



HAWKEY TALK

December 2008

President's Message

It has been an incredible journey over the past month or so, with a long break away from games and now upcoming, an even split of home and away games in January.

I would like to thank all those who signed up for the bus trip January 24 vs Seattle in what will be the Winter Hawks first ever visit to the Kent Events Center. I must apologize for not being able to offer the trip sooner or being able to extend the trip time schedule. The way the season has gone, has made it tough and between the price of gas fluctuating and apparent reluctance of charter companies offering deals in a tight market, I had to think we weren't going to get one done. Special thanks go to RAZ Transportation who not only was the first to offer us a deal, but then cut it further so that we were able to make it much more affordable with a game ticket attached. If the trip goes well and we can hold a similar price, we will look to the Seattle game on the 28th of February as a possible away game trip should there be the interest.

By the time the next newsletter comes out, we should have had our trip (and a win) and we will be looking at what if any transactions took place at the trade deadline set for January 10.

With the holiday now behind us, we will be able to get the magnets back on track for the Booster Meetings. We will have Radim Valchar and Brett Ponich ones coming out and following the Jan 10 date we will be able to finish our order of this season's magnets.

As many of you might have seen, Fox Sports Network will carry a couple of home Portland games live in the coming months, along with Seattle, Spokane and Tri Cities. This will be great for those who may not be able to watch the WHL webcasts and want to see what the other teams are doing as well.

I was very pleased overall with the Christmas ornament auction. Though we were nowhere near last years totals'

Letter from the Editor

Hawks Fans, welcome to another edition of Hawkey Talk! I want to wish everyone a joyous and happy holiday season. It has been a crazy time of year with all of the winter weather. Brett Ponich commented on how he missed seeing snow... Well we have had our share of the white stuff so far this winter.

With the coming of a New Year, we all take time to reflect on the past year and make predictions and resolutions for the coming year. We here at Hawkey Talk are doing the same thing.

We are looking back over the past year of Winterhawks hockey, remember the good things about the season. Remembering that these are young men, playing for the love of the game. We also look to a bright and promising future. New ownership, as well as coaching staff, seem to have gone back to teaching the game of hockey, and about the game of life. Happy Holidays everyone!

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

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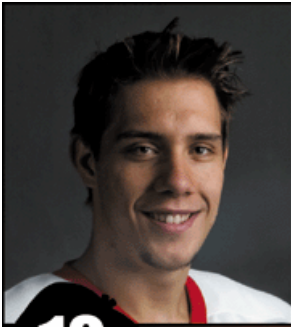
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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Player Action Photos | Bryan Heim |
| 3 Stars Photos | Cathy Kemp and Richard Thomas |



BOOSTER CLUB MEETING DATES

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Speaker</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | October 11 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | Jerry Moss |
| Saturday | November 15 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | |
| Saturday | December 13 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | Andy Kemper |
| Saturday | January 17 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | TBA |
| Saturday | February 21 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | no speaker—Nominations |
| Saturday | March 14 | Memorial Coliseum | 5:00 PM | no speaker—Elections |

November Player of the Month #12 Chris Francis



| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Position | Left Wing |
| Shoots | Right |
| Height | 5'-9" |
| Weight | 189 lbs |
| Hometown | Las Vegas, NV |
| Birthday | 3-30-1989 |
| Age | 19 |
| NHL Status | Free Agent |

12 Chris Francis

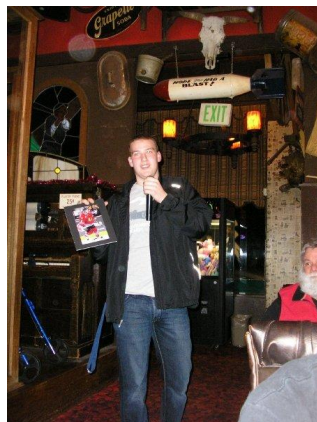
Chris was voted player of the month by you the fans of the Portland Winter Hawks. We were unable to get Chris' submission for the newsletter due to the winter holiday break. Please come by and vote for the December player of the month, as we have two home games left in the month.

Go Hawks!



Rookie Brad Ross talking to the fans at the December Pizza Blast update show!

Troy Rutkowski auctioning off his action photo to help raise funds for the Boosters donation to the players scholarship fund!



Pizza Blast Update Shows!

Pizza Update Shows

Stark Street Pizza

October 13th

Players— #1 Keith Hamilton, #14 Luke Walker, #18 Brad Ross, and #21 Colin Reddin

November 10th

Players— #6 Brett Ponich, #12 Chris Francis, #17 Riley Boychuk and #22 Scott Gabriel

December 8th

Players— #2 Troy Rutkowski, #3 Travis Ehrhardy, #5 Joe Morrow and #18 Brad Ross

January 26th

Players— TBA

February 23rd

Players— TBA

March 9th

Players— TBA

Hosted by Andy Kemper, Jerry Moss and the Winter Hawks Boosters!



Holiday Thoughts

By Andy Kemper

As I write this, the snow is falling and I'm very glad that I'm done with my holiday shopping and that I can stay inside, nice and warm, just watching it fall.

I have a feeling that I'm not going to be as lucky as the team returns from the Holiday Break with a road trip in early January that has the Hawks heading to Spokane, Kamloops, Kelowna and Tri City in the same week. There is nothing like riding a bus over mountain passes and lots of snow. Good times...

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As the Portland Winter Hawks are now at the unofficial halfway point of the season, it is time for the players to return home, get reacquainted with the family and friends, rest and get ready for what will hopefully be a playoff push in the second half.

The Hawks, like a lot of teams in the WHL, will be missing some bodies after the break as 16 year olds Keith Hamilton, Brad Ross and Troy Rutkowski will all be on Team Pacific for the World U17 Championships in Port Alberni, BC. In all my years, I can't recall the team losing three 16 year olds to the tournament, let alone the same team.

Also, Radim Valchar may make the Czech Republic World U20 Junior Team. We will learn more about that in the very near future.

From talking to a lot of people from around the WHL – broadcasters, coaches, team officials and fans – you hear some folks complaining about losing players for what may be close to 10 games. I just don't get that.

The opportunity for these players to go and represent their provinces (in the case of the 16's) or their country is one that shouldn't be missed. I know that while, selfishly, it would be great to have a full roster, the fact is that these players will grow and become better players for playing in these events.

The same can be said for the players that are on the Hawks protected list that will take part in the upcoming Mac's Midget Tournament in Calgary right after Christmas. This is one the biggest Midget tournaments in the world and it provide a great environment for these players to excel. The Hawks will have nine players on different rosters taking part in that event, including first round (#2 overall) bantam selection Ty Rattie.

While all of this is going on, I want to put down a few thoughts on some very special people who deserve to be recognized and they are the parents of the players.

On any given night, both home and away, it is not uncommon to see at least a few parents in attendance watching their sons play. It is always great to see and talk to them and I look forward to those conversations very much.

As the broadcaster, my first responsibility (and one that I take very seriously) is to call the game and make it as entertaining as possible. My second thought is that I know that my audience includes not only the parents of the Hawks, but, most likely the parents of the opposing team as well. I have to



Holiday Thoughts
By Andy Kemper

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remember this when it appears that a player is injured, as I don't want to cause any undue concern back home.

These folks deserve our recognition as they allow their teenage son to leave home and chase their hockey dreams in a major, metropolitan city hundreds (if not, thousands) of miles away from home and to live with surrogate families.

The players never cease to amaze me with their maturity and dedication to their sport, and that comes from the families as well.

As the booster club, and fans of the team, I appreciate all that you do to make the players welcome in Portland and I know that the parents appreciate that very much.

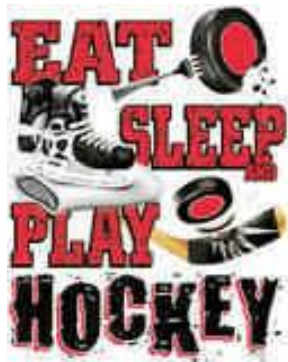
As we pass through this holiday season with our families, let's keep the players and their families in mind as we welcome them back to Portland for the final 39 games of the 2008-09 season.

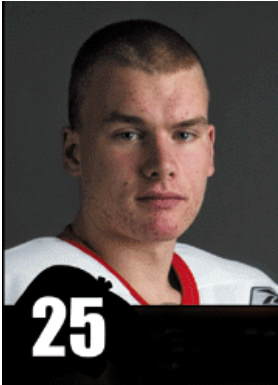
Playoffs are not out of reach, it should be a fun ride.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and as always...

GO HAWKS!!!

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Question and Answers with A new Hawks Player each month!
With Taylor Peters

Taylor, Thanks for taking sometime to be part of the Hawkey Talk Rookie Q&A.

HT— Taylor, you got a chance to play some as a 15 year old, did that help you over the summer while preparing for training Camp?

R TP—The games I played last year definitely gave me an opportunity to gauge the level of intensity, speed, and strength which I looked to be at for the start of the season.

O HT— When did you learn that you were going to make the roster this season?

O TP—I was actually never called in for any meetings with the coaches until the new management arrived. Unfortunately, it left me on edge for the whole of main camp. By the time school had started, I figured that I was on the team.

k HT— Taylor, you seem to be playing quite a bit with Riley and Taylor J, that is one big line . How do you like playing with these guys and are you being asked to be that big physical checking line that it appears you are playing?

i TP—I really enjoy playing with Riley and Taylor and I think that we make a balanced line. We've made contributions in some games that have been the turning point in those games. Obviously, when you have our type of line, you can expect that we'll play the body and take advantage of the opposing teams smaller players.

e HT— How does the size and speed of the WHL compare to the hockey you have played elsewhere?

Q TP—Obviously nothing I've experienced back home quite compares to the speed and size of the WHL. The closet thing would be my team last year in B.C. we have quite a few guys on that team playing on a Junior team of some kind.

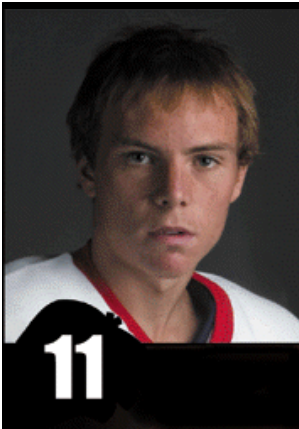
& HT— Taylor, what other sports did you play while growing up?

A TP—I played basketball in grade 8 but promptly quit the next year for hockey. I also played baseball every summer up until the last as to focus more on coming into main camp in top form.

HT— Can you tell us a bit about your family?

TP—I have one younger sister, Kenzie, who plays Field Hockey for our school team back home. She is a great singer and pianist. My parents have been very influential on my road to the WHL. I can't imagine the amount of time and money they've had to sacrifice for my hockey.

HT— You made the famous quote to Andy Kemper about being able to see your home... Tell us about where you grew up.



Question and Answers with A new Hawks Player each month!

With Oliver Gabriel

Oliver – welcome Hawkey Talk, and Rookie Q&A. We promise to make this easy on you...

HT— Oliver, can you tell us how you felt when you learned in camp that you were going to make the roster this year in Portland?

OG—When I found out I was going to sign, it was right before the exhibition tournament in Everett, it was a great feeling it was very rewarding.

HT— What did you do over the summer to prepare for camp, and did it help you make the team?

OG—Pretty much just workout, last summer I worked out with Scott, it had a huge part in making the team.

HT—How much did it help having your brother around during camp and at the beginning of the year?

OG—It was a big help, he kind of showed me the ropes a bit, it was a big help.

HT—What was it like getting to play a few times on the same line as your brother Scott?

OG—Haha it was great, I pretty much had a free reign, I knew I could do something and not get jumped by anyone or have to fight anyone.

HT— Growing up in Edmonton, are the Oilers your favorite team? And if so, who was your favorite player growing up?

OG—Yeah I'm a big Oilers fan. My favorite player right now on their team is probably Ales Hemsky.

HT – Tell us a bit about your family?

OG—I have three siblings two older brothers, Steven who is 22, and Scott who is 20, and a little sister who is 15. it was pretty interesting growing up with 2 older brothers.

HT– How does Edmonton compare to Portland?

OG— Its a lot different, in size mostly, but its pretty cool to get to play hockey in a big American city.

HT – How is school going for you this year? What subjects are you taking? How does school in the states compare to school in Edmonton?

OG—School is going ok, I'm taking an English and math course along with P.E. and computer class, the high school I'm going to find is a bit more strict than my school in Edmonton.

HT – What other sports or activities are you interested in?

OG—I have played baseball in the off season in the past but i don't think I'm going to this year.

HT – Oliver, what is the one thing you would like to say to all of the young readers out there about what it takes to get the WHL?

OG—Pretty much a lot of hard work, and to just stick with it no matter what happens in your career.

Thanks for being part of Rookie Q&A!

President's Message Cont

considering all that has happened from last season to this, I am still quite happy with the final numbers. Thank you to the volunteers that helped to make this project successful again! Travis Bobbee gets the nod as this years top bid! I have been told of an idea that we will work into next years ornaments and this should be fun!

The Booster Club will have one more CHUCK-A-PUCK event, this one will be January 17. I have obtained another great prize, a "Roomba" Floor Washer that retails for over \$300 for the center basket and \$25 "Bullwinkles" gift card for one of the side baskets. I am working on obtaining another great prize to once again see that the Booster Club has no expenses from the event. The last one in November went fairly well, but I know with more sellers and better prizes, we will do much better!

We will see you all at the next Booster Meeting January 17 and the next newsletter will be coming out at the end of January.

Taylor Peter's Q&A Continued

TP—I grew up in one of the tougher parts of Surrey, B.C. playing for the Surrey Minor Hockey League. I went to school there from Pre-School to half way through grade four when I moved out to Delta.

HT— Where are you attending school this year , and what do you like about the school and what subjects do you enjoy?

TP—I'm currently going to Milwaukie High School. The part of the school I'm really impressed with is the school pride that can be seen everyday in the form of clothing and school spirit. My favorite classes would probably have to be Honors Physics and Advanced Psychology.

HT— What goals have you set for yourself this season?

TP—Before season I set goals of becoming a player that can be relied upon in tense situations, being on either the power-play or penalty kill, and scoring getting more than 10 points.

HT— Finally, if you could give some words of wisdom to all of the Jr Hawks out there that want to make it to the WHL some day, what would you suggest they do to make that dream come true?

TP—The best advice I've been given was by my Peewee coach who played on the Pittsburgh Penguins when they won the cup. He told us that what ever you put into hockey, is what you get out of it. If you give it everything you've got, hockey will reward you.

Thanks for taking the time to be part of Rookie Q&A