

1991



Flyers Cup

eastern

intercounty

lower bucks

suburban

c h a m p i o n s h i p **a scholastic**





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March 22, 1991

Dear Parents, Friends and Players:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants of the 1991 Flyers Cup Scholastic Championship. It is through the efforts of everyone involved that makes youth hockey and Hockey Central the success it is today.

Our commitment to community involvement and the growth of today's youth makes Wawa Food Markets the proud sponsor of the Flyers Cup Scholastic Championship. We wish all the players, coaches, staff and families the best of luck in the tournament.

Kindest Regards,

Howard B. Stoeckel
Sr. Vice President of Marketing
Wawa Food Markets

Delaware Valley High School Hockey Association

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Print Work	Centennial Printing Corp. Community Press Globe Litho Inc.

Schedule

Tier I

Semi Final **Sub vs Lbc** Face-off Circle
7:00 pm Tuesday, March 26

Semi Final **East vs Int** Skatium
7:45 pm Tuesday, March 26

Game1 Championship Face-off Circle
7:30 pm Thursday, March 28

Game2 Championship Skatium
7:45 pm Tuesday, April 2

Game3 Championship Skatium
7:45 pm Thursday, April 4
** If necessary*

Tier II

Semi Final **East vs Int** Skatium
7:45 pm Monday, March 25

Semi Final **Sub vs Lbc** Grundy
8:00 pm Wednesday, March 27

Championship Grundy
8:00 pm Monday, April 1

Tier III

Semi Final **Sub vs Lbc** Face off Circle
7:30 pm Monday, March 25

Semi Final **East vs Int** Viking
7:30 pm Wednesday, March 27

Championship Viking
7:30 pm Monday, April 1

Face-off Circle
1185 York Road
Warminster, Pa 18974
215 . 674 . 1345

Havertown Skatium
Darby & Manoa roads
Havertown, PA 19083
215 . 853 . 2226

Grundy Ice Rink
700 Jefferson Avenue
P.O. Box 401
Bristol, Pa 19007
215 . 788 . 3312

Viking Ice Center
431 Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, Pa
19406
215 . 354 . 9430

**1991 Pennsylvania State
High School Championships**
will be held at *Viking Ice Center*
Saturday, April 6

Tier III	10:00 am
Tier II	12:00 pm
Tier I	2:00 pm

NHL

by David T. Shaw

DVHSHA

by David T. Shaw

Martin

by David T. Shaw

**Hockey
Central
& the
DVHSHA
salutes its
volunteers!**

From street hockey to the **NHL**

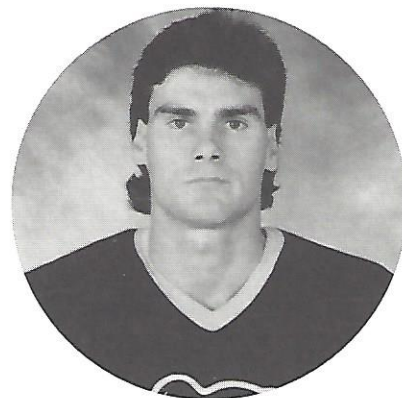
they're the ones who made it



Ray Staszak



Jamie Leach



Jay Caufield

"It was a great moment," Leach said. "You're nervous, but after the first shift is over, it just feels great."

"Any time you get in a game, it's just an experience," Caufield said. "With every game it's an exciting moment."

"It was a fantastic experience," Richter said. "And I never had to worry about playing my first game again."

Detroit via Allied Tube

For Ray Staszak, the urge to play ice hockey didn't come until 1974, when he was a 12-year-old in the Northeast and the Flyers were busy winning their first Stanley Cup championship.

"It created such awe for all the kids in the area that everyone jumped on the bandwagon," Staszak said.

Before lacing up a pair of skates, Staszak had only played street hockey, but the following year he enrolled in a house league at the old Ice Palace, and the next season made a traveling team.

He later attended Archbishop Ryan High School, which joined the Lower Bucks County League, and was a member of the Vikings when they won league championships his sophomore, junior and senior year.

Although Staszak was a standout for Ryan, as far as he was concerned his hockey career was for the most part over after graduating from high school.

"I had thought of going to college, but no Division I team was going to come down and look at someone here," he said. "And at the time, my parents couldn't afford for me to go, so I went to work."

Staszak took a job as a steelworker at the Allied Tube and Conduit Corporation in Philadelphia, but he kept active in hockey by joining the Bucks-Mont Glaciers, a Junior B team in the Mid-Atlantic League.

While having an impressive season with the Glaciers, the aggressive, hard-nosed right winger got an invitation to try out for a Junior A team in Austin, Minnesota. Staszak, 19 at the time, accepted the offer as a challenge, "wanting to see how good I was compared to the kids up there."

Staszak proved he could indeed skate with Junior A players by averaging better than a point a game. It also brought him more attention, and following the season he had a scholarship offer from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

While he averaged roughly a point a game in his first year at Illinois-Chicago, Staszak burned up the league his second season, recording 37 goals and 35 assists in a 36-game season.

Following that, he got offers from a number of NHL clubs, but he chose the Detroit Red Wings because of a fat, \$1.3

million contract over a five-year period and an opportunity to play immediately.

Staszak said there was a lot of publicity regarding the money, but that people didn't really accurately understand the deal.

"Everyone was saying a million dollars and all, but it was kind of blown out of proportion," he said. "It was over a five year period, and it was probably somewhat of an average salary."

It was also a way to help out the family, as Staszak's father had died suddenly a week after he went to play junior hockey in Minnesota. "We were a lower- to middle-class family," he said. "My dad was always working two jobs and he left behind myself, a younger brother and two sisters. The money kind of helped."

Unfortunately, what was to be the beginning of a career in the NHL was soon the start of a downfall for Staszak because of injuries. He played for the Red Wings in the opening weeks of their 1984-85 season, but after a poor start got sent down to the Adirondack farm team in the American Hockey League.

He proved himself there with 9 goals in seven games, but the day he was to be called back up to the Red Wings he pulled a groin muscle. Staszak ended up staying with Adirondack and helped the team win the coveted Calder Cup, but in the playoffs he was checked from behind and tore up his shoulder.

The injury recurred in training camp with the Red Wings the next fall, and Staszak ended up having what would be the first of four operations on it. In essence, it was the end of his professional career as he never again played for the Red Wings.

"It was disappointing because obviously I didn't get a chance to prove to myself and everyone else that I could play five or ten years in the NHL and become a player to be reckoned with," he said. "But on the bright side it was a great experience, and I can always say that I made it and played."

Staszak now lives in Holland, PA and for the past two years has run a landscaping business called All Four Seasons. And in spite of his shoulder still bothering him, he still plays hockey once a week in a men's league.

Like Father, Like Son

While other kids his age were still trying to master walking, Jamie Leach at only two years old was skating.

Though he was born in Winnipeg, Leach grew up in Cherry Hill, N.J., the son of former Flyers great Reggie Leach.

Jamie Leach started playing in house leagues in the Cherry Hill area, then moved on to traveling teams and eventually hooked



Mike Richter

By David T. Shaw

Of the four players from the Philadelphia area who have made it to the National Hockey League, one started skating when he was just two years old, another not until he was 15.

For one it was a way of helping out with the family finances, while for another it was a childhood dream construed in the driveway.

Not all four made a career out of playing professional hockey - albeit, some longer than others - and beat the odds of getting to the NHL while growing up in the Philadelphia area.

Ray Staszak. Jamie Leach. Jay Caufield. Mike Richter.

Four different players with four different stories, but all can describe one similar thing: taking the ice wearing a professional uniform for the first time, the roar of the crowd, the sudden realization of stepping onto a part of countless hours of watching street hockey and into a packed arena in the NHL.

"It went through your body," Staszak said. "It was something you would never forget."

Soon, Richter's goal to make it to the NHL no longer seemed unrealistic, and he went after it by leaving G.A. his senior year for a better hockey program at Northwood Prep in Massachusetts. After a year there, he moved on to play at the University of Wisconsin, where he was selected as the Western College Hockey Association's Freshman of the Year in 1985.

Year after year, Richter kept piling up accomplishments.

"You just had to make the jump by little degrees," he said. "The odds were fully against me, but maybe it was good that I was always a step behind."

In June, 1985, he was selected as the Rangers second round draft choice, played another year at Wisconsin, moved on to the USA National team and the Olympic team in 1987, then finished with Colorado in the IHL for 22 games.

He made his professional debut for the Rangers in a playoff game in 1988 against Pittsburgh, giving up 4 goals in a loss. Prior to that, he was with Denver in the IHL, where he led the league in games played with 57.

He spent part of last season at Flint, but did get called up for 23 games with the Rangers and established a 3.0 goals against average. Through mid-March this year, he had gone 19-9-6 with a 2.98 goals-against average and played an important part in the Rangers bid to win the Patrick Division.

He's also become a strong candidate for the Calder Trophy as Rookie of the Year.

Having achieved his goal, it would seem that Richter can finally breath easy. But the Flouertown native would tell you differently.

Looking out over the second hole of the Westchester County Club from the home he rents in Rye, N.Y., Richter said: "No one's job is so secure that you can't improve and you've got to keep working. You don't want to just belong, you want to contribute and you want to dominate. And for that you've got to keep improving."

TP | RPOS

For any kid who dreams of one day playing in the NHL, here are some pointers from the four players out of the Philadelphia area who made it:

Staszak: "You've got a chance, just like anybody else. You've got to work hard and believe in yourself, and the sky will be the limit. Get as much ice time as you can, and that's all you need."

Leach: "If you get the chance, go north, go to Canada and play in a junior league. The ice time is the main thing, and the more you get the more you'll improve."

Caufield: "Do as much with your ice time as possible. Always work on the fundamentals and make the most of it. Keep working on the skating, and mostly work on speed. When you're not on the ice, do the dry-land training and work with a tennis ball. And you have to go from high school to a competitive college. That's a fact."

Richter: "If you look anywhere, the most important thing you've got to do is work on the fundamentals, and it's something you've got to do by yourself. If you can continue to improve on the things you can control, everything else will fall into place."

the **D V H S**



*For Southeastern
Pennsylvania
High School Hockey,
the State's Western
Region is a Role
Model for Success*

By David T. Shaw

**With Scholastic hockey in Pennsylvania,
the west is the best and the east is the
least - in terms of organization, that is.**

W

H A

the presidents of the four high school leagues in the Delaware Valley and a three-member advisory board.

While the question of talent between the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia regions has remained up for grabs each year with a state championship in April, the DVHSHA has been striving to emulate the level of organization scholastic hockey holds in the western part of the state.

It began with a meeting last May, when three of the eventual members of the DVHSHA met near Harrisburg to talk with members of the governing body of the high school leagues from the Pittsburgh area.

The three came away surprised, and full of determination. According to Joe Venditti, a member of the DVHSHA advisory board, "We looked at ourselves and saw we were in sad shape. We knew we had to do something.

"The last time the east and the west had met was more than

eight years ago," said the DVHSHA's Jack O'Donnell, president of the Lower Bucks County Scholastic Hockey League. "But when we met with them in the spring, it was a great beginning and we're definitely going to try and do it every year now, try to keep the communications open."

For more than 20 years, high school hockey in southeastern Pennsylvania has been thriving, beginning in the late 1960s when the Flyers organization arrived in Philadelphia and a number of rinks began opening in the suburbs.

The first organized high school league in the Delaware Valley was the Inter-County Scholastic Hockey League, formed in 1969 with only a handful of teams, but 14 clubs strong by the 1971-72 season. The league reached its pinnacle in the mid-1970s when 38 teams were participating, coinciding with the success of the Flyers winning back-to-back Stanley Cup championships.

But soon after, the energy crisis and skyrocketing costs of ice time left many teams financially strapped, and several dropped their programs and left the league.

In addition to the declining number of teams, there were problems within the league itself, and scheduling was one. There were instances when two nearby teams with a rink five minutes away would instead have to travel more than 30 minutes to play at a different rink, leaving coaches, players and parents.

In essence, this marked the last time high school hockey in the area fell under the jurisdiction of one governing body.

"These were the types of decisions the Inter-County League was making that some teams began taking offense over," recalled Mary Cifone, who helped found the Eastern High School Hockey League in 1981, a group of eight teams that split from the ICSHL and used the Overton Skatium as its home rink.

"The group basically decided that since we had a local rink where we could skate, we should form a local league,"

"It's progress and it's created a good sense of cooperation."



Cifone said. "It was a much more manageable concept with having one league skating out of one rink."

In addition to the new Eastern League, two others had also formed to areas north of Philadelphia with the building of new rinks — the Lower Bucks County Scholastic Hockey League and the Suburban High School Hockey League.

But while scholastic hockey was continuing to thrive in the area, it was still in disarray in terms of organization. The one saving grace was Hockey Central, an organization started by the Philadelphia Flyers with the aim of promoting youth hockey in the Delaware Valley. For the past 11 years, Hockey Central has also run the annual Flyers Cup scholastic hockey championship for the eastern part of the state.

Still, it was never Hockey Central's intent to oversee the high school leagues, other than run the Flyers Cup

tournament.

When it became apparent in the early 1980s that there was little or no cohesion between the four leagues, the presidents of each attempted to form what was to be called the Eastern Pennsylvania Ice Hockey Association. The goal of the association was to put the leagues under one umbrella organization, develop more cooperation and have an appointed commissioner to oversee things.

But after three years, the attempt failed. "There was a great number of reasons, but it was mostly because some of the leagues thought they'd lose their autonomy," Cifone said.

Yet season after season, the idea was not forgotten.

Two years ago, following a meeting of the presidents, the leagues began using cross-over games as a means of opening the door towards better communication. Then last year, the presidents of the four leagues (none of which had been involved in the early-1980s attempt) met to discuss the health of high school hockey in the Delaware Valley and how they could make things better.

There were a handful of others who kept attending what soon became quasi-regular meetings, among them George Shaw and Rick Doyle, who had long been involved in high school hockey, and Greg Scott and Joe Venditti from Hockey Central.

And the beauty of it, according to Venditti, was that everyone got along.

"Before, every league was very individual, had its own goals and wouldn't work with anybody else," Venditti said. "But these four presidents were actually friendly and talking with each other. They were ready to make things better."

The DVHSHA wasn't officially formed until this past fall, but it didn't take long for a set of short- and long-term goals to evolve.

According to board member Carmen Mozzillo, president of the Inter-County

Scholastic Hockey League, the immediate tasks at hand were to alleviate some of the pressure on Hockey Central by having the association take an active role in running the Flyers Cup championship. In addition, the DVHSHA would help run the state tournament.

"You could in fact call us a governing body because we are making decision over such things as the Flyers Cup play-off format and league scheduling, so we all finish up close to the same time," Mozzillo said. "It's progress and it's created a good sense of cooperation."

This year's Flyers Cup tournament is being based on a three-tier format, similar to the western region's Penguins Cup championship. League champions will compete in Tier I, league runner-ups in Tier II, and semifinalists with the best record in Tier III. The Flyers Cup winners will then take on the Penguins Cup winners for state titles in their respective tiers.

"We've tried to change the format so it would match up with the west and their three-tiered system," O'Donnell said. "It's very simple, very consistent and the best thing we could come up with to come in line with the west."

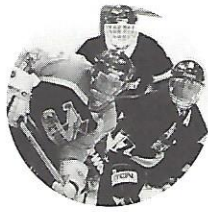
In addition to changing the format, the association has also taken a lot of responsibility from Hockey Central in terms of generating funding for the Flyers Cup. Each league has been asked to raise money by selling advertising space for the tournament program.

In the future, the DVHSHA has much larger endeavors to pursue other than maintaining cohesion among the leagues and running the Flyers Cup and state championships. O'Donnell said the ultimate goals are to eventually unify the 52 teams from the four leagues, and also have each team gain better recognition and more support from its school. (Many high school hockey teams in eastern Pennsylvania are considered "clubs" within their school and are not recognized as varsity sports, and they

generally receive no financial support.)

But for now, the DVHSHA is simply pleased over its own existence and the progress made thus far.

"It's going to take time, a lot of time, and if you rush it things will fail," O'Donnell said. "I'd just like to see the progress continue from where we have people figuring out what's best for high school hockey in this area."



the Winning Goes On



... and on

by David T. Shaw

When Bob Martin walked into Malvern Prep in 1987 to interview for the position of head coach of the hockey team, athletic director Chuck Chinici and the school's hockey committee liked what they saw.

"We wanted someone who could coach kids, not sports," recalled Chinici, who has since stepped down as Malvern's A.D. "Bob was very enthusiastic and had a diverse background in coaching, and not just in hockey alone. He was also clean-cut, had a great personality and a genuine concern for kids. He was the kind of guy I personally was looking for."

Martin got the job, but since then, coaches in the Eastern High School Hockey League have not always liked what they have seen.

Martin, who was 32 when he was hired and had lived most of his life in Toronto, walked into a strong winning tradition with Malvern's hockey program. When he took over in the 1987-88 season he had a team that had won two straight Eastern High School League titles and a Flyers Cup championship the previous year under former coach Tom Egan.

"The hockey committee joked about there being some tall shoes to fill, and I said 'do what I could,'" Martin recalled.

Martin continued where Egan left off, and the dominating Friars took a third straight league title, going 17-1. But what drew opposing coaches was the manner in which they did it, beating some teams by 15- and even 20-goal margins. In what has become an infamous game on Nov. 12, 1987, the Friars beat Marple Newtown, 28-0.

Coaches came to dislike Malvern, and particularly Martin. His demeanor on the bench — silent, arms folded, casually watching his team romp opponents — was insulting to some. And they would look on incredulously when the suit-clad coach would lose his temper, point fingers and lash out at referees for a poor call, even with his team up by 10 goals.

More than a few people that first year when Martin was out to embarrass opponents, though to this day many have finally come to accept Martin's tactics. One thing for certain is that few people had sympathy for Martin's team that first year and the next when it was ousted from the Flyers Cup championship by rivals in the semifinals.

"I respect him very much for his knowledge of the game," said Episcopal

coach Bruce Stone, whose team's worst loss to Malvern was a 17-2 bashing last year. "He knows hockey and knows it quite nicely, but I do have some problems when I see such lopsided scores. Bob probably wouldn't win any popularity awards."

"I had great coaches as a kid, and what I'm giving these kids, it comes from within me. I'm there for the kids. I'm not there for my ego."

In defending his team, Martin says it's simply a talented bunch playing good hockey. No more than a few teams in the state are as talented year in and year out as Malvern, and he feels the true embarrassment for opponents would be him telling his team not to shoot or to pass umpteen times before shooting.

"We had great teams then with great lines, and as a coach I wasn't going to tell them to let up," Martin recalls. "To maintain a high level of play we had to keep it up, though we didn't intend to embarrass teams. We weren't making friends, but I wasn't going to lose sleep over it."

The irony of it is, even coaches like Stone agree with that philosophy.

"With the talent Malvern has, it's hard not to win like that," Stone conceded. "His goal is to get a team well prepared for the Flyers Cup, and if he sits his top line all the time, he's not doing that. If I could prep a team to go as far, I'd do it too. It's a dilemma I wish I was in."

The bottom line Martin wants to point out is that he's in coaching for the kids, not for himself.

One of seven children whose father was

a professional soccer player, he spent his childhood running track and playing soccer and street hockey "morning till night." He wasn't involved in ice hockey until his parents could afford to buy him a second-hand pair of skates at 13. By the age of 17, he was playing for a Junior C team in Toronto.

Even before he accepted a soccer scholarship to Mercer College in New Jersey (he later finished his studies at Temple), he was coaching everything from baseball and soccer to hockey and track.

"You think about it, I teach all day and I coach three sports at Malvern," said Martin, referring to soccer and track. "I had great coaches as a kid, and what I'm giving these kids, it comes from within me. I'm there for the kids. I'm not there for my ego."

During the last four seasons, the school's success in hockey has continued under Martin. He had led the Friars to league titles every year and last year took the team to both a Flyers Cup championship and a state title, the school's first. In February, the Friars ended the regular season at 17-1, finishing first in the league for the sixth straight year. Since he started, Martin has racked up a mind-boggling 64-5-1 regular-season record.

His players respect him, and they know to listen to him. "He's a player's coach," said three-year varsity member Keith Grimley. "He can talk to you when you're down, and he knows when to yell and when to be calm. He's respected by everyone."

Although the scores have been toned down a bit this year, Martin said it's mostly because this club isn't as talented as past teams. There's also more of an emphasis on team play, he said, which was hard to instill three years ago with individuals whose main interest was to break league scoring records.

"We just don't have the depth this year that we've had before," he said. "You put the third line out there and it's not like that third line from three years ago."

Martin and his team should again be in the spotlight soon, trying to defend their Eastern League, Flyers Cup and state titles. Unlike a few years ago, many wouldn't mind seeing them do it again.

"Bob's really a very good coach and has the kids' best interests in mind," Haverford High coach Andy Rolli said. "The toughest challenge when you have a team with that kind of talent is not to get complacent. And a lot of times, competence can be interpreted as arrogance. A lot of us coaches would love to have the problems Bob does."

***Congratulations
to our troops!***

