



Tri-City Storm Booster Club

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USHL West



Preseason Games

Two with Nebraska Teams

It's becoming a tradition. Play an exhibition game with the Omaha Lancers very early in the pre-season. This year it is scheduled for Sept. 10th at 7:05 p.m.. On Sept. 16th the Storm plays the Stars, again at 7:05 p.m.. Both will be home games at the VEC.

The Fall Classic

We are back in Sioux City again for the Fall Classic. With 16 teams in the conference this year it will be bigger and better than ever, lasting four days instead of the usual three. Games begin on Wednesday, Sept. 22 and run through Saturday, Sept. 25.

Each team will play three games and

have one day off. In the case of the Storm, they get the last day off.

The first game for the Storm will be against Sioux City at the Tyson Center on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The second game, on Thursday, will again be played at the Tyson Center. This time the Storm will meet one of the new teams to the league, Dubuque, at 4 p.m. The IPB Ice Center will be the scene of the Storm's last game. They play Des Moines at 10 a.m. on Friday.

Then we wait five days for the first game of the regular season to find out who made the final roster.

2010 – 2011 Season Schedule

East



Finally the USHL has published the fall schedule. Now we can begin to seriously think hockey and make the arrangements necessary to attend those games.

We begin and end at home this season with games against the Lincoln Stars on Oct. 1 and Apr. 9. We get to stay home for New Year's Eve again with a game against the Lancers. Then we can go back and watch a game with the Muskegon Lumberjacks on New Year's Day.

As usual there will be a total of 60 games, 30 at home and 30 away. But the number of games played against each of the other teams in the league is more uneven than in the past.

First, the division lineup will be as was published in last month's newsletter with eight teams in each division. The Storm will play each team in the Eastern

Division only two times, once in their arena, once in ours. In the case of Team USA, the home game will be against the U17 team and the game in Ann Arbor will be against the U18 team.

The unexpected part in the schedule is the imbalance of games played in each division. The Storm plays only 16 games against Eastern Division teams and 44 against Western Division teams. And those 44 games are in no way divided evenly.

Our team plays Dubuque and Des Moines just two times each. It's like they are in the Eastern Division as far as we are concerned.

We play the other five members of the West Division – Fargo, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Lincoln, and Omaha – 8 times each!



Ice Skates



We know that the game of ice hockey evolved from field hockey. We know that the first mechanically refrigerated

ice rink was built in 1876. But what do we know about that essential piece of equipment, ice skates?

The first steel bladed skates were developed in 1867. But what kind of skates were used before that?

Archeological digs have revealed that the first ice skates were made of bones. Leather thongs laced through holes in the front and back ends of the bones were used to tie them to the bottoms of the shoes. The front end of the bone was shaped into a wedge to pass more easily over rough and irregular ice.

Usually metatarsal bones of cattle or horses were used. Metatarsals are toe bones. Hoofed animals develop strong ones, especially the third bone of the horse's foot which is connected to the hoof.

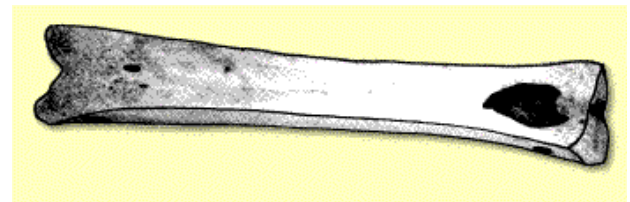
These bone skates are only about 8" long.

The first skates were probably used in about 3,000 B.C. in southern Finland. This area has a larger concentration of small lakes than anywhere else in the world. It was easier to skate across them than to walk around them in the winter. Conserving energy in that cold climate was essential.

The skaters probably propelled themselves with sticks. Modern day experi-

ments have shown that the most efficient way is to use one stick to push between the legs rather than using one or two sticks on the side like ski poles. A skater on bone skates would travel about five miles per hour. By comparison, modern day speed skaters reach speeds up to 37 miles per hour.

One of the most well known examples of bone skates is the pair found at Birka in the vicinity of Stockholm, Sweden. It dates from the 9th century.



This is a sketch of the Birka. A string or cord would be pulled through the holes at each end and then be tied around the foot.

Experiments have shown that the bone stays on tighter if the back cord is wrapped around the ankle before it is tied.

Keeping an Edge

The bottom of a modern ice skate blade, unlike the blade of a knife, has a crescent-shaped hollow, creating two sharp edges on each skate. Ideally, the two edges of a blade are parallel, but poor maintenance practices, such as improper sharpening or lack of consistent sharpening, can often result in oblique edges. These "bad" edges can affect skating ability significantly.



The depth of this hollow is known as the Radius of Hollow (RoH). The Radius of Hollow is typically between 1/4" and 1" depending on the type of skates and the user. The optimal depth depends on factors such as the skater's weight

ability, strength, sporting activity, and (for ice hockey) style of play

The skater uses these edges in different combinations in order to maneuver. When ice skates are *sharpened* the blade is ground with a

stone with a curved surface, dressed to either restore the hollow or provide a different radius.

Speed skates and touring skates,

however, have a completely flat bottom. There is no hollow, only a squared off bottom with 2 edges. This improves glide time by not cutting into the ice.

Two New Arenas to Visit

The Muskegon Arena

The Muskegon Lumberjacks will call the L. C. Walker Arena home. This arena was completed in 1960 at a cost of \$1 million using funds from the Louis Calisle Walker estate and given to the City of Muskegon. The city matched the cost of the building in the value of the land, utility connections and furnishings.

An Annex was incorporated into the arena later. It was formerly the Plum grocery store next door. In 1936 it was the first self-serve grocery store in the city. Now it is used for banquets, trade shows and that sort of thing.

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L. C. Walker was a furniture maker and founder of Shaw-Walker Office Equipment. He wanted his employees and Muskegon citizens to have a recreation facility. Hockey has been played in the building from the very beginning since the first pro team in Muskegon, the Zephyrs, started in 1960. Seating for hockey games is 5,100.

The Walker Arena is undergoing some changes this summer. A new player's lounge and a weight room were added. The lounge not only includes the usual tables and chairs but also has internet access. The assistant coach's office will be off the weight room. The coach's office was renovated and enlarged. The player's dressing room was stripped and new stalls put in. The former gift shop is being enlarged to include hockey equipment. Team and arena office space is being remodeled.

The last renovation was done over an 18-month period in 1996-7. This was a major renovation which cost \$8.5. The Lumberjacks owner, Josh Mervis is financing the newest changes. He is not telling the cost but says it is "six-figures".

What the fans will notice are the new lights, spotlights, laser lights and a scoreboard with video panels.

The Dubuque Arena

The Fighting Saints will have their home in a brand new arena this fall. The new Mystique Ice Center is scheduled for completion in August and a grand opening on September 11, 2010. Construction began in the spring of 2008.

The ice will be in nearly year around, 320 days annually. Besides the USHL team, the Youth Hockey Association, the Dubuque Stars, and the high school team, the Dubuque Devils, will be using the arena.



Mystique Ice Center

The Mystique Casino donated the first million of this almost \$7 million project in April 2007. \$2.5 million was raised by Dubuque Community Ice and Recreation Center, Inc.

The new arena was built on Chaplain Schmidt Island in the Mississippi across from the Mystique Casino. The land was formerly a city-owned soccer field. The City of Dubuque retains ownership of the land and, while it will own the building, the Mystique Arena will have to be self-supporting.

The arena seats 3,200. Besides the USHL team, it will house the usual array of hockey programs including broomball.

Where Are They Now?

In the continuing series of updates on players who were members of the very first Storm team 10 years ago, the focus this month is on #28 Mark Pohl, #31 Josh Hooyer, and #33 Eric Young.

Mark Pohl

Mark Pohl, a Red Wing, Minnesota native, started his USHL career in the 1998-99 season when he played four games for the Twin City Vulcans. The next season he went to the University of Minnesota-Duluth but he was red-shirted.

(Cont. on p. 4)

Three Sign With NHL Teams



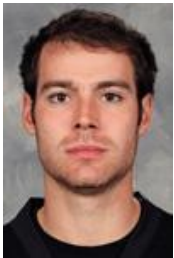
Scott Parse has signed a two year extension with the L A Kings. He was originally drafted by the Kings in 2004 following his first year at UNO. He played mainly for the Kings farm team, the

Manchester Monarchs in the AHL after his four seasons at UNO. Scott played a full season of 59 games for the Kings last season. His record was 11 goals and 13 assists for 24 points. Scott played for the Storm in the 2002-3 season.



Pete Mannino has signed a multi-year contract with the Atlanta Thrashers. He first signed with the Thrashers in July 2009. Then he spent the 2009-10 season playing for their

farm team, the Chicago Wolves. His record in 38 games for the Wolves was 26-5-1 with two shut-outs and a .92% save average. Pete made his debut in the NHL during the 2008-9 season when he played three games for the New York Islanders. He played for the Storm in 2003-04.



Bill Thomas has signed with the Florida Panthers. Bill spent last season with the Pittsburgh Penguins and their AHL farm team, the Wilkes-Barre Penguins. After leaving the Storm Bill played two seasons at UNO before signing with the Phoenix Coyotes. For the following two seasons he divided his time between the NHL Coyotes and their AHL farm team, the San Antonio Rampage. Bill was the first Storm player to play in the NHL. He played for the storm in the 2002-3 and 2003-4 seasons.

Where Are They Now? (cont.)

So when the Vulcans moved to Kearney to become the Tri-City Storm, Mark came along.

Storm fans soon became familiar with the “Pohl Vault,” Mark’s enthusiastic leap of joy straight up into the air next to the glass following a goal.

Mark was named Offensive Player of the Week by the USHL in the second week of December. He scored a total of 14 goals and had 8 assists in the 30 games he played before an injury during a game against Rochester ended his hockey playing career.

Mark sustained a concussion and a spine stinger when he went head first into the boards. Further examination revealed that more injury to the spinal cord could be permanent. The team wore his number, 28, on their jerseys for the remainder of the season in his honor.

Storm Booster Club

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Josh Hooyer



Goalie Josh Hooyer came from Anchorage Alaska and Service High School to play for the Storm at the beginning of the first season.

He played 14 games for the Storm before going back home. There are no other hockey statistics available. He is probably living in Anchorage now.

Erik Young

Erik Young went from White Bear Lake High School to the U. of Minn. in 1998. He left after the first semester of his second year there to become the Storm’s backup goalie. Erik came back the following year but then joined the Topeka Scarecrows for the remainder of the season.

Following his USHL career Erik went back to college playing two seasons (2002-3 & 2003-4) for Augsburg College while he completed his degree in Mass Communication. Immediately upon graduating he went to work for the Jonathan Hind Financial Group, an insurance agency in the Twin Cities. He is currently vice president of business development there.

Erik is married. In his leisure time he enjoys running, golf & tennis as well as hockey.