



PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS

Booster Club

HAWKEY TALK - DECEMBER 09-10

Presidents Message

It's that pivotal time of the season, one where there are plenty of opportunities for players to get into some tournament action and a few nails get chewed down quickly as we approach the January 10th trade deadline. With a few changes to personnel, make sure you get your player photos and buttons before they run out.

The Booster Club is as gearing up for the second half of the season with a few new goodies at the Booster table, bus trips being coordinated and the last pizza parties of the season.

The Christmas Ornament auction has been a fun one and interesting as well with three ornaments auctioned off by recently traded players and a lack of a couple due to circumstances beyond our control. Thanks to all who helped with the organization and of course a big "Thank You" and our Bidders, our Team players who create the ornaments and our Supporters of this annual event.

We have some raffles that are running through the end of the season, those being a 1993-94 Team Autographed banner with some former NHLer's on that piece of history. Also a Marian Hossa jersey autographed by the entire Chicago Blackhawks team. This fundraiser is to benefit the Bordak family. More information on the family's situation is available at the Booster Club table and also an address where donations can be sent as well.

Speaking of donations, we met Tanner Hubbs' father who attended a game in Portland recently and told us that Tanner was seeking additional therapy in California and has regained some movement in his body. He continues to work hard at getting better and his father was thanking the Booster Club mem-

Letter from the Editor

First I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holidays. This time of year is full of festive events that have us always on the move. As the year winds down, we always take a minute to reflect on the past year, cherish our successes and learn from our mistakes.

Over the past year the Winterhawks have had many moments that have allowed us a fans to get up and cheer, and at the same time frustrated us and left us simply asking why. In the end, that is what makes us fans. If we didn't get up with the team's successes and feel bummed out when things didn't go the home teams' way, we would have no reason to be Winterhawk Boosters'.

These young men come to Portland to grow not only as hockey players, but also as men, ready to face the next set of challenges that may come their way. For every player who makes it to the NHL, there are many more who go on to be professionals in other areas of life.

Therefore, as we say, Happy Holidays, reflect on the past year and make those resolutions to be better or different in 2010, lets also remember that we are fans, we get up and we get down, but in the end we all want the same thing, a successful Portland Winterhawks Hockey Team. A team that we can be proud to support! Have a wonderful and safe holiday season, we at Hawkey Talk look forward to a great 2010.

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

(Doyle, Ross, Wotherspoon, Swenson & Carruth)

Monday January—25th

(Boychuk, Rattie)

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

October — #22 Nino Niederreiter

November — #22 Nino Niederreiter

December —

January —

February —

09—10 Fan Favorite —

Remember to vote for the 2009—2010 players!

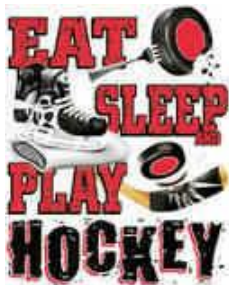
BUS TRIPS!

The Boosters have scheduled the following bus trips:

#2—Saturday January 16—Tri Cities

#3—Saturday March 13—Seattle (Kent)

Check the Booster Club Table for more information and Pricing.





December? Already? It can't be...

By Andy Kemper

Hard to believe that we are in the middle of December and the Portland Winterhawks are one game shy of the official halfway point of the season and three games shy of the annual Holiday Break in the WHL.

It's been an eventful first 35 games of the season with the Hawks going 21-13-0-1 and currently in second place in the tough U.S. Division. There have been winning streaks, losing streaks, trades, breakout performances and new faces making their way into the line-up.

The past month was highlighted by three trades that saw veterans Kurtis Mucha, Colin Reddin and Travis Bobbee all dealt within a week of each other in November. It is hard as fans and as followers of the team to see veterans dealt and that is the case with these three players. The emotional ties are hard to cut and really they won't be as these players will all be thought of fondly in Portland.

In return the Hawks garnered two fourth round bantam selections and 20 year old defenseman Eric Doyle, who is proving to be a steadying force on the blue line and a point producer as he points in five of his first seven games as a Hawk.

With the trade of Mucha, it made way for 17 year old Mac Carruth to join the team and while his numbers are not where he would like them to be, he is beginning to gain confidence and to adjust to the Western Hockey League and I think he will become a fan favorite with his game and the way in which he plays it before his time is done with the Hawks.

With the second half starting right after Christmas in Spokane on December 27, it is worthwhile to note that the Hawks schedule will be in their favor after the holiday break. The Hawks will have 34 games remaining with only 15 on the road and 19 at home. There are only three trips to BC to make before the end of the year and the rest of the games are in the U.S. Division.

The schedule lends itself towards a more rested team and hopefully a mentally prepared team looking towards the playoffs in March...it should be a fun ride.

Since we are close to the halfway mark, having played 35 games, I thought it would be fun to throw out my mid-season awards for the Winterhawks so far. These are just my opinion, but this is how I would hand out the hardware if I were making the choices after 35 games:

Bill Anderson Award for Character/Ability: Stefan Schneider

Schneider won this award last year and in my opinion, he has brought even more to the table in his overage season. He is a bear on the forecheck, playing clean, hard-hitting hockey, creating havoc against the opposing teams top lines night in and night out. He has good offensive skills as well as he has almost matched his point total for last season.

In addition, Schneider is a leader in the room and he is a player that the young forwards can look to as an example for work ethic and perseverance. He blocks shots better than anyone on the team and consistently puts team first in every situation.

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Kemper's Corner Continued

Honorable Mentions: Chris Francis & Brett Ponich

Robert R. Boss Memorial Award/Top Defensive Player: Joe Morrow

Quiet Joe, as I like to call him, is having a very good season as a 17 year old second year player and for the most part, he goes unnoticed a lot of nights. That is one of the best compliments you can give a d-man...going unnoticed as that means you are doing your job. Morrow is exceptionally calm and poised with the puck on his stick and he skates so well that he can carry the puck out of danger and create scoring chances.

Has led the team in plus/minus all season and has a rocket of a point shot. Being a late birth date and not eligible for the 2010 NHL Draft, I think his stock will only rise as he is getting a long look by NHL scouts who are watching the Hawks draft-eligible players this year.

Honorable Mentions: Jacob Berglund & Stefan Schneider

Leading Scorer: Chris Francis

A no-brainer here as Francis is leading the Hawks with 39 points through 35 games. He has been the most consistent performer on the score sheet all season long, picking up points in 22 of 35 games, including 12 multi-point nights. He has two hat-tricks and is threat even-strength, on the power play and on the penalty kill.

With so much adversity last year, it is great to see Franny back in Portland and producing so well as an overage forward.

Continued on Page 6

President's Message Continued

bers for supporting the game day auctions and raising over \$4000 for the fund to help retrofit the home. Thank you to all who helped take part in this cause.

Our latest Chuck A Puck in early December was one of the best that we've ever done. A couple people walked away with a car stereo and radio tuner and we have one more Chuck A Puck to run, this being Saturday February 20 at the Memorial Coliseum.

In the meantime, we have a couple of bus trips booked that we'd love to fill. The January 16 one to Tri Cities and the March 13 one to Seattle/ Kent. Stop by the Booster table to sign up and remember that as a Booster Member you are saving \$10 on the price a non Booster Club Member would pay.

Have you signed up to present the 3 stars? As a Booster Club Member, you can have the chance to present the 3 stars at a home game simply by filling out a ballot at the Booster Club table before the 10 minute mark of the second intermission. With so many Hawks getting a crack at the 3 stars, you not only get to present the stars, but also get your photo taken with the stars and made available to you to commemorate the event..

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming games.

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



Rookie Q&A with Jacob Berglund

Hawkey Talk caught up with Rookie Jacob Berglund.

Jacob, thanks for taking part in this edition of Rookie Q&A. I have ten questions for you... If you are ready, here we go! And no, I am not going to ask you to compare your game at this age to the great Peter Forsberg at this age!

HT - Can you tell us a little about your home town of Malmo, Sweden?

JB - I live in a town called Malmo in the south of Sweden. There is probably 300,000 people that live there, so it is pretty big for Sweden.

HT - What were your feelings when you learned that you were coming to the WHL, and Portland. Was there ever a chance you wouldn't come to the WHL?

JB - I was really happy when I found out I was coming to Portland. When I knew I was coming I knew I had no other place I rather wanted to go play hockey.

HT - How does the WHL compare to the hockey you played at home over the last couple of seasons?

JB - It is a little more physical and has smaller rinks, but otherwise not really that different.

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

JB - Well my mom's name is Camilla and my dad's name is Claes. I have two brothers, one younger and one older. The older one is studying at the University of Long Island. The younger one is still in school in Sweden.

HT - What types of sports did you play growing up other then hockey? You mentioned at the Pizza Update show, you play golf? Can you tell us some about your Golf game?

JB - I played a lot of soccer and tennis and golf when I was younger. I still play golf a lot in the summer with my friends, but not for a team or a club.

HT - What are your goals for the season? I know you are used to kill penalties, how much of a responsibility it that for you?

JB - Well my goal is to help our team go as far as we can. Yes I kill a lot of penalties, but I think it is fun and it is a big responsibility for me. I will do what ever it takes for the team.

HT - You have some great moves on penalty shots, can you take us through how you do that and what you are thinking?

JB - It's kind of hard to explain, but basically I try to make a first move and fool the goalie into thinking I am doing something I'm not. I don't think about it that much because I just love it and try to enjoy it.

HT - How is school in the US different then back home? What subjects do you like? What are you taking for school this year?

JB - I don't really know because I only take one online course about personal finance.

HT - What do you like to do away from the rink? What music do you enjoy, movies, books?

JB - I like to take it easy and relax or do different sports and hang out with my friends. I watch a lot of TV and movies ha-ha :)

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Rookie of the Year: Nino Niederreiter

Not an easy selection as there have been so many good performances by first year players for the Hawks, but you cannot question what Nino has brought with him from Switzerland. His 20 goals lead all Hawks and his 37 points puts him atop all rookie scorers in the CHL.

He plays hard in all three zones and plays physical as well...the complete package. Off the ice, Nino has fit in very well and is a tremendous asset in the locker room with his positive attitude and ever-present smile.

If he is not a first round NHL selection in June...there needs to be an investigation.

Honorable Mentions: Taylor Aronson, Ryan Johansen & Ty Rattie

Brian C. Shaw Most Valuable Player: Brad Ross

I may be going a bit off the board with that selection, but you know once the puck drops, Brad Ross will be giving 100% every second of every shift to do what it takes to have success. He is on pace for over 30 goals, nearly 70 points and almost 200 penalty minutes. That, my friends, is not a typical season for a 17 year old second year player.

He is a pain in the butt to play against and a player that every team needs to have on their roster. He leads the way in physical play and has one of the best wrist shots on the roster. Simply put, he hates to lose and he'll do whatever he can to prevent it from happening.

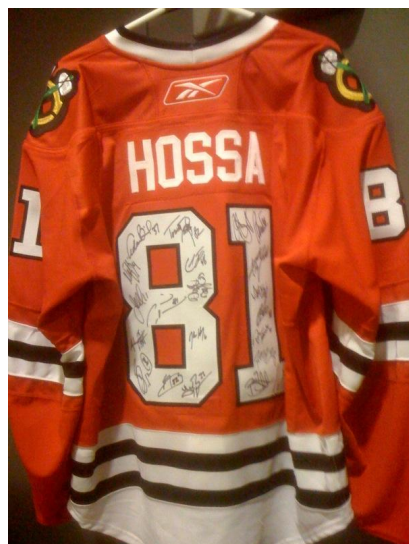
By the time he graduates the WHL, he may be more hated than Marty Standish in the U.S. Division...that is saying something and he deserves to be recognized for what he brings to the table every night.

Honorable Mentions: Chris Francis, Nino Niederreiter & Luke Walker

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There you have it...I hope you all have a great Holiday Season and here is to a tremendous 2010!

Go Hawks!



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. All of the 2009 - 10 Blackhawk Players have signed this jersey. 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!

Kurtis' Korner

Hawkey Talk had a chance to catch up with former Hawk Netminder Kurtis Mucha after his trade to Kamloops. We asked Kurtis if he wanted to say something to the fans of Portland. Originally this space was going to be a follow up to last month's parent submissions. Here is his letter back to Hawkey Talk and you the Fans and Boosters of the Portland Winterhawks.

Well my die hard Winterhawk fans on November 22nd an old chapter ended and a new chapter has begun for both myself and the Winterhawks. I will try to keep this message shorter than my last one =)

As Mike called me down to the office on our day off it was inevitable what had happened and my mind started racing. Immediately I pictured myself as a 16 year old lost in a town of 2 million people or so trying to manage living away from home at such a young age, getting into a new high school and being the 3rd stringer for the team. Moving along till halfway through that season when I was forced to be the #1 guy due to injuries and I never looked back. Making the playoffs and experiencing success in them was one of the best times of my hockey career. My first WHL season for had so many ups and downs but I learned a lot from it and really enjoyed that year.

As much as I, and I'm sure a lot of you would love to fast forward through the next 3 years of my career, there were still some awesome times to remember and cherish. How can anyone forget the teddy bear toss overtime win, that couldn't have been scripted any better. The 12 round shootout win at the start of my 2nd season...speaking of shootouts who remembers Matt Schmermund(sp?) and that crazy move he pulled! The Memorial cup celebration night when we beat Seattle in a packed house. Those are just some of the on ice moments to remember. But it wasn't the on ice part that I will miss the most.

The commitment and dedication of the fans that kept going to games from 2006-2009 was incredible. There would be times when the Vancouver Giants would roll into town and I would just wonder why a fan would want to watch the Hawks TRY and keep the score close. But that is what makes Portland's fans so special and always will. All of you that stuck it out through the tough times will be greatly rewarded this season but even more so in the coming seasons. I wish I could say the same for myself and be apart of the success we all waited for, but unfortunately, I won't be able to. The patience you fans have shown was amazing and I guarantee it wouldn't of happened in very many other WHL teams. Your support of myself and my teammates never went unnoticed one bit. I can speak for everyone when I say that we greatly appreciated your support through all the losses. Even through the tough seasons you guys managed to fill the Colli a few times and that was a very special treat to play in front of and perform for all of you.

Over the course of the 3 seasons, racking up 150+ losses and seeing the attendance dwindle was heartbreaking for me. Before I left Portland I made it a goal of mine to get the remaining fans a banner of some sort to hang in the rafters. Obviously, that is not possible anymore, but I feel like I have passed on enough of my knowledge and experiences; good and bad to the other players and they will definitely put some banners in the rafters in the near future.

The part that I will miss the most is the amount of unbelievable people I met in Portland in my 4+ year career there. There are so many people that impacted my life living in Portland over the years from coaches to fans, to businesses, to just ordinary people that I met from living there so long. Mike Williamson and his family became very strong friends of mine and I was devastated when he was let go as he helped me immensely in my rookie season. Ken Hodge gave me the opportunity to be a Winterhawk and I greatly appreciate that. Sue Howe was like a 2nd mother to me, she was the best billet and took exceptional care of me. Bill Deeks, we always loved to give each other a hard time but Bill is great guy and helped me make the transition when I was younger as well. And

Kurtis' Korner

then there is Inch! Best trainer I've ever had! His dry humor and chirpy little jokes will never be forgotten. I will always remember getting him coffees on game days when I didn't play and him getting angry at me when I got him a Chai Tea that wasn't "low fat"...and yes I guess those old taste buds of his could tell the difference between the two. Those are just a few individuals that impacted me, as well as the Booster Club and Goal Club. I wish I could list everyone but there is seriously so many people that I met and got to know, it just isn't possible.

Hockey is a business and I found that out real quick on November 22nd. I will do my very best the rest of this season to prove wrong all the people who doubted me and didn't think I could get the job done in Portland. As I hopefully move on into a pro career I will continue to prove them wrong and I wouldn't have been able to do this without the support I received after I got traded. The amount of messages I received, notes, mail, was incredible...more than anyone could ever ask for. As I think back to that day and the ones that followed, the people that supported me through my Winterhawk career and that have continued to support me will be greatly missed but you won't be forgotten. There will always be a special place in my heart for them and you all know who you are!

The most important people I need to thank for their support would be my family. I can't tell you how many times I called them after a horrible loss in tears or anger and them always being there for me. Of course there were the phone calls where my dad would tell me to pull my head outta my butt but those were well deserved! They loved Portland too and were devastated by the news as well and are going to miss Portland just as much as I will.

The day I left was probably the hardest day of my life. As I drove over the Freemont bridge looking over at the beautiful city of Portland one last time I tried to battle through tears as I had to say bye to a billet whom I shared my life with for 4 years, a girlfriend who supported me through so many tough nights and me venting to her, teammates who are like family, and two roommates who were like brothers...Riley being the older and Rattie literally being like a younger brother to me. I won't ever forget the late nights gaming with that kid eating McDonalds cheeseburgers and beating him in NHL 10 on xBox then watching him throw every pillow in the room at the wall and stomp upstairs to go to bed without even saying goodnight to me. I will definitely miss those two a lot!

As I start to get choked up just writing this I think it's time to summarize the whole purpose of me writing this; A big THANK YOU to YOU as you read this right now. There is no possible way I could have made it through 4 seasons without you and your support, you don't know how much you helped me get through them and when the we experienced the good times it was always together!

I can't wait until I come back and play in Portland on January 20th and see you all again! As hard as it will be to wear a different jersey in that arena I know it will be a very special night for me. I don't need to even tell you to come out and see me because the support you have shown me thus far, makes me know you will continue that night!

Thanks again for everything you have done for me,

Sincerely,

Kurtis Mucha

Talking Hockey with Coach Mike Johnston

Booster Club Newsletter – Dec 2009

As all Booster Club members know especially those that have followed the league for several years – sometimes in the months of Nov/Dec the play of younger players can be erratic. With so many young players on our team we were certainly worried about that but were impressed how the guys managed to keep their focus on consistent play. We did have a few games where we weren't as sharp as I would have liked but the group has definitely improved from last year.

After playing 33 games and seeing most of the Eastern Conference I am convinced this US Division is the toughest in the league. Seattle has improved significantly while Tri City, Everett and Spokane remain some of the strongest teams in the conference. It will be a battle with so many games against these teams over the next few months. The one factor that always influences play during the Christmas time period is the number of players each team has away at the U17 and World Junior Championships. I have included a list of players that each team in our conference will be missing. Seattle is the only team without anyone away. We are very proud of the selection of Nino Niederreiter to Switzerland Jr's – Luke Walker to US Jr's and Gasper Kopitar to Slovenia Jr's, also of Ty Rattie and Tyler Wotherspoon's selection to the Pacific U17 team.

The Western Hockey League announced that 57 WHL players will have the opportunity to represent their respective countries in international competition in December and January. A total of 41 WHL players have already been named to national teams destined for international competition at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship or for the 2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. In addition, 16 WHL players have been invited to national team selection camps for World Junior Championship play. 28 WHL players will take part in the 2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Timmins, ON, from December 29, 2009 to January 4, 2010.

1. Chilliwack - Roman Horak, F (Czech Republic, WJC)*

2. Everett - Radko Gudas, D (Czech Republic, WJC)*-Ryan Murray, D (Team West, U-17)

Rasmus Rissanen, D (Finland, WJC)

3. Kamloops - JC Lipon, F (Team West, U-17) Colin Smith, F (Team Pacific, U-17)

4. Kelowna - Brandon McMillan, F (Canada, WJC)*

5. Prince George - Wilson Dumais, F (Team West, U-17) Jesse Forsberg, D (Team West, U-17) Marek Viedensky, F (Slovakia, WJC)

6. Spokane - Brady Brassrt, F (Team Pacific, U-17) Jared Cowen, D (Canada, WJC)* Mitch Holmberg, F (Team Pacific, U-17) Tyler Johnson, C (United States, WJC)*

Stefan Ulmer, D (Austria, WJC Div. 1)

7. Tri City - Sergei Drozd, F (Belarus, WJC Div. 1) Zac Yuen, D (Team Pacific, U-17)

8. Vancouver - Nathan Burns, F (Team Pacific, U-17) Zach Hodder, D (Team Pacific, U-17) Sebastian Svendsen, F (Denmark, WJC Div. 1)

Talking Hockey with Coach Mike Johnston Continued...

On the management side Nov was a difficult month where we moved Kurtis Mucha, Travis Bobbee and Colin Reddin. Those were tough decisions because all three had contributed to our program and were great kids. Obviously in Mucha's case he was the face of the franchise for so many years. Over the course of the last year we have only made minor changes to the team and actually had never made a player for player trade. Our philosophy is to be patient with our youth and "develop from within". It is too expensive to try and trade your way to a championship so we will continue to work with our current players and list players to develop our own. With the interest from the NHL level in our players it is obvious we are moving in the right direction and will have some exciting youngsters to watch in the next few years.

On behalf of all our players and staff we want to thank the Booster Club for their support and wish all of them a Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with family and friends.

PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS HOCKEY CLUB

Rookie Q&A Continued...

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?

JB - Work hard!

Jacob, thanks for your time with Rookie Q&A.

Hawkey Talk says good bye to three players, Kurtis Mucha, Colin Reddin, and Travis Bobbee. Best of luck to you three, and may your dreams up playing hockey at the next level be great ones! We will miss you here in Portland!

