



PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS

Booster Club

HAWKEY TALK - DECEMBER 2011-12

Presidents Message

Welcome back from another extended break from home hockey and with the holidays virtually a distant memory, we move forward with the last half of the regular season.

This season has posed some new, interesting and sometimes difficult challenges, but I am pleased to see that we have overcome them for the most part. The Booster Club would like to first wish Charles Wells the best in his future endeavors in whatever direction he chooses. With 4 20 year old players on the roster, there was a short window to reduce to 3. It was a pleasure to watch him in a Hawks uniform as it has been for all of the 20 year old players this season.

Thankfully, all of them were in town at the last home game on December 3 to receive a gift bag from the Booster Club Members. To say that the outpouring for the bags was great would be an understatement. The Board was able to fill 3 8 foot tables with goodies and bags and whatnot(s) and it took nearly 45 minutes to get them all finished. We had some leftovers and those were made into bags for the Coaching staff, the Broadcasters as well as Graham Kendrick and Rosie Kaiser who have helped us greatly with promotion of Booster Club events and announcements.

This was such a great promotion, that I am looking into it as a yearly event. With uncertainty on sponsor donations, the reliance on the Booster Club members was important. We did receive assistance from **Popchips** who delivered cases of chips for our Seattle bus trip and additional items to give the players some treats as well.

Speaking of trips, we had a fantastic run to Seattle and will have a great one to Victoria in March. We are often asked about trips in the playoffs and why we haven't offered them. Typically playoffs are scheduled on a short schedule and in the case of the Hawks, when they are in the better position of the division, they get better game schedules or as best as they can. Weekend games are an example. The opposition typically has to take weeknight games as a result. With most games for the

Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year, and best wishes for 2012. I hope that all of you had a Christmas to remember in 2011, as my family certainly did. As father time turns the final page of the 2011 calendar to the first page of 2012, we always remember the good, the bad and the ugly from the previous year and make resolutions to learn, do better and make the next year the best yet. With that, I too have taken a minute to share my thoughts of 2011 and hopes for 2012.

The Good—The Portland Winterhawks are back, back as an annual contender for the US Division, Western Conference and WHL titles.

The Bad—This is a stretch, but really the only bad I can come up with is that Portland lost two fantastic 19 year olds in Ryan and Nino. They are getting a chance in the NHL, but would've looked really great in a Hawks uniform one last time.

The Ugly—Not too many things can be considered ugly this past year. We did have a couple of ugly fan reactions to poor officiating...

Now for 2012... We dream of a new refurbished VMC for the team, we hope for another banner or two to raise to the roof and to see the Hawks make another run at the Memorial Cup. We also say good bye to Charles Wells, and welcome home to Oliver Gabriel, as the roster looks to be about finalized for the season. Let's all make 2012 another great year to support the Hawks!

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

Booster Club Player Appearances

BOWLING AT GRAND CENTRAL BOWL
(SE 8th and SE Morrison - Portland)
Monday, January 30, 2012 - 6 to 8 pm
Monday, February 27, 2012 - 6 to 8 pm

*Dates and Players Subject to Change, please check at the
Booster Club Table for updates!*

Hawkey Talk Publication Dates!

December 31st
January 24th
February 24th
Recap Issue in early April...

Booster Voted Player Awards

2011-12 November Player of the Month
#8 Ty Rattie



Remember to Vote for the 2011 - 2012 players!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: "pwhbc@comcast.net"
Twitter.com - "PWHBC"

Facebook.com: - "Portland Winterhawks Booster Club"

At All Home Games Staff Are Available at the Booster Club Table

Booster Meetings

Saturday, October 15th - Memorial Coliseum

Saturday, November 12th - Memorial Coliseum

Saturday, December 3rd - Rose Garden

Monday, January 16th - Rose Garden (Following the game)

Saturday, February 18th - Memorial Coliseum
(Nominations Meeting)

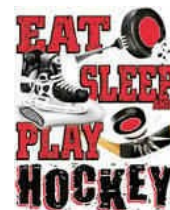
Sunday, March 3rd - Memorial Coliseum
(Elections Meeting)

2010 - 11 Board Members

President - Stuart Kemp
Vice President - Andy Potter
Corporate Secretary - John Fisher
Treasurer - Debi Koberstein
Corresponding Secretary - Cathy Kemp
Sgt at Arms - Ron Spencer
Past President - Linda Donaldson
Council Member - MaryEllen Brown
Council Member - Gina Acosta
Council Member - Mike Thurston
Council Member - Richard Thomas
Council Member - Elke Thomas
Council Member - Holly Thorpe

BUS TRIPS!

The Booster Club is once again planning trips:
We have three exciting trips for 2011 - 12
Jan 21st and 22nd - Spokane WA, vs. Spokane
Mar 14th thru 17th - Victoria BC, 2 games vs.
Victoria
Check at the Booster Club Table for more
detailed Information and Exceptional Pricing.



V r o o m a n ' s V o i c e



By Todd Vrooman, Radio Announcer and Broadcast Communications Manager for the Hawks. Catch him with Andy Kemper bringing you the best of Portland Winterhawks hockey on the radio...

As we've reached the Christmas Break and are now embarking on the second half of the WHL season here in Portland, I thought it would be a good opportunity to take a look back on the first half and some moments that have stood out to me. So here they are, in chronological order:

September 23rd: The Hawks opened their 2011-12 season at home against the Everett Silvertips in the Rose Garden. A game for Portland that looked to be a rather difficult one, with Ty Rattie, Sven Bartschi, Joe Morrow, Tyler Wotherspoon, and Oliver Gabriel out, as well as adjusting to life without the graduated players. The Hawks responded well, including Nic Petan scoring the game-tying goal early in the third period en route to the 3-2 shootout victory. Petan would score the following night against Seattle as well, to open the first two games of his 16 year old rookie season with goals, eventually compiling 8 goals and 23 points in the first half.

September 24th: The Derrick Pouliot show! After scoring the shootout winning goal the night before, Pouliot would throw in 4 assists in a 6-3 victory over the Seattle Thunderbirds. Pouliot's "Back-Heel" kick pass in the neutral zone to send away Ty Rattie and Brad Ross on a 2-on-1 earns my vote for the most creative play of the first half. The 2012 top prospect for the NHL Draft had 5 goals and 27 points in the first half, 3 points shy of his total last year.

October 15th: Sven Bartschi led the Winterhawks with a 4-point performance against one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference, the Brandon Wheat Kings. Bartschi's 2 goals, 2 assists propelled the Hawks to the 6-1 victory that night, in one of the more solid games the Hawks played in the first half. Bartschi, who had 3 points the night before in a game against Kamloops, was named the WHL Player of the Week following those two excellent performances.

November 2nd: The Hawks were at the tail end of their longest road trip of the season, and were headed to Kamloops to play the number One team in the Western Conference, The Kamloops Blazers. The Hawks, who hadn't been with Sven Bartschi for the first 6 games of the trip due to a hip injury, welcomed him back, and thoroughly dominated the Blazers in a 4-2 victory. The Hawks outshot Kamloops 44-28, and only gave up 5 shots to the Blazers when Kamloops was trying to fight back in the third period. Bartschi had 3 points on his return, and the victory launched the team onto a 6 game winning streak in early November. Bartschi's two assists were no surprise, as he leads the entire WHL in assists through the first half with 42, in just 29 games played.

November 25th: The Burgerville Daylight Classic saw the Hawks taking on division rival Spokane with the curtains open at the Glass Palace. The Hawks skated away with the 5-3 victory, with good offensive contributions from Brad Ross, who is 3rd on the team in scoring with 42 points at the halfway point, and 16 year old Chase De Leo, who has 16 points in the first half of his rookie season. Mac Carruth made 46 saves in a second star performance that afternoon, and has solidified himself as one of the better goaltenders in the WHL with his 20 wins in the first half.

November 27th: Ty Rattie exploded for four goals in a 6-2 rout over the visiting Swift Current Broncos. It was Rattie's second hat trick of his career, and with the assist he added, also his second 5 point game in the WHL. With Rattie's superfluous performance that game to end the week, he was selected the WHL Player of the Week. The week wasn't a fluke either, as Rattie was also named the WHL Player of the Month for the month of November with 16 goals and 28 points in the month.

Talking Hockey with Coach Mike Johnston

Booster Club Newsletter – December 2011



I am one who always enjoys Christmas and wants to extend it as long as possible so this is a favorite week of mine. It is a great time for the players and staff to recharge their batteries and spend some down time with their family and friends. People underestimate the demands on these players at a young age with the game schedule, practices, school, community service and workouts, they rarely have much free time.

I notice a big change in the freshness of the group and especially the 16/17 year olds after they return from the holidays. Sure our play may be a bit sloppy initially because of being off the ice but having extra energy in the tank for the long run will be import.

Last week was a disappointing one for Brad, Joe and Ty as they didn't make the World Jr. Team, but I was impressed how they all came back with a good attitude and finished with a strong game in Spokane. I was told by the Team Canada staff that all three were very close. We will have two players away over the holidays as Sven suits up for the Swiss Team and Nic Petan centers the favorite Team Pacific at the World U17 Tournament in Windsor, Ontario.

With almost half the WHL schedule completed the standings are a good indication where teams fit in overall. In the east it looks like Edmonton, Moose Jaw and Kootenay are the teams to beat while on our side Tri-Cities seems to be escaping the pack. After playing everyone in our conference with the exception of Victoria I believe that Kamloops, Vancouver and ourselves have the ability to push Tri-Cities. The key games for us will be the remaining 4 head to head games with the Americans.

The fate of a lot of teams will be impacted by the trade deadline. I am sure most management groups are analyzing their teams and asking the question "Do we add or do we unload?" The follow up to that question for teams that are looking to add is "How much of our future are we willing to give away to get the elite player we want?" As most of you are aware the price to add last year was very high. I am not a big believer moving our top young players but know there will be a time when it makes sense for the group. As the teams general manager, I always have to have the mindset of protecting our team for the future. Most of the movement over the next few weeks will be determined by how many sellers and how many buyers there are. My prediction is that there won't be as many impact players moved this year. I believe there will be more second tier players traded who can fill a need or add depth to a top team.

The other exciting news surrounding our team this year has been the fate of the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum (VMC). In January, we should know for sure on the renovations. This is a fabulous building but from the ice plant to the dressing rooms, offices and seats... it really does need a remodel. I know our players are excited about having a new dressing room and weight room. Keep your fingers crossed.

I want to wish all of you on behalf of the Winterhawks Staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the ride in the second half.

President's Message Continued

Hawks a minimum of 3 to 4 hours drive, it means at the earliest a 1:00 am arrival back at home. With most people's work schedules, this doesn't work too well. In addition, the schedule is assembled very quickly. Most bus trips take on average a few weeks to fill which obviously negates a trip happening because a game series is scheduled within a week or two.

As we continue through the rest of the season, we have the continuation of the stick raffles on Friday and Saturday games, the Jersey Raffles which end on the final game of the regular season and the Game Night Program raffle which is offered nightly. I encourage everyone to get a copy and to let others around you know about this book as well. We will add updates following trade deadline which is January 10. In the meantime, 60 pages of great information and knowledge is at your fingertips, so get a copy and you could also win some cash!

A reminder of the next Booster Club meeting which will be at the Rose Garden in the Courtside Club following the game. The date is Monday, January 16. That date will also be the last regular season opportunity to present the 3-Stars as well. Be sure to sign up for that at the Booster Club table on game night.

Our next newsletter will be out in February and at that time, we will be accepting nominations for the Booster Club Board for the 2012-13 Season. If you would like more information about the positions that will be available for nomination, stop by the Booster Club table or drop us an email and we will get you the information. Of course, we will have available information at the Booster Club meetings as well.

Thank you to everyone for their support thus far and we will see you at the game!

Stuart Kemp
President
Portland Winterhawks Booster Club
www.pwhbc.com
(360) 852-5081
A 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization

Vrooman's Voice Continued—

Rattie finished the first half with 33 goals in 33 games played, and is on pace to be the Hawks' first 50 goal scorer since Joe Balej in 2001-02. Rattie's 33 goals leads the WHL in goal scoring, and he is second in points with 62.

December 17th: My final memory of the first half was also the final game of the pre-Christmas Schedule, an 8-6 Hawks victory over the Spokane Chiefs in Spokane. The Hawks were playing without Sven Bartschi, who has joined the Swiss National Team for the World Junior Championships and will be unavailable to the Hawks until after the first week of January, but they didn't allow that to slow down the league's 2nd most potent offensive attack. Brad Ross, who rejoined the team after being cut from the Canadian World Junior Team, didn't let the disappointment hurt his play. In fact, if anything, it spurred him on, as Ross scored 2 goals and 2 assists in the "Sugar Plum Game". Add to the fact that Chase De Leo had 2 goals, and Ty Rattie added to his league leading goal tally, and the Hawks were simply too much for the Chiefs.

What an excellent first half it's been for the Hawks, a 21-11-2-1 record through the first 35 games. The league's leading goal scorer, the league's leading assist getter, one of the league's top teams offensively, the Hawks have picked up where they left off last season following the Western Conference Title of a season ago. The second half push starts now, as the players are coming back from a chance to head home and recharge their batteries over the weeklong break, and the Portland Winterhawks will surely make noise and add a whole lot of memories to this small list from the first half. I, for one, cannot wait for the second half to get going.

The Face-Off Spot

2011 in review: these are a few of my favorite hockey things

By Samantha Meese



Santa brought us many early Christmas presents this year, it's hard to pick just one favorite. So I didn't. These are my choices for greatest Winterhawk's hockey moments of the year:

It's the hockey equivalent of a New York minute. On February 9, in a road game against one of their biggest archrivals, the Spokane Chiefs, five different Winterhawks scored in 1:59. Will they ever repeat the feat? With this team, I wouldn't be surprised if they do. But maybe they don't need to; when I watch the replay on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jgm27Yhpic>), every viewing is just as exciting as watching it live when it happened. And lest we forget, Brad Ross registered a hat trick and Ryan Johansen racked up five points in that same game. Ya' know, just in case the goal-scoring blitz wasn't enough to get you excited.

I like shiny things. Like the Western Conference Title and the trophy that went with it. Even better was the sight of Taylor Jordan -- who at one point had left the team in its darker days -- accepting it. Or how about Ryan Johansen returning from the World Juniors with a silver medal? Though it was somewhat of a consolation prize after Team Canada's notorious third period meltdown versus Russia, it doesn't shine any less brightly. Our players who dispatch to tournaments represent not just themselves but the city and the Hawks. They always do so honorably, and that is what matters. I do like shiny objects, but I like honorable, sportsmanlike players even more. And that our players are ... at home or away.

Fans matter. Never more so that in Game 2 of the WHL finals, where a Rose Garden packed with fans and hangers on alike raised the roof and were a driving force behind the team's valiant but ultimately losing comeback against the Kootenay Ice. At the press conference afterwards, Coach Johnston acknowledged that they knew if they got the crowd behind them, they could come back. In the end, it wasn't far enough to win, but it was enough to create one of the greatest sports moments in Winterhawks history.

Who said 13 is bad luck? After playing in the World Juniors, leading all WHL rookies in scoring and being nominated for WHL rookie of the year, Sven Bartschi capped off the year by being drafted 13th overall by the Calgary Flames. He is the second highest drafted Swiss player in the NHL's history. The top spot still belongs to Nino Niederreiter. Sven is a different player and person this season; he's not the boy I first met a year ago who just wanted to play a lot. He's a seasoned veteran, NHL draftee, and team leader who one day in the not so distant future may very well win the Calder Trophy.

It's shinier in person. If you were there, I think you'd agree touching and being photographed alongside the Stanley Cup is an all-time high moment for any hockey fan in their right mind. Of course, this was pretty cool too:

He's nicer in person. Venerable Toronto Maple Leafs' GM Brian Burke was in town in December to keep an eye on Brad Ross. And whilst waiting for my interviews outside the Hawks dressing room, he walked right by and said hello to me. My life is complete. There is one less to do item on the bucket list.

Rat tricks! Ty Rattie had already cemented his place in Winterhawks' history when he scored the game winning goal in overtime versus the Spokane Chiefs in 2010. But why stop there? He went on to score the Teddy Bear Goal in November 2010 and capped off the 2010 - 11 season by being drafted 32nd overall by the St. Louis Blues. He then proceeded to repeat the Teddy Bear Goal feat this year. 48 hours later, he was invited to Team Canada's World Junior tryouts. Somewhere in there, he scored two hat tricks in nine days and was named CHL player of the week and WHL player of the month for November. And we're only halfway through the season. I smell another game winning goal at a crucial moment during playoffs, or perhaps a tie for MVP with his linemate Sven Bartschi. Oh, and more shiny objects, but of course.

Booster Club Contest Winners—November 11 – December 3, 2011

FIRST GOAL CONTEST WINNERS

November 11, 2011: Cindi Morrow
 November 12, 2011: Larry Harra
 November 19, 2011: (A) Kim Cutts (SEA Bus Trip)
 November 19, 2011: (B) Terry McFerrin (SEA-Bus Driver)
 November 22, 2011: Peg Vrooman
 November 25, 2011: Paul Carrier
 November 27, 2011: LeRoy Whiteside
 December 02, 2011: Lomaor Muth
 December 03, 2011: (A) Kathleen Freund
 December 03, 2011: (B) Elke Thomas

FIRST ASSIST CONTEST WINNERS

November 11, 2011: Bill McClelland
 November 12, 2011: Richard Thomas
 November 22, 2011: Erika Ranna
 November 25, 2011: Bill McClelland
 November 27, 2011: Bailey Dorf
 December 02, 2011: Chip Not Sold
 December 03, 2011: Leisa Minner

GAME-WINNING GOAL CONTEST WINNERS

November 11, 2011: Mike Thurston
 November 12, 2011: Deborah Catera
 November 22, 2011: Elke Thomas
 November 25, 2011: Jeff Larson
 November 27, 2011: Elke Thomas
 December 02, 2011: Chip Not Sold
 December 03, 2011: Not Claimed

FIRST PENALTY CONTEST WINNERS

November 11, 2011: Ronny Bernier
 November 12, 2011: Carl Hoffman
 November 19, 2011: (A) Shelby Purvis (SEA Bus Trip)
 November 19, 2011: (B) Jerilynn Gregg (SEA Bus Trip)
 November 22, 2011: Elke Thomas
 November 25, 2011: Erik Bjerke
 November 27, 2011: Kristyn Ackerman
 December 02, 2011: Chip Not Sold
 December 03, 2011: Carrie Schiffflete

PROGRESSIVE SHOOT-OUT SPECIAL WINNERS

November 11, 2011: Chip Not Sold
 November 12-December 03, 2011: No Shoot-out

Portland says Good Bye to 20 year old Charles Wells.

Charles played parts of 5 seasons in the WHL with 3 teams. Here are his career numbers.

Position—Center

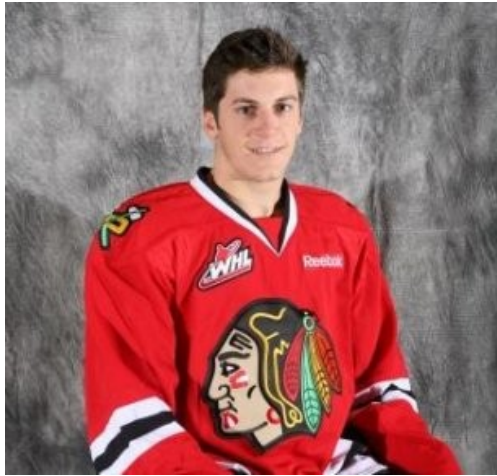
Born Jan 4 1991 -- Edmonton, ALTA

Height 5.10 -- Weight 177 -- Shoots R

Season	Team	Lge	--- Regular Season ---					---- Playoffs ----				
			GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
2007-08	Seattle Thunderbirds	WHL	45	3	4	7	25	--	--	--	--	--
2008-09	Seattle Thunderbirds	WHL	56	5	10	15	29	5	1	1	2	0
2009-10	Seattle Thunderbirds	WHL	70	21	34	55	23	--	--	--	--	--
2010-11	Seattle Thunderbirds	WHL	41	11	16	27	22	--	--	--	--	--
2010-11	Prince Albert Raiders	WHL	22	1	8	9	6	6	0	3	3	6
2011-12	Portland Winterhawks*	WHL	31	4	3	7	4					

Rookie Profile - Taylor Leier

Rookie Profile: Taylor Leier By Samantha Meese



The math: Taylor is a 17-year-old forward from Saskatoon who is in his first full year with the Winterhawks. He was Portland's second round pick, 24th overall, in the 2009 Bantam Draft. Prior to joining the team he played for the Saskatoon Contacts of the Saskatchewan AAA Midget League, where he had 31 goals and 43 assists for 74 points in 44 games. His 74 points led the team and ranked second in the league. He was also named to the league's first all-star team. So far this season with the Winterhawks, Taylor has racked up 13 points and 24 PIMs in 34 games played.

*Source: www.winterhawks.com

My take: Taylor is very soft spoken, a little bit quirky, unfailingly polite, direct and very conscientious in thinking about his answers and giving you something memorable. Plus, his big hobby is ball hockey, not golf; which means double bonus points in my book for the boy from Saskatoon. In short, an all around good kid and prize catch by the Winterhawks.

What do you think of Portland so far?

I love it. I love the big city thing. I really like the atmosphere here.

What has been the biggest change, challenge, or difference in transitioning to the WHL?

The intelligence of the other players is much higher. It's also more physical: everyone is bigger, stronger and faster.

What do you think of Sunset High School? What are you studying in school?

It's big...it's about four times the size of my school back home. It also starts an hour and ten minutes earlier; at home we start school at 8:55 a.m. and here, it starts at 7:45 a.m. We just take general studies: I'm taking two classes right now.

Now that you are here in Portland, what are your goals for the season?

To make it as far as or farther than the playoffs.

What was it like growing up in Saskatoon? Were you a Saskatoon Blades fan growing up?

I love it there. My family has a cottage about two hours north of the city. But once I started playing hockey, I haven't gone up there as much, because I'm busy with training and working out. I was a huge Blades fan growing up. They're a huge reason I knew I wanted to play in the WHL.

Do you go back home in the off season? And if so, what types of things do you do for fun in the off season?

I do. I'm really into ball hockey. I'm on the U-18 Junior Team Canada. We're going to the Czech Republic in June for the World Championships.

Writer's note: You can check out http://cbha.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316 for more information about Team Canada's ball hockey program, and to see Taylor's name listed on their roster.

What about your family, can you tell us a bit about them?

My mom Cindy is a stay-at-home mom. My dad Tim is a financial advisor. My brother Keaton is 15. He's a dancer.

Now for the goofy stuff...what was your favorite cartoon growing up (or TV show)?

Bugs Bunny.

Rookie Profile (continued)

What is the most embarrassing song on your iPod?

I have lots of Taylor Swift on my iPod.

What was the last movie you saw, and how would you rate it?

The Sitter. It was pretty funny. I give it an 8.5 out of 10.

After your playing days are over, would you rather coach or become a ref (or something else)?

I'd like to be a scout.

Who was your favorite player growing up, who did you want to be?

Mike Modano.

What's the one thing you would tell kids playing hockey on what it takes to get to the WHL? What would you tell them it takes to get to the next level?

Dedication and a good work ethic.

I understand from Nic Petan you do the driving around town. So, what do you think of driving in Portland?

It's fun driving Nic around. We have a blast. But the traffic gets on my nerves.

You asked, he answered: With a long season, how do you manage to stay focused from game to game? I have the mentality that hockey is the most important thing in my life and being successful at it is what I want more than anything.

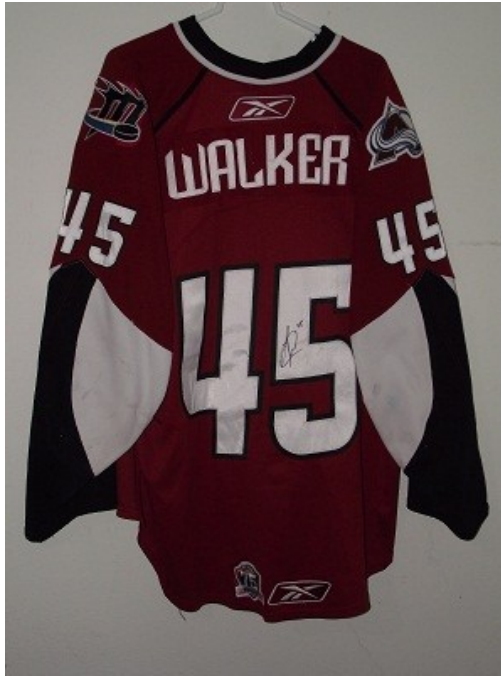
Booster Member Birthdays!

December 2011

Tess Adams <> Gabriel Bach <> Jeff Blum <> Anita Bowman <> Tracy Brighthouse <> Paul Carrier <> Kylee Chambers <> Eric Cutts <> AnnMarie Duquette <> Dale Entus <> Sophia Frost <> Todd Funk <> Coleen Gram <> Barbara Heinrich <> Dan Hotovec <> Wendy Jelleff <> Amy Lewno <> Amanda Littlejohn <> Jeff Lowrie <> Doris Milford <> Joshua Muns <> Carole Ott <> Roberta Poland <> Nick Raffaele <> Stephani Spencer <> Elke Thomas <> Dean Vrooman <> Nancy Vrooman



The Booster Club has two great signed jersey's currently up for raffle. First is Luke Walker's #45 Lake Erie Monster's



We also have a signed replica jersey from Luca Sbisa, his #5 Anaheim Ducks Jersey. Don't delay, get your tickets!

