

# **Omaha Hockey Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc.**

## ***Walt Johnson, Dave Murphy to be Honored With Motto McLean Service to Hockey Awards***

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*For Immediate Use*

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Walt Johnson, the first Omaha native to play professional hockey, and former Omaha Knight Dave Murphy will be recognized for their longtime service to the sport with the Motto McLean Service to Hockey Award.

The two will be honored at the Omaha Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon on Friday, February 20 at Anthony's, 72<sup>nd</sup> and F Streets at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for the event are \$25 each or \$250 for a table of 10. Reservations may be made by calling Terri Phillips at the Omaha Lancers' office, 402-934-4719.

Jed Ortmeyer, who progressed through the Omaha youth hockey ranks, starred for the Omaha Lancers, captained the Michigan Wolverines, and became the first Omahan to play in the National Hockey League, will be the Omaha Hockey Hall of Fame's 26<sup>th</sup> member.

Johnson began playing youth hockey at five years old in 1959 in Omaha and also served as a stick boy for Omaha Knight opponents at Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum for several years. McLean, one of the founders and most ardent supporters of organized youth hockey in Omaha, was Walt's first coach. When his family moved to Toronto when he was 15, he began playing junior hockey. In 1973, he was drafted in the seventh round by the Boston Bruins.

Johnson played briefly for the Bruins' farm club in the American Hockey League, and later for Dayton of the IHL. His career included stops at Binghamton, Tidewater and later was a teammate of Dave Murphy for the Sioux City Musketeers in the semi-professional USHL from 1976-79.

He then coached high school hockey in Sioux City and helped coordinate the Omaha Parks and Recreation Summer Hockey School, along with McLean, Murphy and Mike Hastings.

Murphy, a native of Moncton, New Brunswick, was drafted by the NHL's Atlanta Flames and assigned to Omaha, where he played from 1972-74 for the Knights. He also played for Des Moines of the International Hockey League and later for Sioux City in the USHL before it became a junior league from 1975-79. He has coached youth hockey in Omaha for over 25 years and also serves as a coach at the Omaha Recreational Hockey camp each year. Murphy was inducted into the Sioux City Hockey Hall of Fame in 1997.