



BOOSTER CLUB

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No December General Meeting



The January General Meeting will be Wednesday, January 25 because of the Tuesday night game.

Holiday Party

“Are your eyes blue?” “Were you born in Minnesota or a foreign country?” “Are you an only child?” These are just some of the questions players and fans were asking each other as they played Storm Bingo at the Holiday Party on Dec. 6. This activity came after we had all shared a pasta buffet dinner with players and Booster Club members mixed together at tables at the Holiday Inn. There was lots of visiting during the meal as players and fans got better acquainted.



The conversations were interrupted a couple of times by shoe checks. Both Sean Wiles and Jordon Willert treated us to solos. But no one was more surprised than the waitress who nearly stepped on a Storm player as he was sprawled out on the floor between two tables making a hasty retreat after marking Sean’s shoe. The expression on her face was priceless

Each team member received a purple fleece blanket which was embroidered with their name, number and the name of the sponsoring business or individuals. The Storm Chasers also presented the team with a boom box for use in their locker room, especially at away games.

Afterwards the whole team posed together for a picture. Somewhere along in here I seem to remember a chorus of Jingle Bells breaking out among this group.



We thought the boom box they got from us 4 years ago might be worn out by now.

Photos by Kim Clark

Zambonis and Ice

The special speaker at our November Storm Chasers meeting was KEC staff member, Steve Nelson. He told us about the Zamboni and about the ice.



In answer to the question posed in September about the background color of the Zamboni – it's black.

The Zamboni

Steve says a Zamboni is like a combine. It shaves the ice off and augers it up to the tank in the front of the machine. Then it puts down a layer of water to wash the skate marks on the ice. That water is picked up to be reused. Last, a layer of hot water is spread on the ice to freeze into a new layer. This water is spread by the towel that hangs down in the back of the Zamboni.



Zambonis can have three kinds of power – diesel, electric or propane gas. Ours are both powered by propane gas.

Sometimes a dry cut will be made. First, staff members go around the outside edge of the ice with the edger to remove the ice built up against the boards to make a flat surface. Then the Zamboni is run over the ice to shave it but no water is put down to wash it. Finally, the ice surface is flooded with the water to freeze but the water only spreads to within 3-4 inches of the boards.

The Ice

The thickness of the ice is checked about three times a week. It should be about an inch thick. The goal creases are the lowest spots on the ice.

The hot water which is spread on the ice is 130°, softened, to do a fast, clear, hard freeze. Figure skaters want the ice to be 18-20°. Hockey players want a harder ice of 13-14°. The floor chiller which keeps the ice frozen is computerized and allows for a 4° variation.

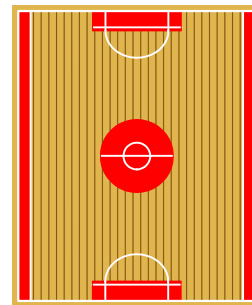
At hockey games we notice that the ice is frequently wet at the entrance end. The reason is this is where the first and last cuts are made by the Zamboni. Also there is some heat coming in around the doors.

Late last summer before the ice is put down, a floor sealer was put on the cement to prevent water from freezing in any cracks. When water was spread across the sealed cement it froze in beads. The ice had to be melted and the water removed. The sealer was ground off. Then the regular process of putting in the ice could proceed.

Two coats of water were frozen on the floor. Then the ice was painted white with a mist of ice paint. Next the surface was misted with water to freeze over the paint. Misting is done with spray bottles. Then the lines, circles, logos and advertisements were painted on. The layer of water applied on top of the paint is cold so it will not burn into the paint and cause it to run.

Installing a Floor Over the Ice

The Concert floor has a 4 inch layer of insulated fiberglass that goes next to the ice. It takes four hours to install the Concert floor. The Basketball floor is placed on top of the Concert floor. This takes another two hours. Each section of Basketball floor weighs 180 pounds. The goals each weigh 3000 pounds



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The Disney on Ice company had ten semis of equipment, concessions, and inventory. There were 36 sets of spotlights to attach to the rafters. This compares to our two sets under each flag and those attached to the scoreboard. A UNK theater stagehand group helped unload and reload the equipment.

For Disney performances the ice was painted white and then 1/2 to 3/4 inch layer of ice was added. As a result the ice was 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches thick after the performances. There were eight performances of Disney on Ice. Seven of the eight were sold out. An estimated 18,000 people attended the shows.

Player Profiles

Until the final deadline in February there may continue to be changes in the team roster. Here is a little information about the two newest members of the team



Brett Gorman
1-21-1986, F, 5'11", 180

Brett's home is in Spokane, Washington. He skated two seasons (02-03 & 03-04) for the Koot-

enai Colts, now called the Coeur d'Alene Colts, in northern Idaho. Last year he was a member of the Billings Bulls.

Brett is not a stranger to the Storm. He was a 2003 draft pick and attended tryout camp that summer and the next. Although he was not one of the final picks, he was called to fill in for five games during the period in Dec. 03-Jan.04 when three players were gone to the Viking Bowl and a fourth had been released. He made one goal for us at that time and has already scored two goals in the first six games he played with the Storm this year.



Brent Cornelius
2-20-1987, D, 6'1", 175

Although he was born in Minneapolis, Brent grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska. He attended West Valley High

School where he was immediately recognized as an outstanding defensive player. Last year, as a senior, he was in Cedar Rapids as a member of the Rough Riders.

Brent had a very short time between being notified of his trade to Tri-City and joining his new team. There was only time to pack an overnight bag and drive to the Iowa City mall where he met the Storm bus on it's way to the weekend games with Indiana. They did drop him off on the way back through Iowa so he could drive back to Cedar Rapids to pack up and move to Kearney. Such is the life of a hockey player.



January Birthdays

Jacob Obermeyer has the distinction of being the oldest member of the Storm team.

Jake turns 21 on the 9th of January.

Kyle Lawson will be 19 on January 11th.

Filip Ogleznev will be 19 on January 13th.

Brett Gorman turns 20 on January 21st.

Congratulations To –



- **Aaron Rock** for being named Defensive Player of the week Dec. 5th.

- **Brett Watson** for the scholarship to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

- **Philip Ogleznev** for being invited to join the Ukraine team in the International Ice Hockey Federation tournament in Bled, Slovenia Dec. 11-17.

How did you learn how to skate?

One of the first questions a Storm player is asked in an interview is “How old were you when you learned to skate?” The answers vary from two to ten years old. But what I wanted to know was not how old, but how. “How did you learn to ice skate?” Here are some of the answers.

Alex Hudson started on roller skates, the four wheel kind. He’s from California. What did you expect? Then he went to in-line skates. Alex made the transition to ice skates when he was about 10 with his father’s help. The fact that his father was born in North Dakota may have been a factor. Alex says it was hard at first to ice skate because his ankles were not steady.

David Brownschidle’s father played hockey [as well as two uncles who played professionally for the Hartford Whalers] so he helped David learn. David says he had a cone to hang onto and slide across the ice at first.

A neighbor of **Matt Ambroz** had a pond where Matt’s cousin skated. Matt wanted to skate with him so that is where he got started.

Then the neighbor did not want kids on his pond so he drained it and filled it in. So Matt’s folks filled the backyard in winter to create a sheet of ice.

Jaroslav Markovic started skating at his church on an outdoor pond. His father played hockey so he helped Jaro learn. Jaro says a person has to keep skating or else he will forget how.

(to be continued next month)

