



Tri-City Storm

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PO Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

January 2009

January General Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 7 p.m. - FEC

(Moved from our usual 4th Tuesday night because of the rescheduled game in Omaha against the Lancers)

Wonder which players will be our guest this

Boy Scout Day

The Tri-City Storm held its second annual Boy Scout Day on Dec, 13 at a special afternoon game. Boy Scouts came not only from Kearney but the surrounding central Nebraska area also. Some came from as far away as North Platte. Cheers for the team were enthusiastic and slightly higher in pitch because there were so many boys in the crowd. The official attendance was 4,133, the highest so far this season. While most of the boys could be found in their seats, a few were "glued to the glass," they were so interested in the action on the ice.



Birthdays

There are two January birthdays to note this time.
Edgar Rybakov turned 18 on January 5.
Ryan Forgaard will be 20 on the last day in January.

Roster Changes

The roster has continued to change during the past month since the Christmas break. Diederick Hagemeijer, forward, did not return from the Netherlands. He opted to stay in Holland and play professionally.

In the forward position Mike Cichy was traded to the Indiana Ice. Mike Bochichio, Chris Preziosi, and Edgar Rybakov have been added. Since we are allowed only two imported players, Radoslav Illo, has been placed on the affiliated list for a while. After that we will see what happens. Defenseman, Alex Gerke, was released.

Goalie, Nick Maricic, has been released. He is now playing for the Wellington Dukes in Wellington, Ontario. This team is a Junior A hockey club in the Canadian Junior Hockey League. Matt Margitan was added to the roster. He and T. J. Massie are now our two goalies.

Kevin Boyle, our futures draft goalie (see October newsletter for profile), played one game during a visit to Kearney early in January. He had an 87.87% save average in that game. He currently has a 90.1% save percentage with the New Jersey Rockets, the junior B team for which he is playing. This is the same team Mike Bochichio played for before joining the Storm. This was Kevin's first game at the USHL level.

College Commitment

Alex Gerke has committed to the University of Connecticut next year. Former Storm players who attended UConn are Matt Scherer and James Martin. There are now nine players on the current roster who have made college commitments.

Two players drafted to the futures list last fall have also made college commitments. Caleb Herbert has committed to Minnesota-Duluth. Caleb is from Bloomington, Minnesota, where he attends Jefferson High School. Tyler Landman has committed to Providence College. Tyler is a senior this year at Roseau (Minn.) High School.

All-Star Team

The annual USHL All-Star game will be played on February 4th in Sioux Falls. On Jan. 13 members of the East and West teams were announced. Tri-City has one player on the team, forward Mike Cichy. That announcement came the same day Mike was traded to Indiana. Since the selections were presumably made before the announcement was published, he will remain on the West team.

Player Profiles



Mike Bochichio – F, 5'10", 180, 5-19-1989

Mike's home town is Massapequa Park, New York, which is located on Long Island.

Mike attended the Storm tryout camp last summer. Early in the very

first game his hip was broken when another player's stick got tangled up in Mike's skates and he went into the end board with great speed. He never got a chance to show his talent. It was a sobering experience for all of us who were watching.

But Mike healed well over the summer. He started this season playing for Apple Core and then went to the New Jersey Rockets in the Atlantic Junior Hockey League. That team is located in the Metro New York area and plays its home games at a rink in Bridgewater, NJ. Mike had 7 goals and 12 assists in the two months there before Christmas break. He had at least one point in 13 games of the 16 he played. After Christmas he came to Kearney and played his first game as a member of the Storm team against Fargo on New Year's Eve.

[Ed. Note: Mike has returned home]

Chris Preziosi – forward, 5' 8", 160, 7-27-1990

Chris' home town is Lake Hiawatha, NJ. He attended Seaton Hall prep school and graduated last spring.

He was playing for the Boston Jr. Rangers, a AAA Midget team, until he was invited to join the Tri-City Storm. A news release on that team's website telling of his coming here to the Tri-City team identified him as their leading scorer. He played his first games with the Storm the weekend of Jan. 16-17.

Chris was on the Sioux City futures list last year but was deleted last May.

The Hockey Player's Dream

USHL - College - Professional

Eight players from the first Tri-City Storm team plus one who came the second year are living that dream.

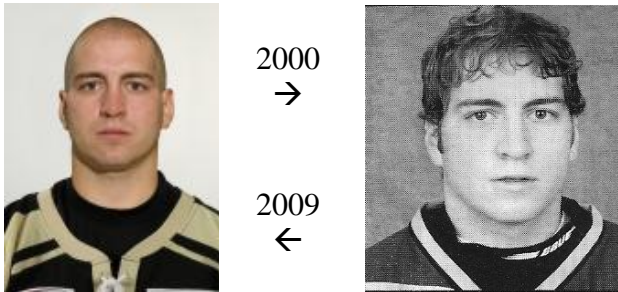
Chad Anderson is a member of the Hamilton Bulldogs, the AHL team in Ontario affiliated with the Montreal Canadiens.

Matt Scherer and Scott Romfro are members of the South Carolina Stingrays and Corbin Schmidt skates for the Alaska Aces in the ECHL.

Our first goalie, Bill Zaniboni is now with the Flint Generals in Flint, MI, a part of the International Hockey League.

Brad Thompson skates for the Wichita Thunder in the Central Hockey League.

Konrad Reeder



Konrad Reeder has also been skating in the CHL since graduating from college. He started with the Colorado Eagles and then went to the New Mexico Scorpions for two seasons. Last season he was second in the league in scoring with 108 points.

Then Konrad decided to give Europe a try. He signed with a Dutch team but that did not work out. He and his family returned to the US in time to start the season back with the Colorado Eagles.

Last year he had been a member of the CHL All-Star team and was named MVP of that game. This year the format was changed and the All-Star team played a real hockey game, rather than the exhibition games of the past. Their opponents were the Colorado Eagles. Konrad scored four goals for the Eagles in that game and was named MVP of his team.

Bryan Schmidt



Bryan Schmidt is another player who decided to try Europe. A defenseman from Bloomington, MN, he started skating in the USHL close to home as a member of the Twin City Vulcans. He was one of six players who made the move to Kearney when the franchise moved here to become the Tri-City Storm in 2000.

After two seasons here Bryan went to Merrimack College, and at the end of his senior season joined the Providence Bruins in the AHL. He played for the Manchester Monarchs (AHL) in 2006-7 and when their playoffs were completed, played 6 games for the Reading Royals (ECHL). Bryan started the next season with the Cincinnati Cyclones (ECHL) but soon moved to the Milwaukee Admirals (AHL).

Then came the move to Europe. This season Bryan is playing for the Kassel Huskies, a professional hockey team in the German Hockey League. Kassel is located in the center of Germany.



Kassel Huskies Jersey

Bobby Robins

Bobby Robins is a forward from Peshtigo, Wisconsin, near Green Bay. He played for the Storm in our second season. Bobby was a feisty player, always ready to defend himself or other members of his team. By Christmas break his reputation as a tough fighter was well known around the league. His individual season record of 180 penalty minutes was not broken until last season by Pierre-Paul Lamoureux.

During the second half of the season, his reputation established, he was able to concentrate on his talent as a forward. As a result he earned a scholarship to the UMass/Lowell where he was a stand-out player.

At the end of his senior season Bobby joined the Binghamton Senators in the AHL for 16 games.

After spending the following season with them, Bobby started the 07-08 season playing briefly for the Rochester Americans. Then after playing a game each for the Albany River Rats and the Syracuse Crunch, all in the AHL, he found his spot for the remainder of the season with the Elmira Jackals (ECHL).

Bobby scored his share of goals and also managed to rack up quite a few penalty minutes both in college and with these professional teams.

This season Bobby opted to challenge his comfort zone and go to Ireland to play for the

Belfast Giants. Here he has apparently found his niche. Not only is he becoming a fan favorite but also he was selected to be captain of the team. Having played 38 of 43 games, he leads the team in power play goals with 9, is second in goals scored with 22 and is also second in penalty minutes with 85.

An unknown side of Bobby is his ability to write. He has a blog on his team's website which he calls the Robins Nest. So far there are three compositions, all recommended reading. (www.belfastgiants.com/blogs/robins-nest/)

Storm Chasers Booster Club

Official Booster Club of the Tri-City Storm
stormboosterclub.com

P O Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

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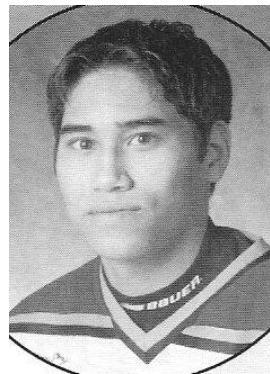
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