



Rocket Hockey December Newsletter

Season's Greetings!



2021-2022 John Marshall Rockets

Welcome to the December Newsletter for the **Rocket Hockey** Program!

We are off to a great start with a 4-4 record through our first 8 games to start the season. We had a three game winning streak in December to help launch our busy stretch of games this month. We finish December with a 3 games in 3 days stretch at the Kiwanis Hockey Festival (December 28-30) at Graham Arena. We hope to see you at one of our games over break if you can make it!

DECEMBER'S
TOP STORIES

'21-'22 Season Is Off and Running with an 8 Game Slate Before Christmas Break

The boys have been working hard through the first 6 weeks of the season. We have had mostly a Thursday/Saturday Game schedule so far which has allowed us to get some much needed stretches of practice together to work on fine tuning our systems and special teams play.

Leading the way so far offensively for the team are the dynamic Defensive duo of JT Veney (Soph) and Mason Decker (Junior) who have scored 7 and 6 goals respectively from the back end.





















Also, up front Senior Captain Ryan Hus (**4g, 3a**), Senior Captain Jake Schmidt (**1g, 6a**), and Junior Cody Ahlstrom (**5g, 4a**) pace the Rockets. Cody Vlasaty (Junior) and Camdon Magle (Senior) have split time in net and together they sport a respectable **88.3%** save percentage and a team GAA of **3.72**.

We have one of the best team PKs in the state at **93.5% (29 for 31)** as of late December. We look to build on this start as we enter the meaty Big Nine portion of our schedule into January!



Rocket Players helped with RYHA's PeeWee B Gray team in December as a part of their initiative to earn community service hours in the lettering process this year!

[Keep up to date with our game schedule here](#)

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| New Richmond Tigers |  | AT Tue Dec 28 @ 3:00p |  | Rochester John Marshall |
| Kiwanis Festival |  | AT Wed Dec 29 @ TBD |  | Rochester John Marshall |
| Kiwanis Festival |  | AT Thu Dec 30 @ TBD |  | Rochester John Marshall |
| Rochester John Marshall |  | AT Thu Jan 06 @ 7:15p |  | Northfield |
| South St. Paul |  | AT Sat Jan 08 @ 3:00p |  | Rochester John Marshall |
| Rochester Mayo |  | AT Sat Jan 15 @ 3:00p |  | Rochester John Marshall |
| Rochester John Marshall |  | AT Tue Jan 18 @ 7:00p |  | Faribault |
| Rochester John Marshall |  | AT Thu Jan 20 @ 7:00p |  | Owatonna |
| Rochester John Marshall |  | AT Sat Jan 22 @ 7:15p |  | Albert Lea |
| Rochester Century |  | AT Tue Jan 25 @ 7:15p |  | Rochester John Marshall |

Rockets Sport Throwback 1977 Jerseys In Honor of State Championship Team

This season Rocket Hockey is looking to incorporate the tradition of the program into the season. This includes history lessons from the program's history for the guys and bridging this year's players with the greats of Rocket players from the past! We have the privilege of honoring the 1977 State Tourney Championship Team with our new white jerseys.

These "throwbacks" will be our new white uniforms as we move forward in Rocket Hockey. JT Veney (sophomore) models the jerseys / uniforms before a recent game below.

Stay tuned for an important update about our January 15th game vs Rochester Mayo at the Rec Center (3PM)!



Upcoming Alumni Events

December 24th - Alumni Game (10:30am-12:15pm) ***Food/Drinks After in Bob Fick***

****EVEN YEARS vs ODD YEARS (jerseys will be provided)****

December 28-30 - Kiwanis Hockey Holiday Tourney (**Graham Arena**)

December 28th - Rockets vs New Richmond, WI @ 3PM

January 15 - John Marshall Hockey Night vs Mayo (3PM)

July 15 - Gene Sack Memorial Golf Tournament

Alumni Spotlight



This month's alumni spotlight shines on former Assistant Coach/Head JV coach and 2011 JM Grad **Ryan Yetzer** (Marissa Bruesewitz, 2011).

He is a graduate of SCSU with a major in Urban Planning and Political Science. He is the current Community Development Deputy Director for the city of Rochester. He is also the RYHA Refing Coordinator and avid Referee himself.

His favorite memory of Rocket hockey is playing in the Hockey Day Minnesota Outdoor Game in 2009 @ Phalen Park in St. Paul.



Where Are They Now?

Former Captain and Rocket Hockey 2018 Graduate **Xander Lamppa** is currently playing hockey in his sophomore season at D1 Penn State University (BIG10). He previously played in Waterloo (USHL) and Austin (NAHL).

He is majoring in Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
[Xander Lamppa Stats](#)



Rocket Firsts

Tradition states we always celebrate milestones for the players. We have a bunch of them that happened during the month of November/December. Enjoy the photos!

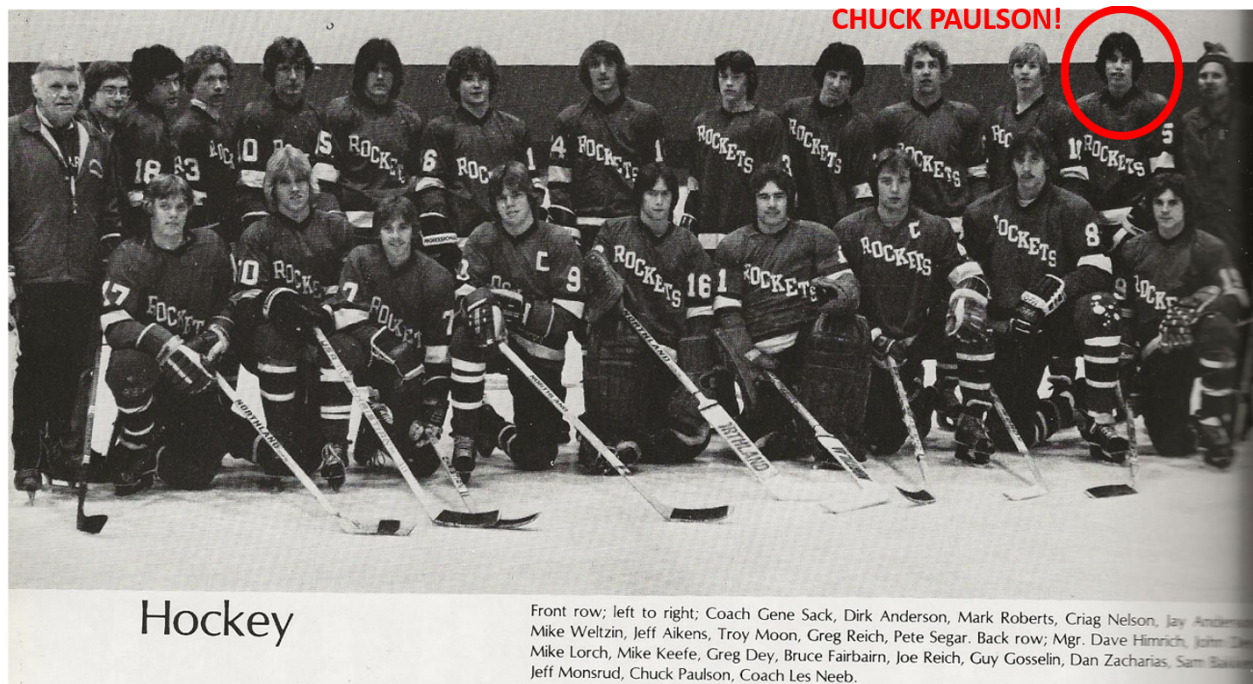


Top Left: First Win (Magle), First Goal (Williams) **Top Middle:** First Hat Trick (Decker) **Top Right:** First Goal (Veney) & (Ahlstrom)
Bottom Left: First Win (Vlasaty) **Bottom Middle:** First Goal (Kang) **Bottom Right:** First Hat Trick (Veney)

Rocket History Books

The research into the year books has been very kind to me - and the 80's did not disappoint - Enjoy !!! - Don't worry I haven't forgotten about the rest of the 70's -

Leading off the charge is Charlie Paulson, I doubt there is a Rocket or RYHA player that doesn't know Charlie (Chuck) Paulson - Charlie has been volunteering in the community and playing since the - well we won't do the math... He's still our volunteer coach and the best dang skate sharpener in the league.



Above



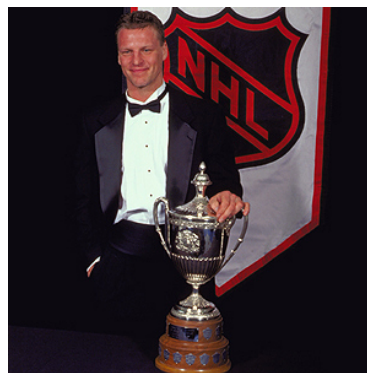
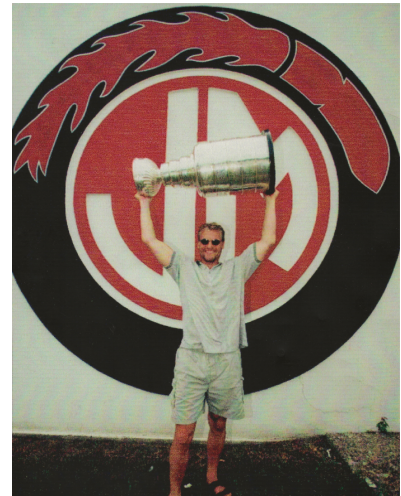
- Brian Zmolek

enjoying the success of the '85 Season. - Brian was a long time official in the area as well

Left - Check out the leather pads and sweet mask - Goalies don't get enough credit for wearing 200lbs of pads and a piece of plastic over their nose.

Rocket Anniversary Notes

20 Year Anniversary - Shjon Podein wins a Stanley Cup in 2001 with the Colorado Avalanche. Shjon Podein graduated from John Marshall in 1986. He went on to play college hockey at Minnesota-Duluth and then played 13 years in the NHL. He appeared in two Stanley Cup finals and helped the Colorado Avalanche win the Cup in 2001. Shjon also earned the King Clancy memorial award - given annually to the National Hockey League player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice and who has made a significant humanitarian contribution to his community.



Pode's number 11 was retired in 2006 and hangs at the front door of the Rec Center today.

[Rockets Retire #11 and #17 Jerseys](#)

A 2007 inductee into the UMD Athletics Hall of Fame and the namesake of the Shjon Podein Community Service Award, which is presented annually to UMD student-athletes who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the field of play and has made noteworthy humanitarian contributions in the Duluth and University communities.

[Great Pode's story](#) [Another great Pode's story!](#)

[Inducted in the 2007 University of Minnesota Duluth Athletics](#)

Stay Connected by Visiting the ROCKET HOCKEY website

Rocket Hockey
6018 Portsmouth Dr. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-358-8981
jmredline@gmail.com
Twitter: @Rocketboyspuck