHL goal, joining Casey Bailey as the only Nittany Lions to light an NHL lamp. Congratulations, Brett! Biro was called up to the Sabres' taxi squad prior to the 2022 NHL All-Star break; as of February 11, 2022; he had been tied for sixth place among AHL rookies with 33 points (7 goals + 26 assists) in 35 games. Then on February 22, he made it to Buffalo's active roster!



Linda Matesevac

Sadly the Buckeyes stayed on fire throughout their victory.



MEN'S HOCKEY ALUMNI



Editor's note: Most of us are interested in keeping tabs on our favorite Nittany Lion hockey players who move on to professional careers in the sport. That's not always easy, for several reasons. Few players are like Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby, not just in terms of their world-class ability, but also for their longevity with a single team. The vast majority of players move about multiple times, sometimes even within a single season. Also, it's tough to keep track of all of the teams (who knew Allen, Texas – the home of wrestler Bo Nickal - had a minor league hockey team?), leagues, and even countries where the game is played. In Linda Matesevac's article on page 4, she mentions watching former Lions Nikita Pavlychev and Chase Berger square-off against each other in an AHL game in March 2021. However, by February 2022, Pavlychev was with the Greenville Swamp Rabbits of the ECHL while Berger was playing in Slovakia. Also note that, despite scoring two goals for the NHL Sabres in a 12-day span this past fall, ex-Penn Stater Brett Murray soon found himself back in Rochester.

In the course of preparing her column, Linda compiled a list of former Penn State men's hockey players on active professional rosters as of February 3, 2022, which we are presenting below. This list is not guaranteed to be a complete list, and will most assuredly be out-of-date by the time you read this newsletter. Even as recently as last November, Brandon Biro was with Rochester along with the above-mentioned Brett Murray, but, as happened with Murray, Biro was shuffled-off to (and then back from) Buffalo. Still, the list gives you some idea of who is still active in the game, and perhaps will assist you should you try to keep an eye on certain players. Enjoy!



Linda Matesevac

The Nikita files: Once a Cruncher, now a Swamp Rabbit.

PLAYING IN NORTH AMERICA

EVAN BARRATT: Rockford IceHogs, AHL (Chicago Blackhawks)
 BRANDON BIRO: Rochester Americans, AHL (Buffalo Sabres)
 TIM DOHERTY: Wheeling Nailers, ECHL (Pittsburgh Penguins)
 LIAM FOLKES: Indy Fuel, ECHL (Chicago Blackhawks)
 COLE HULTS: Tucson Roadrunners, AHL (Arizona Coyotes)
 PEYTON JONES: Utah Grizzlies, ECHL (Colorado Avalanche)
 ALEX LIMOGES: San Diego Gulls, AHL (Anaheim Ducks)
 KRIS MYLLARI: Allen (Texas) Americans, ECHL (Seattle Kraken)
 BRETT MURRAY: Rochester Americans, AHL (Buffalo Sabres)
 NIKITA PAVLYCHEV: Greenville Swamp Rabbits, ECHL
 (Florida Panthers)

DENIS SMIRNOV: Kalamazoo Wings, ECHL
 (Columbus Blue Jackets)
 ALEX STEVENS: Wheeling Nailers, ECHL
 (Pittsburgh Penguins)
 NATE SUCESE: Iowa Wild, AHL (Minnesota Wild)
 AARNE TALVITIE: Utica Comets, AHL (New Jersey Devils)

PLAYING IN EUROPE:

CHASE BERGER: HC Banska Bystrica (Slovakia)
 LUDVIG LARRSON: Rogle BK (Sweden)
 EAMON McADAM: Esbjerg Energy (Denmark)

GAME ACTION

photos by Stephanie Corcino



Connor McMennamin scores the first of his two goals to put Penn State up 2-0 against Wisconsin in the series opener.



Wisconsin's Tyler Inamoto battles to get the Lions' Tyler Paquette out of the crease.



Five Badgers and the goaltender vs. two Lions. Advantage State.



Ryan Kirwan (left) gets his second of the night while Ben Copeland (14) celebrates and the Nittany Lions leave Pegula with a 4-1 victory.



On Saturday, the Lions unleashed 51 shots on the Badger goal.



After Wisconsin closes to within a goal in the 3rd period, the Roar Zone tells you what happened next (hint: Ben Schoen).

GAME ACTION

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Less than a minute later, they're on their feet once more after Danny Dzhaniev (13) puts Penn State up again by 3 goals.



Connor MacEachern goes high on the blocker-side and the Lions go on to win 7-2.



Fresh off of the Wisconsin sweep, Danny Dzhaniev opens the scoring vs. Ohio State.



OSU's Tate Singleton finishes his check as the Bucks stormed back and eventually took the lead.



IT'S TIED! Jimmy Dowd Jr. (left) erupts after assisting on Ben Schoen's 3rd period score (Schoen is hidden from view by OSU's Joe Dunlap).



Are you ready for a shootout? Liam Souliere was, and the Buckeyes went down.

ON THE AIR WITH BRIAN TRIPP

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Question: Do you usually have a specific meal in mind and then choose the restaurant accordingly, or vice versa?

BT: Usually we just pick the restaurant based on reviews and what the menu looks like.

Question: Which 3 schools do you most look forward to visiting? (Include the reasons in your answer.)

BT: I've been to every Big Ten campus traveling with football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball over the years, but I'll keep this list hockey specific.

1. Wisconsin – As the state capital and a great college town, Madison easily has the most diverse and expansive food scene in the Big Ten. Oh, and did I mention the cheese curds?? I just love the energy of the town and campus. It's located between two lakes and the capitol building sits atop a hill overlooking the surrounding area. It's absolutely beautiful, but often extremely cold when we visit.
2. Minnesota – Minneapolis is another terrific city. We've spent some additional time there in the past and I've had a chance to visit the Mall of America and attend a Vikings vs. Packers game. Oh, and *Stub & Herb's* has a phenomenal Thursday night special.
3. Notre Dame – The campus and arena are immaculate. I also love the history and tradition associated with their athletic programs.

Question: What is the least enjoyable dish you've

had on one of these trips? In what city did you have it? Why was it so bad?

BT: I actually have not had a bad meal in awhile. Or at least one that is so remarkably bad that it stands out. I'm superstitious, so I'm sure you just jinxed it. We are pretty meticulous about our food selections!

Question: Your favorite meal in Big Ten country is? Any honorable mentions?

BT: I don't have a single favorite dish to name, but I look forward to any comfort food meal in Madison with a cheese curd appetizer and cold beverage.

Honorable mention:

- Chicken Tacos & Cosmik Fries – *Hopcat* (Ann Arbor & East Lansing)
- Detroit Style Deep Dish – *Pizza House* (Ann Arbor)
- Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese Grilled Cheese (that's right) – *The Lauber* (South Bend)
- Donkey Garlic Boneless Wings – *Roosters* (Columbus)

Question: Your favorite restaurant in Big Ten country is.....? Honorable mentions?

BT: Similar to above, you can't go wrong in Madison. For dinner, I'd recommend *The Great Dane*, *The Old Fashioned*, and *The Coopers Tavern*. *Mickies Dairy Bar* has a phenomenal breakfast.

RODNEY MARTIN

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see after we score a goal (see top left picture on page 7). Another addition to the booth is the control console for the theatrical lighting (used for logos and words on the ice and around the arena pregame and before face-offs). This console is squeezed into the far-left side of the booth.

Question: What are some potential future changes planned or that you'd like to see?

RM: I don't know of any changes that are planned, but there are things I sure would like to see, on-ice projection being chief among them. With this, the entire ice surface can be used as the screen for pre-game and intermission elements from projectors mounted in the rafters. I don't know where the controls for something like that would fit in our booth as it is already crowded; however, given the massive expense (around six-figures), I don't see us having to deal with this issue anytime soon.