



Tri-City Storm Booster Club

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Tryout Camp 2009

Las Vegas, NV - What a daunting task!! Attend thirteen hockey games in two and a half days. That was a hockey fix that will last until Labor Day and plans for the Fall Classic.

We were there to watch the games, see if maybe we could pick out the most likely candidates for next season's

team and get acquainted with some parents who were also attending.

When we arrived at the Las Vegas Ice Center we found that the center room had been given a ceiling decoration of purple and white streamers centered with a group of purple balloons. This center room holds the concession stand and tables, restrooms and equipment shop. It is flanked on either side by the north and south rinks.

Following are some thoughts, bits of information and observations.

The north arena, which the tryout camp was using, has a 5-tier set of bleachers, not handicap accessible so I was down at ice level until Mr. Brooks and my husband came up with the solution of two pallets with a solid cover. I felt like I had my own little throne.

Each game consisted of two 35-minute periods with the clock running continuously. No preliminary drills, just the usual warm up. Penalties resulted in penalty shots, fights were supposed to get 5 minutes in the box but we did not see that happening.

There were more fights than we have ever seen at a tryout camp before. Most looked like they were going through the motions with only a couple of hard hits.

Nine members of last season's team are there but only eight played.

While players names are not being mentioned



here as a rule, there was one combination that really made all of us sit up and take notice. That was the forward line of DeMartino and Friese centered by Bailey. Watch for it. One scores and one or both of the other two assist. All the players skated fast and hard. But they had a great incentive – 123 players trying for 23 positions

There seemed to be a lot of tall players at tryout camp this year.

When the last game ended Saturday night and both teams left the ice, one team had to go through the center room to get to their locker room. The TV was on to the Stanley Cup game, of course. There were 16 seconds left with the Penguins ahead by one. There was no way I got to see those closing seconds with 20 tall guys, on their skates yet, in front of me. So when half of them cheered, I did not know if the Penguin fans were cheering the win or the Wings fans were cheering a last second goal sending the game to overtime.

After watching several games it occurred to me that there were not many strong defensemen. Several of the goals scored were on the 2nd, 3rd, or even 4th rebounds. The defensemen were not clearing the puck away from the net after the initial shot. The defense did play better in the All Star game. So maybe we get the cream of the crop.

Some of the California players are also seriously into roller hockey. That was an obvious statement that probably did not need to be made.

Las Vegas is one city which has been very low on my list of places to visit. It was right down there with Oceans of Fun and Branson, MO. But, there were some very interesting discoveries to be made about this place.

First, I did not realize how far south the city is, way down in the point if the state not up in the middle. (Cont. on p. 4)

2009 USHL Draft

The 2009 USHL draft was held May 13. The Storm started with a list of 15 protected players and chose a total of 15 to make a total of 30 protected players. Since the order of team selections was the reverse of team standings at the end of last season, the Storm opened the draft with the first selection.

Because of the terms of the trade when Cichy went to Indiana last season, the Storm got a second pick in the first round in place of Indiana. There were also a couple of trades made by the Storm early in the draft. Our affiliate player Derek Deblois was traded to Cedar Rapids for defenseman Nate Jensen and then the Storm traded its third round pick to Waterloo for their defenseman Michael Montrose. The Storm staff selected nine forwards, four defensemen and two goalies in the draft.

Remember when most of our players came from Minnesota with one or two from another state or Europe? This group of 15 draftees includes four from California, two from Minnesota, two from British Columbia and one each from Michigan, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Nevada, Wisconsin, and Tennessee.

Following are the 15 picks made by the Storm coaching staff.



Justin & Dad during
Visit here in May

Justin DeMartino – F,
6'5", 213, 6-6-1991

Justin was the Round 1, #1 pick in this year's draft. He comes from Macomb, MI where he skated for Little Caesars in Detroit.

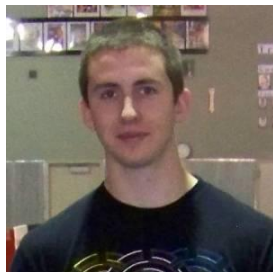
During the past season he had 49 goals, 35 assists.

Evaluations of his playing ability describe him as "strong in stick handling and puck protection and is a good communicator with his team mates. Not only does he read the ice very well, but his shots are very strong, accurate and frequently seem to find the back of the net."

Justin just completed his junior year at Eisenhower High School in Macomb where he took honors English and chemistry and is on the honor roll. He also plays baseball. Justin has committed to Ferris in 2010.

Taylor Aronson – D,
6'1", 188, 12-30-1991

Taylor is from Pacenta, CA, where he is a junior in high school. He skates for the LA Jr. Kings, a Midget AAA



team. As a defenseman he collected 9 goals and 30 assists for 48 points in the 76 games he played this past season. The season included a Midget Tier 1 championship and a Pacific District Regional championship



Blake Coleman – F, 5'11",
200, 11-28-1991

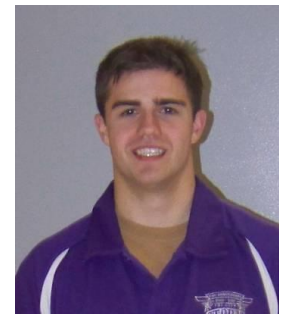
Blake was born in Plano, TX. He started playing hockey on a travel team when he was five. For the last two seasons he has been on the Dallas Stars Midget

Major team where he had 42 goals and 47 assists for a total of 89 points last season. Seven of those goals were in power plays and one was short handed.

Blake was a junior at Spring Creek Academy in Plano last year. He is one of five children having two brothers and a sister older and one sister younger than he is.

Carsen Chubak – G,
5'11", 180, 4-11-1989

Carsen Chubak is from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Last season he was goalie for the Powder River Kings north of Vancouver. Powder River has



a population of about 12,000. The season before that he was with the Flin Flon Bombers in the Saskatchewan Hockey League. Carsen had a 2.24 GAA and .9066% season save percentage.

Ben Montgomery – D, 6'0", 195,
3-27-1991

Ben is from Oakdale, a suburb of Minneapolis/St. Paul. He goes to Shattuck St. Mary's. He has been considered a potential NHL draft selection.





Mitch & dad, Mike during April visit to Kearney

Mitch Hughes – F, 6’2”, 210, 4-2-1992

Mitch is another big player chosen in this year’s draft, one of four players from CA. He skated for the LA Jr. Kings Midget 18AAA

team last season.

Mitch says, "Because of my size, scouts and coaches keep encouraging me to work on my skating agility and quick feet."

Chris Joyaux (Joy-o) – D, 5’11”, 165, 4-19-1992

Chris was the smallest player drafted by the Storm. He comes from Bloomington, IL where he was a member of the Team Illinois U16 team.



Chris has skated in tournaments with Charlie Doderio. He has committed to Ohio State University probably to join them in 2011.

Blake Schammel – F, 5’10”, 180, 10-26-1991

Blake comes from Red Wing, MN where he played on the Red Wing high school team. He graduated last spring. Brad played for Team Minnesota last year when they won the Chicago Showcase.

Jason Binkley – D, 6’, 182, 6-13-1992

Jason is from Powell, Ohio. He skated for the Cleveland Barons AAA U18 team last year. Jason will be a senior in high school this fall.



Russell Blaser – F, 5’ 11”, 175, 5-9-1992

Although he was born in Madison, WI, Russell now lives in Monona Grove, WI where he was a junior in high school last year. Not only did he play for the Monona Grove

High School team but he was also a member of Team Wisconsin. He has made no college

commitment yet, he plans to attend a college where he can play hockey.

Russell started playing hockey when he was three. His mother signed the two of them up for skating lessons. After two weeks the instructor told her to buy her son a helmet, and he was on his way. By the time he had finished sixth grade he had competed in four youth hockey state championships and dreamed of being a professional hockey player.

Doug Wedel – D, 5’ 10”, 190, 1-15-1992

Doug is from Anaheim, CA where he skated for the LA Jr. Kings on the Midget AAA team last season. One west coast scout claimed he was “the most underrated defenseman on the west coast.” Doug will be a senior in high school next fall.

Kenny Brooks – F, 6’, 170, 12-11-1991

Kenny lives in Las Vegas, NV where he skated for the Nevada Stars AAA U18 team last season. Kenny played 35 games in which he had 19



goals and 21 assists for a team leading 40 points. Kenny will also be a senior in high school next fall.

Tyler Pistone – F, 6’, 190, 4-28-1990

Tyler was born in Nanaimo, British Columbia. He played the last two seasons for the Nanaimo Clippers in the BCHL.



Luke Hernandez – G, 5’ 11”, 185, 11-6-1991

Luke’s winning season for the San Jose Jr. Sharks U18 last year included five shutouts. He had a .902 save percentage.

According to Luke’s mother, Luke has an older brother who played junior hockey. Although he was moved around a lot, there were always host families and booster club members who were very supportive and made it a good experience.

Storm Chasers Booster Club

Official Booster Club of the Tri-City Storm
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(Tryout Camp, cont.)

I did know it is on the California, Nevada border, not in the middle east-west. No wonder palm trees can grow there although they do look strange growing next to pine trees.

Second, Las Vegas is a huge city. Just now I looked up the population, 1.8 million in the metro area! I was expecting something like Omaha.

Third, the city is located in a large basin surrounded by mountains. But not like mountains we are accustomed to seeing in Colorado. These are not as high, and they are bare and dry. My husband’s sister lives in Las Vegas and she came to the Ice Center. (She knew that was probably the only time she would see us. At least she did not have to clean the house for company that way.) She did take us on a scenic drive to see the red rocks during the break between morning and evening games on Saturday. This was an excellent break. Hubby got his afternoon nap and I got to see some really wonderful scenery.

Fourth, the basin in which Las Vegas is located is part of the Mojave Desert.

(Drafts – cont.)

Consequently she has no qualms about letting Luke go although he is only 17. He will be a senior in high school this fall.

Brice Geoffrion – F, 6’ 1”, 173, 11-8-1990

Brice is from Brentwood, Tennessee. He just graduated from Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. He is committed to Alabama-Huntsville to play college hockey.

Brice comes from a hockey family. His brother played for the Indiana Ice last season. His grandfather, “Boom Boom Geoffrion” played for the Montreal Canadiens.

Trade #1

Nate Jensen – D, 5’ 11”, 175, 4-27-1990



Nate Jensen comes to the Storm from Cedar Rapids in a trade just before the draft started. The Storm gave up Derek Deblois, a player on

our Affiliates list. Nate comes from Shorewood, MN, a suburb of Minneapolis, where he attended Minnetonka High School. In 2008 he was a member of Team Minnesota in the Chicago Showcase.

Trade #2

Michael Montrose – D, 5’ 11”, 171, 5-26-1991



Michael is from Howell, MI, part of a tri-cities urban area in south central Michigan. Howell is known for its hot air balloon festival the third weekend in June and its melon festival in mid-

August celebrating a hybrid cantaloupe.

Michael skated for Little Caesars U16 team where he was described as having an “in-your-face defense and using his speed to bring up the puck. Hits very well.” He was drafted by the Waterloo Black Hawks and has spent the last two seasons there. Last winter he committed to Bowling Green. His father is a scout for the Blackhawks.