



FACE OFF

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Bears and Phantoms take it outside

By Dennis Gottesman

On the afternoon of Friday January 6, 2012, the Hershey Bears Booster Club met in the Giant Center parking lot, boarded six buses & headed to Philadelphia for the American Hockey League's Outdoor Classic, which was played at Citizens Bank Park (home of Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies).

Everyone was looking forward to being a part of history! Both the Hershey Bears and the Adirondack Phantoms were playing in their first outdoor game in what has become one of the AHL's signature annual events.

After a few minor hiccups, we finally made it to the stadium. Game time temperature...50 degrees! So after realizing our sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves weren't really a necessity at that moment, we got off the buses and began the walk towards the stadium and got ready for the start of the game.



Prior to game time, a brief ceremony was held that included several former Bears & Phantoms players and coaches including John Paddock, Al Hill, Neil Little & Frank "The Animal" Bialowis. An AHL record 45,653 fans attended the game, and watched the Phantoms tie the game with just under 20 seconds left in the 3rd. Adirondack won the game, 4-3, scoring within the first minute of overtime. Fireworks lit the sky following the game, then it was back on the bus for the ride home.

This writers personal opinion: I thought it was great being a part of something like that and I didn't freeze to death! In the end, even though the Bears lost...it was still a sight to see! But to me the most important thing was...I got to see Lauren Hart! :-)

After the game, jerseys were auctioned off. Hershey jerseys went for the following bids: Braden Holtby - \$2,500, Patrick McNeill - \$2,400, Brett Flemming - \$1,400, Sean Collins - \$2,400, Danny Richmond - \$1,250, Maxime Lacroix - \$1,350, Keith Aucoin - \$4,000, Boyd Kane - \$2,450, Andrew Carroll - \$1,900, Cody Eakin - \$1,900, D.J. King - \$750, Chris Bourque - \$2,450, Jacob MicFlikier - \$2,000, Joel Rechlicz - \$3,500, Christian Hanson - \$1,550, Graham Mink - \$2,050, Ryan Potulny - \$1,700, Matt Ford - \$1,050, Matheiu Perreault - \$1,550, Zach Miskovic - \$1,100, Mattias Sjogren - \$1,100, Matt Pope - \$2,450, Dmitri Orlov - \$1,550, Julien Brouillette - \$1,000, Philipp Grubauer - \$1,250, Phil Oreskovic - \$1,100, Patrick Wellar - \$2,000, Tomas Kundratek - \$2,150, Dany Sabourin - \$2,400, Garrett Mitchell - \$950, Kyle Greentree - \$1,200, Paul Baier - \$1,300. The total raised for charity was \$57,700...and that was just Hershey's jerseys.

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Mission Statement

The purpose of this organization will be:

- a. To promote better understanding between Booster Clubs and the American Hockey League Organization.
- b. To Compare and attempt to alleviate problems confronting each individual Booster Club.
- c. To act as a social organization for Booster Club members.

Submitting an Article

To submit an article to this newsletter, please email it to lighthouseman2@yahoo.com with "AAHLBC Newsletter" in the subject line.

Please note: Your club must be a member of the AAHLBC in order to submit an article to this newsletter.

Editor: Bill Walch

A Tribute to Dennis Leger 1951-2012

Submitted by Chris O'Shea

On January 31, 2012, I received word that longtime friend and former Worcester IceCats Booster Club President Dennis Leger had passed away on January 30, 2012 following a long illness. He is survived by his wife Ann, three daughters, Sharon, Michelle and Becky, two son-in-laws, Tom and Bob and two grandchildren, Thomas and Grace.

He was an intricate part of the IceCats Booster Club and was active in promoting the game of hockey in and around the Worcester area and beyond. He was active in the annual AAHLBC every September, where he was a former secretary and convention chair. He really relished the times he got to spend with everyone here in Worcester and around the league.

Although he hasn't been to convention in some time due to health issues, he always asked me about it and what was going on and he often said how he missed it and missed seeing everyone and the friendships that he made there.

We will all miss his stories, his humor and his friendship. He always went out of his way to try and help in anything he did and helped the IceCats out very much off the ice. He helped make things we did as boosters so much fun and was a super fan of the game of hockey especially here in Worcester. He was always there to greet you and pick you up when needed and always had an ear to listen and gave advice freely.

Words are hard to say, write and express at this time as I lost a close dear friend and we all lost a wonderful hockey booster in Dennis. May you rest in peace always Dennis for your long valiant struggle with your health has come to an end. You have no more pain and suffering, but you now look down on us from above and hopefully guide us to do well as we continue to booster hockey here in Worcester and around the league.

We thank the Worcester Sharks for their acknowledgement of Dennis' passing with a moment of silence before the game on Feb 10, 2012 and the condolences to his family. We also like to say thanks to Sharks' beat writer Bill Ballou of the Worcester Telegram for his message of condolence in the Telegram on 2/9/12. Dennis' family was very appreciative of both gestures.



Monarchs Boosters lose one of their own

Hal Collins...

Father... Hockey Fan... USPS Employee... Friend

Hal Collins, 56, of Manchester, NH, died January 6, 2012, at Elliot Hospital, surrounded by his loving family, after a long illness.

Hal was a loving and devoted father. Family members include four children: Jessica Marshall, Jesse Hussey, Bronson Collins, and Olivia Collins; his brother, James Collins; and his sister, Regina Collins.

Hal was born on October 9, 1955, the youngest of three children of Rufus and Orilla (Richards) Collins.

His sister Regina remembers when Hal was just a young boy of around 10 years old. He'd had his tonsils removed at the hospital in Salem and, on their way home from the hospital, his mother decided to stop at the grocery store to get some food that would be easy for Hal to eat. She asked Hal what kind of ice cream he'd like. Unable to speak due to the soreness of his throat, Hal rubbed his finger on his mother's cheek: Chocolate!!

As a youngster, he was very enterprising and had a good business sense. He designed some business cards for himself, and went around to various Salem businesses handing them out and telling the business owners he could do odd jobs for them. Before he knew it, he was gainfully employed by many of the local store owners, delivering packages, doing small jobs when they asked, and running errands for them. He enjoyed making a few dollars here and there and making new friends.

In high school, he participated in school activities and was active as business manager of the high school yearbook. He graduated from Bishop Fenwick High School, Peabody, MA. In 1977, he earned a bachelor of arts degree from Springfield College, where he graduated summa cum laude. His major at Springfield was in Community Leadership and Business Development. He certainly had groomed himself well for it with his entrepreneurship as a youngster!

Hal worked at the YMCA in several locations following college and



was always very interested in the activities that the Y provided for youngsters, and the guidance it gave to help kids grow up to be productive adults.

After working in several managerial capacities for the YMCA, Hal managed a Nashua movie theater. His daughter Jessica remembers going to the theater with him and hiding in the "candy room"... likely a pretty fun place for a kid to hide!

Hal was deaf in his right ear, a result of German measles when he was young. As Hal's children and his sister Regina sat down to talk about what might be nice for people to read about in this memorial leaflet, his daughter Olivia suddenly had a revelation about his deafness. Sometimes when Olivia wanted to talk to her Dad about something, he'd say "wait till we're in the car." Olivia would talk to her father — from the passenger seat (on his right side...). He often wouldn't answer or respond. Later, when she'd talk to him again about the same topic, he would have no clue what she was talking about. Aha! She'd been talking on his right side, and he wasn't hearing it!

Since 1998, Hal was a letter carrier with the United States Postal Service, a job that he enjoyed, and with coworkers that he loved. That was one thing you could always depend on with Hal. Even if he hardly knew you, he quickly became a friend, and his friends had great love and respect for him.

He was an avid hockey fan, particularly of the Manchester Monarchs. At hockey games, Hal was the go-to guy for all the most recent news on player trades, who was in a "PTO" and "ATO", and he knew minute details about not only the Monarchs, but many other AHL and NHL teams and players as well.

He was a member of the Manchester Monarchs Booster Club from its inception in 2003 and had served in several volunteer capacities in the club, most recently as Trip Coordinator.



Always in our hearts,

Bridgeport Meet and Greets

Submitted by Debbie Lietuvninkas

For the past two seasons members of the Bridgeport Sound Tiger Booster Club have had the opportunity to meet two Sound Tiger players once a month after a weekend matinee home game. On the day of a Meet and Greet members stop by the Booster Club table to receive their admission bracelets. Members are encouraged and allowed to invite a friend who might be interested in joining our club. The Sound Tigers organization allows us to meet in the media room. These events are exclusive to members and their guests only.



Prior to the players arriving club members enjoy some hors d'oeuvres and socialize with each other. The players are welcomed and then introduced by our Communications Manager, Jamie Palatini. Each player tells a little about how they started playing hockey, where their from, and the path they took to get to Bridgeport. Then of course they share some interesting facts we might not know about each of them. Members also have the opportunity to ask their own questions and enjoy doing so. They love to find out real important facts about what really happens on road trips and of course what's playing on their iPods! The best part of our Meet and Greets is the fact that they are always attended by a variety of different players including those who may have recently joined our team.