



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**H**appy Spring, FOPSMH Members!

As we anxiously await the upcoming season and look forward to meeting new fac-

es, we wanted to recap the last few months and also remind you that even though the season is over, there are still opportunities to connect with your hockey family!

First and foremost, please make sure to read all about the 2nd Annual Alumni and Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey Golf Classic on Page 2. There are still lots of ways to get involved, by registering a foursome, sponsoring a part of the event or just coming to the post-event dinner and awards ceremony. Last year's event was phenomenal and we're excited to have some new twists this year. We hope that you can join us in May!

This spring, the club had the opportunity to debut a new event. Following the 2nd Annual Sled Classic and Skate with the Team, FOPSMH members were invited to a luncheon in the club level of Pegula. During the lunch, we got to hear from Coach Gadowsky and Jimmy Dowd Jr., our scholarship recipient, and recognize our two immediate past presidents, Linda and Wendy Jo. The new social format allowed everyone to interact in a relaxed, unhurried environment. The players were able to sit down and chat with club members without the typical postgame tight timelines. We look forward to doing more events like this in the future.

Prior to the luncheon, many members of the club attended the sled classic, organized by Dylan Lugris. Dylan is one of five finalists for the Hockey Humanitarian Award, joining former captain David Goodwin who was a finalist in 2017. If he is selected as the winner, he will be the first in Penn State's history to win the prestigious award. His amazing work to support the State College Coyotes has not gone unnoticed.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to congratulate the senior members of the team, all of whom were celebrated after the last game of the season. Many members of the club were on hand to hear heartfelt speeches that truly show how special Hockey Valley is. While there are many milestones yet to accomplish in this program's future, I have no doubt that the culture of Penn State Hockey is strong and our graduates are going on to do great things, both in and out of hockey.

Watch your emails for an invitation to Paint the Peg on April 14. We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Sara Becker*



### Dates to Remember:

- APR 12 - ANNOUNCEMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT FROZEN FOUR
- APR 14, NOON-1:30 - PAINT THE ICE - PEGULA
- MAY 17 - GOLF CLASSIC
- SUMMER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND BOARD ELECTIONS
- CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT SEASON!

### Inside this issue:

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# SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY GOLF CLASSIC

**Friday, May 17, 2024 - Shotgun Start Time 10 AM**



The 2nd Annual Alumni & Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey Golf Classic is just around the corner! Come out and join us on Friday May 17th at the Penn State Golf Courses for a day of fun and fellowship as we raise funds to support the Men's Hockey team! We are still accepting players and meal-only registrations at <https://www.psuhokeygolfclassic.com/> (click on "Menu" in the upper-right-hand corner to register for dinner). Coach Gadowsky and other special guests will be on hand to meet and greet attendees. The outing includes a day of golf (scramble format), on-course contests, as well as a light breakfast, post-golf meal & mixer, two drink vouchers, award ceremony, and silent auction. Our 2023 Golf Classic raised over **\$20,000** which we recently presented to Coach Gadowsky before the last game of the regular season.



We are still looking for **sponsors**, including our title sponsor, as well as other donations for our **silent auction** and raffle.



Please feel free to reach out to **Brian Shull** at [blshull@verizon.net](mailto:blshull@verizon.net) if you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities. We will be moving to an **online** silent auction as well this year, so keep an eye out for a link as we get closer to the outing. We hope you can help us make this annual event a huge success!



## SLED HOCKEY CLASSIC/LUNCH WITH PLAYERS



Saturday, February 3, was a red-letter day at Pegula. First was the Second Annual Penn State Sled Hockey Classic, followed by a Skate With The Team. Finally, there was an FOPSMH-invitation-only lunch/meet-and-greet with the team. Wendy Jo Hartsock and Linda Matesevac received Wear White jerseys from the team.





## SENIOR CELLY...

Eight members of the Nittany Lion graduating class spoke to a crowd of roughly 200 family members, friends and fans on Saturday, February 24 after an unfortunate defeat by #6 Wisconsin, 3-2. As always, it was an emotional time as veterans Christian Berger, Jimmy Dowd Jr., Christian Sarlo, Tanner Palocsik, Tyler Paquette, Doug Dorr Jr., Jacques Bouquot and Liam Souliere remembered moments of their Penn State hockey career, gave advice to the younger players, and thanked everyone who helped them along the way, including the FOPSMH! The Friends are giving each player a crystal puck.

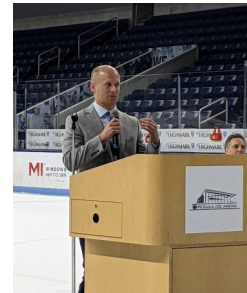


Sara Becker, Ann Marie Daniel, Roxie Nexelrode, and Jane Whitaker in the reserved FOPSMH seats

Berger, Dowd Jr, Sarlo, and Palocsik waiting their turn to speak



Brian Tripp emceeing



Guy praising his players



Paquette, Bouquot, Dorr Jr., and Souliere



## ...AND WHERE THEY'RE HEADED

**JIMMY DOWD, JR:** ...is returning to Penn State for an encore performance! Dowd will use his fifth year eligibility to thrill us one more time.

**JACQUES BOUQUOT** and **TYLER GRATTON** both have Professional Try Out (PTO) contracts for the remainder of the 2023-2024 season with the AHL team **Lehigh Vally Phantoms**. Both players also have standard player contracts with the Phantoms on AHL deals for the 2024-25 season and are currently getting playing time with the ECHL team the **Reading Royals** with PSU alum **Kenny Johnson**.

**XANDER LAMPPA** and **CHRISTIAN SARLO** are off to the Maine Mariners, an ECHL affiliate of the Boston Bruins.

## Feb 9 Watch Party at Champs



**"If my hockey career ended today for some freak reason, I'd be okay with it, because that means I get to go out as a Penn Stater... Pegula is the best place in the world, there's nothing better."**  
- Liam Souliere

# Miracle of '71 At Penn State

## The Birth of Hockey Valley *Hockey History by Larry Hendry*



Photos courtesy of Larry Hendry

**“Finally In December of 1971, Penn State played its first game surrounded by thousands of fans some ten rows deep around the rink.”**



After graduating with a Ph.D. at Cornell, I joined the PSU Chemistry faculty at age 24. As an avid hockey fan, the first order of business was to put a life size poster of Gordie Howe on my office wall. It was a Christmas present from wife Wendy. Next, I hustled over to the hockey rink to meet the coaches hoping to get some games as a certified college referee. Manager Earl Boal escorted me through a door to the rink and my heart dropped. The ice was surrounded by “boards” a few inches high. Earl explained that hockey had been absent on campus for 30 years. Disappointed at the facility, I contacted the athletic department and landed an appointment with Dean Robert Scannell who was cordial, no nonsense and direct. I spoke about how hockey was the greatest sport on earth. His view was that hockey was not a suitable sport for Penn State.

A few days later, my spirits were raised when I saw leaflets posted on campus encouraging students to contact Dean Scannell and demand hockey. The organizer behind this effort was freshman Roy Scott. I was able to meet Scotty along with many other hockey enthusiasts including students Dave McCrabb, Jim Gaulty, Bill Charles, Reds Davidson and Bryan Martin who helped garner 3,000 signatures on a petition for hockey at the student center.

Within the next few months, I had four additional meetings with the Dean. Preparation included a carefully written outline, a new tie (made by wife Wendy) and haircut. In Meeting 2, the Dean responded that signatures were nice but like his alma

mater Notre Dame, hockey would never appear on campus. In Meeting 3, despite having a group of students joining me, the answer was again no. In Meeting 4, Dr. Scannell expressed concerns about the high cost of hockey, scarcity of ice time, lack of any community interest... I countered that we will pay for unused ice time, equipment, build boards, sell advertising, attract investors... The school could make money on us! Again, no was the answer.

The community interest issue was of major concern. Dave McCrabb decided to camp out at the Nittany Mall with his 1 1/2 year old daughter Kelly in hockey garb. The result was 3,800 additional signatures (6,800 total). I informed Dean Scannell by phone but he was unmoved.

Accepting defeat, I arranged an office meeting to announce the bad news. Dave sat on the windowsill next to Gordie and uttered “you can’t give up now.” Other students were similarly enraged and encouraged me to call the Dean and ask for a final meeting. I reluctantly complied and hustled over to Rec Hall to meet with the Dean for the last time (Meeting 5). I underscored the McCrabb petition and 6,800 signatures. I failed again with a **NO!**

As I was exiting the building defeated, I was surprised when the Dean’s receptionist called me back to the office. Dr. Scannell asked me, “Did you say that you would take full responsibility for the program?” I answered, “Yes Sir, please just give us a chance. Nothing will be done without your full knowledge and approval.” His last words were, **“I’ll see what I can do.”**

An eruption of joy occurred when I arrived back in my office. Two days later, I received a phone call from a member of the Dean Scannell’s Staff Hal White who informed me that he was appointed as my liaison for hockey development. Over the

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

PRESIDENT.....	Sara Becker (sarabartoobecker@gmail.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT .....	Jane Whitaker
SECRETARY.....	Wendy Rotz
TREASURER .....	Stacey Kelley
PAST PRESIDENT .....	Wendy Jo Hartsock
ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS .....	Will Rusk, Robert Schnitzler, Rich Seifert, Brian Shull, Mark Stephens, Ann Marie Daniel, Shawn Hinkle
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.....	Jane Whitaker
CLUB HISTORIAN.....	Linda Matesevac
SOCIAL CHAIRS .....	Linda Matesevac, Ann Marie Daniel
SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR.....	Will Rusk
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....	Brenda Ruby (brendaruby@gmail.com)



**HOCKEY HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

next few months, the Ice Pavilion morphed into a hockey rink. An artist created a team logo and program cover, the ice was laboriously painted five times; we obtained an ice cutter machine, paint, sticks, goals, netting, jerseys... All were obtained at cost or free. Hockey was open to all Penn State men and women students, faculty and staff. Several hundred signed up resulting in an A Team ("Varsity"), B Team ("JV"), and 5 intramural teams. Youth hockey was initiated.

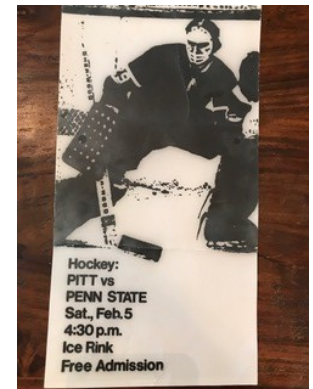
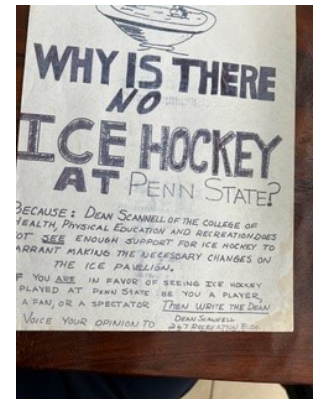
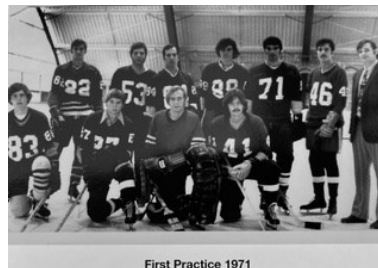
Finally In December of 1971, Penn State played its first game surrounded by thousands of fans some ten rows deep around the rink. One month later, thirty-

two new jerseys arrived; Wendy washed, ironed and affixed the logo and numbers.

With the combined efforts of students, faculty, staff, family, Dean Scannell, Hal White, and a poster of Gordie Howe, the sport of hockey exploded at Penn State. Dave and Scotty made the A Team and our record for the inaugural year was 14W-6L. As the program continued to grow, strong emphasis remained on scholastics and many players had successful careers in business, the military and academics. Hockey Valley had arrived and no one looked back.



All photos courtesy of Larry Hendry



**ACCOLADES**

**AIDEN FINK**

Freshman forward Aiden Fink (drafted by the Nashville Predators) made quite a splash in his rookie year with Penn State!

- ◆ 15 goals and 9 assists
- ◆ 8 power-play goals broke the PSU single-season record
- ◆ B1G Start of the Week three times
- ◆ HC National Rookie of the Month in November
- ◆ Finalist for B1G Freshman of the Year
- ◆ Hobey Baker Award nominee
- ◆ Tim Taylor Rookie of the Year watch list
- ◆ UNANIMOUS selection to 2023-24 B1G All-Freshman Team
- ◆ All-Big Ten Honorable Mention

Looking forward to what the future brings!

**DYLAN LUGRIS**

In 2021 junior forward Dylan Lugris started attending the Coyotes sled hockey team's weekly practices, eventually having teammates join him. To support them, Dylan created the Penn State Sled Hockey Classic, a charity sled hockey scrimmage between the Coyotes and the men's hockey team at Pegula in front of the passionate PSU fanbase. Since the initial Classic in February 2023, the Coyotes have more than doubled in roster size and are members of the Northeast Sled Hockey League, thanks in large part to the near \$50,000 Dylan and his team have raised for the Coyotes organization.

Lugris was named one of five finalists for the 2024 Hockey Humanitarian Award, as announced by the Hockey Humanitarian Award Foundation. The 2024 Hockey Humanitarian Award will be presented on Friday, April 12th during the NCAA Men's Frozen Four week-end in St. Paul, Minn.

**"I love this award and am so happy for Dylan for what he has done; it speaks volumes to who he is as a person and the culture of hockey ."**

*- Guy Gadowsky*

**SIMON MACK**

Defenseman Simon Mack earned the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award for Penn State! "Doc" registered four goals and 12 assists for 16 total points this season.



The official friends club for Penn State Men's Hockey

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



<https://www.facebook.com/fopsmh>

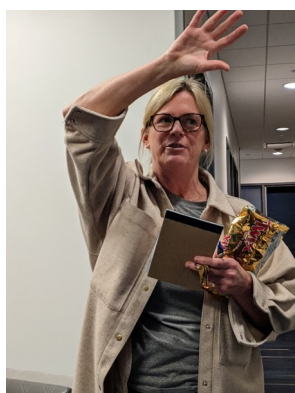
Email us at [membership@fopsmh.org](mailto:membership@fopsmh.org)



<https://twitter.com/fopsmh>

Friends of Penn State Men's Hockey ("FOPSMH") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and

Photo by Brenda Ruby



**A big THANK YOU to Operations Coordinator DEVON JOHNSON for giving us a fabulous behind-the-scenes tour of Pegula!**



## 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](mailto:membership@fopsmh.org)

**Don't forget to renew your membership for next year!**

We're on the Web!

<https://fopsmh.org/>



Photos provided by Linda Matesevac