



Rocket Hockey January Newsletter

Rockets Enter Stretch Run!



2021-2022 John Marshall Rockets

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

We have completed 2/3 of our game schedule so far and after a dramatic come-from-behind 6-4 Win vs South St. Paul we finished January on a high note (down 4-2 after 2nd period). We stand at a record of **7-10** for the season, and we also are on a 2 game winning streak after dropping our last three games before that! We have a busy three weeks left with 7 games remaining before playoffs the week of February 21.

JANUARY'S
TOP STORIES

'21-'22 Season Moves On After the Holidays As We Deal with the Effects of COVID!

The boys were dealt a bad hand the first part of January as our team was hit with a number of cases of COVID, which ironically gave us a chance to recharge our batteries with a mandatory 7 days off in the middle of our season. I think it might have been a small blessing as guys were able to rest and get healthy. As a result of this pause, we are facing a condensed game schedule for the last part of our year!

We had a busy January with nine games total **(3-6)** and a tough stretch of good Big Nine opponents and some bad puck luck. On the bright side we have won 2 of our last 3 games (6-0 vs Winona, 6-4 vs South St. Paul) and we are looking to get back to a .500 record as we finish our regular season slate of games.

Since being moved to Forward two weeks ago Junior **Mason Decker** has been on a scoring tear in his first 3 games up front. He has scored in bunches (8 goals, 4 assists) with 2 hat tricks in his past three games which included a 4 goal game vs Winona.



He set a modern day Rocket Record by scoring a natural hat trick in 1:43 in the game vs Winona. He backed up that record by also accomplishing that same feat in his next game scoring another natural hat trick in 2:37!

Others that have continued to lead our team offensively are junior **Cody Ahlstrom** who has quietly become our most improved goal scorer after scoring 0 goals as a sophomore he has scored 10 goals this season (1 PP, 1 SH). Sophomore **JT Veney** has been our most consistent goal scorer as he has potted a goal in 11 of 17 games this season. Junior **Cody Vlasaty** has the best save percentage (**89.8%**) and win-loss record (**6-6**) as one of our team's goalies.

Senior Captains **Ryan Hus** and **Jake Schmidt** continue to be our heart and soul on the PK and provide that veteran leadership that has allowed our team to continue to improve and get better so far this season!

















Rockets In the Community

The guys had the chance in January to help RYHA for their Annual Hockey Day Rochester which took place outdoors at the Soldier's Field hockey rinks! Such a great atmosphere and we were glad to be a part of this special event!



Rocket Players help with RYHA's Hockey Day Rochester on a Saturday earlier in January.

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

South St. Paul		AT		Rochester John Marshall
		Mon Jan 31 @ 5:30p		
Northfield		AT		Rochester John Marshall
		Thu Feb 03 @ 5:30p		
Rochester John Marshall		AT		Rochester Centurys
		Sat Feb 05 @ 7:15p		
Rochester John Marshall		AT		Austin
		Tue Feb 08 @ 7:00p		
Rochester John Marshall		AT		Rochester Mayo
		Thu Feb 10 @ 7:15p		
Rochester John Marshall		AT		Northfield
		Tue Feb 15 @ 7:15p		
Faribault		AT		Rochester John Marshall
		Thu Feb 17 @ 5:30p		
Rochester John Marshall		AT		Red Wing
		Sat Feb 19 @ 7:15p		

Rockets Host 1st Annual Teacher Appreciation Night and Cancer Night

This season Rocket Hockey is hosting many special events and appreciation nights. We proudly hosted our **"1st Annual Teacher Appreciation"** night. The team and managers all picked one teacher/para to attend our game on their behalf and show them gratitude with a personal note and card to make their day. The pictures were awesome! We had a wide variety of staff from Rochester and surrounding areas in many different subject areas that were able to attend and be a part of our night!

Sophomore Jayden Veney invited his favorite teacher Mrs. Stanich who teaches 6th grade @ John Adams Middle School in Rochester.



Hockey Fights Cancer

We also hosted our Annual **"Hockey Fights Cancer Night"** vs Century on 1/25. We raised almost \$1,000 to donate to the Mayo Clinic Hospital System.



Upcoming/Past Alumni Events

December 24, 2021 - Alumni Game (photo below)



July 15, 2022 - Gene Sack Memorial Golf Tournament

Alumni Spotlight



This month's Alumni Spotlight shines on Rocket Hockey Alumni and former Assistant Coach Chris Ratzloff **(1988)**. He spent 7 seasons as an Assistant Coach for the Rockets from 2011-2017.

Ratty is now the Head Coach/GM of the Rochester Grizzlies (NA3HL) Junior Hockey Team. He also does Real Estate Services in town.

After his time at JM he went on to play in the USHL for Rochester and Des Moines. Also, Ratty was a member of the 1994 River Falls NCAA D3 National Championship Team!



Where Are They Now?

Rocket Hockey '88 Graduate **Pat Ferschweiler** took over as the head coach for the Western Michigan University Men's Hockey program. Coach has the team playing great with the #3 pairwise ranking and a 17-6-0 Record.. [Pat Ferschweiler Stats](#) . What a playing career - and some great Interviews to be found with coach as well. - Keep up the great season Pat!



Rocket Firsts

Tradition states we always celebrate milestones for the players. We have some new additions for January. Enjoy the photos!



Left: First Varsity Goals (Greiner, Terpstra) **Middle:** First Goal (Hegrenes) **Right:** First Varsity Shutout (Vlasaty)

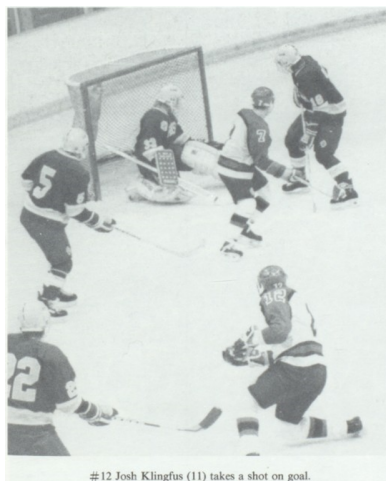
Rocket History Books

And boom we are in the 90's! The Rockets had some dominant teams in the 90's topping it off with a group that made the State Tourney in '96.

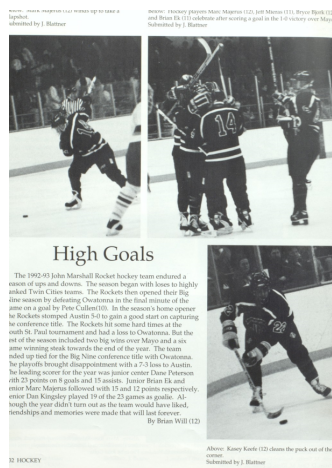
On the team are two future D1 Captains that would face off against each other in the NCAA tournament their senior seasons. Aaron Gill (Notre Dame '04) who would come back and be an Assistant coach at JM, and Reed Whiting (Ohio State '04) who would go on to compete in Red Bull Crashed Ice.

Who can forget BJ Abel who went on to star and lead Mankato State in scoring in '01 with 32 pts followed by 4 seasons of professional hockey making it to the AHL.

Other players from this era to play college hockey include: Billy O'Reilly who played for the Air Force Academy ('01), Jim Smith for Amherst College ('01) which included a season of pro hockey in France. Lastly, Matt Hengge played for St. Mary's ('01), and Steve Rettke played for Williams College.



#12 Josh Klingfus (11) takes a shot on goal.



High Goals

The 1992-93 John Marshall Rocket hockey team endured a season of ups and downs. The season began with losses to highly ranked Twin Cities teams. The Rockets then opened their Big Ten season by defeating Owatonna in the final minutes of the game on a goal by Pete Collette. In the season's home opener to Rockets dropped Austin, 5-1 to gain a good start on capturing the conference title. The Rockets hit some hard times at the south St. Paul tournament and had a loss to Owatonna. But the rest of the season included two big wins over Mayo and a six game winning streak towards the end of the year. The team ended up tied for the Big Nine conference title with Owatonna, but playoffs brought disappointment with a 7-1 loss to Austin, the leading scorer for the year was junior center Dave Peterson with 23 points on 8 goals and 15 assists. Junior Brian De and senior Marc Magnus followed with 15 and 12 points respectively, senior Dan Klingfus played 19 of the 27 games as goalie. Although the year didn't turn out as the team would have liked, friendships and memories were made that will last forever.

By Brian Will (12)



Above: Kasey Korte (12) clears the puck out of the zone. Submitted by J. Blatter

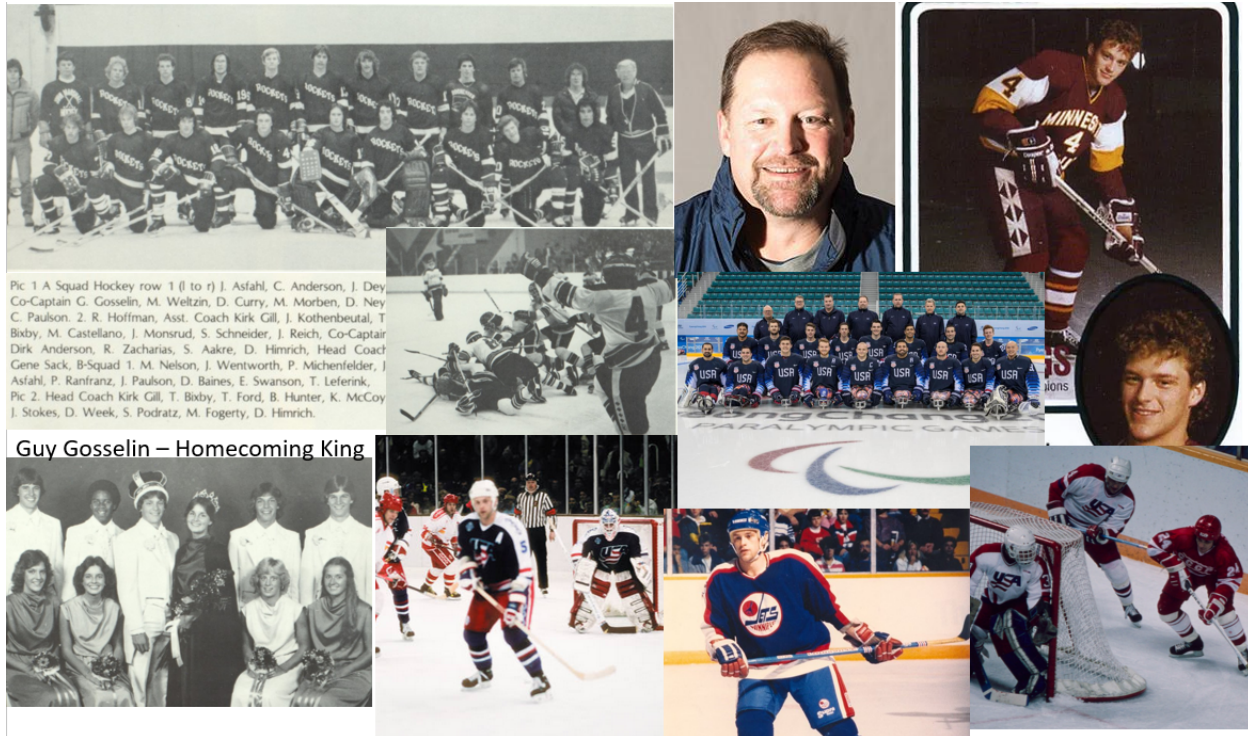
Far Left - Future Bemidji State Beaver and Century HS coach Josh Klingfus



▲ Freshman goaltender Derrick Link makes a save against Owatonna. Link stepped in as the starting goalie late in the season. He did well enough to earn KAAL TV 6 Prep Athlete of the Week honors. Photo by Vincent Musak

Are you ready for the Olympics? Lets GO!

A Conversation with JM's Very Own Olympian Guy Gosselin



By Peter Moehnke 2/1/2022

I was able to chat with Rocket Hockey's multi time Olympian, Guy Gosselin '82. This was an absolute blast for me, and I hope I'm able to do our conversation justice in this writing. Honestly it sounded like a couple of guys talking puck in the warming house – you could just hear the grin on Guy's face when he talked about his life in hockey.

What is Guy's favorite playing memory?

"Getting to the rink Saturday morning at Cook Park after they put water down the night before. I would be the first person at the rink and jump on the fresh ice and wheel around before the warming house guy got there. I would play all day, walk home, and your toes are frozen and they hurt, and you might even cry a little bit, but you would always go back the next day. Playing free, shiny hockey – unstructured play is where it's at."

Guy was part of the famed 1977 Rochester Peewee championship team, as it turned out there was another group of Rockets that had success in 1977. As Guy put it, he was obsessed about the High School team, he can still tell you about how guys taped their sticks, how Ironman Nelson had neon green on the bottom of his skates and how cool the candy apple red helmets were. So, what a treat it was for the '77 Peewee's to be invited to a banquet with the State Champion '77 Rockets, "that was a huge motivator for me." A few years down the line (2012) Guy was inducted into the Rochester Quarterback's Club Hall of Fame, joining his childhood hockey heroes of Scott Lecy, Todd Lecy, Bruce Aikens, Jim Scheid and Coach Gene Sack. Guy was proudly sporting his pin from the '77 state championship that night.

What was Guy Gosselin like during his time at John Marshall?

“If someone profiled me at 12, I might not have made the high school team. I was 150 pounds as a sophomore, by senior year I was 185, we spent a lot of time in the weight room.” I asked Guy’s teammate Charlie (Chuck) Paulson for some thoughts as well, “Guy must have put on 2 to 3 times strength during high school. He had a very hard shot and when the opposing team came up the ice with the puck, they never wanted to come up Guy’s side of the ice.”

What was it like pulling on the USA sweater for the first time and representing our country?

“Putting it on was a big deal. I loved watching the Olympics as a kid with my parents. I didn’t know if I wanted to be a bobsledder, downhill skier or a hockey player, it was just so exciting. It was a huge honor for me, as a player. I didn’t plan on getting into coaching, it just kind of happened. I was more of a player development guy, I really enjoy working with players to see where they can be in 5 years. I have been a part of and have coached 15,16, 17-year-old teams at the Junior Olympics and Ivan Hlinka Tournament, along with the sled team. Anytime you’re involved in representing your country it gives you chills, it is hard to explain. It is a different feeling when you’re a coach vs a player to see them succeed. Being a part of something that is a lot bigger than you. You get giddy when you reflect on it.”

Guy’s hockey roots run deep and we went off on a few tangents, so here are a couple I pulled for you.

How funny is it that he kept bumping into Rochester guys along the way, he was able to play with a few Rochester guys in Pro and in the Olympics, Scott Schneider (JM ‘83) in Moncton and Jimmy Johannson (Mayo ‘82) in the Olympics. While the competition was always there, the “hatred” for Mayo eventually faded away.

Guy has a passion for the game that keeps him coming back for more!

Guy talked about how he would come back to Rochester and skate in Keith Dickman’s Sunday skate whenever he swung back into town; today there are two skates on Sunday night that originated from that group. When Guy moved to Wisconsin he started up his own skate called the Bald Eagle’s.

Another great memory he shared with me was that he was in the building the night Shjon Podien raised the cup, “of course Pode’s is my favorite player, he might have even gotten me the tickets, but it was so cool to see Ray Bourque raise the cup that night too.”

A few great quotes from Guy.

“Hockey is not just about going to the final four or the Olympics. It’s about working with great humans, and helping to develop someone, first as a human, second as an athlete and third as a player.”

“Be humble, thankful and happy for anything you get – be grateful for your teammates.”

Guy – Thank you for your time and sharing your passion and experiences. We all hope that the outdoor rink your wife scouted out for you last night was in pristine condition, just like Cook Park on a Saturday morning, and that you were able to enjoy an evening wheeling around the ice!

Guy Gosselin's Hockey biography.

Guy Gosselin is an '82 JM grad who earned All-State Honorable Mention in his Sr season, He was drafted in the 8th round in the 1982 entry draft and played defense for the University of Minnesota at Duluth. Guy played 160 games (1982-87) with the Bulldogs' men's ice hockey team and helped lead the program to back-to-back Western Collegiate Hockey Association championships and Frozen Four appearances (1984, 1985). As captain his senior season, he garnered All-WCHA Second Team and team most valuable player honors. Gosselin was inducted into the UMD Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013 and was also voted to the 21-player All-DECC Team in 2010 by his fellow alumni.

He played for the US National team at the 1986, 1990 and 1991 World Championships. He also played for team USA in the 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games (he was an assistant team captain in 1992). Guy was able to crack the line-up with the National Hockey League's Winnipeg Jets (1987-88) and also spent four professional hockey seasons in Moncton (American Hockey League), Kansas City (AHL) and Skelleftea (Sweden) .

Guy Received a B.A. degree in physical education (with a concentration in corporate fitness) from UMD in 1987. Guy has been working as a regional manager of USA Hockey's American Development Model. Guy was the assistant coach with the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team that captured Gold in Sochi Russia at the 2014 Paralympics, and then he took over the head coaching job for the Gold Medal 2018 Paralympic Sled Hockey Team in Pyeongchang, Korea.

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