



FACE OFF

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUBS

Volume 2 Issue 3

July 2011

Broomball teams ready for Syracuse

Over the last year, AAHLBC broomball teams have been preparing for the next tournament. That tournament happens in two weeks, on July 9, 2011. Ready or not, here it comes.

Participating in the 28th annual AAHLBC Broomball Tournament will be Hershey, Manchester, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Worcester & host Syracuse.

Philadelphia is the tournament defending champions. They have won six of the last seven tournaments and currently ride a five year winning streak.

Photos of the Philadelphia, Syracuse, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton teams were not available at press time.

Want to come see the tournament...see below for all the information.



AAHLBC Broomball Tournament

Hosted by the Syracuse Crunch Corps

July 9, 2011

Cicero Twin Rinks, Cicero, NY

Games begin around 7 am.



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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

Buffalo Bisons Team History

It was not until 1940, after Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium was built, that the City of Buffalo enjoyed long-term professional hockey. Louis M. Jacobs, owner of Jacob's Concessions, acquired the Syracuse AHL franchise and moved them to Buffalo. The Herd soon became the powerhouse of the circuit, winning the Calder Cup Playoff Championship in 1943, 1944 and 1946. The Bisons would also win League Championships in 1963 and 1970. At the start of the 1956-57 campaigns, Reuben Pastor, owner of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Buffalo, purchased the team and changed the team's logo to the now famous "Buffalo Bottle Cap". The Buffalo Bisons ceased operations as American Hockey League Champions in 1970, making way for the National Hockey League (NHL) expansion Buffalo Sabres.



The Bisons were fortunate to have been affiliated with elite NHL organizations such as the Montreal Canadiens, Chicago Black Hawks and New York Rangers. Those clubs funneled young talent just getting their feet wet, and seasoned veterans, one step too slow for the majors, through Buffalo. Many of those players would later become enshrined in The National Hockey League Hall of Fame. Often, the parent club would recall players that showed exceptional promise with the Herd when they needed emergency replacements in their lineup. This created a gaping hole in the Bisons' lineup, which left the team hopelessly adrift and resulted in long losing skids. Only the best coaches and general managers were able to overcome the inevitable recall. None were better for Buffalo than Fred Hunt, Eddie Shore, Fred Shero and Billy Reay. They had an uncanny knack to regroup their troops, or make deals for other players to consistently compete for league supremacy.

Buffalo fans had the privilege to route for such hometown hockey immortals such as Tiny Thompson, Hector "Toe" Blake, Doug Harvey, Tom Johnson, Pierre Pilote, Dickie Moore, Don Marshall, Jacques Plante, Harry Lumley, Denis DeJordy, John McKenzie, Camille Henry, Gilles Villemure, Terry Crisp, and Brad Park. As well as other notable "who's who of minor league hockey stars" such as; Connie Dion, Gordie Bell, Fred Thurier, Roger Leger, Frank Eddolls, Les Douglas, Ab DeMarco, Paul Meger, Grant Warwick, Harry Dick, Gaye Stewart, Ken Wharram, Larry Hillman, Pete Conacher, Dick Gamble, Ron Ingram, Harry Watson, Billy Dea, Larry Wilson, Orlando Kurtenbach, Marcel Paille, Chico and Wayne Maki, Gary Bergman, Roger Crozier, Barry, Brian and Ray Cullen, Ed Van Impe, Doug Robinson, Art Stratton, Caesar Maniago, Len Lunde, Pat Hannigan, Ed Chadwick, Dave Dryden, Gerry Melnyk, Larry Mickey, Barclay Plager, Don Simmons, Guy Trottier, and Mike Robitaille.

Larry Wilson, the Buffalo Bisons all-time record holder for goals, assists, points, seasons and games played, spent 13 seasons playing for the herd. His most successful season in terms of point totals came in 1960-61, when he had 30 goals and 54 assists for 84 points.

On December 27, 1958 during a game with the Hershey Bears, Bisons defenseman Bill Dobbryn's professional career was cut short after just 30 games with the herd, due to an unfortunate accident. He was struck by an upturned stick in the hands of the Bears' Obie O'Brien, who had been spun around by several Bison players during a scramble in the Hershey zone. As O'Brien tried to right himself, his stick caught Dobbryn in the eye. The young Buffalo player dropped to the ice with his hands over his face. Obie O'Brien was visibly shaken after the mishap. "It's the worst accident of my hockey career," stated O'Brien after the

AAHLBC Convention Side Notes

230 people signed up at this point – more than the last couple of years. Many plan to arrive on Wednesday or Thursday...

We still need a couple clubs to volunteer to host a hospitality room. Hershey will be hosting Friday night, so there is still a need for hosts on Thursday & Saturday nights. Two clubs can go together if it makes things easier. Please contact Melinda Hardy at mhart@valspar.com if your club would like to volunteer.

Here is the link to the hotel to make your reservations for the extra nights. Extra night reservations must be made by **August 16, 2011**:

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1011100452&key=D6F31>

Convention Attendees

Albany - 16
Baltimore - 2
Binghamton - 36
Bridgeport - 16
Chicago - 1
Cleveland - 5
Connecticut - 3
Halifax - 1
Hamilton - 7
Hershey - 22
Lowell - 10
Manchester - 13
Peoria - 3
Philadelphia Firebirds - 1
Philadelphia Phantoms - 8
Pittsburgh - 7
Portland - 4
Providence - 5
Rochester - 18
Rockford - 4
Springfield - 6
Syracuse - 18
Utica - 1
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton - 15
Worcester - 8

Total Attendees as of May 30 is 230.

There will be 22 rookies in attendance :-)

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Binghamton Senators Hockey Club for winning the 2010-2011 Calder Cup Championship. This is the first time the Binghamton Senators have won the Cup. The only other time a Binghamton team has made it to the finals was back in 1981-1982 when the Binghamton Whalers lost to the New Brunswick Hawks.



Congrats to the Binghamton Senators Booster Club, as well.

Booster Club Happenings

The **Bridgeport Sound Tigers Booster Club** held their elections on June 21, 2011. Debbie Lietuvninkas (President), Ray Lietuvninkas (Vice President/Membership) and Al Longobricco (Treasurer) were all re-elected to their positions for another year.

The **Chicago Wolves Booster Club** will be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on July 29 & 30...The Wolfpack will hold their annual picnic on August 13.

The **Connecticut Whale Booster Club** will hold their summer outing at a New Britain Rockcats baseball game. Attendees will enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet.

The **Hershey Bears Booster Club** will hold their summer picnic on August 28...The HBBC continues to prepare to host the AAHLBC Booster Club Convention.

The **Lowell Devils Booster Club** will hold its final general membership meeting on October 3 before ceasing operations.

The **Manchester Monarchs Booster Club** will hold their summer anniversary outing on August 13. This event will celebrate the start of the MMBC's 9th season...Noelle Clark was voted 2010-2011 MMBC Member of the Year.

The **Rochester Americans Booster Club** will hold its booster club picnic on July 30.

The **Rockford Icehogs Booster Club** held a car wash to raise funds for their Relay for Life team.

The **Syracuse Crunch Corps Booster Club** will be hosting the 2011 AHL Booster Club Broomball Tournament at Cicero Twin Rinks in Cicero, NY on July 10th...The SCCBC will hold their our "Annual Summer Picnic" on July 21. This year it will be a "Clambake" with lots of food and plenty of refreshments!

The **Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins Booster Club** will hold a summer outing at a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees baseball game on August 26. They will enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken sandwiches, as well as unlimited soda and water.

2011 AAHLBC Convention Side Trips - Hershey

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Brewery Tour & Pub Crawl: This will take you on a tour of our local establishments. We will stop at the Appalachian & Lancaster Brewing Companies and then head to downtown for a tour of some of Harrisburg's downtown taverns. Due to the location of the hotel, we will be using a bus for the crawl. **Cost for the bus will be \$15 per person.**

Friday, September 9, 2011

Gettysburg: A bus trip to the town where many historic battles were fought, tours of the battlefields, museums and historic sites. **Bus and tour cost \$30 per person.**

Pennsylvania Dutch Country: A bus trip to the area will include a visit to an Amish farm and other area attractions. **Bus and tour cost \$40 per person.**

Lancaster Outlets: One of the largest outlet areas in the Northeast, you can find anything you could possibly need and/or want in this group of stores. **Bus and tour cost \$30 per person.**

Golf Outing: A trip to a local golf course for 18 holes of fun(?). **Cost of golf \$25 per person.**

Harley Davidson Plant, York, PA: Tour of the factory of America's most popular brand of motorcycle. **Bus and tour cost \$20 per person.**

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Downtown Hershey Tour: A trip to see "The Hershey Story", a new museum chronicling the development of the town and the life of the man whose name gave the area its identity. This will be followed by a 1-hour trolley tour of the area which begins and ends at Chocolate World. **Bus and tour cost \$25 per person.**

Hollywood Casino @ Penn National Race Track: Slots and Table games are all included in this casino, and if you need a break, there is a simulcasting area for nationwide horse racing just upstairs. **Bus cost \$30 per person (vouchers will be included).**

Please make check payable to "Hershey Bears Booster Club" and return with the following to:

Hershey Bears Booster Club PO Box 15 Hershey, PA 17033

Please Return By July 15th:

____ Thursday - Pub Crawl \$15
____ Friday - Gettysburg \$30
____ Friday - PA Dutch Country \$40
____ Friday - Lancaster Outlets \$30
____ Friday - Golf \$25
____ Friday - Harley Davidson Plant \$20
____ Saturday - Downtown Hershey \$25
____ Saturday - Hollywood Casino \$30

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Booster Club: _____

Email address or phone number: _____

Buffalo...Continued from page 2

game. Later that evening, doctors were forced to remove Dobbyn's eyeball entirely. One of his teammates, Orland Kurtenbach sat at his friend's bedside that night. Bill was one of the top North American hockey prospects and property of the New York Rangers and even featured in their program that year. He probably would have gone on to have a great NHL career. The tragedy inspired Detroit Red Wings General Manager Jack Adams to formulate a precedent-setting contest in which members of his team would play a benefit game against the Buffalo Bisons. All proceeds from the game, after taxes went to Dobbyn. Adams' willingness to help the Buffalo defenseman was quickly matched by the other National Hockey League clubs.

As a result, a NHL All-Star game was played on February 1, 1959 in Buffalo. The match was dubbed "The Bill Dobbyn Memorial Hockey Game". There had been National Hockey League charity games in the past, but never one that involved a minor league hockey club. Bill did stage a comeback in 1965 with several teams including the USHL Waterloo Black Hawks. During his run with Waterloo they won four straight championships, and he was an all-star every season and a two-time captain of the team. In 2001, Dobbyn's number "2" was officially retired by that team in recognition of his storied career.

Thanks to Tim Warchocki for permission to use the article. Please see the upper right-hand corner of this page for information on Tim's book, "Before the Blade" for some off-season reading.

Please visit www.bisonshistory.com. There you will find more interesting facts, photos, stats, trivia and merchandise.

"Before the Blade": The Complete History of Buffalo's First Professional Hockey Team

Order your copy today of "Before the Blade", written by Tim Warchocki

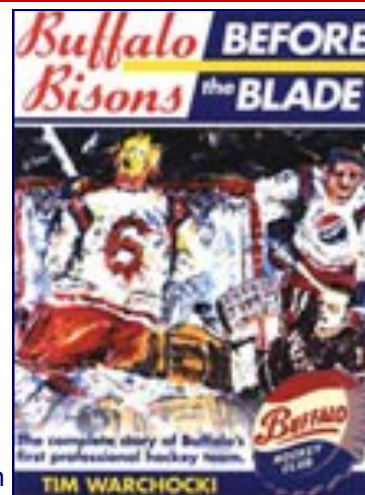
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Paul Kemp to take MMBC reigns

MMBC held its elections for the 2011-2012 season. New to the MMBC Board of Directors, Paul Kemp won the office of President. Paul, along with wife Katie, are two of the most active members of the MMBC since it began in 2003. Katie is the only member to hold the position of

Membership Director in MMBC history. Their daughter, Jennifer, was the co-founder of the MMBC. She has since passed on.

When Paul was voted into office, the first question he was asked was, "What is Jen saying now". Paul was full of laughter as he knows what she would be saying. :-)

Besides Paul and Katie, Noelle Clark won re-election as Vice President, as did Michelle Gagnon as Recording Secretary and Laura Messer as Treasurer.

