



FACEOFF

The Official Plum Hockey Newsletter
Volume I • Issue 1 • April / May 2020

Upcoming Schedule

- **All USA Hockey Sanctioned Activities are suspended until June 15, 2020.**
- **07-11-2020 : 2nd Annual Plum Hockey Golf Outing**

Plum Hockey Personnel

In future newsletters, we'll use this space to list our board members and coaching staff.

For this edition, I need to thank the board members for 2019-20 that helped to make this organization run.

Kelly Baranowski, Lorinda Schlegel, Amy McMasters, Jeff Hanlon, Scott Marks, Les D'Antonio, and Lori Majors worked tirelessly throughout the season to make Plum Hockey great!

On top of their normal board duties, Kelly and Amy coordinated the Cornhole Tournament, with lots of help from Lorinda and Les. Lorinda, Kelly, Les, and Amy all spent lots of time working the golf outing back in July.

I can't thank these people enough for all the work they've done.

THANK YOU!

A Message From The President...

Welcome to the very first Plum Hockey Newsletter. Please thank Scott Marks for this idea as he thought it would be a great way to increase our communication, not just now in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but as we get in to the regular season.

This issue of the newsletter will serve as a bit of a transition. Our normal progression is to announce the results of the board elections at our banquet. We then start to work on a transition as the new board begins their responsibilities on May 1.

As we all know, this is not a normal year. The COVID-19 shutdown has affected everything, and so we're all sitting and waiting.

The banquet is one of my favorite events as President. First, it's an opportunity to recognize our players for all the time, work, and effort that they've put in. It's a chance to reflect on the highs and lows from the past season. It's also a time to recognize our seniors one more time before they get to graduation and move on to the next chapter of their lives. And finally, it's an opportunity for me to publicly thank everyone involved.

As things moved in to quarantine, we quickly moved the moved the banquet from our scheduled date to Friday, May 22. As of the writing of this newsletter, we still have that date set. As things start to open up, we will see if we can still have that date, and we'll see if there are any restrictions. One thing that I think we may see is that restaurants may be able to open, but at a more limited capacity. We will continue to monitor the situation and then decide how to move forward. We'll keep all of you posted along the way.

Since it will still be a while before we're all together, I'm going to use this newsletter to do some thanking. Let me start off by thanking each and every one of you. You bring your kid to practices, to games, buy them new equipment and sticks, and spend a great deal of your time in a cold ice rink. Without you, none of this happens, and I thank you for having your player be a part of Plum Hockey.

Be sure to read this newsletter as I'll be thanking other groups throughout it.

I hope all of you stay safe and healthy during this time. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Thank You,
John Gable



Congratulations Class of 2020!

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Class of 2020 is dealing with the loss of many of those key events that make a senior year memorable. Our Plum Varsity Seniors were at least able to complete the hockey season prior to the lock down.

These seniors displayed leadership, commitment, and dedication to Plum Hockey and to their teammates, both on and off the ice. For me personally, it's been a pleasure to watch them and to get to know them over the last two seasons that I've been president.



Congratulations and Good Luck to the Class of 2020!!!



#24 – Daniel Baranowski
Captain
Indiana University of PA



#71 – Jeremy D'Antonio



#30 – Connor Hutchison
Enlisted PA Army
National Guard



#22 – Donovan Palmer
Kent State



#17 – Nick Pushic
Assistant Captain
West Virginia University



#14 – Logan Schlegel
Assistant Captain
Clarion University



#88 – Tyler Vecchio
California University of PA



A Message From Our Varsity Coach

We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy. These are unprecedented times and we're looking forward to spending time together again soon. If you're new to Plum Hockey, we are excited to have you and eagerly await the opportunity to formally welcome you. While hockey and all other activities have certainly been on the back burner these last few months, we hope that the players physical fitness and dedication to themselves, their teammates and the game has not wavered. To us, this is the ultimate "what are you doing when nobody is looking" moment. While access to facilities and equipment are limited for most, we all have more time on our hands than ever. Coach lead sessions and team functions are currently non-existent, but we have that in common with our opponents. Now more than ever, it is the personal responsibility of each individual to take ownership over their readiness for the upcoming season. Every day is an opportunity to get better.

My cell phone number is below. Please feel free to reach out at any time. Go Mustangs!

*Thank You,
Phil Mains, Plum Varsity Head Coach
412-491-6306*

A Word From our MS Team Coach

Looking back on the season that we had it was a really good group of boys that made up the middle school team. As many people know we only had 10 skaters and due to injuries and other commitments there were times we played games with only 8 or 9 out skaters. The boys did their best and they certainly were in every game they played. Our team was made up of a few players that have been playing ice hockey for a long time and a few players that were very new. It was great to see them wear their jerseys to school and see the new friendships that were made. Plum hockey has had a long standing tradition and I look forward to the season to come. It will be exciting to see what new kids we can develop and mature, so that very soon Plum hockey will be a powerhouse that it once was. The team is certainly going to miss the leadership from the boys that are moving on to varsity. They were a great group of young men and will surely be missed. We are however excited to see a new crop of kids join the team and for new leaders to emerge and take the ropes.

*Thank You,
Chris Lapiana, Plum Middle School Head Coach*

Looking Back....Looking Ahead....

The 2019-2020 season was a great year for Plum Hockey. We held our 2nd Annual Gold Outing in July, which while very wet, was successful. We also held our 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament in September, which was also very successful.

On the ice, the Varsity team continued to grow under 2nd year Coach Phil Mains. The team won the PIHL Varsity AA Northeast Division with a record of 9-8-1. They earned the top seed in the playoffs. While they came up short in their playoff quest, the team had a memorable year and will be pushing to grow from this past season.

We were able to field a Middle School team again this year under first year Coach Chris Lapiana. It was a young team, but they came together and worked hard. They finished the season with a 5-7-2 record.

We also were able to run our Developmental Program for the second year in a row. This program is developing our future middle school and high school players. We also have a great group of coaches that have worked to develop these kids and provide a great environment for them at the rink.

There's a lot to be proud of with Plum Hockey. The Corona Virus and quarantine may be slowing us down right now, but we'll be back on the ice soon!

When we get notice that the rink is open, then we most likely will have an open skate / practice or two. We will then get in to tryouts and start moving ahead with the 2020-21 season.

Also, when we do return to the ice, it will probably be under some new guidelines and safety precautions. We'll update everyone as we learn more.

We're glad you're a part of Plum Hockey and look forward to seeing you soon.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!