

2018-2019 SAINT IGNATIUS HOCKEY MEDIA GUIDE



PRE-SEASON EDITION

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General Information

Name of School	Saint Ignatius High School
City & Zip Code	Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Founded	1886
Enrollment	1500
Nickname	Wildcats
School Colors	Blue and Gold
Arena	John M. Coyne Recreation Center in Brooklyn, Ohio
Capacity	2,500
Affiliation	OHSAA
Conference	Independent since 2017-18 season
President	Fr. Raymond Guiao '82 rguiao@ignatius.edu
Athletic Director	Mr. Rory Fitzpatrick '88 rfitzpatrick@ignatius.edu
Assistant AD	Mr. Brad Ganor bganor@ignatius.edu
Admin. Assistant	Mrs. Jennifer Fight jfight@ignatius.edu



Coaching Staff

Head Coach Alma Mater Email	Patrick O'Rourke '90 Miami (Ohio) University porourke@ignatius.edu	22nd Year in Program
GM & Director of Player Personnel Alma Mater Email	Robert Gramc Siena Heights University rgramc@ignatius.edu	8th Year in Program
Assistant Coach Alma Mater	Bryan Schoenholz University of Dayton	10th Year in Program
Assistant Coach Alma Mater	Joe Geither Cleveland State University	9th Year in Program
Assistant Coach Alma Mater	Brian Holz '07 Ohio State University	5th Year in Program
Goaltending Coach Alma Mater	Paul Chase '96 Miami (Ohio) University	11th Year in Program
Team Chaplain Alma Mater	Jim Brennan '85 University of Notre Dame	3rd Year in Program



Team History

OHSAA State Championships	6 (2000, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)
State Championship Game Record	5-0-1
Final Four Appearances	9 (1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)
Final Four Record	7-3-1
Baron Cup Championships	3 (1992, 2012, 2013)
Cleveland Cup Championships	4 (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
Red North Titles	6 (1992, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
Great Lakes Hockey League Titles	3 (2015, 2016, 2017)

Team Information

2017-18 record	30-9-1 (Home: 6-1-0 Away: 24-8-1)
2017-18 MHR final ranking	#1
Letter winners returning/lost	18/5

10-Year Record vs. Select Ohio Opponents

St. Edward	23-6-0
Gilmour Academy	18-3-0
University School	18-7-2
Walsh Jesuit	18-2-1
Padua	17-1-1
Lake Catholic	15-3-2
Shaker	10-1-0
Holy Name	10-1-0
Sylvania Northview	8-0-3
Toledo St. Francis	8-3-0



Media Guide Credits

This media guide was written and edited by Jack O'Rourke '20, head coach Pat O'Rourke '90, and GM and Director of Player Personnel Robert Gramc with information kept by Saint Ignatius High School as well as www.shutout.com and opponents' websites.

Mission Statement

Just as Saint Ignatius students are called to honor God with their academic work, Wildcat student-athletes are challenged to honor God with their practice and play. The virtues they hone while competing are meant to be employed in their daily lives. The first four letters of the Jesuit motto, "Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam" (Latin: For the Greater Glory of God), adorn team uniforms as a reminder of the ultimate goal of Saint Ignatius athletics. Team prayer, sports chaplain sessions, and regular Mass attendance also serve to reinforce the connection between sport at Saint Ignatius and the Faith. As a whole, athletics provide an opportunity for young men to come to know God and discern an answer to the question, "What does God want from me?"

SIBN

The Saint Ignatius Broadcasting Network (SIBN) plans to attend and broadcast every game of the 2018-19 hockey season with video whenever possible (video is not allowed during OHSAA playoffs). Please remember that occasionally there are snafus with the equipment and/or wi-fi connections at certain rinks and that the broadcasters themselves are amateur students who are working to get better at their craft. Broadcasts can be found at www.ignatiushwildcats.com/SIBN-live.

Broadcasters & Student Managers

Jack O'Rourke '20 Jack is entering his third year on the SIBN and broadcasts multiples sports including hockey, football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and volleyball. Jack went to grade school at Saint Angela Merici and resides in Fairview Park. In his free time Jack likes to write, play video games, and be with friends. Jack is a big fan of the Vegas Golden Knights. On his eldest son, Coach O'Rourke said "Jack is indispensable - last year, he was at all of our practices as a team manager and cheerfully made sure everything ran smoothly. As a broadcaster, he takes great pride in his work and enthusiastically calls the action for Wildcats fans all around the country. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of Ignatius hockey history, and has been there to witness much of it in person. Sometimes I'll ask him to jog my memory - who scored the winning goal in this or that game from a few years ago? Invariably he will know the answer right away. I can't tell you how much fun it is to share this experience and this dream with him. My all-time favorite Ignatian, and it isn't even close. I love you, son!"

Pat Keane '20 Pat Keane is entering his third year on the SIBN and broadcasts hockey, soccer, and fun events such as the Senior versus Faculty basketball game. Known for his humorous takes on his adopted favorite sport, Pat is a favorite to listen to amongst viewers. Pat attended Our Lady of Angels grade school and resides in the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland. Due to his fellow namesake, Pat is a fan of the Chicago Blackhawks. As Coach O'Rourke puts it, Pat is "a quarterback in the football program and in his spare time, he helps manage the hockey team and provides insight on our student broadcasts. I grew up with his father in West Park and am a big fan of the Keane family. Patrick keeps the team loose with his antics, especially with his ludicrously good dance moves up in the stands during breaks in play."

Max Marazzi '20 Max is entering his second year broadcasting for the SIBN. Max broadcasts hockey and is a diehard Philadelphia Flyers fan. Max attended Our Lady of Angels with Pat, and is known for his dancing skills as well as his broadcasting ability. In his free time Max likes to play videogames, be with friends, and watch Cincinnati basketball. On Max, Coach O'Rourke says "Max plays rugby in the spring and provides unvarnished commentary on our student broadcasts. He is a fervent supporter of our team and not afraid to tell it like it is. Great kid and fun to have around."

Mac Spellacy '20 Mac is entering his second year of being a hockey team manager. Cousins of Ignatius hockey legends, Jack, Paddy, Kevin, and Aidan, who combined for 5 state championships, Mac continues the legacy. A big fan of the defending champion Washington Capitals, Mac is one of the best NBA barbershop arguers you will ever meet. Mac attended St. Mark in Cleveland, and enjoys playing video games and being with friends. When asked about Mac, Coach O'Rourke said "Mac is one of the most humorous managers we have had and has been a welcome addition to our family. He is helpful and often around, and should take on a larger role this year with the graduation of our 3 managers from last year. Nice kid from a good Ignatius family."

Sam Daugstrup '20 Sam is entering his first year as a hockey team manager. Sam, a graduate of St. Christopher, is a star Wildcat football and lacrosse player. With multiple D1 offers, Sam is primed for his senior season runs in both sports. Sam is a diehard fan of the San Jose Sharks. Sam played hockey as a youth and is happy to return to the sport. In his free time Sam also likes to cook. "Sam is a great kid and was a pleasure to have in class. He is a hard worker both in and out of the classroom and is a welcome addition to the program. Sam should be around often and fill the senior void." said Coach O'Rourke on the junior.

KJ Ripich '20 The 2018-19 season will be KJ's first as a manager. KJ is a rising prep player in our lacrosse program as well as a Dallas Stars fan. KJ loves Italian food and movies such as *Blades of Glory*. "KJ is well known among teachers as a smart, well rounded kid and we are very excited to have him as a part of the program. I do not know him too well yet to be honest but he seems like a very nice kid when I see him in the weight room." said Coach O'Rourke on the Cats new manager. KJ attended Holy Trinity alongside Wildcat forward Alex Bilardo.

Nigel Drummond '19 The 2018-19 season will be Nigel's first as a manager. Nigel is an outstanding wide receiver whose senior season on the gridiron was cut short by injury. He is a product of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel whose favorite team is the Penguins. Coach O'Rourke notes, "Nigel is a super-positive young man who will be a pleasure to have around the team. He is quick with a smile and always upbeat."



Head Coach Pat O'Rourke Bio

- 390-117-21 record as head coach at Saint Ignatius
- 5-time state champion ('10, '14, '16, '17, '18)
- 44 tournaments won, 11 runner-up finishes
- 24-6-0 overall record in conference tourney games
- 50-9-1 overall record in state tournament games
- Teaches Latin and is Admissions Director at Saint Ignatius
- Father also attended Saint Ignatius (Robert O'Rourke '62)

Year by Year Record/Slogan:

2004-05:	19-14-1	Humble & Hungry
2005-06:	7-25-0	Band of Brothers
2006-07:	22-13-0	Labor Omnia Vincit
2007-08:	26-9-1	Prepare for Glory
2008-09:	28-9-0	Do What You Do Best
2009-10:	31-7-3	Semper Fidelis
2010-11:	30-7-0	Whatever It Takes
2011-12:	39-1-0	Wins and Losses - The Only Stats That Matter
2012-13:	29-6-3	Focus & Finish
2013-14:	30-4-6	The Brotherhood
2014-15:	32-4-3	Union
2015-16:	38-2-1	Strength & Honor
2016-17:	29-7-2	What We Do in Life Echoes in Eternity
2017-18:	30-9-1	Refuse to Lose

Bold denotes state title year

Getting to know Coach O:

What music do you listen to? **Classic rock**

What is your favorite day off activity? **Exercise and do crossword puzzles**

What is your favorite home-cooked meal? **Spaghetti**

Who is your favorite non-hockey athlete? **Jose Ramirez**

Favorite city besides Cleveland? **Toronto**

What is your favorite spot on campus? **Marian Mall/Grotto**



Most Memorable Games for Coach O'Rourke

These are in chronological order - ranking them otherwise would be like choosing which one of your children you like best!

2004-05 Regular Season - 4-3 win over St. Edward in OT

- My first game coaching against our archrival and we beat St. Edward in OT at Brooklyn as junior Tim O'Shaughnessy scored the winner from the slot.

2005-06 Regular Season - 7-6 win over Shaker in OT

- It was a wild one and we were only playing for pride at that point, as we were winless in the division late in the year. At the time, it was a big win; it seems silly now, but things weren't always the way they are and those boys worked hard for this win. We should never forget where we came from...

2006-07 Regular Season - 4-1 win over Elyria Catholic

- After a rough 2006 season, we were relegated and needed to win our division to get back up to the Red North. The division title came down to this game and we put it away early by pulling our goalie late in the first period and scoring off a faceoff play. Who knows which way our program would have gone if we'd lost...

2006-07 Baron Cup Quarterfinal - 5-2 win over Padua

- We were just starting to get good and we were feeling it a little bit. Alex DiMassa and Jay Mazzarella, a.k.a. "Shake and Bake," led us to this signature win.

2007-08 Regular Season - 3-2 win over St. Edward in OT

- The rivalry was pretty one-sided in the Eagles' favor up until this point, but things started tilting our way right after this OT victory at Quicken Loans Arena.

2008-09 District Final - 3-2 loss to St. Edward in 6OT

- Just a few weeks after they run-ruled us at Winterhurst, we came back and gave the Eagles all they could handle, losing early in the 6th OT on the "Hand of God" goal...

2009-10 Baron Cup Final - 3-2 loss to University School in OT

- My first Baron Cup final ended in heartbreak, but in the locker room afterwards Captain Michael Wells told the team we weren't going to lose again that season and he was right.

2009-10 District Final - 2-1 win over Padua in OT

- After 3 years of knocking on the door and wondering if we'd ever break through, sophomore Liam Geither sends us to Columbus with the OT winner.

2009-10 State Championship - 4-1 win over Sylvania Northview

- You never forget your first. Paddy Spellacy had a goal and 2 assists and Sam Nader buried a "goal in any league" to seal it.

2010-11 Regular Season - 4-1 win over St. Edward

- Newcomer Miles McQuinn '13 hopped on the ice to take a penalty shot for an injured Kevin Joseph and salted away this win early.

2010-11 Meadville Tournament Final - 3-2 win over St. Edward

- Goalie Josh Potts stood on his head to preserve our championship at Meadville, which is a great town and fun atmosphere to play in.

2011-12 Regular Season - 4-3 win over St. Edward in OT

- Senior Michael Abood buries the winner from the right-wing faceoff dot in front of a packed house at Winterhurst.

2011-12 Meadville Tournament Semifinal - 4-1 win over St. Edward

- The acme of the season as we thoroughly dominated the Eagles to reach the championship game. A few hours later, Miles McQuinn suffered a lacerated Achilles' tendon and was out for the year. 2 weeks later, Liam Geither suffered a similar injury and our dreams of an undefeated season were dashed...

2012-13 Baron Cup Semifinal - 4-3 win over University School in 5OT

- "Big Game" Danny Brogan '14 scored the overtime winner in this marathon contest in which he wasn't even originally scheduled to dress; a teammate overslept and was late and Danny took full advantage of his opportunity.

2013-14 Meadville Tournament Championship - 6-5 win over St. Edward in OT

- Sophomore Aidan Spellacy ended this classic barnburner by tapping in the winner off a scrum in front of the Eagle's net.

2013-14 Cleveland Cup Final - 4-2 win over University School

- Matty Geither scored 2 third-period goals on 2-1s to clinch the inaugural Cleveland Cup (GLHL Tournament) championship for the Wildcats. Ethan Whitney and Aidan Spellacy delivered perfect passes to Matty on the rushes.

2013-14 District Semifinal - 4-3 win over Rocky River in 2OT

- Harry Smith spelled goodnight for the Pirates in this classic affair that came just a year after River upset us in the District Semis.

2013-14 District Final - 4-2 win over Holy Name

- We were down 4 huge contributors for this game, but we came out with more fire than ever before and punched our ticket to Columbus behind goals from Brady Wells, Beck Schultz, Ethan Whitney, and Matt Wiegandt.

2013-14 State Championship - 1-1 tie vs. Sylvania Northview after 7OTs

- Not the best result, but certainly the most memorable; we ended up on ESPN after this one...

2014-15 Regular Season - 2-1 win over Toledo St. John

- Connor Koehnke scored early and Matty Geither scored late in an outdoor game played at 5/3 Field in Toledo.

2015-16 Chicago Blackhawks Tournament - 6-0 win over New Trier Green

- A complete performance over an outstanding foe who would go on to win states in Illinois that year. This game let us know how good we could really be.

2015-16 District Final - 3-1 win over St. Edward

- Jared Stepka dished the puck to defenseman Matt Wiegandt on a short-handed 2-1 rush to give us the lead early in the third, then a precocious sophomore named Bain Kurtz sealed it with a goal in the slot a few minutes later.

2015-16 State Semifinal - 5-1 win over Toledo St. Francis

- St. Francis was loaded that year, but we jumped on them early on a bad-angle goal from Seth Whitney and we upset the Knights after getting crushed by them 5-1 earlier in the year.

2015-16 State Championship - 4-3 win over University School

- Sweet vindication for the seniors who played in the 2014 tie game in what was their last shot at “redemption.” Our 26th win in a row to close out the season.

2016-17 Padua Tournament Final - 7-3 win over Toledo St. Francis

- One day after getting blown out 6-3 by St. Francis, we returned the favor, plus one, to win our first-ever Padua Christmas Tournament.

2016-17 District Final - 6-4 win over St. Edward

- We were down 2-0 early, but we “refused to lose” and came roaring back as the Gold Line (Seth Whitney, Connor McGowan, and Connor Koehnke) scored 3 straight goals. Junior Michael McCaffrey took over from there, notching a hat trick (including an enormous short-handed goal) to send us to the Frozen Four.

2016-17 State Semifinal - 4-3 win over University School in 3OT

- How could anyone forget 2 best friends combining on the winning goal just a few seconds into the 3rd OT? Bain Kurtz from Mike McCaffrey, how sweet it was!

2016-17 State Championship - 5-1 win over Toledo St. Francis

- Tough turnaround after a marathon SF game, but we jumped on them early and never looked back; Seth Whitney scored early (again), Connor Koehnke played through a back injury and we went back to back.

2017-18 Purple Puck (D.C.) First Round - 5-5 tie vs. Loyola (Illinois) Gold

- We were down 5-1 in this game before making a stirring comeback that sparked us to an eventual tournament championship.

2017-18 Regular Season - 3-2 win over Hill Academy (Ontario) 18U

- One day after getting worked over by Hill and losing co-captain Mike McCaffrey to a broken ankle, we summoned up all the courage we could and knocked off a tough Canadian team when Michael Boehm scored the winner from his seat with 30 seconds left.

2017-18 State Championship - 5-4 win over Toledo St. Francis in 2OT

- Greg Langermeier went the length of the ice and scored a 4-3 power play goal for the ages to win this Clash of the Titans.



The Coaching Staff

By Coach O'Rourke

Rob Gramc

Works in Sales. Lives in West Park with his wife, Jess, and their 2 small children.

The ultimate "Glue Guy." Rob is involved in every aspect of the program and has done more than anyone else to move the Prep team forward and make this dream a reality. He is especially instrumental in scheduling games against top competition and in connecting our players with junior and college scouts. I could not do this without him - he is my good friend and we talk almost daily about the direction of the program. Rob moves into an off-ice role this year with the Prep team since he will be coaching 5 of our returning players with the Cleveland Wildcats USA Hockey program, but his influence will still be strong and he will continue to help us place players in juniors and take this program into the stratosphere.

Joe Geither

Chemical Engineer & Attorney. Lives in Lakewood with his wife, Kathy, with whom he has 4 grown children.

The "grinder" of our staff - it's not uncommon to hear Joe ask, How can I help? Joe is willing to play any role, perform any task, coach any position, and he is so much fun to be around. Brings a different, irreverent perspective to things that I think is really good for our players to see. Can always be seen reading a newspaper on the bus. Bad Euchre player but getting better. Great fun to converse with - he makes a 5-hour road trip to Canada feel like it only took 30 minutes. I hope we coach together for 20 more years!

Bryan Schoenholz

Works at NASA as an Aerospace Technologist in Telecommunications. Lives in Strongsville with his wife, Megan, and their 3 little children.

Forwards Coach. The brains behind the on-ice operations. Reins in my sillier instincts. Helps with running plyos and lifting. A man's man, great guy to hang out with and good role model for our players. A literal rocket scientist. I enjoy our talks about X's and O's, and the fact that he is willing to let me know his thoughts even if they run counter to mine. You can't be successful if you just surround yourself with yes men, and Bryan is certainly not that. He is the brother I never had - I love coaching with him!

Brian Holz '07

Works in Mergers & Acquisitions for PwC. Lives in Ohio City.

Defensemen Coach. I coached Brian when he was a player at Ignatius and am very happy to have him back after a brief hiatus when he was finishing up an MBA at Notre Dame. Brian was versatile as a player, a theme you may have noticed with a lot of these descriptions. We value that in players and coaches alike. Brian played Club at OSU and is still young enough to jump in with the players in drills and hold his own. That credibility goes a long way toward the players' listening to his instructions. He is quiet and doesn't say much, so the players know that when he talks, it's important. Having young alums return and coach is the surest sign of a healthy program, but beyond that, Brian is a great guy, sharp and fun-loving - I absolutely love having him on staff.

Paul Chase '96

Principal in Beachwood. Lives in Solon with his wife, Marlee, and their 2 young children.

Goalie Coach. Paul was the starting goalie when the Saint Ignatius program first rose to prominence in the mid-90's. A sound technician, he instructs our goalies with a focus on challenging shooters by cutting down the angle. Paul also gives the tenders important pointers about the mental side of the game, which isn't always easy for younger goalies. A valued friend and a passionate, long-time trusty assistant who's been through the ups and downs with me. I am very happy to have Coach Chase on staff.

Jim Brennan '85

Theology Teacher at Saint Ignatius. Lives in Parma with his wife, Kristen, with whom he has 3 grown children.

Chaplain. Jim has been the hockey program's chaplain for a few years now. Every Monday, Jim gives the team a Gospel-centered talk that relates to sports and life in general and then he ties it into hockey specifically. Jim does a nice job of giving us proper perspective and reminding us what our true mission is here - not surprisingly, it doesn't revolve around winning hockey games. I would pay money to hear him talk - it's God's gift to Jim and surely he has made the most of it. Jim is also present for many of our games to support the boys and offer his words of wisdom as needed. He has been known to give a fiery pep talk or two in the weeks leading up to our biggest games, as well. Jim also coaches soccer at Saint Ignatius, and has compiled an impressive won-lost record as the JV squad's venerable head coach. What a great resource for our players and addition to our staff he has been - thank you, Jim!

ROSTERS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.-Wt.	Experience	Grade School
10	Bilardo, Alex	F	5'6-148	1 letter	Holy Trinity
5	Boehm, Michael "A"	F	5'9-150	2 letters	Saint Christopher
13	Conway, Aedan	D	6'2 -195	2 letters	North Royalton
4	Conway, Aidan	D	6'1 - 210	1 letter	Lakewood Catholic Academy
18	Erbs, Charlie	D	5'10-160	1 letter	Saint Albert
3	Gazdak, Clay	D	5'10 -145	1 letter	All Saints of John Vianney
19	Klenkar, Charlie	F	5'10-150	1 letter	Ruffing Montessori - West
11	Kurtz, Camden	F	5'10-171	1 letter	Saint Raphael
7	Langermeier, Greg "A"	D	6'0-175	2 letters	Lee Burneson
9	Lile, Eric	F	5'10-160	2 letters	Sts. Joseph & John
17	McGowan, Connor "C"	F	5'10-185	2 letters	Saint Raphael
22	Millett, Aidan	F	5'10-170	1 letter	Bay Village Middle
29	Savarino, Benny "C"	GK	5'11-170	3 letters	Lee Burneson
15	Strick, David	F	5'6-150	1 letter	Saint Bernadette
12	Trobenter, Joey	F	6'1-205	1 letter	Our Lady of the Lake
20	Zawadzki, Rory	F	6'2-175	1 letter	Saint Raphael

Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.-Wt.	Experience	Grade School
3	Gazdak, Clay	D	5'10 -145	1 letter	All Saints of J.V
4	Conway, Aidan	D	6'1 - 210	1 letter	Lakewood Catholic Academy
5	Boehm, Michael "A"	F	5'9-150	2 letters	St. Christopher
7	Langermeier, Greg "A"	D	6'0-175	2 letters	Westlake
9	Lile, Eric	F	5'10-160	2 letters	Sts. Joseph +John
10	Bilardo, Alex	F	5'6-148	1 letter	Holy Trinity
11	Kurtz, Camden	F	5'10-171	1 letter	Saint Raphael
12	Trobenter, Joey	F	6'1-205	1 letter	Our Lady of the Lake
13	Conway, Aedan	D	6'2 -195	2 letters	North Royalton
15	Strick, David	F	5'6-150	1 letter	Saint Bernadette
17	McGowan, Connor "C"	F	5'10-185	2 letters	Saint Raphael
18	Erbs, Charlie	D	5'10-160	1 letter	Saint Albert
19	Klenkar, Charlie	F	5'10-150	1 letter	Ruffing Montessori
20	Zawadzki, Rory	F	6'2-175	1 letter	Saint Raphael
22	Millett, Aidan	F	5'10-170	1 letter	Bay Village
29	Savarino, Benny "C"	GK	5'11-170	3 letters	Westlake

Pronunciation Guide

Michael Boehm	BAIM
Greg Langermeier	LANG-ur-MY-ur
Rory Zawadzki	ZUH-wad-SKI
Aidan Millett	MILL-it

Roster Breakdown

BY YEAR:

Seniors (6)

Ae. Conway, Klenkar, Lile, McGowan, Savarino, Strick

Juniors (9)

Bilardo, Boehm, Erbs, Gazdak, Kurtz, Langermeier, Millett, Trobenter, Zawadzki

Sophomores (1)

Ai. Conway

MEET THE CATS - returning players

3 Clay Gazdak Junior Defenseman 5'10 145

- Attended All Saints of John Vianney / parents are Andy and Lori/ older siblings are Andrew and Brittany/ chose Saint Ignatius because he knew it would lead him into great opportunities and help him become a man for others / has played forward for most of his life / enjoys golfing and is a diehard Boston Celtics and Winnipeg Jets fan / Clay is ranked #400 in the world on Xbox NHL
- **2017-18 season:** Clay played 38 games which was tied for the highest on the team with fellow defensemen Charlie Erbs, Greg Langermeier, and Santino Pignatiello. Clay provided seven assists throughout the season and should have great chemistry with D partner Charlie Erbs this season.
- **Coach's Notes:** Clay is a versatile athlete who can play forward or defense, although he spends most of his time at D, and can kill penalties or contribute on the power play with equal aplomb. He is a positive force of nature in the locker room and on the ice and just in general; in terms of personality and coachability, he is one of the all-time greats. Clay is a tireless worker who hustles every second he's on the ice. Each day he strives to get better, which is part of the reason I really enjoy coaching him!

Year/Team	2016-18 stats				
	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	45	9	13	22	34
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	37	4	10	14	20
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	38	0	7	7	12
TOTAL	120	13	30	43	66

4 Aidan Conway Sophomore Defenseman 6'1 210

- Attended Lakewood Catholic Academy/ parents are Frank and Karin/ chose Ignatius because he felt comfortable here / favorite NHL team is the Boston Bruins / Aidan is a starting linebacker for the JV football team and handles some punting duties as well
- **2017-18 season:** Conway played 27 games as the only representative of the 2021 class on the team. Conway provided four points including one goal. Conway was very disciplined, recording only 4 penalty minutes.
- **Coach's Notes:** Aidan is a big defenseman who also plays football at Saint Ignatius. I had him in Latin class last year and really enjoyed working with him at school as well as at practice. Aidan was preternaturally mature, a quality not often found in freshmen, and a great "team player." He is well-adjusted and can handle both success and adversity. Aidan is curious about learning and his work ethic is impeccable. I see him carrying the puck up the ice and asserting himself more on offense this year now that he is a veteran. I would be shocked if this talented young man isn't playing college sports, either on the ice or on the gridiron, in a few years.

Year/Team	2016-18 stats				
	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Barons Bantam	7	1	0	1	2
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	4	0	2	2	0
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	27	1	3	4	4
TOTAL	38	2	5	7	6

5 Michael Boehm Junior Forward 5'9 150

- Attended St. Christopher/ parents are Joe '80 and Patti/ has two older siblings - Brittany and Joey '05, who coaches lacrosse at Saint Ignatius / picked Saint Ignatius because of the great academic, spiritual, and athletic aspects of the school / is a diehard Pittsburgh Penguins fan/ Michael is a star lacrosse player who has committed to play at the University of Michigan
- **2017-18 season:** In his sophomore campaign, put up a plethora of points while earning an assistant captain letter on his jersey which he will keep for the 2018-19 season. In 35 games, tallied 39 points. Was second in points, trailing only senior captain Bain Kurtz, as he recorded a 13/26/39 line for an average of 1.14 points per game. Recorded two goals against Rocky River in the District Semi-Final. Also produced 10 power play points (3-7-10) which was good for best in the sophomore class.
- **2016-17 season:** Was called up toward the end of the season with his first weekend being a GLHL onslaught of University School, Padua, and Gilmour. Recorded his first goal against Gilmour. Notched 17 points in 17 games including two goals in the final four and an assist in the District Final. Also recorded one power play goal in his inaugural campaign.
- **Coach's Notes:** I coached Michael's brother, Joey, many moons ago when Michael was in a stroller - Joey was a captain in 2005 and now Michael is, too. Guess I'm getting old! Michael is another multi-sport athlete, in this case lacrosse, and he is a wonderful presence to have in our program. Kids gravitate to him and yet he remains humble. Michael works hard in the classroom (I had him for Latin, as well) and on the ice. He is a generational talent both physically and mentally - he has all of the intangibles and he sees the ice like no other. Simply put, he sets the standard for all others to follow.

	2016-18 stats				
Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	36	25	29	54	16
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	17	9	8	17	2
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	37	31	26	57	10
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	35	13	26	39	12
TOTAL	125	78	89	167	40



7 Greg Langermeier Junior Defenseman 6'0 175

- Attended Lee Burneson Middle School/ parents are Greg and Tanya/ older siblings are Ellis and Erin, who was a D1 National Semi-Finalist in women's hockey at Ohio State / chose Ignatius because of its academics and athletics as well as having many friends go there / middle name is Caesar/ Greg is related to Guy Fieri, host of *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*
- **2017-18 season:** Co-led defensemen in games played with 38. Scored 8 goals and had 16 assists for 24 points, 12 of which came on the power play. Led defensemen with .63 points per game.
- **2016-17 season:** Produced 5 points in 18 games in his rookie campaign. Scored a goal in the Cleveland Cup final versus St. Edward. Played major minutes in the state tournament, priming him for his sophomore year run.
- **Coach's Notes:** Greg is an alpha dog, a "type A" personality who made great strides last year as the season went on and ended up scoring a goal he'll never forget - the double-OT winner in the state championship game. Greg is a physical presence who loves to deliver momentum-changing hits in open ice. He has a real future in hockey if he chooses to pursue that path over lacrosse. Either way, he is a good kid who has a magnetism about him that is special. I enjoy coaching him and can't wait to see what he adds to his game this year, especially now that he is a leader on our team.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	42	9	38	47	107
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	15	1	4	5	8
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	31	9	16	25	36
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	38	8	16	24	54
TOTAL	126	27	74	101	205



9 Eric Lile Senior Forward 5'10 160

- Attended Saints Joseph and John / parents are Greg and Lauren / favorite NHL team is the Detroit Red Wings / resides in Strongsville / loves to golf/ has a pet golden retriever / Eric drives a Jeep Compass
- **2017-18 season:** More than doubled his production in his second season, providing 11 goals and 8 assists and tallying 19 points. Also saw time on special teams killing penalties. Picked up 3 power play points. Dressed in a team high 40 games along with forwards Joey Trobenter and Alex Bilardo.
- **2016-17 season:** Played in 28 games his sophomore season and provided 5 goals and 2 assists while only taking two trips to the sin bin. Provided the Wildcats with flexibility by being interchangeable in line combos and finding his footing in the top 9 group of forwards.
- **Coach's Notes:** Eric is a bulldog. He goes to the places where goals are scored and he doesn't mind getting his hands dirty to put the puck in the net. He's feisty and he never backs down. Eric has scored some big goals for us already in his career and we will look to him to pick up some of the scoring punch we lost to graduation. He is a 200-foot player who can kill penalties and play on the power play, too. I'm glad I have one more year with him.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	28	5	2	7	4
17-18 Team Ohio U18	36	15	15	30	38
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	40	11	8	19	55
TOTAL	104	31	25	56	97

10 Alex Bilardo Junior Forward 5'6 148

- Attended grade school at Holy Trinity / parents are Mike and Chris / brother Owen '18 was a golfer and hockey team manager who is going to Kentucky for college / chose Saint Ignatius because of the tradition and because his whole family went here / Alex is a Washington Capitals fan
- **2017-18 season:** Played in a team-high 40 games along with Eric Lile and Joey Trobenter. Produced 26 points (12-14-26) despite being just a sophomore. Also added 8 points on the power play (4-4-8). Average of 0.65 ppg was good for fourth on the team and second in the class of 2020.
- **Coach's Notes:** I really like this young man - he is quiet and humble and he works his tail off. A definite junior/college prospect, especially now that every college player doesn't have to be 6'10. Alex has a great base as a skater, so he is hard to knock off the puck. He is supremely skilled, though I would like to see him mix up his shot selection more (and I know he will!). Alex is also tough as nails and he uses his leverage very well on the ice. He backchecks hard, goes into the corners, shares the puck, and is really turning into a complete player. One of our cornerstones this year, no doubt about it.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	32	30	62	80
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	37	19	25	44	36
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	40	12	14	26	32
TOTAL	127	63	69	132	148

11 Camden Kurtz Junior Forward 5'10 171

- Attended St. Raphael for grade school / parents are Mark and team manager Heather/ has a brother Bain '18 (3-time state champion) and younger sister, Maggie / chose Saint Ignatius for its culture of excellence and the opportunities it has to offer / Cam is a Blue Jackets fan and a "master ping pong player" whose favorite TV show is *Entourage*
- **2017-18:** After finding his footing in the middle of the season, transitioned from being Bain's brother into his own show. Dazzled in the second half of the season, providing 14 points (6-8-14), three of which were on the power play. Only took 3 penalties, easily beating his brother Bain. Scored a big goal in the state final to tie the game at two.
- **Coach's Notes:** Skillful forward who should also make "the leap" this year as he moves out from his brother's shadow and burnishes his own legacy on the Prep team. Cam scored a big goal in the state championship game last year and will be a scoring threat no matter who he's paired with this year. He has a good frame and can bring the lumber when he needs to, but he also has wicked hands and is an all-around player. I can see Cam growing by leaps and bounds these next 2 years into one of the top scorers in the state. He is very dedicated and I know he will put in the work to make that happen.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	26	26	52	44
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	34	18	23	41	10
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	34	6	8	14	6
TOTAL	118	50	57	107	60

12 Joey Trobenter Junior Forward 6'1 205

- Attended Our Lady of the Lake / parents are Joe and Robyn/ younger brother A.J. also plays hockey / chose to attend Saint Ignatius because of the outstanding hockey program and for the friendships you gain from such a school as Saint Ignatius
- **2017-18 season:** Started his high school career with a bang as he scored 14 goals (good for second best on the team) and 8 assists for 22 points. Played in a team-high 40 games along with Eric Lile and Alex Bilardo. Had 4 power play points and only took 6 trips to the penalty box.
- **Coach's Notes:** Joey has a heavy, heavy shot, but the reason we all love him is not because of his big shot, but because of his big heart. He is a great locker room guy, spinning tunes and keeping the mood light. He is a thick kid, "strong like bull," who can thump in the corners when he needs to. Joey is a prototypical power forward but he has light hands and can feather a pass when he needs to. That said, he can rocket a pass, too. I look forward to the next 2 years of watching him add different elements to his game while he continues to hone what he already does well.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	26	20	46	46
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	37	14	19	33	4
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	40	14	8	22	12
TOTAL	127	54	47	101	62

13 Aedan Conway Senior Defenseman 6'2 195

- Attended Saints Joseph and John and St. Albert the Great in his younger years before finishing at North Royalton Middle School / parents are Barry and Kim/ younger siblings are Liam and Fiona / picked Saint Ignatius because he felt he fit in during the "Wildcat for a Day" shadowing program / is known as "LB" which stands for Little Boiler / Aedan's favorite NHL team is the Blue Jackets
- **2017-18 season:** Arguably one of the most improved players on the season. Played in 34 games as a "jack of all trades" forward and defenseman. Is expected to be an anchor on defense as a senior. Tallied 7 assists, two of which were on the power play. Well disciplined, Conway only spent 14 minutes in the penalty box.
- **2016-17 season:** Played in ten games as a sophomore. Recorded his first career varsity goal. Was also called up for the Frozen Four to practice with the team and was a reserve if any injury occurred.
- **Coach's Notes:** Aedan is a player who has bounced from forward to defense and back many times throughout his career. But now, I expect him to stick at D and to be a real force back there. He has worked hard in the weight room all off-season and looks to be in great shape. He has gotten bigger and taller and will take some teams by storm, I predict. He can certainly carry the puck up ice all he wants, and he has the skills and shot to finish those rushes, too. My pick to make the biggest leap from last year to this year. Couldn't happen to a nicer kid, either.

2016-18 stats					
Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	12	2	0	2	6
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	10	1	0	1	4
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	34	0	7	7	14
TOTAL	56	3	7	10	24

15 David Strick Senior Forward 5'6 150

- David attended Saint Bernadette / parents are Greg and Katie/ sophomore brother Brian is a Cleveland Wildcat U15 player / chose Saint Ignatius because his dad went there and the school had a great community feeling / is a Nashville Predators fan / David is widely regarded by players, coaches, and parents alike as having the best hustle and being one of the most coachable players
- **2017-18:** Exemplified what it means to be a backbone player. While recording two assists, David found his way into playing time throughout the season and was a great penalty killer. Played in intense moments in the District Final and Frozen Four.
- **Coach's Notes:** I admire David's tenacity and work ethic. He is a grinder who is proud to be a grinder. David also knows that that's his role on the team and that's how he earns playing time. Last year David suffered an ankle injury early on that robbed him of his speed for a few months, but just wait until you see him this year. He is a maniac on the PK, a shot-blocker extraordinaire, and one of those guys in sports like a Wes Welker or Ryan Kesler or Dustin Pedroia who does whatever it takes to help the team win. Every coach in every sport loves players like David.

2017-18 stats					
Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	36	9	5	14	20
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	33	0	2	2	4
TOTAL	69	9	7	16	24

17 Connor McGowan Senior Forward 5'10 185

- Attended St. Raphael / parents are Colin and Laura/ has a sister Emma / Picked Saint Ignatius because he wanted to follow family tradition and pick the best school academically and athletically tailored to him. / Connor plays guitar, and has visited 40+ countries and visited 40+ states
- **2017-18 season:** Played in 36 games as a junior and provided veteran leadership while playing on a line with fellow juniors Eric Lile and Charlie Klenkar. Tallied a productive 8-8-16 mark with two power play goals. Finished in 6th place in both goals and assists despite fighting through numerous injuries, proving that when he is healthy he is one of the best scorers on the team.
- **2016-17 season:** Talk about the start to a career. Played 31 games as a sophomore and tallied 15-22-37 with three power play goals and centered the line of Connor Koehnke and Seth Whitney. Scored a huge goal in the District Final 6-4 win versus Saint Edward and scored again in the state title game.
- **Coach's Notes:** Connor is another super-coachable young man who is a leader not just in our program, but at school, as well. He is involved in student government and is a positive influence on everyone he comes into contact with. I hope that Connor has a healthy senior year, as the injury bug has bitten him way more than he (or anyone) deserves. When he's right, he is a powerhouse scorer who wills his way to wherever he wants to go. Connor is a big kid, but he also has a deft touch and can put the puck in any corner of the net. I'd like to see how many points he can put up with a clean bill of health. One thing I know for sure, he'll rehab as hard as he can to make sure that his senior year is a fun and memorable one!

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	31	15	22	37	17
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	36	8	8	16	8
TOTAL	67	23	30	53	25



18 Charlie Erbs Junior Defenseman 5'10 160

- Charlie attended St. Albert / parents are Chuck and Joann/ has three younger siblings - Jack, Joey, and Ava / picked Saint Ignatius for a better future and opportunity, as well as to play hockey with his friends / Charlie is a fan of the Columbus Blue Jackets
- 2017-18 season:** Tied for the lead among defensemen with 38 games played. Playing time gradually increased, culminating in consistent playing time in the playoffs. Had one of the biggest hits of the season when he knocked a Saint Edward skater over the boards at Brooklyn. Provided five points, including one goal. Wasn't often in the penalty box, with just 14 minutes in 38 games.
- Coach's Notes:** Charlie is another one of my Latin I guys from a few years ago - super kid, yes-sir, no-sir type, hopes to get an appointment to a military academy someday. He has my vote, that's for sure. Charlie is a two-way defenseman who should expand his playmaking abilities this year. He is ultra-coachable and has good speed going both ways. He is positionally sound, always has his stick in the right spot, and is yet another young man in our program who is a joy to be around.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	4	6	10	37
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	34	2	7	9	24
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	38	1	4	5	14
TOTAL	122	7	17	24	75

19 Charlie Klenkar Senior Forward 5'10 150

- Charlie attended Ruffing Montessori (West)/ parents are Dan and Carrie/ sisters are Sarah and Mary May / picked Saint Ignatius for its academics / Charlie is known for being very good at NHL video games
- 2017-18 season:** Played in 39 games and recorded 16 points, including a goal on the power play and penalty kill. Is a hustle player, using his speed on the penalty kill and to finish off passes which led him to getting a very respectable 0.5 ppg. Was hauled down on a short-handed breakaway opportunity in overtime of the state title game, leading to the power play that resulted in the winning goal.
- Coach's Notes:** I had Charlie in class 3 years ago, so I can attest to his smarts. Charlie is one of those guys who doesn't want to just get the right answer and finish his homework in 10 minutes - he always wants to know WHY something is what it is, which is what you love as a teacher. On the ice, Charlie is just as inquisitive and once he understands a system, he can flourish in it. Charlie has speed and skill to burn, and last year he added some grit to his game, so he comes into this season with confidence and motivation to take things to an even higher plane. I am proud of him and can't wait to watch him fly around the ice this season.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Barons U15	16	4	2	6	2
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	35	15	18	33	8
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	39	7	9	16	18
TOTAL	90	26	29	55	28

20 Rory Zawadzki Junior Forward 6'2 175

- Rory attended St. Raphael / his parents are Greg and Missy/ has 2 siblings - sister Gwen and brother Owen, who is a Cleveland Wildcat U15 player / chose Saint Ignatius for the sports and academics / Rory is a fan of the Calgary Flames
- 2017-18 season:** Played in 38 games while providing seven points and taking only three penalties, always staying disciplined. Provided a key assist to put the coup de grace on the state semifinal. Also had big performances in Grand Rapids and against Everest Academy last year.
- Coach's Notes:** Big Z is primed for a breakout year. He was stuck behind some upperclassmen last year, but has good size and good hands and should get plenty of opportunities this year. He needs to work to add some meat to his bones, but I don't doubt that he will. He can smell it and taste it and he wants to be a bigger contributor to what we're building. Good student, good all-around athlete who also played baseball at Saint Ignatius. One of the nicest guys on the team, deceptively fast for a big guy, and we're hoping for big things out of him this year.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	19	18	37	30
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	37	14	17	31	14
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	38	4	3	7	6
TOTAL	125	37	38	75	50

22 Aidan Millett Junior Forward 5'10 170

- Attended Bay Village Middle School / parents are Dave and Maureen/ younger sisters are Maggie and Riley / picked Saint Ignatius because it is a great school and he is hoping to be shaped into a better person / Aidan also plays lacrosse and loves the Chicago Blackhawks
- 2017-18 season:** Dressed in 39 games which was good for second on the team despite being just a sophomore. Average of 0.46 ppg ranked in the upper tier of the class of 2020. Provided a 8-10-18 stat line. Scored multiple big goals for the Wildcats while playing key minutes in the stretch run. Scored huge goals against Hartland, Brighton, Saint Edward (District Final), and Toledo St. Francis (State Final).
- Coach's Notes:** Everyone loves Aidan, he is one of the nicest guys on the team and is a heckuva player, too. Scored some enormous goals for us last year, including the opener in the state championship game. Has the kind of skill set where he can play with anyone, so he isn't picky about his linemates, which coaches love. Son of a fireman, so he brings a certain toughness to our team and now that he has a successful year under his belt, I believe his confidence and therefore his production will soar to even bigger heights. One of those guys you really root for, super kid.

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	Games	G	A	P	PIM
16-17 Cleveland Wildcats U15	50	20	20	40	22
17-18 Cleveland Wildcats U16	36	16	9	25	18
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	39	8	10	18	36
TOTAL	125	44	39	83	76

29 Benny Savarino Senior Goaltender 5'11 170

- Attended Lee Burneson Middle School / parents are Gino and Lynnette/ has two brothers, Max and Bia / loves the Colorado Avalanche / Benny chose Saint Ignatius for the tough academic classes and the will to be pushed the extra mile
- **2017-18 season:** Stood tall in his second campaign as a starter, posting two shutouts against Saint Edward. Notched a 22-8-1 record with 2.06 GAA and a .917 save percentage, posting nearly identical stats to his first year despite a much harder schedule. Allowed only five goals in the Final Four and improved his record in Columbus to 4-0-0 and 2-0-0 in overtime. Career numbers have him in great position to add his name to the record books after his senior season.
- **2016-17 season:** In his first year as a starter, compiled an incredible 25-7-1 record with 5 shutouts and a 1.92 GAA that any coach could love. Also posted a team high .912 save percentage on the way to his first state championship in the nets. Allowed only four goals across two games in Columbus while having a .933 save percentage.
- **2015-16 season:** Started for the freshman u15 team, putting up great numbers. Suited up for the varsity for the first time as the backup goalie for a 3-2 win against Walsh Jesuit on 2/6/16.
- **Coach's Notes:** Benny is one of the first guys who really bought into the idea that he could play high school hockey and still get looks from junior and college teams. That faith paid off last year as scout after scout talked to him after our games. On ice, I hope that we've rewarded his faith, too, as Benny is the proud owner of 3 state title rings, with hopes of winning a 4th this year. Ultra-competitive in net, and athletic to boot, which some of the goalies who are bigger than Benny don't always have. Good save selection, good rebound control, knows how to pace a game and control it from his crease. Likes to play the puck and should do so even more this year. When we look back on this whole thing in 20 years or so, we'll point to Benny as the one who really believed in us and our vision and hopefully in a few years, we'll be watching him play college games. Outstanding young man!

2016-18 stats

Year/Team	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SV%	SO
16-17 Saint Ignatius Prep	33	25	7	1	1.92	.912	5
17-18 Team Ohio U18	22	14	5	0	1.95	.936	5
17-18 Saint Ignatius Prep	31	22	8	1	2.06	.917	6
TOTAL	86	61	20	2	1.96	.921	16



THE FROZEN FOUR: 2017-18

By Jack O'Rourke '20

The toughest thing to do in sports is win a championship. Even tougher than winning a state championship is going back to back. Few teams are able to “three-peat”. Add Saint Ignatius hockey to that list.

The Wildcats played the toughest schedule in team history, testing new waters travelling to Pittsburgh, Michigan, and Canada multiple times each as well as a trip to our nation's capital.

The Wildcats grueling travel and competition was meant for the purpose of building up to the state tournament.

Coasting through the first two rounds by a combined score of 22-2, the Wildcats awaited Rocky River in the District Semi-Final. The Cats, led by a two-goal performance from Michael Boehm, knocked off River 3-1. Benny Savarino and Camden Kurtz were also big contributors in the win which featured Kurtz's breakaway goal.

The scene was set for a fourth straight District Final against familiar foe St. Edward. Sophomore Aidan Millett finished an early contest rebound to take a lead the Wildcats would not relinquish. Bain Kurtz found a nice pass from co-captain Michael McCaffrey and Charlie Klenkar finished the contest with an empty netter. Savarino finished his seventh shutout.

The stage was made for the Blue and Gold as they entered their third consecutive trip to Columbus. In order to make the state championship, first the Cats needed to beat Columbus District Champions: Dublin Jerome.

Benny Savarino only faced one shot as the Wildcats dominated most of the first period. The Wildcats didn't reap any rewards of their dominating effort until the 5:18 mark of the first period when captain Bain Kurtz took the puck around the short side of the circle and sniped the Celtics goaltender over the glove on a shot that had to be perfectly placed to find the back of the net.

Kurtz struck again when he knocked one past Graff on a chance when he charged towards the net, and just put the puck over the line, but Michael McCaffrey put it deeper into the net just in case.

Eric Lile found himself on an odd-man rush with linemate Alex Bilardo, and as the defenseman moved towards Bilardo, Lile released a prepossessing shot that cleanly beat the tender.

Jerome found the scoreboard on a great opportunity, but Bain Kurtz took it right back when he dazzled on a breakaway to extend the lead to three goals.

Sophomore Alex Bilardo, who has a work ethic matched by few, provided a late goal, and Bain Kurtz added his fourth of the contest.

The 6-1 win, which included a 15 save performance from Benny Savarino, advanced the Cats to a rematch of last year's state championship versus Toledo St. Francis de Sales.

This game would be a classic.

The scoring started in the first period when Greg Langermeier retrieved a puck in the neutral zone, and brought it into the offensive zone and as he was bumped into, found a puck to Aidan Millett. Whether or not Langermeier's pass was intentional didn't matter as Millett was alert and turned the puck into a one timer and shot the puck low blocker side and eluded Jacob Coward.

Coward had a ten save first period for the Knights with his only blemish on the score sheet being the Millett goal.

Matthew Barrow, who scored a state championship winning goal in 2015, beat Benny Savarino on a rebound to tie the game up heading into the second period. Savarino had a thirteen save first period.

Early on in the second period, junior Knight defenseman Mitchell Digby scored a power play goal from the blue line to give St. Francis their only lead of the game. St. Francis screened Savarino well on the play and Digby capitalized.

Two future star sophomores Camden Kurtz and Joey Trobenter brought the Cats back to a tied score when Trobenter used laser vision from the red line to find a waiting Camden Kurtz in the slot.

Cam took the crisp pass in with ease and lifted it over Coward's glove to even things up from Nationwide Arena.

Trobenter continued his streak of helpers when he found Michael Boehm on the power play, as Boehm uncorked a slapshot from the point which Coward knocked off to the side, but fortunately captain Bain Kurtz was waiting backdoor and knocked the rebound out of the air and past Coward.

Early into the third period, the Knights took advantage of a power play and Hunter McKie beat Savarino through the legs with a rebound goal to tie the game at three apiece.

After a Knight bench minor for Too Many Men on the Ice with eight minutes left in the third period, Greg Langermeier made a pass behind the net to captain Michael McCaffrey who began to skate left, changed his course of direction, and beat Coward on a back handed wraparound to give the Cats what many thought would be the final lead change of the game.

But things were just getting started.

Knights' standout forward Gabe Barrow cut into the zone and released a wrist shot above the circle and beat Savarino glove side to force overtime.

Back and forth play ensued in the first overtime including penalties to both teams. St. Francis penalty would extend to the second overtime.

Thirty-one seconds into the second overtime Greg Langermeier retrieved the puck after a Knights clear. Langermeier broke the puck out of the zone as usual, and even used his hand to signal Michael Boehm to go wide to the left, when Langermeier put his hand back on the stick he went to work cutting right weaving his way back in left putting a hesitation move on Coward before finishing on his forehand clinching the Wildcats' third consecutive state championship.

Chaos ensued as the Wildcats bench mobbed Langermeier and goalie Benny Savarino.

Congratulations to the Wildcat hockey team, coaches, trainers, and team managers on their third straight title as well as a fun season filled with memories for a lifetime. Every member of the team contributed in the stretch run of the playoffs and that is special as not many teams can say that.

Thank you to all the parents especially Mrs. Kurtz for her hard work all season securing rooms and food for the team every weekend taking time out of her life to help make everyone feel as if they were an NHL team instead of a high school hockey team.

Thank you to the coaching staff for all their help to the players and managers dedicating tons of time away from their families in order to reach this end goal.

Thank you to the student managers for all their help going to practices and games giving up weekends to help the team, and also to my fellow broadcasters Pat, Max and Mac who always provided great analysis and as many laughs.

And finally most of all thank you to the players who make it all possible and congratulations on all your hard work culminating in a special state title. Also a special thank you to our four seniors who enjoyed a crazy ride and were always helpful to everyone around and luckily went out on the best note possible.

Enjoy your spring and summer, and be ready for the quest for a fourth straight next year.

This team truly did refuse to lose with all their comeback wins and high-spirited games - congratulations, boys, what you have done in this life indeed will echo in eternity.

SAINT IGNATIUS HOCKEY 2017-18: A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Jack O'Rourke '20

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

- Matthew 23:12

The evangelist of the first book of the New Testament set in stone a method of teaching for the Saint Ignatius hockey team. Being a two-time defending state champion makes it hard to hold off complacency. The Wildcats travelled to many cities throughout the US Midwest and Canada trying to improve their craft for March's looming playoffs.

The Wildcats spent their first two weekends together compiling a 4-2-0 record in Pittsburgh against top tier prep and 18U opponents from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Santino Pignatiello '18 highlighted the trips with a key overtime goal versus Hoosac (NJ). The Wildcats made a pit stop at home in which the Wildcats recorded their sixth straight win against rival St. Edward with a two-goal performance from captain Bain Kurtz '18 and a shutout from junior star goalie Benny Savarino '19. The Wildcats reeled off 10 of their next 11 games including a four-goal comeback resulting in a tie against Jesuit brothers Loyola Academy, in the process winning the Gonzaga "Tournament of Champions" and the Padua Christmas Classic. A loss in Michigan was followed by 8 wins in 9 games, including a 5-1 record versus Canadian opponents, and a 3-0 record against top Michigan teams Brighton, Hartland, and Novi. The Wildcats lost five consecutive closely contested games yet ended the regular season with a win, finalizing the regular season at 24-9-1.

11-1 wins over Brooklyn and Midview kickstarted the playoffs before a tight 3-1 win over Rocky River in the Sweet 16. Michael Boehm '20 provided two goals, while Camden Kurtz '20 sent the Pirates packing. The Wildcats extended the win streak against St. Edward to seven games as Aidan Millett '20, Bain Kurtz, and Charlie Klenkar '19 provided the tallies. The state semifinal provided an outburst of scoring as the Cats advanced to their third straight state final with a 6-1 win over Dublin Jerome. Bain Kurtz lit the lamp four times, while Eric Lile '19 and Alex Bilardo '20 also scored. Andrew Denk '18 played his best weekend of the season and helped limit Celtic chances. Benny Savarino had a remarkable playoffs, including three straight one-goal performances and held the Wildcats strong in the state final. A back and forth state final against familiar foe Toledo St. Francis started out with a bang as Aidan Millett scored, but after two Knight goals, the Kurtz brothers each found the back of the net to take a 3-2 lead. A Knight goal evened things at three apiece, but senior captain and one of the most outstanding players in team history (alongside his best friend Bain Kurtz) Michael McCaffrey '18 seemingly put the game out of reach. The Knights sent the game to overtime off a late goal. Benny Savarino kept the Cats in it for parts of overtime until early on in the second overtime when defenseman Greg Langermeier '20 broke the puck out, took it up ice, and beat the goaltender over the pillow to clinch the Wildcats' third straight state title.

Congratulations to coach Pat O'Rourke '90 and the team on their outstanding season.

2017-18 Game by Game Results

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	RECORD	TOURNAMENT/SHOWCASE
11/18/17	Pittsburgh Predators U18 (PA)	L 5-2	0-1-0	
11/19/17	Pittsburgh Predators U18 (PA)	W 6-3	1-1-0	
11/24/17	Hoosac School (NJ)	W 2-1	2-1-0	SHADY SIDE THANKSGIVING
11/25/17	Buffalo Saint Francis (NY)	W 2-1 (OT)	3-1-0	SHADY SIDE THANKSGIVING
11/25/17	Shady Side Academy (PA)	L 4-1	3-2-0	SHADY SIDE THANKSGIVING
11/26/17	Wyoming Seminary (PA)	W 3-1	4-2-0	SHADY SIDE THANKSGIVING
12/2/17	Saint Edward	W 2-0	5-2-0	
12/9/17	Forest Hills Central	W 4-1	6-2-0	
12/10/17	Forest Hills Northern Eastern	W 7-3	7-2-0	
12/15/17	Saint Charles	W 2-1	8-2-0	PADUA HOLIDAY CLASSIC
12/16/17	Olentangy Liberty	W 5-1	9-2-0	PADUA HOLIDAY CLASSIC
12/16/17	Toledo Saint Francis	W 6-1	10-2-0	PADUA HOLIDAY CLASSIC
12/17/17	Sylvania Northview	W 3-0	11-2-0	PADUA HOLIDAY CLASSIC
12/28/17	Loyola Academy "Gold"	T 5-5	11-2-1	PURPLE PUCK
12/29/17	Regis Jesuit (CO)	W 5-1	12-2-1	PURPLE PUCK
12/29/17	Gonzaga Prep (DC)	W 5-1	13-2-1	PURPLE PUCK
12/30/17	Saint Joseph's Prep (PA)	W 2-0	14-2-1	PURPLE PUCK
12/30/17	Gonzaga Prep (DC)	W 5-1	15-2-1	PURPLE PUCK
1/5/18	Fox Motors U18 (MI)	L 6-0	15-3-1	
1/12/18	Hartland (MI)	W 3-1	16-3-1	
1/13/18	Brighton (MI)	W 2-1	17-3-1	
1/14/18	Novi (MI)	W 3-2	18-3-1	
1/19/18	Everest Academy (ONT)	W 7-2	19-3-1	PSHF SHOWCASE
1/19/18	Victus Academy (ONT)	W 4-2	20-3-1	PSHF SHOWCASE
1/20/18	College Andre Grasset (QUE)	W 5-0	21-3-1	PSHF SHOWCASE
1/20/18	Blyth Academy (ONT)	W 3-0	22-3-1	PSHF SHOWCASE
1/26/18	Hill Academy (ONT)	L 5-1	22-4-1	
1/27/18	Hill Academy (ONT)	W 3-2	23-4-1	
2/2/18	Orchard Lake St. Mary's	L 3-2	23-5-1	MIHL SHOWCASE
2/3/18	Detroit Catholic Central	L 6-1	23-6-1	MIHL SHOWCASE
2/9/18	College de Levis (QUE)	L 3-1	23-7-1	BARROW TOURNEY
2/10/18	Saint Michael's College (ONT)	L 3-2 (OT)	23-8-1	BARROW TOURNEY
2/10/18	Upper Canada College (ONT)	L 8-0	23-9-1	BARROW TOURNEY
2/11/18	Everest Academy (ONT)	W 4-0	24-9-1	BARROW TOURNEY
2/17/18	Brooklyn	W 11-1	25-9-1	SECTIONAL FINAL
2/20/18	Midview	W 11-1	26-9-1	DISTRICT QF
2/24/18	Rocky River	W 3-1	27-9-1	DISTRICT SEMI FINAL
3/3/18	Saint Edward	W 3-0	28-9-1	DISTRICT FINAL
3/9/18	Dublin Jerome	W 6-1	29-9-1	SEMI FINAL GAME
3/10/18	Toledo Saint Francis	W 5-4 (2OT)	30-9-1	STATE TITLE GAME

Saint Ignatius Prep 2018-2019 Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent(s)	Rink/Location
11/17/18	2:10 PM	18U AAA Pittsburgh Predators	Ice Castle, PA
11/18/18	10:00 AM	18U AAA Pittsburgh Predators	Ice Castle, PA
12/1/18	TBD	18U AAA Pittsburgh Penguins Elite	UPMC Lemieux
12/2/18	TBD	18U AAA Pittsburgh Penguins Elite	UPMC Lemieux
12/7/18	7:00 PM	Hartland HS (MI)	Hartland, MI
12/8/18	5:00 PM	Brighton HS (MI)	Brighton, MI
12/14/18	7:00 PM	Shady Side Academy Prep	Shady Side, PA
12/15/18	11:00 AM	Shady Side Academy Prep	Shady Side, PA
12/20/18	7:00 PM	St. Edward Eagles	Winterhurst
12/29/18	4:45 PM	18U AAA Pittsburgh Predators	Brooklyn
12/30/18	11:00 AM	18U AAA Pittsburgh Predators	Brooklyn
1/11/19	8:00 PM	Salem HS (MI)	Plymouth, MI
1/12/19	3:00 PM	Plymouth HS (MI)	Canton, MI
1/13/19	1:15 PM	Novi HS (MI)	Novi, MI
1/18-21/19	TBD	Loyola Academy Jesuit Cup Loyola Academy Gold (IL), Saint Ignatius (IL), Marquette HS (WI), Loyola (QUE), St. Joe's Prep (PA), St. Peter (NJ)	Chicago, IL
1/25/19	6:45 PM	Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep (MI)	Brooklyn
1/26/19	8:00 AM	A21 Academy Prep (ONT)	Brooklyn
1/26/19	4:00 PM	St. Michael's College Prep (ONT)	Brooklyn
1/27/19	8:00 AM	St. Michael's College Prep (ONT)	Brooklyn
1/27/19	12:00 PM	A21 Academy Prep (ONT)	Brooklyn
2/1-3/19	TBD	MIHL Showcase	Trenton, MI
2/8/19	5:30 PM	College de Levis (QUE)	Toronto, ONT
2/9/19	10:30 AM	Le Sommet Academy Prep (ONT)	Toronto, ONT
2/9/19	5:30 PM	Upper Canada College (ONT)	Toronto, ONT
2/10/19	TBD	Barrow Tournament Playoffs	Toronto, ONT
2/11/19-3/2/19		OHSAA District Tournament	Brooklyn
3/8-10/19		OHSAA Frozen Four	Nationwide Arena

Recent Hockey Alums - Where Are They Now?

Riley Ellis '14	Air Force
Brian Fitzgerald '14	Marquette
Nick Gajkowski '14 NMS, WIR	Case-Western Reserve
Jack Mazanec '15 NHS, NMS, CAPT, SEN	Notre Dame
Jack Wiegandt '15 CAPT, WIR	Cincinnati
Geoff Allman '16 NHS, SEN	Notre Dame
Cam Gerard '16 CAPT, DIS	John Carroll
Dylan McKeon '16 ALL	Ohio State
Brian Russell '16 ALL	John Carroll
Aidan Spellacy '16 ALL, CAPT	Robert Morris (D1 Hockey)
Cullen Frebes '17 NHS, CAPT	Miami (Ohio)
Connor Koehnke '17 ALL, NHS, CAPT	Ohio State
Danny McCabe '17	Boston College
Chris Revnew '17 NHS	Ohio State
John von Keyserling '17 NHS	Cincinnati
Seth Whitney '17 ALL	Miami (Ohio)
Matt Wiegandt '17 ALL, NHS, CAPT, WIR, POY	Cincinnati
Ian Williamson '17 NHS, NMS	Ohio State
Andrew Zedella '17 ALL	Cincinnati
Bain Kurtz '18 ALL, CAPT, WIR	Miami (Ohio)
Mike McCaffrey '18 ALL, CAPT	Miami (Ohio)
Santino Pignatiello '18 ALL	Miami (Ohio)
Ryan von Keyserling '18	Southern Cal

- * ALL denotes All-Ohio Team
- * CAPT denotes Team Captain
- * DIS denotes Fred DiSanto Award winner (SIHS Sportsmanship Award)
- * NHS denotes National Honor Society Member
- * NMS denotes National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist or Commended Student
- * POY denotes Ohio High School Player of the Year
- * SEN denotes member of Student Senate (Pres, VP, Treasurer, or Sec'y)
- * WIR denotes John Wirtz Award winner (SIHS Athlete of the Year)

Top 10 Winningest Classes

Class:	Wins Over 4 Years at Ignatius:
2015	130
2018	129
2017	129
2016	129
2013	129
2014	128
2012	128
2011	115
2010	107
2000	87



The Spellacy Story:

Aidan's Journey from the Ice Cats to a College Scholarship

By Joe Ginley '12

In many ways, Aidan Spellacy '16 is a trailblazer. Plenty of talented Ice Cats have walked the halls of Saint Ignatius High School. But none had earned a college scholarship to play hockey.

The path to college hockey and the National Hockey League is a long and difficult one. The road requires young icers to forgo a college education in favor of playing for a junior league team. The journey exacts every ounce of energy and resilience, as the player spends a year or two far away from home with strangers.

Naysayers told Spellacy he could not do it. But Spellacy achieved his goal -- attaining a Division I college scholarship, and paving the way for current and future Ice Cats to follow in his footsteps. (For more on the development of the Saint Ignatius hockey program, see the feature story in the Saint Ignatius Magazine, mailing this week.)

On Tuesday, May 15, Spellacy announced his commitment to Robert Morris University. In doing so, Spellacy became the first Saint Ignatius varsity hockey player to earn a college hockey scholarship at a D1 school.

Spellacy's journey began at Saint Ignatius in the fall of 2012. Following his freshman year, Spellacy burst onto the scene as a sophomore. He notched 18 goals along with a team-best 36 assists in 2013-14, playing a key role in the program's second OHSAA Division I championship. Spellacy enjoyed a strong 2014-15 campaign as a junior, tallying 19 goals and 20 assists for 39 points, second on the team.

"Aidan was always a leader here, even before he became a 2-time captain," said O'Rourke. "He was focused at lifting, during practice drills, and during games. He tried to do things the right way, and he understood that while we always want to 'play fast,' that every drill wasn't a race or just something to get over with so we could move onto the next drill.

"Aidan truly tried to get better with every rep he took in practice, with every shift he took in a game. He played hurt, he inspired his teammates, he took the will out of the opponent with his relentlessness. Wow, did I love coaching him! When you have a player like that on your side, you know you're going to be tough to beat. Some of it he was born with, but most of it he earned by taking the approach he did, by working his tail off and getting better every day."

As a senior, Spellacy proved to be unstoppable. The Lakewood native topped the team with 34 goals and 61 points in a special season, helping to orchestrate another OHSAA Championship with Head Coach Pat O'Rourke '90 and the Ice Cats.

"Aidan chose to play for his beloved high school with his friends and classmates," said O'Rourke. "Many people told him that he could never achieve his hockey dreams if he didn't walk away from us and take a different route. Aidan proved them all wrong and he ended up getting the best of both worlds."

The talented Ice Cat soon showed the naysayers how it's done.

An undrafted, non-tendered free agent after completing his Wildcat career, Spellacy attended a camp with the Lone Star Brahmas of the North American Hockey League. A junior league team, the Brahmas took interest in Spellacy and signed him as a forward.

"I learned so much from Saint Ignatius," said Spellacy. "You develop into a complete person. Then you take what you've learned at Ignatius and apply it. I learned how to work hard and developed into a leader from Coach O'Rourke. I also learned how to win."

Spellacy applied the lessons learned from Wildcat High in his first year of juniors. Living a cool 1,200 miles away from home in Fort Worth, Texas, Spellacy had to adjust to the real world quickly.

Fortunately for Spellacy, all junior players are matched with a billet family. Spellacy bonded with his host family, Jordan and Sarah DeArmond and their two sons Justice (9) and Ryder (3). Spellacy became a son to Jordan & Sarah, and a brother to young Justice and Ryder.

The DeArmond family eased Spellacy's adjustment off the ice. Meanwhile, Spellacy worked hard on the ice to improve quickly.

"There was an adjustment to the pace of the game," said Spellacy. "You're playing against older, more skilled guys. I also didn't know anyone. I met people from different parts of the world -- Russia, Sweden, the Czech Republic. I met a lot of Michigan guys and guys from all over the United States."

At the end of his first season, Spellacy won the Robertson Cup with the Brahmas. Following an offseason of training, Spellacy entered his second year as an alternate captain and found his groove in year #2.

The 5'11", 175-pound forward developed an identity as a two-way forward. Spellacy's strong defense combined with offensive prowess made him a critical piece of the Brahmas. Spellacy proved to be a crucial member of the penalty kill while tallying 15 goals and recording 17 assists.

"I definitely grew a lot from last year to this year," Spellacy said in the Brahmas' article on his commitment to RMU. "From the mental side of seeing plays and slowing things down and being able to make plays and have a lot of ice time helped a lot. Being in a leadership role, guys kind of look to you and you gotta lead by example and that's what I pride myself on -- leading by example."

Coach O'Rourke first glimpsed Spellacy's intangibles years ago at Saint Ignatius.

"While he is certainly very talented, Aidan will be the first to tell you he is not the tallest, heaviest, or most skilled hockey player in the country," O'Rourke said. "But what he has in spades are all the intangibles you love to see as a coach - toughness, character, humility, insatiable work ethic, and so on."

Towards the end of the 2017-18 season, Robert Morris began to show keen interest in Spellacy. RMU scouted Spellacy several times, taking note of his skill set and work ethic on the ice.

This past Monday, RMU Head Coach Derek Schooley, entering his 15th season with the Colonials, called Spellacy to offer him a scholarship. On Tuesday, Spellacy called him back to commit.

"It's pretty crazy," said Spellacy. "You look for good people. I talked to the coaches for a while. I came to the conclusion - they were good people, RMU is a dominant program, and it's a great school. Plus, the school is close to home for a change vs. Texas."

Looking back, Spellacy will never forget his time in juniors.

"It was a great experience," Spellacy said. "I met great people and developed as a person. Everyone made me feel comfortable, especially my billet family. An unbelievable experience with great people."

Now, Spellacy's focus will turn forward to college hockey. Playing at RMU will have its advantages, including an opportunity for his family to watch him play. Just outside of Pittsburgh, RMU is only about a two-hour drive.

Much work still awaits the young man from Lakewood. But Spellacy is ready for the challenge.

"I'm thrilled about the hockey," said Spellacy. "There is plenty of hard work to put in. The hockey will be fun with a lot of good guys. I'm excited to get back to school. I missed it, I'm excited for school."

Spellacy plans on majoring in business at RMU as he enters as a college freshman. In the meantime, Spellacy is back at home, skating and working out 3-4 days a week while also holding down a side job.

Spellacy could not be more thankful to Coach O'Rourke and the coaching staff at Saint Ignatius for helping him achieve his dreams and reach this stage of his journey.

"I just want to thank Coach O'Rourke and the Ignatius hockey program for everything they have done for me," Spellacy said. "I would not be here without Coach O'Rourke. He's a stern coach on the bench and on the ice, but he's a great guy off of it. I also want to thank my parents. They have supported me so much over the last couple years, I'm very thankful for them."

The commitment to RMU is certainly spectacular news for Spellacy. The news also holds promise for the Ice Cats. It shows the myriad of current Saint Ignatius hockey players currently trying out for NAHL and USHL teams that the juniors path can lead to success. And Spellacy is just getting started.

"I don't think this is the end of Aidan's journey - it's just the beginning," O'Rourke said. "I can't wait to make the 2-hour drive to Pittsburgh to watch him play, and you can be sure I will tell my players about him often as more and more of them aspire to play junior and college hockey after playing for Saint Ignatius.

"Aidan is living proof that it can be done, and he will be our role model for many years to come," O'Rourke continued. "We still haven't assigned his #8 jersey to another prep player since he's left, and honestly, I don't know that we will any time soon. I call that respect and I tip my hat to him. Aidan set himself a goal and he wouldn't be denied until he achieved it. I talk all the time to my children and my Latin students and my players about surrounding yourself with winners. Anyone who comes into Aidan's sphere of influence will be in good hands, that's for sure. He comes from a great family, a great Ignatius family, and we couldn't be happier for him and prouder of him. Congrats, Aidan!"

As for Spellacy, he's excited for the future, but taking it one step at a time.

"I'm a short-term, year-to-year thinker," said Spellacy. "I'm going to play as long as I can. I want to graduate college. If I can play hockey for a little while, then that's great."



Wildcats Off to Junior Camps

By Jack O'Rourke '20

"Go forth and set the world on fire," St. Ignatius of Loyola is famously quoted as saying.

Hockey players from Saint Ignatius High School have recently been setting the hockey world on fire with multiple major junior hockey league camps and tryouts, as well as one major offer.

The Saint Ignatius hockey program, a powerhouse that has won the past three state titles, is sending eight players from its prep team to two of the highest junior American hockey leagues for camps and combines.

Seniors Bain Kurtz, Michael McCaffrey, and Santino Pignatiello all earned North American Hockey League (NAHL) tryouts based off their excellent seasons on prep. Kurtz was a three-year letter winner and three-time state champion, while McCaffrey played one game his sophomore season and all of his final two years. Santino Pignatiello became a top-tier offensive defenseman in his prep years.

Former Wildcat two-time state champion and reigning NAHL Robertson Cup champion Aidan Spellacy is currently a captain and mainstay on the defending champion Lone Star Brahmas.

Sophomore Benny Savarino also will be attending both NAHL and United States Hockey League (USHL) camps with his biggest being a camp invite from the USHL. Savarino anchored the Wildcats in net the past two seasons with a 47-15-2 record.

The USHL is the top United States junior hockey league and more than 90% of its players go on to play Division 1 collegiate hockey.

Saint Ignatius sophomores Michael Boehm, Greg Langermeier, Joey Trobenter, and Alex Bilardo all were invited to attend the USHL or NAHL Combines for their select ages as well as other team-specific camps in both the USHL and NAHL.

"It is a cool experience to be invited to a combine of this level and I'm glad to showcase Saint Ignatius for junior scouts all over the country," said Boehm.

Boehm has committed to play lacrosse at the University of Michigan but could certainly play Division 1 hockey if he chose that route. The sophomore scored 13 goals and notched 26 assists in 2017-18.

Langermeier served as a stellar defenseman in 2017-18, scoring the game-winning goal in double overtime of the 2018 OHSAA State Championship. The sophomore enjoyed his experience at the USHL Combine.

“I went into the combine knowing nobody else who was going and came out with 19 new best friends,” he said. “Also, the speed and play of the games were very high. I think the combine overall had a large impact on moving my hockey career to the next level.”

Trobenter also served as a key cog of the team in 2017-18, sniping 14 goals and contributed 8 assists. The sophomore savored the chance to be at the NAHL combine.

“It’s awesome to be able to expose my skills to scouts and it’s a great opportunity for more exposure and to help my future as well as the future of the program,” he said.

Bilardo played a significant role for the Cats this past season, tallying 12 goals and 14 points in a stellar sophomore campaign. Bilardo and his family also attended workshops at the Combine, wherein the scouts stressed the importance of academics in the college hockey recruitment process, a fact that Saint Ignatius student-athletes are already well aware of, though it served as a nice reminder.

“It’s an honor to be invited to these elite junior camps and get our program’s name out there for the hockey world, and improve our program’s history,” Bilardo said.

All four Wildcats have futures in hockey and will be major players for the Cats next season.

Fellow Saint Ignatius students Colin Purcell and Erik Galauner also have big news. Purcell recently was drafted by the Kitchener Rangers of the prestigious Ontario Hockey League. Galauner was also selected for an NAHL camp.

Good luck to all of these Wildcats as they head off to these prestigious camps this spring!



What Does “Prep” Hockey Mean?

The Saint Ignatius Prep hockey team is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and as such follows all of the rules of the OHSAA, including game limits and travel rules. The team is comprised entirely of Saint Ignatius High School students and competes in the OHSAA state tournament at the end of each season. All of the players hail from Northeast Ohio, which is rare for a Prep team.

The term “Prep” mostly refers to scheduling. Saint Ignatius schedules games against the very best of the best from around the state, region, and country each year. Many of our players have aspirations of playing junior and college hockey; therefore, we want them to play a very rigorous schedule so they can be challenged on the ice and also can play in front of as many scouts as possible.

We do all of this while still remaining true to the academic, behavioral, spiritual, and community service standards that Saint Ignatius High School has stood for since 1886.

This winter, the Saint Ignatius High School Prep Team won the school’s sixth OHSAA state championship in program history, which was our third in a row, and fourth in five years.

This spring, 10 of our program’s players were invited to attend a total of 25 NAHL or USHL combines, camps, or tryouts. In addition, one of our recent alums, Aidan Spellacy ‘16, earned a Division I scholarship from Robert Morris University after playing 2 years in the NAHL (with the Lone Star Brahmas, where he also won an NAHL Championship and was a captain). Many of our current players are on the radars of USHL and NAHL scouts, so we only anticipate that this trend will continue on an upward trajectory.

Our coaching staff has been building this program for 20 years now and we have never been more excited for the direction it’s heading in. We hope to provide our student-athletes with the total package that only Saint Ignatius can offer - world-class academics, pioneering faith and service programs, outstanding fine arts, and competitive athletics, among myriad other things.

If you are interested in attending Saint Ignatius High School, please contact the Admissions Department and schedule a tour or visit. We are extremely proud of our “famed” alma mater and would love to show you around our idyllic campus!

All the best,

Patrick O’Rourke
Admissions Director
Latin I Teacher
Prep Hockey Head Coach

Saint Ignatius Alma Mater

Our famed alma mater graces
Every shrine within our hearts
With her unforgotten faces
And the faith that she imparts.

Years in passing cannot sever
Ties of new days from the old.
We're Ignatius men forever
As we hail the blue and gold.



St. Mary of the Assumption Chapel