



Fan

Club

Vol. 4, No. 8

April-May, 2005

Board of Directors Appreciation Sandwich Supper

Just for us (and any guests we might bring along)

- An affair to finish off the year! -



05 - 6:05 p.m. - Kearney Event Center, 2nd floor
Cash bar

Brad Lewis representing the Youth Hockey program
Election of Board of Directors for next year
Review of past year activities.

It's free!!
It's free!!
It's free!!
It's free!!

Celebrate 5 years as an organization



Hockey in heaven

*Please let us know if you plan to attend so we know how much food to order. Just fill out the return portion of your post card or write a note and send it to us at P O Box 2101, Kearney NE 68848.

The Election Processes

We will be electing eight members to serve as our Board of Directors during the coming year. You are not electing officers, you are electing members of the Board. The eight who are elected will meet before the regular June meeting and decide among themselves who will hold each office. The officers and directors-at-large will then be installed at the June meeting.

Awards Banquet

Back in the year 2001 when the Storm was in its first season of play, some fans got together and decided to form a booster club. They organized in February of that year and immediately began planning an Awards Banquet. This was the very first Storm Chaser sponsored activity. This year on March 23rd players, host families, players' families and Storm Chasers gathered for the fifth time for our annual Awards Banquet. The team each year has been special to us. We have enjoyed watching them grow as players and individual personalities and unite as a team. And each year the team members have selected individuals that they saw as being special to receive awards at the end of the season.

We present here the Storm players who received those awards this year. Do you remember who received them in years past? So that we have a record of those achievements somewhere, we will tell you who they were.

Most Inspirational Player



Jared Palmer was selected by his teammates as the most inspirational player this year. A first year Storm player, Jared was a team captain and continued his leadership responsibilities even while benched for several games due to an injury resulting from the intrusion of a tooth in his hand collected during an altercation with a Lancer player.

Former Storm players to receive this award were David Boguslawski last year, Matt Scherer in 2003, Bobby Robins in 2002, and Mark Pohl the first year

First Year Player

It's always interesting to watch the first year players grow and develop as players at the USHL level. This year the First Year Player award went to Mario Lamoureux. As Coach said when awarding this plaque, there are already many players in this League who do not want to hear a challenge from Mario. He also had the distinction this year of being the youngest player on the team. We look forward to watching him in upcoming seasons.

Last year this award went to Jake Obermeyer. Before that the award was called Rookie of the Year and was awarded to Scott Parse, David Boguslawski and to Billie Luger the first year.



Best Forward and Best Defenseman



J. P. Platisha, Best Forward



Brian Kilburg, Best Defenseman

J. P. Platisha, named the Best Forward of the year, was the team leader in goals scored this year with 25 during the regular season and three in playoffs for a total of 28 goals. Next year we can follow his hockey career at UN/O where he joins former Storm players Scott Parse, Bill Thomas and Eric Aarnio. Past winners of the Best Forward award are Rastaslav Spirko last year, Bill Thomas the year before, and Konrad Reeder the first two years.

Brian Kilburg was named the Best Defenseman of the Year. Often referred to as “The Iceberg,” several league players discovered he was a solid force when their path crossed his on the ice. Brian scored 12 goals this season. He will be playing for Mankato State next year where he joins Steve Wagner, winner of this award last year. Previously it was earned by Chad Anderson, Scott Romfro and in the first year by Bryan Schmidt.

Platisha and Kilburg, along with Christian Hanson were the only three players to participate in all 69 regular season and playoff games this year.

Most Valuable Player



Michael Zacharias received the Most Valuable Player of the Year award. Described as an awesome goalie, we watched him make some unbelievable saves this year. How many times did you see him put that glove up and snag a seemingly invisible puck as it flew through the air toward him? Michael will also be joining the Mankato State team next year.

Last year the award went to Bill Thomas, the year before to another goalie, Eric Aarnio, and before that to Konrad Reeder. This award was not given in our first year.

During the first three seasons an award was also given to the player the team considered to be the most improved. For the 2000/2001 season that award went to Troy Troje, in 2002 to Scott Foyt and in 2003 to T. J. Dahl.

Playoffs

As we were traveling to the MAC for the third game in the first round of playoffs, I wondered where this whole concept of hockey playoffs came from. Where did it all start? So, I've been searching, but apparently not looking in the right places. I could not find much about playoffs in general and nothing about how they started.

It's not that hard to find information about the Stanley Cup and its history. But we are not all playing for that trophy. What about the other trophies in other leagues at other than the professional level? I'm sure there is information somewhere about Mr. Clark after whom our cup was named but, again, I was not looking in the right place. (I did find a riveting account of the 1996 Clark Cup playoffs between the Omaha Lancers and the Des Moines Buccaneers. Reggie Simon was the only player name I recognized.)

So all I can tell you about playoffs is what you already know -- Playoff games at the end of the regular season are a whole

new abbreviated season for a hockey team. Qualifying for playoffs is the reward for a good regular season. The reward for winning the playoffs is a trophy of some sort with the Stanley Cup being the highest reward.

During the regular season the objective is player development. There is time to sit out a few games to let an injury heal. Younger players can have a little more ice time to gain experience.

But in playoffs there is only one objective. Win. There is no place for mistakes in playoffs. One missed shot, one bad pass or turnover can mean the difference between winning or losing a game. One lost game can be the difference in the series. And losing the series means you are out. This is a time when you will see the veterans getting more ice time than the rookies. The coaches as well as the players are focused on the game so don't distract them until it's all over