



South St. Paul Hockey Update 2018



Season's Greetings! The South St. Paul Hockey Program hopes this message finds you all in good health and spirits. Packer supporters have much to be proud of so here's a quick update:



Matt Gellerman ('18)

Starting with one of our most recent graduates, Matthew Gellerman is currently playing his first season with the Minot Minotauros of the NAHL. Gellerman has tallied 10 points in his first 25 games and will have an excellent chance to continue his hockey career at the collegiate level following his time in Minot. With the Packers, Gellerman finished his four-year career he totaling 116 career points, placing him 5th all-time in scoring since

1999.

Cade Sexauer ('18)

As a program that values and encourages multi-sport athletes, we're pleased to mention Cade Sexauer just finished a successful fall with St. Thomas University football as a quarterback. In a program deep in talent, Sexauer did see some playing time as a true freshman. An engineering major, Sexauer looks to make an impact the next three seasons on the gridiron after manning the blue line the past three seasons with the Packers.





Nathan Brandecker ('18)

Brandecker is another recent graduate who continues to compete at a high level. An All-Conference performer last winter on the ice where he registered 19 goals and 11 assists, Brandecker chose to take his talents to the baseball field at St. John's University. He'll be competing in his first collegiate season this spring.

Cameron Buhl ('17)

After a stellar four-year career with the Packers in which he tallied 132 points, good for 2nd most behind Mike Pilot since 1999, Cameron Buhl just became the all-time leading scorer in Minnesota Magicians history of the NAHL with 87 points and counting. This season Buhl has tallied 33 points in only 30 games and is currently weighing several opportunities to compete at the Division I collegiate level next season.



Danny Pietruszewski ('16)

After playing one season of Division I football at the University of Minnesota, Pietruszewski followed his brother Jack, another Packer football and hockey captain, to St. John's University where he just finished his second season as an outside linebacker.

Pietruszewski has been a starter his first two seasons for the Johnnies who last year won the MIAC conference championship and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament. Already earning All-Conference recognition, Pietruszewski looks to continue his success the next two seasons with the Johnnies. In four seasons with the Packer hockey team, Pietruszewski registered 108 points, 6th most since 1999.



Ted Frid ('15)

After competing two seasons for DII Sioux Falls and earning All-American recognition in both seasons, Frid transferred to the University of Minnesota to compete in the Decathlon and Heptathlon. Last season, at the U of M, Frid finished 10th at the

NCAA indoor meet in the Heptathlon. His 5,717 points at the meet were the 4th best in school history earning him 2nd Team All-American honors. At South St. Paul, Frid played two seasons for the Packer hockey team scoring 20 goals in the '14-'15 season.

Adam Wilcox ('11)

After a stellar career at the University of Minnesota where he became the first Big Ten Conference Player of the Year and started in a National Championship game, Wilcox has been playing professionally the past four seasons and currently is playing for the Rochester Americans in the American Hockey League, affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres. So far this season, he's appeared in 13 games posting a 7-3 record and a 90% save percentage. After seeing preseason action and call-ups with the Tampa Bay Lightning and Florida Panthers, he



made his NHL debut last season with the Buffalo Sabres making 10 saves in relief. Also worth noting, he went back to school last summer to earn his degree from the University of Minnesota. Wilcox played three seasons for the Packers recording 40 wins and four shutouts in his tenure.



Justin Faulk ('10)

Former Olympian and National Champion at the University of Minnesota Duluth, Justin Faulk is playing in his 8th NHL season with the Carolina Hurricanes. In his career, he's amassed 75 goals, 159 assists for 234 points. He continues to be one of the top defenseman in the league. Faulk played

the '07-'08 season for the Packers before moving on the National Development Camp in Ann Arbor Michigan. In that '07-'08 season, Faulk tallied 25 points from the blueline for a team that won 20 games and lost in the section final.



Zach Palmquist ('09)

Former Mr. Hockey finalist and Minnesota State, Mankato standout Zach Palmquist is in his fourth season playing professionally, currently with the Lehigh Phantoms in the American Hockey League, affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers. Palmquist played three seasons in the Minnesota Wild organization appearing in preseason action with the big club but chose to sign with the Flyers this offseason. After playing in the preseason with the Flyers, he's had a steady season in Lehigh appearing in 28 games, recording 2 goals, 9 assists and is a +1

currently. Palmquist played four seasons with the Packers from 2005-2009 and his 108 points are the most recorded by a defenseman since 1999.



Al Stalock ('05)

2005 grad Al Stalock recently appeared in his 100th NHL game with the Minnesota Wild. After an All-American campaign with the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Stalock signed with the San Jose Sharks

organization. During his 5 years in San Jose including recovering from a catastrophic injury, Stalock appeared in 62 games recording 24 wins, 19 losses, and 7 ties. With the Wild over the

past 3 seasons, he's appeared in 39 games with 16 wins, 14 losses, and 7 ties. This season, Stalock has won 7, lost 5, and tied 3. He holds a career 91% save percentage and 2.51 goals against average. Stalock continues to be one of, if not the premier puck handling goaltenders in the world. He played 2 seasons with the Packers recording 32 wins, 8 shutouts, 10 assists and electrified the state of Minnesota with his outstanding play in the 2004 state hockey tournament.

Phil Housley ('82)

Hall of Fame Defenseman Phil Housley is in his second season as Head Coach of the Buffalo Sabres. He's orchestrated a remarkable turn-around this season with the Sabres as they currently sit in 3rd Place in the Eastern Division after missing the playoffs the last several years. Housley played 21



seasons in the NHL, amassing 1,232 points, most ever by an American born defenseman. He was inducted into the NHL Hall of Fame as a player in 2015. After playing four seasons with the Packers, he became one of the few high school players ever to make the jump right to the NHL in 1982.

A Note From the Coaching Staff:

We're definitely proud of the young men who continue to compete at a high level in athletics but what's most satisfying is being able to see our guys grow into wonderful human beings. We value more than anything helping parents develop young men to not only be competitive athletes, but also world class co-workers, neighbors, husbands and fathers in the future. South St. Paul continues to be a unique place in that we're a small town bordering the big city. Kids at our high school have multiple academic choices, are encouraged to pursue any athletic opportunities, and can also find time for the Arts. We're proud to be a part of such a rich community!

Last, we'd be making an error if we didn't mention longtime coach and mentor Whitey Willer who passed away this fall. No one man has had more influence over the young men of South St. Paul over the past 50 years than Whitey. When coaches stress the value of team and toughness, it'll be with Whitey in mind for years to come.



RIP Whitey Willer (1936-2018)