

THE SECOND 20TH CENTURY NJ HOCKEY REUNION



Hosted by
NEW JERSEY HOCKEY HISTORY
Celebrating the
NEW JERSEY GOLDEN BLADES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Friday, October 17, 2025
The Hanover Manor
East Hanover, New Jersey

\$3.00

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Site of the
2025 NJHH OLD TIMERS GAME

Welcome to the “Second” 20th Century New Jersey Hockey Reunion & New Jersey Golden Blades 50th Anniversary. It’s been a tough road but we accomplished the mission. Enjoy the evening - savor every moment - create new and lasting memories.

REUNION COMMITTEE

Jim Szymanski – Michael Leuzzi – Tom Granelli
Robert Triebe – Tom Levis – Adam Diglio
Glenn Smith – Stephen Ruggerio

EVENT STAFF

Fred Clark – George Wiener – Ed Sullivan
Tom DiLuccio Rick Mullholland

PRESENTATION of COLORS

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Peter Caggiano

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New Jersey Hockey History

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New Jersey Ice Hockey
Historical Archives*





HOME OF THE



New Jersey Golden Blades

The Beginning

by Jim Szymanski

In the Spring of 1975, I was working at Danny Michael's Ice Palace in Florham Park, NJ. My two coworkers, David & Jackie LeClair didn't much care for the graveyard shift, but I loved it. It allowed me to work all night and then work on hockey stuff all day. Sleep is overrated. I functioned on a few hours a day... sometimes. The night shift gave me the opportunity to change the Zamboni blade (myself – I still have all ten fingers), do a multi-pass edging and scraping along the boards to keep the ice level or scrub the boards and glass with that toluene/xylene aerosol that would leave me with a good buzz for several hours. I always left a few hours for myself though for a good skate and lots of shots on an empty net, making sure the ice was ready for the figure skaters by 6:30 am.

I'd hang around at the rink for an hour after my shift ended, before driving over to Ben's Verona Sports in Verona, NJ to start the rest of my day. A toasted corn muffin or "Taylor ham", egg and cheese from Lakeside Deli would get my engine running. I'd hang out at the store most of the day, working the counter if Ben had to run an errand. I'd head home around 3:00 pm to shower and catch a few winks before heading back to the rink for games, practices, meetings, etc., and then back on the clock for another shift.

One particular day in April, Ben wanted me at the store in the morning as soon as I could get there. Ben, his father Roland "Pops" Leuzzi and I piled into his blue Ford station wagon for a drive through the Lincoln Tunnel to Midtown Manhattan. We were on our way to retrieve the, recently defunct, WHA New York Golden Blades equipment. Ben had already made a pre-arranged deal with the team's owner and all that was left was delivering the check and collecting the booty.

I don't recall the exact address, though I do remember the entrance to the building was on a wide avenue, not a narrow street. Of course, there was no parking, so Ben stopped the car in front of the entrance with car horns honking behind and instructed Pops to get behind the wheel. Ben told his

father to keep circling the block, turning right, right, right and right again, looking for us each time he passed the building entrance. Pops mumbled something... shaking his head, but as always obeyed the instructions. Ben and I pulled a half dozen hockey bags we had brought with us out of the car and Pops started his loop. We walked down a long hallway to an elevator that took us to the 8th floor. We had no idea what to expect. In 1975, one couldn't just text or email a photo. All we could do is imagine what was up there.

When the elevator opened, there was a wall of frosted glass with a door across the hall. We entered into the lobby of this plush office suite finding a reception counter in front of us, and off to the right a mound of hockey equipment about five feet tall and six feet across. The room didn't smell good. Anyone who's spent time in a locker room after a game understands. The mound had everything the team owned; jerseys, socks, gloves, pants, shoulder and shin pads, long johns, jock straps, towels, everything! Ben introduced himself and went behind the counter to a back office while I waited. The receptionist asked, "Are you taking that with you today?", and I replied, "I hope so." She sighed in relief, "Thank you so much. It smells terrible." I smiled. Ben came out a couple minutes later with a thumbs up and we started packing the bags with whatever would fit. Then it was down the elevator and out thru the door where we had entered. This was New York City, so we couldn't just leave a pile of equipment, or anything out on the curb. When Pops came around, he stopped and we unloaded the contents of the bags into the back of the station wagon. More horn honking. We needed the bags to shuttle more equipment from that 8th floor office. I recall it took us four trips up and down to retrieve everything. The wagon was packed to the roof with equipment squished in wherever it would fit. Pops squeezed in the front seat with Ben and I for the drive back to Verona.

Back at Verona Sports, Pops opened the basement bulkhead doors and I used his wood planks to slide the equipment bags down the chute. Again, I had to unload the bags on each trip down, making a new mound on the floor in the back part of the basement. Once everything was unloaded, I took a closer look at our bounty. The first sort was pulling jerseys out of the pile to see what was there. Sorts continued for gloves, pants, pads, etc. By early afternoon, Larry Garrigan showed up. He was working at Verona Sports after school that spring and summer. The two of us sorted and inventoried everything that had been collected. There was no time for sleep that day. I was full of energy.

Neither of us knew what was going through Ben's mind. The year prior, he acquired the Jersey Brewers equipment and quickly put it up for sale. The remnants of that organization were scattered throughout New Jersey. We wondered if this new batch of equipment would wind up on the same sales rack. That spring, Ben relinquished his authority as the head honcho for the Cedar Grove Hockey Club, the organization he founded, when the Garden State Grovers, Inc. (soon to be the Garden State Hockey Club) were formed with new leadership and a Board of Directors. For the 1974-75 season, I worked with Ben and the Cedar Grove Bantam "A" team. Several boys from Cedar Grove and Livingston Hockey Club were graduating from the Bantam ranks, and Ben was eager to find a place for them to play. I don't recall who brought it up first, but sometime that Spring the idea of a Golden Blades Midget team was born.

Once it was decided, Ben was committed 100%. Maurice Strickland drew up the paperwork for the New Jersey Golden Blades, Inc. At age nineteen, I was appointed Vice-President of a corporation. Ben opened a bank account across the street and we were on our way. It was a very exciting time for me and for Larry, who hoped to become a member of this elite Midget "AA" team. I worked as an Equipment Trainer for a team in the Southern Hockey League (Fayetteville Arsenal/Hampton Gulls) for a couple months the year prior, and was eager to pursue that as a career path. I envied Bob Sarnas, a friend from Ironbound who got the gig as Equipment Trainer for the NY Golden Blades/NY Raiders. I hoped for the same opportunity. Each week I checked The Hockey News "Help Wanted" section, mailing out a few letters in response to ads. I thought working with the Golden Blades would be good practice for my future trainer life somewhere.

Over the Spring and Summer, Ben was busy activating a dormant franchise in the Atlantic Hockey League while I got to work on most everything else. I acquired the two trunks we'd use to transport the teams equipment to and from games, adding reinforced casters making it easy to roll them around. I accumulated a mailing list of more than a hundred eligible players from rosters, programs, or wherever I could find a name and address. I created tryout forms, player contracts, a multi-part medical history form, bumper stickers, game tickets for our paid gate and a souvenir program. I created all the artwork myself using skills I'd acquired over several years, and friend John Beaumont at Minuteman Press in Caldwell brought it all to life. I also upped my trainer skills, reading every book I could find, and purchasing most everything in the Cramer Trainer Products catalog, including a

few cases of Quick-Kick, their new powdered energy drink. We were on our way for the start of a very memorable first season.

Meanwhile, that summer the Garden State Hockey Club was busy putting their new season together. They appointed Jackie LeClair Jr. as the Bantam "A" coach, and selected Jack Sr. as the PeeWee "A" coach. But Jack had one condition. He would only coach if I joined him on the bench as his trainer. I worked for Jack at his Ocean Hockey School in the summers of 1973 and 1974. And again that summer at his Danny Michael's Hockey School. Jack had become one of my many good mentors and I had the upmost respect for him. He knew how well I worked with that age group and knew I could handle everything except the on ice instruction he'd provide. Jack loved all his little "rejects", as he affectionally referred to them. Though, he was a busy guy wearing several hats and didn't have the patience for whimpering kids or inquisitive parents. I had my hands full with the Golden Blades, but it was Jack. And I did like working with kids that age. They're sponges with soft clay. Easy to feed them information and mold them. I accepted the job. It was going to be a busy season for me.

The Golden Blades Midget "AA" tryouts started in early September and things got moving. With all the preparation, everything went near perfect. Garden State tryouts got underway the same week and I was at Danny Michael's for our first PeeWee tryout. When I walked into the locker room for a first look, there were a few familiar faces: Randy McAdam, Mark Timmons, Marty Williams, Mark Duva - kids I'd met when they'd come to Verona Sports for skate sharpening or equipment. There were several unfamiliar faces in the room as well. One youngster was outspoken and never stopped chattering. He controlled all the conversation as the boys prepared to hit the ice. The youngster went on about how he was a NJ Rocket and was only there because Danny Michael's was close to home and his mom thought it would be good practice for him. When the boys hit the ice I had a chat with Bill Williams. He gave me some background info on the eleven year old outspoken youngster, who appeared to be a pretty good skater. Bill told me the boy's father died two years prior and he lived with six siblings and his mom in Chatham Township. Bill, who also lived in Chatham Township was friends with the family, and as his son Marty was going to be playing with the PeeWees, the mom thought it would be convenient for her son to play on the same team. As Bill was already working on grooming his younger son David, who would become the first New Jersey born and raised kid to play in the NHL, he asked if I'd be available to provide rides for Marty and this youngster from time to time. Seeing this kid's ability on the ice and being me I said, "Of course. No problem."

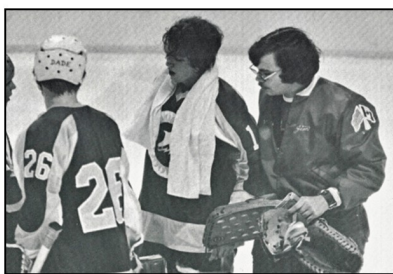
What started out that first week as a ride or two, quickly turned into a routine. In less than two weeks, I was transporting both boys to and from practices and early season games. It wasn't a bother for me. I enjoyed the conversation, at least from the kid in the front seat who never stopped talking. Marty sat in the backseat and was a more subdued kind of kid. It was after an early season Friday night game at Danny Michael's, October 17, 1975 - exactly fifty years ago today. This youngster, two other boys and I were walking toward my car in the parking lot behind the rink. As we walked past the Zamboni door, the conversation changed to days and dates, talking about the upcoming schedule. This chatty youngster paused and asked, "What day is it?" I replied, "It's October 17th." He got noticeably quiet for the last 100 foot walk to my Monte Carlo. As we approached the car, he started sobbing... uncontrollably. I instructed the other two boys to go for a walk around the parking lot to give this kid some space. I pulled the youngsters equipment bag off his shoulder, and pulled him close to my chest, gently rubbing his back and telling him to just let it flow. Something I remember my Godmother telling me in 1969 when I was thirteen, lying on my bed after my older brother's funeral. The sobbing went on for a good five minutes. Sadly, it wouldn't be the last time a spontaneous outburst occurred with this boy who was hurting inside. After regaining his composure, he got in the car and didn't say another word for the short trip home. It would be decades later before I discovered his dad passed away on October 18th, 1973. I suspect the day prior was the last time the youngster had seen his father. On that night, in that parking lot, I became a surrogate dad, a substitute. Anyone who's a dad understands what that means. My life, my aspirations, would all have to be put on hold while I tended to this youngsters every need. I took this responsibility very seriously. He quickly became the center of my universe. There wasn't anything I wouldn't do for him. All he had to do was ask. As a nineteen year old, I had to quickly learn how to be a parent. Fortunately, I had a long list of good mentors - parents themselves, who provided answers and guidance. It was the start of the four best years of my life.

I explained the situation to Ben. Having become a new dad himself a couple years prior, he understood. Before long, I was spending three and sometimes four days a week with this boy, spreading myself thin to get everything accomplished each day. I somehow found a way to manage. Ben went out of his way to schedule the Golden Blades and my PeeWees in back-to-back games on the road, so I'd always be in the right place. The PeeWee team even traveled to some road games on the Golden Blades team bus. This youngster was at almost every Golden Blades home and

road game that first season, helping me setup the locker room before the games and on the bench at the far door during the games. I got him his own little Golden Blades jacket, long before Michael got his. His favorite player was Ralph Bove - a center like himself, for his tenacious play. It was an amazing year from multiple perspectives. That first Golden Blades season is one that will be remembered forever. Damn near perfect.

By the second season, the Golden Blades had grown to three teams; Junior "B", Midget "AA" and Midget "A". Meanwhile, I was spending more and more time with this youngster - hockey games and practices, school projects, lunches & dinners, special events, or hanging out at my new Hockey North Service Bureau offices above Ben's store. I tried to make it to every Golden Blades game at multiple levels, but scheduling made it near impossible. By the end of that second season, I reluctantly ended my active tenure with the Golden Blades, though I was always there when Ben needed something. Apologies to all those future Golden Blades who didn't benefit from Jim's added input. Please understand, I was presented with a higher calling I couldn't refuse. I had no choice.

It was certainly a "Golden" time to be around New Jersey amateur hockey. Thank you all for the memories. I'll never forget.



SUBMISSIONS



Do you have New Jersey ice hockey artifacts; photos, jerseys, jackets, programs, stuff tucked away in your attic, basement or closet? Please consider submitting your artifacts for all to see and share. There's no telling how your simple act of kindness may impact another's life.

NJHH derives no financial benefit from hosting our website. We do it solely for the benefit of you and others, giving all a glimpse into New Jersey's amateur hockey past. Scan the QR Code or visit our site at: www.njhockeyhsitory.com/submissions to learn more about sharing your stuff with others.



NJHH STORE



Visit the NJHH Store for Old Timer, NJ Hockey Rocks!, Reunion, GB Anniversary and Yesteryear merchandise. Polos, caps, magnets, stickers, pins, pucks and more are all available for purchase.

Scan the QR Code below and start shopping!





1975-76 NEW JERSEY GOLDEN BLADES MIDGET "AA"

INAUGURAL SEASON

*Aloha to all my
New Jersey Golden Blades
Teammates
Wish I could be there with you*

GLENN PHILHOWER
NJ Golden Blades - 1975



ATTENDEES

Albrecht, Kevin
 Breslin, Michael
 Caggiano, Peter
 Clouse, Richard
 Cohen, Harvey
 Cronauer, Bruce
 Delouise, Rory
 DelTufo, Anthony
 Egan, Jim
 Fassett, Nancy
 Fassett, Wayne
 Gehringer, Ray
 Granelli, Tom
 Gritschke, Dave
 Herkalo, Richard
 Hicks, John
 Jordan, Kevin
 Kassar, Greg
 McInnis, Paul
 McInnis, Carol
 Mullin, Doug
 Mullin, Tim
 Mullin, Jr. , Tim
 Ozga, Marc
 Strickland, Mark

Szymanski, Jim
 Timmons, Mark
 Thomas, Adrien
 Thomas, Lisa
 Warren, Don
 Zeevalk, John
 Diglio, Adam
 Oswald, John
 Levis, Tom
 Pellegrino, Patrick
 Aiello, Dave
 Carter, Ryan
 Hefferan, Glenn
 Measday, Jim
 Felber, Brian
 Ragusa Jr., Gary
 Lonsinger, Bryan
 Gannon, Peter
 Ohlweiler, Chris
 Smith, Alan
 Smith, Glenn
 Ruggerio, Stephen
 Triebe, Robert
 Caball, Curtis
 Janifer, Mark

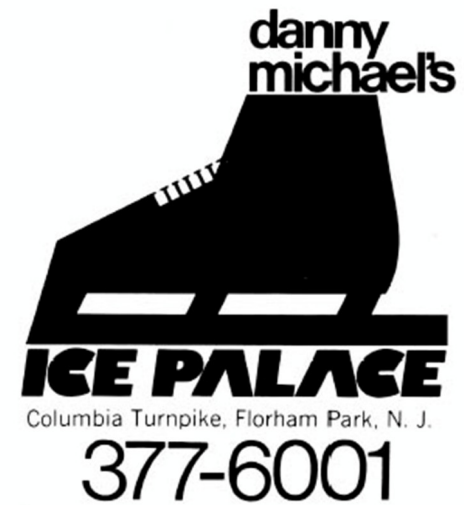
ATTENDEES

Lanigan, Peter
 Prestinari, Chuck
 Veilluex, Andre
 Crooker, Richard
 Crooker, Brian
 Prestinari, Bobby
 Strickland, Randy
 Feely, Brian
 Lally, Jack
 Hoerner, Ken
 Murillo, Jayden
 Murillo, Isabela
 Amendano, Sonia
 Ruppe, Dennis
 Ruppe Jr., Dennis
 Carman, Pamela
 Portela. Lorenzo
 Portela, Bernardo
 Molinari. Allane
 Villavert, David
 Villavert, Dylan
 Conde. Hayden
 Conde, Red
 Rossi, Joe
 Jackson, Shawn

Jackson, Shawheen
 Thomas, Janie
 Perez, Lily
 Perez, Gabriel
Vilchez-Loran, Luz
 Guerra, Jay
 Ondevilla, Scott
 Alexandre, Sofia
 Williams, David
 Williams, Robin
 Camacho. Gabriel
 Carnaval, Ryan
 Carnaval, Rayane
 Bennion, Justin
 Hofmann, Tera
 Morse, Rebecca
 Velez, Jordan
 Velez, Jabriel
 Velez, Alyssa
 Mullholland, Rick
 Sullivan, Ed
 DiLuccio, Tom
 Antonucci, Al



**1211 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08755
732-244-0720**



SUMMER LEAGUE- 1975 -DANNY MICHAEL'S ICE PALACE

First time the Golden Blades uniforms were worn by youth hockey players.

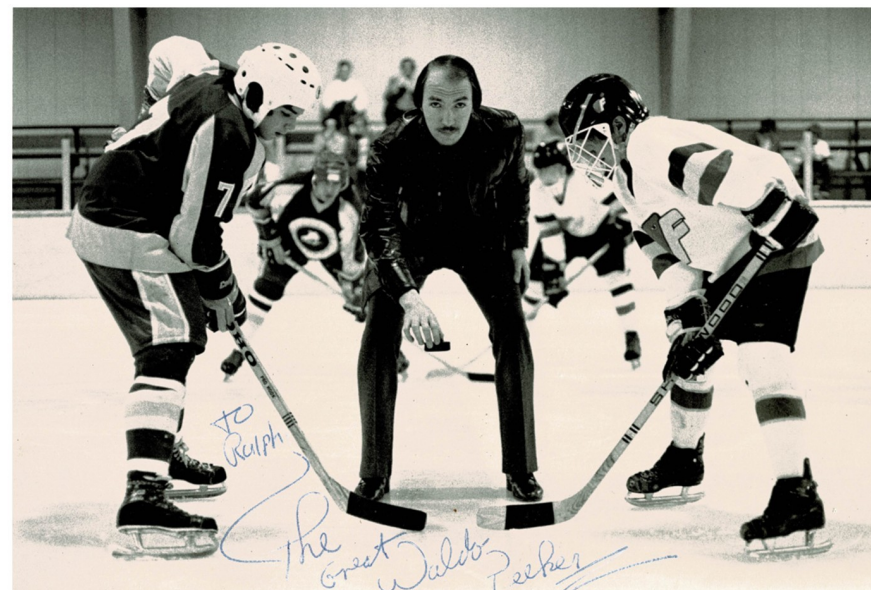
*To everyone attending tonight's
Reunion... a debt of gratitude.
It couldn't have happened without your
commitment and participation.*

*A heartfelt thank you
to every New Jersey hockey player,
parent, coach, trainer, official and
volunteer who has come and gone;
and to those who continue to carry the
torch today, fostering participation
in the Greatest Game on Earth!*

Jim Szymanski

No, I won't be at
the Reunion...
again.

ARIN KRICH
aka AnovelIdea
aka Bright Suit Guy



1975 – The First New Jersey Golden Blades Puck Drop
Walt MacPeck – Newark Star-Ledger,
with Captain Ralph Bove and an unidentified Philadelphia Firebird.



1978-79 NEW JERSEY GOLDEN BLADES MIDGET "AA"

Lining up for the National Anthem at Branch Brook Ice Center



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New Jersey Amateur Hockey Who's Who

The following pages include profiles of many who have become a part of the New Jersey Amateur Hockey Who's Who. Isn't it time to add your name to the growing list? It's not hard.

The listing is open to anyone – present and past who participate or participated in New Jersey amateur hockey, including players, coaches, managers, instructors, officials and administrators.

All it takes is a "minimum" \$5.00 donation, which helps to ensure the NJ Hockey History website is around for your children's children to reference and enjoy in years to come.

Scan the QR Code to get started.



GET STARTED

HOW TO CREATE YOUR PROFILE

Your Then
Photo

Your Now
Photo

Name, Your

Birth Year: 1985

Hometown: Verona, NJ

Current: The Villages, FL

Your profile – bullet points or third person paragraph form.
We'll make it look good.



Breslin, Michael

Birth Year: 1965

Hometown: Florham Park, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Wyckoff, NJ

Mike Breslin began his hockey journey in 1974 with his hometown Florham Park Hockey Association Squirts. Ed Balzarotti, one of his first coaches, played softball with Mike's father and thought Mike might like the game. Mike was a hard worker and made quick progress, developing...



Diglio, Adam

Birth Year 1967

Hometown: Whippany, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Morris Plains, NJ

PLAYING CAREER

1979-196 - New Jersey Rockets Tier 1 12U – 18U

- o 12U USA Hockey Nationals Appearance – Bronze Medal winner
- o 18U USA Hockey Nationals Appearance

1980-84 - Morristown-Beard School

- o 4-year Varsity Starter
- o Team Captain - Senior Year
- o 2-Time Conference...



Evanecky, Jack

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Bayonne, NJ

Current: Winter Garden, FL

- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B



Bove, Ralph

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Current: Morristown, NJ

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B
- 1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B



Graboski, Stan

Birth Year: 1961

Hometown: Staten Island, NY / Livingston, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current New York, NY

PLAYING CAREER

1976-77 NJ Golden Blades Midget AA (Mid-Atlantic Champs)

1977-78 NJ Golden Blades Midget AA

1977-78 Livingston High School Varsity

1978-79 Livingston High School Varsity

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-Present, Riverbank Lightning New York, NY (U8, U10, U12)

June 2024 - Present, Hockey Program Instructor, NY...

[Show More](#)



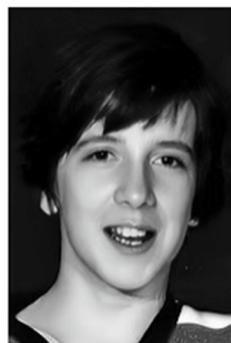
Humphrey, Chip

Birth Year: 1964

Hometown: Short Hills, NJ

Current: Atlanta, GA

- 1976-77 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1977-78 - Garden State Hockey Club Bantam B
- 1978-79 - Garden State Rockets Bantam AA



Gehringer, Ray

Birth Year: 1965

Hometown: Bloomfield, NJ

Current: River Edge

- 1973-74 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Squirt B
- 1974-75 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Squirt A
- 1975-76 - Garden State Hockey Club Squirt A
- 1976-77 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1977-78 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A



Herkalo, Richard

Birth Year: 1961

Hometown: Linden, NJ

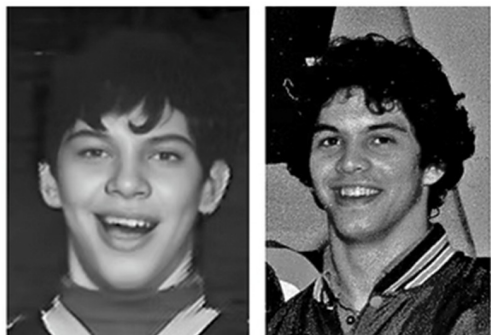
Current: Freehold, NJ

PLAYING CAREER

- 1978-79 - Roselle Catholic High School
- 1979-83 - Florham Park Cobras
- 1984-2006 - New Jersey Senior Rockets

HIGHLIGHTS

Back in 1986, Casio featured its G-Shock watch in a TV commercial. Rich was the goalie. It was shot in Rye, NY at Rye Country Day



Garrigan, Larry

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Died: 2/2/2002

PLAYING CAREER

1974-75 - Livingston Hockey Club Bantam A

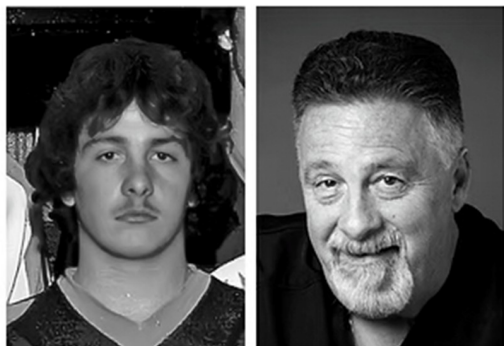
1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA

1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA

1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B

COACHING CAREER

1979-80 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA



Frascino, Sal

Birth Year: 1959

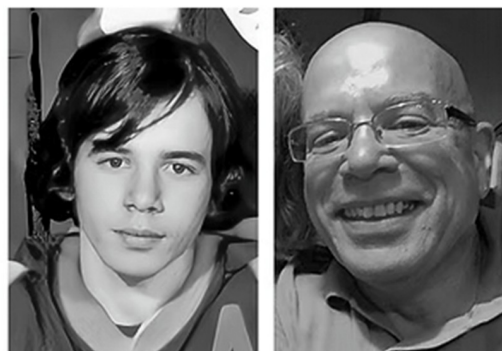
Hometown: Jersey City

Died: 3/5/2025

PLAYING CAREER

1972-73 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Bantams

1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B



Hochberg, Marc

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Current:

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B
- 1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B



Crooker, Richard

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown:

Current: Chester, NJ

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA



Johansson, Lars

Birth Year: 1968

Hometown: Montclair, NJ

Died: 11/15/2007

STRATHAM - Lars Johansson, 39, died on Nov. 15, 2007, peacefully at home with his wife and four children by his side. Mr. Johansson was laid to rest in a private graveside service. He had fought a long and courageous battle with brain cancer.

A resident of Montclair, NJ, Lars started playing hockey at a young age with the Cedar Grove Hockey Club. His youth hockey career continued for more than a decade, culminating as a stand-out defenseman for Montclair High School. He went on to play for the Uni



Keely, Glen

Birth Year: 1972

Hometown: Fanwood, NJ

Current: Keller, TX

- 1984-85 - Cranford Hockey Club PeeWee B
- 1984-85 - New Jersey Olympic Stars PeeWee AA
- 1985-86 - Cranford Hockey Club PeeWee B
- 1985-86 - New Jersey Olympic Stars PeeWee AA
- 1986-87 - NJ Devils Youth Bantam AA
- 1986-87 - Seton Hall Prep (Varsity)



Kassar, Greg

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Kinnelon, NJ

Current: Kinnelon, NJ

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA



LeClair, Jack

Birth Year: 1929

Hometown: St. Foy, Quebec

Died: 7/14/2011

Jack Leclair, 82, passed away June 14, 2011. He was born in Quebec City, Canada on May 30, 1929 to parents John and Alice Leclair. Jack had a good and happy life, most of it centered around ice hockey. He played professionally for the Montreal Canadiens and won a Stanley Cup in 1956. He was always proud of this accomplishment, every Canadian boys dream. Jack was always well respected and loved by his players, both adults and children.



Miller, Dennis

Birth Year: 1961

Hometown: Cedar Grove, NJ

Current: Anna Maria, FL

- 1973-74 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1974-75 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Bantam A
- 1975-76 - Garden State Hockey Club Bantam A
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1978-79 - New Jersey Golden...



Smith, Glenn

Birth Year: 1965

Hometown: Bloomfield, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: West Chester, PA

Glenn started his hockey career at the age of six in a learn to skate program. He played in several local rinks growing up, most notably Branch Brook Arena which became his second home for the next twelve years. He played for Garden State, the NJ Rockets, the Essex County Chiefs, the NJ Golden Blades and Seton Hall Prep. He was well known for his booming slap shot and bone crushing hits. Glenn was a four Varsity letterman (1979-1983) at Seton Hall Prep.

Under the tutelage of Dave Sloan, Joe Hannabach, Norm Kelly and



Press, Jansen (Jan)

Birth Year: 1964

Hometown: Maplewood, NJ

Current: Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche, France

- 1975-76 • Garden State Hockey Club Pee-Wee "B"
- 1976-77 • Garden State Hockey Club Pee-Wee "A"
- 1977-78 • Garden State Hockey Club Bantam "B"
- 1978-79 • New Jersey Rockets Bantam "AA"
- (AHAUS District Champions/Regional Runner-Up)
- 1979-80 • Essex County Chiefs Midget "A"
- 1980-81 • Ess...



Tracy, Brian

Birth Year: 1961

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Current: Boca Raton, FL

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA



Measday, Jim

Birth Year: 1961

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Current: Cary, NC

- 1975-76 - Livingston High School Junior Varsity
- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1976-77 - Livingston High School Varsity
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1977-78 - New Jersey Golden Blades Junior B



Sloan, Dave

Birth Year: 1935

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Died: 10/4/2020

David J. Sloan of Livingston, NJ passed away peacefully on October 4, 2020, at the age of 85. Mr. Sloan was born in Brooklyn, NY and had resided in Livingston, NJ for over 40 years. David was self-employed as the owner of Weathermakers HVAC Co. in Livingston before his retirement. He was well known and loved as an avid hockey and New York Yankee fan and loved playing and coaching hockey for many years. Dave was inducted posthumously into the New Jersey High School Ice Hockey Hall of Fame in 2022.



Pecora, David

Birth Year: 1962

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Cumming, GA

David grew up in Livingston, NJ, attending Livingston High School. He was a member of the 1980 Livingston High School State Championship team.

David currently lives in Cumming, GA with his wife May and children Julia and Nicholas. He's a member of the Atlanta Amateur Hockey Association.



Levis, Tom

Birth Year: 1968

Hometown: Whippany, NJ

Current: Cedar Knolls, NJ

PLAYING CAREER

- 1978-79 - Essex County Chiefs Squirt A
- 1979-80 - Montclair Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1980-82 - Morristown-Bear Middle School
- 1982-84 - Morristown-Bear High School
- 1984-86 - Whippany Park High School
- 1989-90 - County College of Morris Titans

COACHING CAREER



Ohlweiler, Chris

Birth Year: 1964

Hometown: Chatham Township, NJ

Current: Morristown, NJ

PLAYING CAREER

- 1974-75 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Squirt A
- 1975-76 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee B
- 1976-77 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1977-78 - Garden State Hockey Club Bantam B
- 1978-79 - Essex County Chiefs Bantam A
- 1978-82 - Chatham Township...



Richardson, Scott

Birth Year: 1964

Hometown: Cedar Grove, NJ

Died: 6/18/2007

- 1973-74 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Squirt A
- 1974-75 - Cedar Grove Hockey Club Squirt A
- 1975-76 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1976-77 - Garden State Hockey Club PeeWee A
- 1977-78 - Garden State Hockey Club Bantam A
- 1978-79 - Garden State Rockets...



Szymanski, Jim

Birth Year: 1956

Hometown: Newark, NJ / Belleville, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Sanford, FL

Jim grew up in Newark NJ, a few blocks from the Ironbound Recreation Center, though at fourteen his family moved to neighboring Belleville in April 1970 before the complex opened. In September 1971, after school one day he took two busses for the seven-mile trip down to Ironbound to see the new facility. That afternoon Jim was introduced to Bill Kimmelman, the founder and Director of the Ironbound Instructional Ice Hockey League, and that began his eighteen-year journey in New Jersey amateur ice hockey. Jim quickly became Mr. Kimmelman's side kick or helper, attending meetings with him, organizing equipment distribution and managing scoresheets, sched-



Philhower, Glenn

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown:

Current: Kaneohe, HI

- 1975-76 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA
- 1976-77 - New Jersey Golden Blades Midget AA



Walker, Joe

Birth Year 1953

Hometown: Brick, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Topsham, ME

Joe started skating on local ponds when he was four years old and played organized hockey at the age of nine at the Ocean Ice Palace in Brick, NJ. He played youth hockey there through the 60's. In eighth grade, Joe, along with Jay Andrews and Larry Clayton were invited by high school coach Bob Auriemma to practice with the Brick High Varsity.



Hansen, David

Birth Year: 1972

Hometown: Chatham Township, NJ

Died: 3/4/2025

PLAYING CAREER

1984-85 - Morristown Colonials PeeWee A

1984-85 - Olympic Stars PeeWee AA

1985-86 - Morristown Colonials PeeWee A

1985-86 - Olympic Stars PeeWee AA

David Hansen passed away on March 4, 2025. He's survived by his loving wife, Bridget, children Abby, Brody, Cameron, and Lexi, and an extended family.



Triebe, Bob

Birth Year: 1960

Hometown: Jersey City, NJ

Contact Info Available

Current: Lake Hiawatha, NJ

While playing for Saint Peter's Prep, Bob met HOF Inductee, John Warchol who encouraged him to consider officiating. This inspiration led to forty plus years of leadership and officiating in the High School, Amateur and Collegiate Hockey community in New Jersey. Bob has been a USA Hockey official, evaluator and seminar instructor for over thirty years. Bob's officiating resume includes a USA Olympic Festival, ECAC Division-I, seven USA Hockey National



Warchol, John

Birth Year: 1934

Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Died: 2/17/2022

John J. Warchol, 87, of Livingston NJ, passed away on Thursday the 17th of February 2022, peacefully at home which was always his wish. Born in New York City to the late John and Mabel Warchol, he resided in Livingston for most of his life. He was the beloved father of his three children, John, Wendy and Laurie and was a retired life-long employee and engineer with Essex County NJ while also serving in the National Guard.



Leuzzi, Michael

Birth Year: 1973

Hometown: Verona, NJ

Current: Puyallap, WA

- 1983-84 - Essex County Chiefs Squirt A
- 1989-90 - New Jersey Colonials Midget AA



Leuzzi, Ben

Birth Year: 1939

Hometown: North Caldwell, NJ

Died: 3/2/2021

Roland Benjamin Leuzzi, of Verona, New Jersey, lovingly known as “Ben”, made the corner of Bloomfield and Lakeside Avenues in Verona the center of North Jersey’s Hockey World for five decades. Ben passed away on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at the age of 81. Ben loved hockey and the community and was loved by all whose lives he touched!



**On this 50th Anniversary of the
New Jersey Golden Blades
& Verona Sports Center,
on behalf of my Dad, Ben Leuzzi,
thank you for the great memories!**

– Mike



**Home of the
New Jersey Golden Blades**



BEN LEUZZI



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