



Booster Club

Website: www.tricitystormchasers.com E-Mail: info@tricitystormchasers.com

Vol. 7, No. 6

PO Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

February 2008

February General Meeting

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 - 7 p.m. - FEC 2nd floor

Time to plan the Appreciation Banquet

Appreciation Banquet

Sunday, April 6, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn

Open to the Public

Ticket Prices: Adult members \$12.00 Adult nonmembers \$15.00 Children 6-10 \$7.00

----- Appreciation Banquet Reservation Form -----

Name _____ Phone # _____

Adults _____ # Children 6-10 _____ # Children 5 and under _____

___ Player ___ Coach or staff ___ Parent ___ Host Family ___ Booster Member ___ Storm Fan

Family or Host Family for _____
(Storm Player's name)

Ticket Prices: Adult members \$12.00 Adult nonmembers \$15.00 Children 6-10 \$7.00

Mail form & payment to: Storm Chaser Booster Club, P. O. Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

Alphabet Soup

NHL

AHL – ECHL – CHL – IHL

Hockey players usually start their careers in local Youth Hockey organizations. Then they may move on to high school teams or stay in Youth Hockey Midget A, AA, AAA leagues. The next step is into a Junior league, then a college team, a minor league professional team, and finally, if they are lucky and good enough, the NHL.

In the past and in the present many hockey leagues have organized, dissolved, merged to form new US, Canadian and US/Canadian leagues. As a result there's an alphabet soup of leagues and conferences out there. As we look at some of the current professional leagues in the US above the college level, we can be fairly certain that HL stands for Hockey League. But what do all the other letters mean?



National Hockey League

The NHL is the top major professional hockey league in North America, the premier hockey league in the world. It was founded in 1917 in Canada with four teams. In the 1924-5 season the first US team, the Boston Bruins, joined the league. Currently there are 30 teams in the NHL. Six are Canadian; 24 are located in the US.

The League is divided into two conferences, East and West. Each conference has three divisions. The prize at the end of the season is the Stanley Cup. This trophy was first awarded to Canada's top-ranking amateur hockey club in 1892. Beginning in 1926, only NHL teams compete for the Stanley Cup.

Currently two former Storm players, Bill Thomas and Steve Wagner, are playing in the NHL. They are dividing their time this season between this league and farm teams in the AHL.



American Hockey League

The AHL is at the top of the minor league professional hockey leagues. It is composed of 29 teams. Each of twenty-eight teams is affiliated with an NHL team. One AHL team is affiliated with two NHL teams.

The AHL began as two leagues – Canadian-American League founded in 1926 and the International Hockey League founded in 1929. They combined in 1936 as the International-American Hockey League and were renamed American Hockey League after the 1939-40 season.

The League is divided into the East Conference with 14 teams and the West Conference with 15 teams. Each conference has two Divisions.

At the end of the season they play for the Calder Cup. Dating back to 1936, this is the second oldest hockey trophy.

Bryan Schmidt and Chad Anderson are the two former members of the Storm currently playing in this league.



The ECHL was formerly known as the East Coast Hockey League which started on the east coast with 5 teams in 1988. When leagues on the west coast and in the southwest dissolved, some teams wanted to continue playing. They joined the ECHL which dropped the term "East Coast Hockey League" and is now known just by the initials.

The ECHL is a tier below the American Hockey League. Most of its teams are feeders to AHL teams. Currently there are 25 teams in the

(Continued on p. 4)

Roster Changes

The trade deadline and roster freeze deadline have both past so these are the last changes for this season. We lost one player and acquired two, all forwards. The one lost is Jordon Van Gilder who suffered a broken ankle. This was a season ending injury. Two were added to the roster, one by trade and one from our affiliated list.



Anthony Schooley
F, 5'11", 175, 8/1/1989

Anthony is from Romulus, MI. Last year he skated for the Waterloo Blackhawks. He would have skated for them again this year also except he was out on Injured Reserve.

Ready to skate, he was traded to Tri-City on the trade deadline day, Wednesday, Feb. 6. Anthony arrived in Kearney in time to play the two games against Cedar Rapids that weekend. In the second game he was injured again and is now on our Injured Reserve list. He should be back with the team next season.

Anthony has committed to Michigan Tech.

Anthony DeCenzo – F, 5'9", 155, 8/25/1989

This Anthony was on our Affiliated Player list and, just before the Roster Freeze deadline, was called up to fill the last spot on the Storm roster. He is from Hibbing, Minnesota, where he is a senior at Hibbing High School. Anthony is a member of the Hibbing HS hockey team and as soon as their season is over will join the Storm. Scouts have called him a talented forward who can do everything pretty well.

Anthony was selected by the Storm in the May Draft and attended try out camp last June.



We are celebrating three birthdays in the coming month.

First is Greg Throckner. He turns 18 on March 6th. Next is Tom Craig who will be 19 on March 9th. Then Josh Berge celebrates his 18th birthday on March 19th.

1 + 1 =

Ever get a piece of information and then acquire another piece of information later and not realize the two are related? Well, that happened to us here in this newsletter.

1

Remember when Phil Ginand joined the team? The article last month about him included information about his older brother and his younger brother, Stephen, who both play hockey.

+1

Remember an article in the October newsletter about the Futures Draft? Those drafted were listed along with a sentence or two of information about each.

=

Looking back through the newsletters recently we came to that Futures Draft article and discovered that Stephen Ginand is on that list. Maybe in a year or two there will be another Ginand on our roster.



Attend hockey games. Cheer for the team. It's a tough job, but young or old, the Booster Club members are tough. They can do it.

By Butch Knapp

(Alphabet Soup, Cont.)

league. One is Canadian. Two more will be joining next season, one US and one Canadian. Another two are planning to join in the 09-10 season.

This league is divided into two conferences. The National Conference west of Mississippi has nine teams in two divisions. The American Conference has 16 teams east of Mississippi and in Texas. They play for the Kelly Cup.

Former Stormers currently playing in the ECHL are Bobby Robins, Geoff Paukovich, Ryan Dingle, Corbin Schmidt, Matt Scherer, Scott Romfro, and Scott Parse.



Central Hockey League

The Central Hockey League started in the early 1990's and expanded in 2001 when it merged with the Western Professional Hockey League. Their home office is in Phoenix, AZ. The league currently has 19 teams in south central United States. At the end of the year the

top 10 teams in the league play for the Ray Miron President's Cup.

Former members of the Storm team now playing in the CHL are Konrad Reeder, Brad Thompson, Ian Keserich, Bill Zaniboni, and Paul Kelly.



International Hockey League

The IHL is a new league of six teams currently playing its' first season of hockey. The home office is in Rochester, Michigan, and the teams are all located in that general area. So far this season any players who have been called up have gone to AHL teams. At the end of the season the IHL teams will play for the Turner Cup.

Currently Larry Sterling is the only former Storm player in this league.

There are more but these are the ones where we find former Storm players now. Others may be featured from time to time.

Storm Chasers Booster Club

Official Booster Club of the Tri-City Storm

tricitystormchasers.com

P O Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

Board of Directors

Kathy Knapp - President

Betty Smith – 1st Vice President – Membership

Travis Flies – 2nd Vice President - Special Projects

Sandra Nevitt - Secretary

Jennifer Turek – Treasurer

Cindy Rademacher – Director - Bus Treats

Mardi Anderson - Director – Newsletter Editor

Karen Heun – Past President