



Tri-City Storm

Website: www.stormboosterclub.com

E-Mail: info@stormboosterclub.com

Vol. 8, No.8

PO Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848

April 2009

April General Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

Community Room on the 2nd floor of the Police Department

(Across the street south of the Chicken Coop. It's where we met last summer.)

Come in the west door.

Time to evaluate the activities of the past season and think about next season.

Nominations for new Board will be presented

Vote at May meeting

New Ownership



Kirk & Corine Brooks

By now we have all heard and read the news stories about the purchase of the Tri-City Storm team and First Tier Event Center by Kirk Brooks. And now we are all excited about what next season will bring. Shortly before his trip here to make the long awaited announce-

ment about completing the sale, and hoping the Booster Club could become better acquainted with Mr. Brooks, we contacted him via internet and asked some questions. He very graciously responded. Here is what we learned.

Question: Did you build the Las Vegas Ice Center or is this something you purchased as an already existing business?

Brooks: *The Las Vegas Ice Center was originally two sheets of roller hockey, not ice. I got involved*

because all the rinks in Las Vegas were closing because of lack of business. We gave it a complete makeover that included new compressors, 10 new locker rooms, weight room, new dasher boards, snack bar, skating treadmill and pro shop.

Question: How did you get into the business of hockey?

Brooks: *When my son Kenny turned five we went to the roller facility that is now Las Vegas Ice Center to book him a birthday party. He was amazed by the kids playing roller hockey and looked up at me and said "Dad if you let me do this I will never ask for anything else the rest of my life". Unfortunately I didn't have a recorder to hold him to his statement. The rest is history. Last year he led the Nevada Stars 18AAA team in scoring and my daughter Brittney was the backup goalie on the 16AAA boys team.*

Question: Did you play hockey at one time?

Brooks: *No, I never played hockey only the traditional sports football, basketball and baseball. But as I am sure you will certainly find out I am fiercely competitive.*

(cont. on p. 4)



The Fargo Games

By Mardi Anderson



The original plan had been to go to Fargo for the games the last weekend in March. This is the only arena we have not yet visited. So reservations were made and we were getting all psyched up for the trip. Then came news of rising water and a projected record high flood crest on the Red River flowing through Fargo that very week end. The map shows I-29 running on the west side of the river and we knew the arena was west of the interstate, so we changed motel reservations from one in Moorhead, MN, to one nearer the arena so we would not have to cross the river.

Then blizzard conditions were building with the forecast of snow sweeping across the Dakotas to reach Fargo toward the end of the week. Now, blizzards do not stop us from attending Storm games. Even the time we ran over my wheelchair. Fortunately the undercarriage of the pickup was high enough to only bend it a little and scratch the chrome of the wheel that was pulled across the cement driveway. The chair was bent back into shape and we were soon on our way. Besides this was a short distance over familiar roads. This time we were looking at driving some unknown distance over unfamiliar snow and ice-packed roads. Forget it. Cancel the reservations. We stayed home.

Later we found out we had made a wise decision. The games were moved so we would not have seen the Fargo arena even if we had gone.

The games were relocated because plans were being made to use the Arena as a shelter. As it turned out, it was not needed. But there was also the opinion that it was not appropriate to be playing games in the city during the flood crisis. I can understand that.

In Bus Bob's opinion, after playing in those two arenas, the boys should appreciate what they have. I'm sure our facility is newer than either of the ones used that weekend. On Friday night they traveled to Grafton which is a town of 4,500, about the size of Ogallala, 120 miles north and a little west of Fargo. Here they played in the high school arena. Apparently the 600 who attended this game filled the arena.

Saturday night they again went north, this time to Grand Forks which is only 80 miles north of Fargo up I-29. The flooding had not reached that city yet. This game was played in Purpur Arena. This arena is the oldest indoor ice arena in North Dakota. It was built in 1963 but did have a major remodeling last year. It also is a high school arena, used by Grand Forks High School.

We'll see what the next year's schedule is. Maybe there will be another chance to see the Fargo Arena if the Lord is willin' and the crick don't rise.



Only one birthday to note this time.
Matt Zarbo turns 19 on May 7th.

Thanks

The Tri-City Booster Club wants to thank Coach Tom Rudrud for his hard work during this past season and for his cheerful cooperation in working with the Booster Club. We wish him good luck and success as he moves on.

New Head Coach Named

Drew Schoneck (pronounced Shen-ick) has been named the new head coach of the Tri-City Storm. He was signed to a two-year contract and has been busy immediately building his team for next season. He started by talking individually with the members of the 2008-09 team and is now recruiting for the May draft.



Drew comes originally from Abby, Saskatchewan, but has been living currently in Pasco, Washington. The tri-cities area of Pasco, Kennewick, Richland is located in the southern part of the state near the Oregon border, about a third of the way from the Idaho border to the ocean. He is married to Lindsay Flowers. They have a three-year-old son Connor. (cont. on p. 4)

Appreciation Banquet

This year the annual Appreciation Banquet was held at the FirstTier Event Center in the VIP room on 2nd floor. A good crowd of players, their parents and host families, Storm fans and Booster Club members attended.

Arena announcer, Derrick Stinson, was the Master of Ceremonies. As he introduced the members of the team, each was given a poster of pictures which included his official picture for this season as well as an action picture of him on the ice. Each player then had the opportunity to say a few words which they did, mainly thanking their host families and the Booster Club for their support during this season.



Derrick Stinson is pictured here with Charlie Carkin. As Charlie shielded himself from the official photographer, he did not realize Angie Flies was on the other side of the room with her camera.



Captain Danny Heath (left) and co-captains Josh Berge and Anthony DeCenzo (right) were invited as team representatives to give short speeches this year. With the season we had just experienced this was not an easy task.



Then Captain, Danny Heath, presented the special awards which had been voted on by the team.

They were:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Best Forward | Most Improved | Most | Affiliated Foods |
| Best Defenseman | Radaslov Illo | Player | Inspirational | Most Valuable |
| Charlie Carkin | | David Donellan | Player | Player |



The Booster Club conducted a vote at the last March home game weekend to determine the fan favorite Player of the Year. The favorite forward was Radaslav Illo and favorite defenseman was Rick Pinkston (right).



The door prize of the collection of signed team buttons was won by J. D. Pflug.



Tri-City Storm Booster Club
 P O Box 2101
 Kearney NE 68868

(New Ownership, cont.)

Question: What would you like for us to know about you?

Brooks: *What I would like you to know about me is that I am married to my beautiful wife Corine for almost twenty years. I have three children Keith 38 yrs, Kenny 17 yrs and Brittney 15 yrs. I have three grandchildren Justin, Payton and Lily Anna. We enjoy hockey as it has kept us close to our children and afforded us the opportunity to spend time with them.*

We look forward to the challenges ahead with the Storm and hope we can make a difference in the way the fans, supporters and townspeople view hockey in Kearney. If there is anything I can do to help the booster club become more successful don't hesitate to contact me.

During their visit here we learned that, like Kearney, a majority of the Las Vegas residents have moved there from someplace else. Kirk is originally from Denver and Corine is originally from West Virginia.

(New Head Coach Named)

In true hockey fashion we would list the coach as D, 6'3", 215, 11-13-1973. He started his hockey playing career in 1989 in the Canadian Major Juniors before attending the University of Calgary. From there he went to the Canadian National Team for a year and then on to play in the Central Hockey League (CHL) and the West Coast Hockey League (WCHL) which became the ECHL. He retired from playing to go to full time coaching in 2004 when he was named assistant coach for the Las Vegas Wranglers. This is where he met Kirk Brooks since the Wranglers practiced at the Las Vegas Ice Center.

After about a year with the Wranglers Drew was named head coach of the Prince George Cougars in the WHL. This was his last position before being named head coach of the Tri-City Storm.

Goaltending Coach Named

Eldon "Pokey" Reddick has been named goal-tending coach for the Storm team. Check the May issue of this newsletter for further information.

Storm Chasers Booster Club	
Official Booster Club of the Tri-City Storm	
stormboosterclub.com	P O Box 2101, Kearney, NE 68848
<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Kathy Knapp - President	
Betty Smith – 1 st Vice President – Membership	Travis Flies – 2 nd Vice President – Special Projects
Mardi Anderson – Secretary & Newsletter	Jennifer Turek – Treasurer
Cindy Rademacher – Director – Bus Treats	Jamie Legates – Director – Booth Manager
Jan Hankey – Director – Bus Trip	