
Center Ice

December 2007

www.friendsofstlawrencehockey.com

Season's Greetings, Friends!

From The Chair:

On behalf of the FRIENDS I would like to wish for a quick and complete recovery for David Noble, who recently suffered a heart attack. Dave is a longtime supporter of SLU hockey and is presently a member of our board.

Congratulations to **Justin** and Amanda **Pesony** on the birth of their daughter, Jada Lynn!

Thanksgiving is a time for feasting and giving thanks. The FRIENDS OF ST. LAWRENCE HOCKEY wish to thank St. Lawrence University and the hockey coaching staffs, for we believe that SLU has two of the elite programs in the country. These programs bring some of the best young men and women from the United States, Canada, and other nations to our community. They are talented, courteous, and, most of all, serve as ambassadors from the university to the community. Thank you.

Seasons greetings to all, and . . . GO SAINTS!

POTLUCK SET FOR JAN. 15, SKATE WITH A SAINT JAN. 20

Two popular annual events are on the calendar. The Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, starting at 6 pm at the VFW Hall, Gouverneur Street in Canton, and "Skate with a Saint" is set for Sunday, Jan. 20, from 3 to 4:30 pm at Appleton. Persons attending the Pot Luck are asked to bring a dish to pass. Mark your calendars now; these are great opportunities to meet and chat with players, coaches, and staff on both the men's and women's teams.

GOT A RASH?

Not you, exactly; the address label on this newsletter: does it have a big red dot? If so, it means that we haven't yet received your 2007 FRIENDS membership renewal! In our previous issue of *Center Ice* we indicated that it would be the last issue received unless renewals were received. But at our November meeting, the Board decided to extend the renewal period. **So, if you found a "rash," please renew now; send your check or money order (Regular \$25, Blue Line \$50, Saint \$150) to FRIENDS at PO Box 207, Canton, NY 13617.** Your dues go directly to benefit our great teams. We need you! FRIENDS cannot afford to lose even one FRIEND!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Time is drawing near for two events that are staples of the FRIENDS activity calendar: "Skate with a Saint" and the Potluck Dinner for men's and women's team members. Dates and other information for these will be posted on our website as soon as they are available.

2007-2008 GAME SCHEDULES

Men (games 7 pm unless indicated otherwise) **Women** (games 7 pm unless indicated otherwise)

Dec 7-8	at Ohio State	Dec 7-8	MAINE*
Dec 15	at Vermont	Dec 14-15	MINN-DULUTH
Jan 6	at New Hampshire	Jan 3-4	at Boston College (4pm both)
Jan 11	at Harvard*	Jan 11	HARVARD*
Jan 18	at Cornell*	Jan 12	DARTMOUTH (4pm)
Jan 19	at Colgate*	Jan 18	CORNELL*
Jan 25	UNION*	Jan 19	COLGATE*
Jan 26	RENSSELAER*	Jan 25	at Rensselaer*
Feb 1	at Niagara	Jan 26	at Union* (4pm)
Feb 8	COLGATE*	Feb 1	at Clarkson*
Feb 9	CORNELL*	Feb 2	CLARKSON*
Feb 15	at Yale*	Feb 8	at Colgate*
Feb 16	at Brown*	Feb 9	at Cornell* (4pm)
Feb 22	at Rensselaer*	Feb 15	YALE*
Feb 23	at Union*	Feb 16	BROWN* (4pm)
Feb 29	QUINNIPIAC*	Feb 22	PRINCETON*
Mar 1	PRINCETON*	Feb 23	QUINNIPIAC* (4pm)
Mar 7-9	ECAC 1st rd	Feb 29-Mar 2	ECAC Q/Finals (times TBA)
Mar 15-16	ECAC Q/finals	Mar 7-8	ECAC Championship (TBA)
Mar 21	ECAC Semis	Mar 14-16	NCAA Q/Finals (TBA)
Mar 22	ECAC Championship	Mar 20-22	NCAA Frozen Four
Mar 28-29	NCAA East		
Mar 29-30	NCAA Midwest		
Mar 28-29	NCAA Northeast		
Mar 29-30	NCAA West		
Apr 10&12	NCAA Frozen Four		

*ECAC games

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

If you haven't checked out our website (www.friendsofsaintlawrencehockey.org) now is a good time to do so. It's the place to find info about upcoming events, learn about Saint hockey history, catch recent game reports, find links to detailed current team stats and other information, and much more. You can also view and purchase game photos and find the latest copy of *Center Ice* there. Local radio personality and North Country historian Bob LaRue serves as our webmaster. It's definitely worth a look!

SAINT TEAM WEB PAGE LINKS

For detailed, up-to-date statistics, schedules, and other information, use the following internet website links:

Saint Men: www.stlawu.edu/sports/m_hockey/index.html

Saint Women: www.stlawu.edu/sports/w_hockey/index.html

General college hockey scores & info: www.uscho.com

SAINTS HOCKEY ALUMNI PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

A fine fall afternoon saw a congenial group of hockey alumni, parents of players past and present, and members of the Saint hockey faithful gather at the home of Glen and Doni Peters for a reception and meal prior to the SLU Harvard men's hockey game. Old friends became re-acquainted and new friends made at this most enjoyable event. Game tickets were provided by FRIENDS OF ST. LAWRENCE HOCKEY. Many thanks to Glen and Doni for their hospitality, and to Tom and Sue Trevelyan for taking care of notifications.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? SAINT HOCKEY ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Gerard Verbeek ('93)** married his college sweetheart, Jennifer (Randall '93). They and their two daughters, Keelie, 8, and Kerrie, 6, live in Halliston, MA. Since his graduation Gerard has been a financial planner with offices in Boston and New York City.
- **Cade Blackburn ('95)** and his wife Katie (Blake '95) live in Cape Elizabeth, ME. They have a daughter, Katherine, 3, and a son, Colin, 1. Cade works for R. M. Davis Inc., a wealth-management company in Portland, buying and selling stocks and mutual funds for clients. He is also enrolled in a graduate program at Boston College, and will receive his master's in three years of part-time study. His goal is to teach in high school, "empower teens," and also coach hockey.
- **Brian Kapeller ('95)** and Kelly, his wife of ten years, live in Minnetonka, MN with their two daughters, Abby, 4, and Ellie, 3. Brian works in sales for Anderson Lithograph, a Los Angeles-based printing company.
- **Dan Skene ('95)** married Michelle Wesfall on April 9, 2005. They live in Little Elm, TX, a suburb of Dallas, where he is the Branch Manager for Tailored Investment Services. In his spare time Dan continues to play recreational hockey.
- **Adam Hogg ('06)** is playing for the CHL Corpus Christie Rayz. According to his parents, Wally and Sandy, the season has just started, but he is "really loving playing."
- **TJ Trevelyan ('06)** started the 2005-06 season with Long Beach (ECHL), where he scored 17 points in 15 games before being recalled by Boston and assigned to Providence (AHL). In 60 games with Providence he had 28 goals and 25 assists for 53 points. Reassigned to Providence this year he had five points on three goals and two assists in the team's first seven games, a stretch in which the team went 6-1.
- Thanks to Terry and Bev McKenna for furnishing clippings (see center page) of the latest news of their son **Mike ('05)**, presently a member of the Portland Pirates (AHL).

POST-GAME GET-TOGETHERS

The FRIENDS have scheduled post-game get-togethers for the following Saturday evenings at the VFW Hall on Gouverneur Street in Canton:

Jan 26, Feb. 9, Mar. 1 (following men's games)

Dec 7, Dec 14, Jan 11, Jan 18, Feb 15, Feb 22 (following women's games)

Join the gang at the VFW after the game; meet the players and coaches, parents, and fans.

50-50 RAFFLES: HELP WANTED; NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

FRIENDS OF ST. LAWRENCE HOCKEY will sponsor 50-50 raffles at the men's games on Feb 8 & 9, and at the Women's games on Dec 14 & 15, and Feb 2. Proceeds from these are very helpful to our organization in carrying out its mission, so obviously the more ticket sellers we have, the more money we stand to collect. If you would like to join us and help, please contact FRIENDS Chair Harold Phippen (315)328-4545/hbhip@slic.com, or just show up where pre-game ticket sales are going on (usually at the head of the south stairways) and say you want to help.

OUR BAD! In an article in the October issue of *Center Ice* announcing new FRIENDS Board Members we omitted the names of Dave Noble, Glen Peters, and Janet Stitt as continuing to serve on the board. Our apologies to Dave, Glen, and Janet.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES . . .

We frequently affirm that revenues from membership dues, fundraising events, and other sources are spent to directly benefit the Saint men's and women's teams. Here are some examples of recent allocations:

- Providing post-game meals for the men's team on Friday evenings, as recommended by a nutrition specialist.
- Purchase of an exercise bike for the training room used by both teams.
- Purchase of a stereo system for the training room.
- Providing soft drinks, pizza, and other refreshments for team members at the Friday post-game receptions (women) and Saturday receptions (men).
- Funding the annual end-of-season banquets for men's and women's team players, coaches, and other personnel.

TIME CAPSULE:

Fifty Years Ago: 1957-58 -- The Saints, coached by George Menard, found the early going tough in exhibition games against Canadian Senior "A" opponents, but picked up a 3-3 tie against a strong University of Montreal squad on Bob Steer's 52-save effort, and trounced Loyola 13-3 before being upset by Middlebury, 5-4. The roller coaster continued in December with big wins over Yale, BU, and Harvard, and a frustrating 1-0 loss to BC, with Eagles goalie Al Pitts turning in a virtuoso performance.

Twenty Years Ago: 1987-88 What would be a historic season for Joe Marsh's men began with a win over St. Cloud, a road split against Western Michigan, and victories over Vermont, RPI and Cornell before a squeaker loss to Colgate. By the end of December the star-studded squad that included Pete Lappin, Peter McGeough, Hank Lammens, and Brian McColgan had a 9-4 record. And the best was yet to come.

In the Division III ECAC's first year, Coach Bernie McKinnon's Saint women found mixed fortunes against other league opposition such as Bowdoin, Colby, Middlebury, and RIT, as well as Ivy league and some Canadian foes. The team would finish at 7-11, but playoff success in the new circuit lay just over the horizon.

OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

The FRIENDS OF ST. LAWRENCE HOCKEY extend sincere condolences and fond good wishes to Scott and Martha Chisholm and their family on the death of Scott's mother, Ruth. Saint hockey fans will remember Ruth as a familiar figure at games; her involvement in this and in many community activities brought her a legion of friends. She will be missed.

SEP 16 2007

Local rookie is turning heads

By Jeremy Rutherford
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

St. Louis native Mike McKenna will never forget this summer. It began with a phone call from the Blues' Al MacInnis and could end with a job playing for his favorite hockey team.

In July, MacInnis invited the 24-year-old goaltender to the Blues' development camp. He performed well but didn't know where it would take him.

Then about two weeks before the Blues headed to a rookie tournament in Michigan on Sept. 9, McKenna got another call asking him to participate in that event. He had another solid showing, which led to a chat with Blues coach Andy Murray.

"He pulled me away from everybody else and said, 'We're not doing this as a favor, but we'd like to have you at main (training) camp because we think you're a good goalie,'" McKenna

said. "Hearing those words from a respected guy like that was a huge compliment to me."

So the former Parkway South High student and Kirkwood youth hockey player is between the pipes at Blues' training camp this week at Scottrade Center. This changes his original plans: getting ready for the start of his East Coast Hockey League season in Las Vegas.

"It turned from, 'Hey we need a goalie' to now I've got a main camp invite," McKenna said. "Whatever it turns into, whether I go back to Vegas and I don't get a contract, or whatever happens, it's been a great experience. It's been a way to hopefully get my name out there again. If they don't take notice, maybe somebody will."

The Blues have taken notice.

"The one game (in Traverse) was one of the best goaltending performances I've seen," Murray said of McKenna's 41-save effort

in a 5-0 win over Dallas. "He's trying to establish some credibility, and we're taking note of how he's playing for sure. There are no favors. He's here because he deserves to be here."

Blues goalie Manny Legace said, "If he keeps it up, he's going to put himself (in line) for a contract and win himself a good deal. He's been playing great so far and seems like a great kid. He's got a great work ethic. He's out there stopping pucks all day long. That's what you like to see in a young guy."

Watching from the stands Saturday afternoon was McKenna's father, Terry, who is an NHL off-ice official, keeping stats for the league at every Blues home game. Terry's dad, Bill McKenna, was a longtime off-ice official before his death 10 years ago.

"It's the thing that you don't think will ever happen when your kid starts playing," Terry



STLtoday.com/morningskate
Check out Jeremy Rutherford's new **Morning Skate** blog and post your responses. Also find **Blues Talk** and **Hockey Guy** at **STLtoday.com/blues**

McKenna said. "It just goes from level to level and you think, 'Well, here we are here, now we're at the next level.' Someday, they're going to tell you go to home, but it hasn't happened yet, right?"

McKenna's ECHL rights belong to the Las Vegas Wranglers, but the Blues could sign him to an American Hockey League contract.

"I just want to keep this going," McKenna said. "I grew up watching this team my entire life, and this is what I've always wanted to do."

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McKenna signs OCT 24 '07

St. Louisan Mike McKenna, a goaltender who made a solid impression on the Blues in training camp, has signed a contract with the Portland Pirates, the American Hockey League affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks.

McKenna is 2-1 with a 2.22 goals-against average and a .920 save percentage. Both of McKenna's victories came in shootouts, in which he stopped all 10 shootout attempts.



As for the chance meeting with Greg Millen, it's still something that forms a strong base of enthusiasm for McKenna to continue his playing career.

"It was a really big experience for me," said McKenna. "It's funny how the little things in life have an impact on you. I'm an only child and my dad worked with me a lot in one-on-one instruction. Goaltending was of natural interest for me and I'd watch other teams warm up and watch their goalie. It's what I've always wanted to do."

"To this day, I have videotape of Mike when he was young and playing at Affton," said Terry McKenna. "He wasn't even as tall as the crossbar, playing miniature hockey I think. You can hear his grandpa in the background, saying 'You're not ever going to be able to get him out of there. He's having too much fun in net.' Grandpa was right."

A St. Louisan --- Mike McKenna

by Tim Woodburn,
Publisher

ST LOUIS SPORTSCOOP
OCT 2007

WE FIGURE SEVERAL MIL-
lion kids --- in the history
of St. Louis kids --- have
dreamed during their youth of practicing
with and playing for the St. Louis
Blues.

It's the natural way of thinking for a
kid. You sit in the stands, and depend-
ing on your era, perhaps it was watch-
ing Garry Unger or Bernie Federko or
Brett Hull or Keith Tkachuk score goal
after goal, and you emulate him in the
driveway or at the local rink the next day.
Or, perhaps you are or were a goalie,
and Mike Liut, Curtis Joseph or Manny
Legace was the hero emulated when you
put on the pads.

For St. Louis native Mike McKenna,
however, it was a chance meeting with
former Blues goalie Greg Millen that
ignited his thrill of goaltending.

"My grandpa was an off-ice official with
the Blues, and he took me to a practice,"
said McKenna. "I got a picture taken with
Greg Millen and it was a huge thrill to
me back then. I started to emulate him
as a goaltender and the rest is history."

In fact, McKenna imitated Millen so
much that, despite being right handed
and wearing a glove on the left hand in
ball sports, he became a right-handed
catching goalie like Millen was.

"That meeting was a big influence to
him back then," said his father, Terry
McKenna. "He began as a skater in hockey
and shot right handed, so when he went
into the net, he still wanted to shoot the
puck right handed which required him
to catch right handed, but I think Millen
was a big impact on him too."

St. Louis youth or high school hockey
hasn't exactly been a hot bed for National
Hockey League scouts, and thus for al-
most all St. Louis youth players, the
dream of one day becoming a Blues
player remains unrealistic.

But it's getting better.

Earlier this year, St. Louisan Pat Ma-
roon was drafted in the 6th round by the
Philadelphia Flyers after an MVP season
in the NAHL with the St. Louis Bandits.
He's now playing for London in the
Ontario Hockey League.

St. Louis native Ben Bishop is a goalie
that was drafted by the Blues, and is cur-
rently at the University of Maine after
playing his high school hockey in
St. Louis.

But to actually attend a St. Louis Blues
training camp --- as a St. Louisan --- is a
rare feat indeed.

This year, amazingly, there were two.

They were defenseman Neil
Komadoski, the son of former Blues
backliner Neil Komadoski, was sent to

Peoria of the AHL and McKenna, who
played high school hockey at Parkway
South for two years before a four year
collegiate career at St.
Lawrence
University.

For Mc-
Kenna,
Blues
hockey has
been in his
family from
day one.

His fa-
ther, Terry,
is the official
scorer for the
Blues and his
late grand-
father, Bill,
was an off-ice
official for the
Blues in their
very first season
and many
thereafter.

"I've
lived my
whole life in
the same
house in
Manchester,"
said Mike
McKenna. "I

grew up in the Parkway School District
but played my youth hockey in Kirkwood,
since my grandfather was one of the original
rink managers there."

McKenna played junior hockey for
former NHL goalie Lindsay Middlebrook
at the Bantam AAA level, and also played
St. Louis youth hockey under the tute-
lage of long-time St. Louis youth hockey
coach Jack Behan.

"At Parkway South, Dave Murphy was
my goaltending partner, and by the end
of the year I started getting the majority
of the starts," said McKenna. "The Junior
A opportunities started blossoming for
me at 16. I tried out for the US Develop-
mental program and didn't make that, but
I did make the Springfield Junior Blues
of the NAHL and I moved away from
home."

McKenna would go on to live with a
billet family, Steve and Pat Jacobs, and
continued high school at Lanphier High
School in Springfield, Illinois.

After his freshman season at St.
Lawrence, in 2002, the Nashville Preda-
tors drafted McKenna in the 6th round
of the NHL entry draft, making him the

first goalie ever drafted in the NHL to
hail from St. Louis.

"I'm pretty proud of that," said
McKenna. "But I stayed in college and
got my economics degree in four years.
Nashville didn't sign me after college,
so I've been a free agent every year for
the last four years."

McKenna has posted All-Star numbers
in the East Coast Hockey League for the
last two seasons as a member of the Las
Vegas Wranglers.

In 2005-2006, he went 19-2-1 with a
2.16 GAA for Las Vegas, and a 4-2-1



Mike McKenna strikes the pose in net for the Las Vegas Wranglers.

record with Norfolk of the American
Hockey League. Last year, he posted a
27-4-7 record at Las Vegas with a 2.21
GAA and five shut outs.

Blues coach Andy Murray was glow-
ing when asked about McKenna's poten-

tial.

"I really think he's good enough to
get an NHL contract," said Murray.
"Wouldn't that be something? We've got
a lot of good goalies here, and he's held
his own as much as anybody. At our de-
velopment camp over the summer, he
was hands down the best goalie there."

But McKenna, as is the case with a
lot of free agent 24-year-old goalies, is
caught in a numbers crunch and he will
play again in Las Vegas this season.

"I got lucky to get an invite to the
Blues development camp," said

McKenna. "I felt I played
pretty well. I'm just trying
to turn it into whatever I
can with the Blues and give
them a reason to not let me
go."

(over)