



PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS

Booster Club

HAWKEY TALK - NOVEMBER 09-10

Presidents Message

In the short time I have been with the Booster Club, (short in comparison to those who preceded me) I have seen quite a bit when it comes to the jubilation of wins and heartache to downright panic in losses. It has been quite a swing over the past year or 2 and now it seems that we all could be destined to witness some tremendous hockey for some time to come. It is always sad losing players from one year to the next via the many ways we lose them, I can only hope that the time they did spend here, was both enjoyable and nurturing.

I would like to welcome all the parents who are able to attend a much earlier Parent's weekend this season and hope that they have as much fun at the games as we do. For most of the Parents, this will mark their son's first year with the team and if you happen to see any along your travels, welcome them here.

We are in full swing now as we close in on the half-way mark of the season. It's hard to believe, we start so slow and then ramp up. The feeling is almost like a plane takeoff. We are about to start the bulk of our fundraisers for the year, the Christmas Ornaments, the continuation of the Player Pizzas and other raffles at the Booster Table.

Make sure if you are planning to attend our next Booster meeting on December 19, that it is held in the Private Dining Room in the Rose Garden and check your email for full directions. Those without email, make sure you stop by the Booster Table for information.

All the photos and buttons are in stock and we are signing up for Trip #2 to Tri Cities, cutoff is December 19.

Letter from the Editor

It has been an exciting and fast start to the 2009 - 2010 season. It has been no different for the Boosters as we have had several events and have many more to come. In this issue we bring you a new twist, Parents Perspectives. We asked the overage players' parents to think a bit about what their players time in the WHL has meant. I really want to thank the Muchas, Schneiders and Cindy Francis for taking some time to share what the last few years has been for them as parents. Also in this issue we have rookie Q&A with two exciting first year players. As we take time this month to reflect on what we have and what we are thankful of, we should take a minute to thank those who have brought us so much. We also have the opportunity to help those in need. The Portland Winterhawks Booster Club has some wonderful fund raising events coming up. The Boosters along with the Portland Jr. Hawks are raffling off a Chicago Blackhawks #81 team signed jersey. The proceeds will help a family that is in great need. The Booster Club also has our annual Christmas Tree Ornament auction as well as another Hawkey Talk Pizza Update show brought to you from Stark Street Pizza. These two events help us raise funds for the player scholarship fund. Please consider supporting one or all of these great opportunities.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
<http://www.pwhbc.com>

Pizza Blast Update Shows

Stark Street Pizza

Monday October—26th

(Francis, Ponich, Schneider & Walker)

Monday November—23rd

(Bennet, Berglund, Rutkowski, Niederreiter, & Aronson)

Monday December—14th

(Bobbee, Ross, Wotherspoon & Swenson)

Monday January—25th

(Mucha, Boychuk, Peters, Rattie & Reddin)

Monday February—8th

(Johnston, Johansen, Jordan, Gabriel & Morrow)

Monday March—8th

(Curtis, Kopitar & Make Up)

Dates and Players Subject to change, please check at the booster table for updates!

Booster Meeting Dates—

Saturday October 10th—Memorial Coliseum

Saturday November 14th—Memorial Coliseum

Saturday December 19th—Rose Garden

Saturday January 2nd—Memorial Coliseum

Saturday February 20th—Memorial Coliseum
(Nominations Meeting)

Saturday March 6th—Rose Garden (Elections Meeting)

2009 - 10 Board Members

President—Stuart Kemp

Vice President—Andy Potter

Treasurer—Debi Koberstein

Recording Secretary—John Fisher

Corresponding Secretary—Cathy Kemp

Sgt at Arms—Ron Spencer

Past President—Linda Donaldson

Council Member—Tammy Hall

Council Member—Mike Hall

Council Member—Katie Poland

Council Member—Elke Thomas

Council Member—Marian Brown

Council Member—Mary Ellen Brown

Players of the Month 2009 - 10

08—09 Fan Favorite — #12 Chris Francis

(See page 7 for a note from Chris)

October — #22 Nino Niederreiter

November —

December —

January —

February —

09—10 Fan Favorite —

Remember to vote for the 2009—2010 players!

BUS TRIPS!

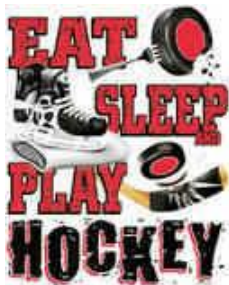
The Boosters have scheduled the following bus trips:

#1—Saturday December 12—Tri Cities

#2—Saturday January 16—Tri Cities

#3—Saturday March 13—Seattle (Kent)

Check the Booster Club Table for more information and Pricing.





Time Flies

By Andy Kemper

Is it really November already? Are we already 21 games into the 2009-10 WHL season? Where did the time go? I guess time really **does** fly when you're having fun...

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As supporters of the Portland Winterhawks you have to be having a bit more fun than the past three seasons with the team sitting at 14-7-0-0 and in contention at the top of the WHL's Western Conference standings. When I travel with the team that is the first question I get asked by opposing team broadcasters and staff, "Having more fun this year?"

Yes...yes, I am...thank you very much...

In all of the early season success, the thing that stands out most to me is the Hawks road record at 9-4-0-0. The nine wins have surpassed the win totals on the road for the past three seasons (9, 3 and 7 respectively through 36 games) and it is nice to know that when the Hawks play their game, they can win anywhere, any time.

The Hawks .692 road win percentage, if they were to remain at that level all season, would be the best road record of any Hawks team in their history. The top 5 road win percentages in team history are:

- 1980-81 -- .681
- 1997-98 -- .667
- 1978-79 -- .667
- 1979-80 -- .653
- 1986-87 -- .611

The .692 percentage is also greater than the home win percentage, currently at .625.

As supporters of the team, it is hard some nights to watch the team play with not a lot of fans in the seats. I encourage all of you, as ambassadors of the team, to reach out to your friends and families as well as Hawks fans that no longer come to games to tell them that the Hawks are no longer a team to stay home from and that it appears the team is set to make a lengthy run over the next few seasons.

I think we all enjoyed the nearly 9,000 fans that made the atmosphere in the Rose Garden great just this past Saturday on Dash-for-Cash night. It helped that the Hawks came back to tie the game in dramatic fashion in the final second and then get the win in the shootout thanks to Chris Francis. Games like that will hopefully bring some of the casual fans back to more games this season, but "word of mouth" advertising works great and I know the Booster Club does a lot in that regard.

Kemper's Corner Continued

As much fan as we have supporting the team, it makes it that much more fun with the MC or Rose Garden is rocking. I know the team appreciates it and they definitely feed off the energy created by the best fans in all of junior hockey.

We have hit rock bottom for three years, the Hawks are rising and I'm glad that all of you are there to witness it.

Thanks for the support and as always...

GO HAWKS!!!

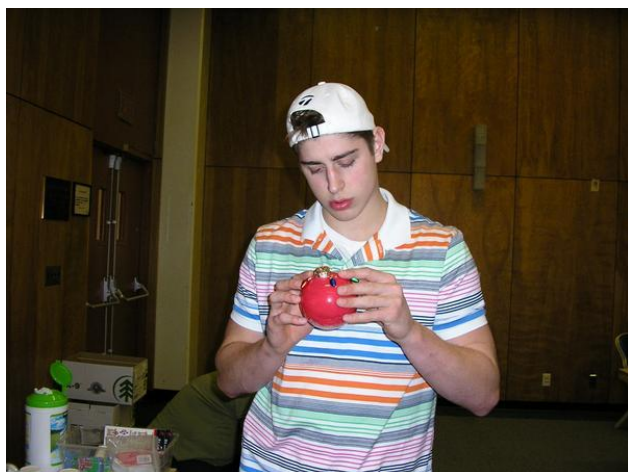
President's Message Continued

Our next Chuck a Puck is in the Rose Garden Friday December 4 and we can use a few volunteers. Stop by the Booster Table for more information

Check inside the newsletter for dates for Player Pizza and list of players and upcoming meetings and we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Stuart Kemp
President
Portland Winter Hawks Booster Club
www.pwhbc.com
(360) 852-5081

The Winterhawks Booster Club will once again have player made Christmas tree Ornaments to auction off. Here are some pictures from players in past years creating those memorial holiday gotta have items.

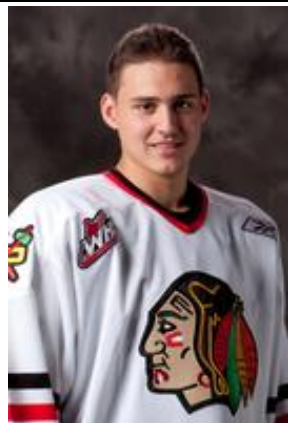


Former Hawk and current NY Ranger, Brandon Dubinsky.



Kurtis Mucha on right creating one of his many holiday treasures!

Rookie Q&A with Nino Niederreiter and Ryan Johansen



Nino, Thanks for taking a few minutes with us...

HT - Can you tell us a little about your home town in Switzerland?

NN - Yeah my home town (CHUR) it's so small we have only 38 000 people. It is between the mountains and really nice ! :D

HT - What did you think about Portland once you were picked in the draft? Did you know anything about Portland?

NN - Yeah I was so happy that they picked me at the 2. overall!!! It is nice to be it, #2 pick :D he he and yeah but about Portland I never hear about that be-

fore !! :D But now I'm here and it is so beautiful :D

HT - How does the WHL compare to the Swiss leagues you have played in over the last couple of seasons?

NN - Yeah the WHL that's so different than the league back home! Its faster harder and has more skill and just amazing that I can play here. I'm so happy!! :D But for sure it is not that high as the Swiss pro league! :D

HT - Can you tell us about your family? Mom, dad, brothers or sisters?

NN - I love my family!! My mom works in the hospital she is a midwife. :D My dad he is a hard worker. :D He works for a company who made tunnel and that stuff but he didn't work in the tunnel!! Then my older sister she works in the hospital too as a biomedicine in the laboratory and my other sister she works in a medical practice.

HT - What types of sports did you play growing up other then hockey?

NN - I love tennis, table tennis, basketball of course soccer (euro). :D He He and yeah a lot of sport I like golf, but I'm bad there! :D he he

HT - What other things do you do for fun when you are not playing hockey?

NN - Yeah clubbing, watching some movies meeting some girls! :D I love shopping :D

HT - How many languages do you speak?

NN - I speak 4 languages Swiss-German, German, Italian and now I learn English!! :D

HT - How is school in the US different then back home? What subjects do you like?

NN - Yeah it is different but I can not tell that because I learn only English here!! :D I like math and geometry!! I hate history that's so boring :D

HT - What are your goals for the season?

NN - My goals : go to the playoff and win something :D like memorial cup! :D Yeah I have dreams for this season : to go to the CHL all-star game and to be drafted, doesn't matter which round but dream for the 1st or 2nd!

HT - - I always ask the players to give younger hockey players one word of advice on how to become a better player, so what would you tell them?

NN - Only one? :D that's easy I think the most players says hard work yeah that's true but I think the right one is have passion!!

Nino, Thanks for your time... Ryan now it is your turn!

HT - Ryan, tell us about Port Moody? What kind of town is it?



RJ - Port Moody is a small town, up on the mountain side, also beside an inlet of the Pacific Ocean.

HT - What types of things did you do in the off season to be ready for the Winterhawks camp?

RJ - Well on the ice I skated three times a week with current NHL Players, and off the ice I trained 5 days a week.

HT - Can you tell us what your feelings were when you were told that you had made the team coming out of camp?

RJ - It was very exciting, knowing how hard it was to make the team this year.

HT - How is the game different for you in the WHL, compared to playing in the BCHL for instance?

RJ - The difference would be that there is more depth throughout the teams.

HT - You seem to be playing pretty regularly with Nino and Brad, how have you three come together so quickly?

RJ - Well its really easy to play with talented players like Ross and Nino. I think we all have key attributes like Nino is a sniper, Ross is a grinder, I'm a playmaker so it goes well together.

HT - Let's switch gears, can you tell us a bit about your family? Any siblings playing hockey or other sports?

RJ - I have one little brother. He is 12 and is the captain of his pee wee hockey team. I have a mom and a dad named Roz and Randall.

HT - What other types of activities or hobbies do you have? What do you do for fun in the off season?

RJ - In the off season I like to play golf and anything else that gets me outside moving around.

HT - How is school going for you? How is it different? What subjects do you enjoy?

RJ - School is very tough, being away on the road so much, I don't have a favorite subject.

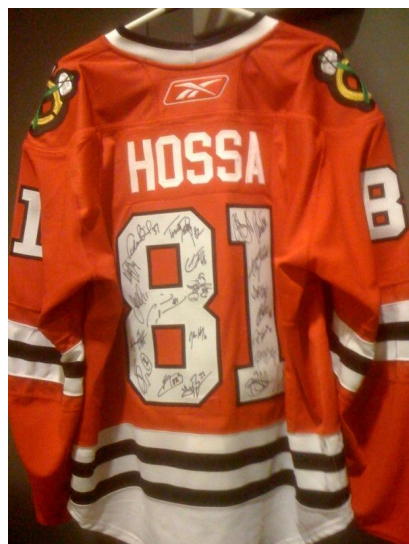
HT - Do you have any cooking talent? If so, what types of things do you enjoy doing in the kitchen, or is eating it?

RJ - No cooking talents thus far in my life. If you call spreading peanut butter and jelly on toast a cooking talent then that's one.

HT - Last I always ask for that one word of advice you can give to the youth hockey players in Portland. So, what would you tell them to do to succeed in Hockey?

RJ - That's easy, Believe

Ryan, Thanks for your time and being part of Rookie Q&A.



As mentioned earlier the Portland Winterhawks Booster Club, along with the Portland Jr Hawks Youth Hockey Organization are working together to support a family of youth players that are in need this season. Former Winterhawk and current Blackhawk star Marian Hossa was kind enough to donate this one of a kind unique 2009 - 2010 Blackhawk jersey. This jersey has been signed by all of the 2009 - 2010 Blackhawk players. Please come by and purchase a raffle ticket or two to support these youth hockey players as well as get a chance to win this unique item. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The drawing will be March 15th at Valley Ice Arena during the Portland Jr Hawks Frozen Rose Bantam Hockey Tournament.

Thank you for your support!

Parent's Perspective

Hawkey Talk contacted the parents of overage players, Stefan Schneider, Kurtis Mucha and Chris Francis and asked them to tell us about their experiences with the WHL and Winterhawks.

Stefan's Family Wrote:

Stefan is in his 3rd year in the WHL. This is not new to us as Stefan's older brother Matt, also played 4 years in the league. As Stefan's parents we feel the WHL has given him a place to play the game he loves in a top notch junior hockey league. The WHL has allowed him to play to his highest ability and has continued to challenge him as well as allow for growth and maturity in the game. Stefan has learned what it means to be part of a team on and off the ice and has taught him discipline, commitment and leadership. As for Stefan's future plans his ultimate goal would be to play pro hockey but if that is not to be than he has shown interest in playing University hockey and using his 3 year scholarship to get his education.

It was not easy having Stefan leave home at such an early age but we feel it was well worth it. We have put many, many miles on our vehicle over the past several years!. We are very happy that Stefan has been able to be part of the Portland Winterhawks organization. We have nothing but good to say with respect to the coaching, management and of course his exceptional billet family, Don and Roxanne Sawchuk. We would like to personally thank the Winterhawks organization for allowing Stefan to play with a team that we are sure will be a powerful force in the years to come.

David and Debbie Schneider

Kurtis' Family Wrote:

Wow, where does the time go? This is Kurtis' (and our) 5th year with the Winterhawks! It is such an honor to be a 5th year player with the team that drafted you. As his parents and sister, we too feel honored. We are also very proud of his commitment to the Winterhawks and the fans over the past 5 years.

Going back to Kurtis' first year, it was not easy leaving our 16 year old son to play hockey and attend school far away from home! Back at home, we had to adjust to some simple things such as getting used to that empty spot at the dinner table or buying one less piece of chicken when grocery shopping. After the first prospect camp in Kimberley, we felt comfortable with the organization, particularly with Mike Williamson and Hazel Hansen. So, in August of 2005, Kurtis moved in and quickly became a part of the Howe family with Susan Howe as his "American Mom". There was never a worry about his meals or well-being as Sue is a gourmet cook and she shared the same family values as we did. We did worry about him navigating and driving in the big city of Portland 2 months after he got his drivers license though.

The next thing we experienced was our social life took a hit! Our weekends were now spent in front of the computer (thankfully we can now hook up to the big screen TV) listening to Scooter and Andy (and now Todd) to hear the stories about the team and players, watching the games on the "not so clear, often buffering" WHL Web TV and waiting for that all important phone call from our son every couple of days!

One of our main concerns was maintaining his education during the long WHL season. The players keep insisting they are there to play hockey and we would him nag about school almost every phone call! It takes hard work and dedication to manage your studies during the season and again when transitioning back after the season ends. From his days at Sunset High, he remains good friends with one of his teachers, Ann Ames.

Leaving home at 16 years old, for 8 or 9 months each year, Kurtis essentially grew up in Portland. Portland is his second home and Sue is his second mom. Sue was there to support Kurtis through the good times and the rough times which sometimes included making a batch of brownies for him to come home to after a rough game.

We feel very fortunate that Kurtis has been able to play 5 years in the Western Hockey League. He has been able to play and be challenged at the highest level in hopes of fulfilling his goal of playing pro-hockey in the future. If a pro career doesn't work out, the WHL Scholarship is guaranteed. Kurtis has grown as a person on and off the ice - leadership, the TEAM, commitment, discipline, mental toughness, public speaking and fan events, importance of fitness, nutrition and proper sleep, managing his own expenses to name a few. Oh and he has seen a lot of pucks!

Parent's Perspective

The family and friendships we have all gained over the past 5 years are priceless. We would like to mention a few:

- Susan Howe and her family for accepting Kurtis and us into their family for the past 5 years. We could not have had a better home situation for our son!
- The Winterhawks staff – all of you, over all of the years! Everyone has always been friendly, helpful and welcoming. Your commitment is exemplary!
- The broadcast crew and their families – Scooter, Andy, John and now Todd. We appreciate your commitment to the team, your professional broadcasts and your friendship!
- Theresa and Rod Forni, who have hosted Canadian Thanksgiving for the boys over the years. It means a lot to the boys and us families far away who have that missing spot at the family dinner table!
- The Booster Club, who does a lot of phenomenal things for the players and families. The monthly newsletters share with us the team's activities, and interesting articles from the coaches, Andy and the players. Our favorite is the annual yearbook, reflecting on the season.
- All of the player families, billet families, the awesome Winterhawk fans who support the players through good times and tough times (we have come to know many of you). Portland does have the best fans!
- Lastly, we would like to thank Kurtis for without him as a Winterhawk, our lives would not have been enriched with the Winterhawk experience and many friendships made.

Over the past 5 years we have put on a lot of miles visiting a lot of cities, seen a lot of rinks, cashed in and earned a lot of air miles, dropped a lot of money at the Woodburn Outlet Mall, but we would not have had it any other way!

With the new ownership and coaching staff in place, we look forward to the Portland Winterhawks hoisting the Memorial Cup once again. In the meantime, we are all happy to be a part of the Winterhawks rebuilding their proud tradition.

GO HAWKS!

Lee-Ann, Wes and Katie Mucha

"Once a Winterhawk, always a Winterhawk"

Chris' Family Wrote:

Who would of ever imagined a young boy from Las Vegas would take his dreams and hopes for to play and be apart of an historian franchise hockey team, The Portland Winterhawks. I'll never forget the excitement in my husband and son's eyes when we all agreed this move would be in Chris's best interest to further his journey as a young hockey player. Being the mom it was very hard to let her one and only baby leave, but it was time for Chris to move on to events which would change his life forever. It was the weekend of the season opener and Dave and I couldn't wait to get there to see our boy play. Chris was so excited and couldn't wait for us to see the arena so we drove down early on game day so that he could show us around. The moment I stepped inside the Coliseum and saw before me the history, and magnitude of what my son was soon to become part of; I broke down in tears.

Four years later I still carry that same feeling and am proud to have been a part of this history in making as a Winterhawk parent. The time has flown by so quickly and the events which would take place during those years have turned that once young boy to a wonderful young man. The life lessons, adversity and the loss of his father have been a tremendous amount of events he has had to overcome and through it all an inspiration to continue moving forward. After years of struggling the Team has finally arrived and the Hawk Fans have found their Tradition of winning again!! And it will continue as the years past by. I find myself thrilled but saddened as this season continues to move forward knowing there will be an end soon.

I will never forget, and cannot thank enough; to all those who have shared their life's in helping my son continue his journey. Judy and Mike Swiger , the billets who have opened their home and hearts to my son every step of the way, thank you.

To Mat Bardsley for believing in Chris, To all the Winterhawk associates, coaching staff , Booster club and all the wonderful fans and parents I've met along the way that are now my friends , I Thank you.....

Forever Hawk proud, Proud mother and Fan for life,

Cindy L. Francis #12

Talking Hockey with Coach Mike Johnston

Booster Club Newsletter – October 2009

The month of October was a very hectic but successful month for the Portland Winterhawks. We finished the month 10-4 with eleven of those games on the road which included the grueling six game swing through the Central division. I was very happy with the way the team played on the road as we finished with eight wins in eleven road games.

After our game in Everett on Sunday, October 11, I headed to Kelowna to attend a league General Manager's meeting and then met the team in Edmonton on Wednesday, October 14. Travis and I were very anxious for this Central Division trip as this would be our first experience of being on the "swing" which tells you a lot about your teams' character. This was also an exciting time for eight of our players who are from Alberta. There can be distractions as these young men have family and friends caravanning throughout the trip as well. As the team was making its way to Edmonton they stopped in Spokane for dinner and also had the chance to meet up with Oliver Gabriel who is recovering nicely from his scary Spleen injury.

The first game on the swing started in Edmonton and 2 hours before the game there was a very touching moment when our captain Brett Ponich presented his longtime friend Tanner Hubbs a check to help offset medical fees raised by our fans through various auctions and donations. Brett and the boys went on to beat Edmonton by a convincing score of 5-2. Kurtis Mucha who played in net had about 30 family and friends in attendance. Joe Morrow and Troy Rutkowski had a strong following in Edmonton as well.

Our second game on the trip was a 6-2 loss to the Red Deer Rebels. It was a strange game in which we scored twelve seconds in but were not able to capitalize on a strong start. After the game some of the players were able to meet former Winterhawk Ray Ferraro who was in attendance hoping watch his son Landon Ferraro but was out due to injury.

After the Red Deer game we packed up and traveled to Calgary which is where we stayed for three nights. We practiced in Calgary on Friday and then on Saturday we took the players out to do some horseback riding and team bonding. After the horseback riding the boys had a nice dinner which featured some Alberta Beef and a few laughs about what they witnessed on the trails. As we headed back we dropped the boys off at the hotel and Travis, Kyle Gustafson, Matt Bardsley (Advance Scout) and myself took in the Saskatoon vs Calgary game to do some pre-scouting. Our game against Calgary was a hard fought game which featured us starting with a 3-0 lead and then Calgary coming back to tie it up. Each team traded a couple of goals and eventually Calgary scored the game winner with less than a minute to play.

Continued on next page

Talking Hockey with Coach Mike Johnston Continued...

From there we finished the trip with three consecutive wins against Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Kootenay. Both the Medicine Hat and Lethbridge games were very tight but our boys really battled hard and were rewarded with wins. The last games of road trips and in this case our opponent was Kootenay are always very difficult and everybody wants to get home. We played an excellent game from start to finish and won the game in a convincing fashion much like our first game on the swing in Edmonton. The coaching staff was very happy with the teams' performance on the Central Swing and understand how this can be a very tough trip.

Our first game back from the road trip proved to be an exciting one with a huge shootout win at home against the Memorial Cup host team Brandon Wheat Kings. Brandon's roster features some of the best players in junior hockey. Finally, we ended the month in Spokane and played an excellent road game which ended with a 2-0 win against a strong divisional opponent.

The line of Brad Ross, Ryan Johansen and Nino Niederreiter was excellent throughout the month of October. They were strong on the power play as well as 5 on 5 situations. Troy Rutkowski was our nomination as WHL Player of the Month. Troy was second in the league in points for defenseman and five of his goals were scored on the power play. It is no coincidence that those four players are also considered top prospects for this years' NHL Draft.

Ty Rattie who came back from a broken thumb in exhibition has contributed very nicely and will be a great player for the Portland Winterhawks for many years.

PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS HOCKEY CLUB