



# Booster Club

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## Holiday Party



**Brett Wysopal receives his blanket from the "Voice of the Storm," John Meissner.**

On the evening of December 12, Storm team members, Storm Chaser Booster Club members and host families gathered at Grandpa's Steak House for a holiday meal. Players, Chasers, and host families were mixed at the tables so all had a chance to visit and become better acquainted.

Following dinner numerous door prizes were given, followed by a mixer game which involved putting together several Christmas and winter puzzles. Each of us had one or two pieces of a puzzle. We just had to find those persons who had the rest of them!

Each Storm player received a fleece blanket embroidered with his name and number, the Storm logo, and the name of the sponsor. The blankets were black this year. Each blanket was wrapped with a Christmas ribbon and decorated with a purple Christmas ball.

Ten baskets had been filled by the Storm Chaser Club with food items to be delivered to some families who will not be able to afford much for Christmas this year. Following the festivities of the evening Storm players and Chaser members delivered those baskets.

Photos by Butch Knapp

Thanks go to the Chaser members who worked so hard to make an enjoyable evening for all of us. Special thanks go out to Ken Fankhauser for making the arrangements and to Cindy Rademacher and her helpers for handling the details of the evening. And we must not forget to thank Kim Meissner for all her work in getting sponsors for the blankets.



**At the end of the evening the whole team gathered for a group picture.**

# Arenas

What do they look like, those arenas where our players go off to play away games? Some Storm fans follow the team and have visited other arenas in the USHL, especially Lincoln and Omaha. But the farther away the arenas, the fewer Storm fan there are. Time and finances seem to interfere. Ever wonder what those arenas are like? Ever want to go to a game there? Let's take a little tour and find out about them, starting with the one farthest away.



The **Ohio Junior Blue Jackets** play their games in Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets.

The arena is located in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The building opened in Sept. 2000. The main arena is six levels high with seating for 18,500 for hockey games. There is also a practice arena in the building. An outstanding feature of the building is a glass tower which is lit at night when the arena is in use. When lit, this tower can be seen on the Columbus skyline. To give you a feel for the size of this building, walking tours of the facility are one hour long.

The **Indiana Ice** play their games in the Pepsi Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. This is the oldest facility used by a USHL team. In fact, no building in current use by a professional hockey team is older. It was built by Arthur Wirtz, father of the current Chicago Blackhawks general manager, William Wirtz, in 1939 at a cost of \$1 million. It has a seating capacity of 8,100 for hockey.

The Pepsi Coliseum was the birthplace of hockey in Indianapolis, and has been the home of hockey for most of its seven decades. When it opened in November 1939 a sellout crowd was in attendance to watch a pro hockey game between the Indianapolis Capitals and the Syracuse Stars.

Indianapolis won.

This coliseum has a rich history. It has "hosted some major events in its day, like Sonja Henie ice shows in the early 1940s, the...state basketball finals in the war years of 1944-45 when Butler Fieldhouse was being used by the military, an early Billy Graham crusade in the 1950s, concerts by the Beatles and the Supremes in the 1960s and the Grateful Dead in the 1970s, and a campaign speech by John F. Kennedy in 1960." One of the most frequently mentioned events occurred on Halloween in 1963 when a propane tank under the bleachers exploded during an Ice Follies show.

The Pepsi Coliseum is the only arena in our league with live organ music. Back when the Storm first started playing and the Lancers were in the old Ak-sar-ben building in Omaha, they had live organ music. But that was gone even before the building was razed.



**The Pepsi Coliseum in Indianapolis, Indiana**

# Player Profiles

There have been some roster changes over the past month. We have said good-bye to Jay Fifield and greeted two new defensemen.

## Scott Fletcher

D, 6'4", 210 lbs, 1-12-1988

Scott's hometown is Haslett, Michigan. He played on the 88 Honeybaked team for Elite Prospects with Tristin Llewellyn in 2004 before going to Saginaw. Then for the last two seasons plus the beginning of the current season, Scott was a member of the Saginaw Flames in the Ontario Hockey League.

Scott has come to us with the reputation of a fighting defenseman. In the 50 games he played two years ago for Saginaw he had two assists but was involved in 6 fights. During last year's 62 games he had one goal, one assist and 21 fights. This season before coming here, Scott played in six games and was involved in one fight.

However, since joining the Storm, Scott has shown his talent as a player first. In the eight games he has played through the Chicago weekend, he has already made two goals before showing us he can also defend his fellow team mates.

## Tommy Mannino

D, 5'11", 205, Feb 19, 1987

Tommy's hometown is Farmington Hills, Michigan. As a hockey player he played defense while coming up through the youth hockey ranks. But then during the 2002-03 season, while playing for the Leaming Flyers, he played forward because there were already enough defensemen.

In 2003 Tommy was drafted by the London Knights in the OHL as a forward. He spent half a season there and then went to Windsor to join the Spitfires. He started the 2004-5 season with them but moved on to Saginaw in January. In November of last season he injured his wrist. When he returned to the ice in February it was to take a position on defense.

Being an offensive defenseman means Tommy should fit well on the Storm team. He arrived in Kearney in time to play the two Chicago games last weekend and already has scored his first Storm goal.

If the last name seems familiar it is because he is a cousin of former Storm goalie, Peter Mannino. After last weekend Tommy's name is as recognized as Peters.



A ref's worst nightmare.

## Where Are They Now?

### Philip Ogleznev

Philip is playing for the Neman Grodno hockey club in Grodno, Belarus. Belarus is the country located north of Ukraine with Russia on the east and Poland on the west. Grodno is a city about the size of Omaha near Minsk. The river Neman bisects Grodno.

Philip is a member of the Ukraine's International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Under-20 team again this year. They competed with teams from Estonia, Denmark, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia in the World Under-20 tournament in Denmark during the week of Dec. 11-17.

Ukraine played Slovenia in their first game. The game was tied at 1-1 with two minutes left. Ukraine took a hooking penalty. Then Philip scored a short handed goal, the game winner! In the second game, against Denmark, Philip made a goal a minute into the game. Unfortunately, the team only scored one more goal to Denmark's four to lose the game 4-2. This was their only loss. Ukraine was victorious over Latvia, 5-4, and shut out Poland, 4-0. Philip scored his third goal in that game. They finished the tournament by defeating Estonia 2-0. Philip had an assist in this game. They ended the tournament with a record of 4-1.



We have four January birthdays on the Storm team this year. This seems to be the month for goalies.

- Ian Keserich turns 21 on January 6.
- Scott Fletcher will be 19 on January 12.
- Patrick White will be 18 on January 20.
- Bryce Christianson turns 20 on January 23.

## Meeting Notices

### December

There will not be a General meeting in December .  
!!Have a Happy Holiday!!

### January

The January General meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> since there is a game on Tuesday, our regular meeting day.



### Storm Chasers Booster Club

Official Booster Club of the Tri-City Storm

tricitystormchasers.com

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