

## NEW COACH!

If you have not heard by now, Scott Balboni is the new coach of the Icers.

Let's review..... Joe Battista ("JoeBa") was the coach of the team for the last 19 years and involved with Icers Hockey for the past quarter-century. Joe moved on in late March to his new position as Executive Director of the Nittany Lion Club, which is in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. During his coaching career Joe compiled a record of 512-120-27, 500+ games, six ACHA national championships (1990, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003), and was also the ACHA national runner up six times as well. This was announced in late March and Joe took over the new job on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Over the break a search was conducted for the new coach and Scott was announced as the new coach (the 11<sup>th</sup> Icers coach) on June 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition Scott will have marketing responsibilities as the Program/Marketing Coordinator of Ice sports and the Penn State Ice Pavilion. He was an Icers assistant from 1997-1999 & 2002-2006, including being part of three of the Icers' ACHA National Championship teams. Prior to the Icers, Scott playing high school hockey at St. John's Prep School (Danvers, MA) and played NCAA Division I hockey at Providence College from 1992-1996.

The change was also featured in the June 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Daily Collegian.

## Icers stay in house for new coach

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Perhaps the only way to even come close to replacing former Penn State ACHA Division I Icers head coach Joe Battista would be to find someone who could elevate the seven-time national champions back to the top spot — and maybe more importantly, expand and uphold the program.

A committee made up of administrators, important personnel and current players decided that longtime assistant coach Scott Balboni would be the best coach to achieve that.

Balboni replaced former head coach Battista, who stepped down from the national runner-up Icers in April to become the executive director of the Nittany Lion Club.

Along with his familiarity with the Icers, and his outstanding coaching abilities, Balboni's business and marketing expertise was what made him the clear choice for the job, coordinator of team sports Meg Handley said at a June press conference to announce the hiring. Battista, who was not on the committee, but will remain involved with the Icers, echoed the committee's sentiment. "What differentiated Scott from the other candidates was his knowledge



Dan Peck/Collegian

New Icers head coach Scott Balboni takes the reins for the 2006-2007 season after the departure of longtime coach Joe Battista. Balboni had the right mix of community and business ties, along with coaching experience for the job of the area, the business contacts that he already had," Battista said. "Half of his job is to market the ice rink, and then part of the Icers job is you're a full-time fundraiser — people need to realize it's not just about coaching." A successful area businessman, Serving as an Icers assistant coach

from 1997-1999 and then a volunteer assistant since 2000, Balboni is well versed in how the program is run. As a former defenseman for Div I Providence College, and with a brief pro career, he "has been in the most competitive environment," Battista said.

While Balboni has served as an assistant to Battista for years, one should not expect him to just carry out the status quo as far as coaching style is concerned.

"I'm a very aggressive coach, and I'm a very strict coach. And whatever systems we decide to play, you'll see those are very aggressive systems," Balboni said. "I don't tend to be very passive and sit back and wait for other teams."

"We're really putting a lot of emphasis on players doing their job and not losing their job and not being a free-flowing team but being a very strict, system-oriented team."

Being a system-oriented coach and a "strict disciplinarian," as Battista called him, Balboni still has the utmost respect from the Icers' players.

That respect earned Balboni a great endorsement from the two players who were on the committee, Battista said.

See BALBONI, Page 8.

## SUMMER MERCHANDISE SALES

The Icers Booster Club held merchandise sales Sundays and Fridays at six hockey camps that were held over the summer. Merchandise sales at these camps were up around 12% compared with sales done at camps the previous summer, including much more sales on the Sunday dates. Total sales this year were over 20 thousand dollars, up from 18 thousand last year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with these sales.

## ROAST/ICER OPEN WEEKEND

The third weekend of August had not just one but two Icers related activities. On August 19<sup>th</sup> a roast for Joe Battista was held locally at Celebration Hall.

The next day the annual Icer Open golf tournament was held at the Penn State Blue Course. The golf outing had a great turnout. There were also on course fundraisers and a kicker's raffle after the game. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers, participants, sponsors, and club members who made this tournament a success again.

## **SILENT AUCTION**

The silent auction will be held at the Toftrees Resort & Conference Center (Ballroom A/B) in State College. The auction will be November 4<sup>th</sup> and starts at 7:30 pm. Note new location! Tickets are \$20 each and are available by contacting Booster Club President Maxine Schollenberger.

We are still looking for auction items. If you have any items to donate for auction please contact Maxine. Items should be turned in no later than October 21<sup>st</sup>. Items donated do not have to be sports or hockey related. Silent Auction and Raffle Items will include: Package of 4, 50 yard line tickets to Steelers Game on December 4<sup>th</sup>; Package for 4 to a Pittsburgh Penguins Game; Dinner for 4 at the Igloo Club in Pittsburgh; PSU Autographed Sports Memorabilia; Restaurant Gift Certificates, plus much more.

## **ICERS MERCHANDISE**

Icers merchandise will be available again at home games. Merchandise is also available thru mail order. Some new items have been added to the merchandise lineup and more information can be found at <http://www.icersboosterclub.org/merchandise.htm>. The web page is updated frequently and includes links for getting an order form and catalog to print out.

Volunteers are also needed for working the merchandise table at home games. Interested volunteers can sign up at the merchandise table.

## **2006-2007 SEASON INFORMATION**

A copy of the new team roster and 2006-2007 schedule are included on the last two pages of this newsletter.

Note there are a number of date changes for games that have traditionally been held the same weekends each year. This year's schedule features another trip to the ACHA Showcase in late October.

This year's team features only two returning seniors, a junior transfer, five returning juniors, thirteen returning sophomores, three new sophomores, and four new freshmen. Out of the team there are eight new players. Forward Mike McMullen and Goaltender Chris Matteo will be back as seniors for their final Icers season.

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

Here are some other events to write down on your calendar!

January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 -

Alumni Weekend 2007 will be held this weekend during the home games with Duquesne.

The Alumni Banquet will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 2pm.

Note: If you are a former Icers player who needs to update your alumni information, please contact the Hockey Office at 814-863-2037. We would love to hear from you.

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 -

The next awards banquet is planned for this day from 11:30am – 4pm at the Ramada Inn.

## **WEB SITES**

As a final note, please remember the web sites for the Icers is located at <http://www.pennstatehockey.com> and the booster club site is as <http://www.icersboosterclub.org>. Both sites feature a wide amount of updated information, forms, and other useful stuff. Meeting dates and times for the booster club meetings are also posted on the booster club site.

# 2006 – 2007 ICERS ROSTER

#	FIRST	L NAME	YR	HT	WT	P	SH	HOMETOWN	MAJOR
16	Frank	Berry	SO	6'1"	190	F	R	Allentown, PA	Finance
24	Craig	Brooks	SO	5'10"	160	D	R	Douglas, MA	DUS
6	John	Conte	FR	6'1"	195	D	L	Mahwah, NJ	DUS
25	Scott	Dakan	SO	6'1"	175	D	L	Murrysville, PA	International Politics
9	Lukas	DeLorenzo	SO	5'11"	185	F	R	Export, PA	Kinesiology
23	Mike	Diethorn	SO	5'9"	173	F	R	Bethel Park, PA	Graphic Design
11	Dave	Herel	FR	6'1"	208	F	R	Vestal, NY	DUS - Finance
3	Keith	Jordan	JR	6'	195	D	L	State College, PA	Comp. Sci. Eng.
17	Matt	Kirstein	FR	6'1"	192	F	L	Dublin, OH	DUS
15	Sean	Kenney	JR	6'	203	F	R	Greensburg, PA	Ag Systems Management
28	Chris	Lepore	FR	5'11"	188	D	R	Succasunna, NJ	Business Administration
20	Jason	Lorenz	JR	6'2"	200	F	L	Pittsburgh, PA	Mech. Engineering
2	Andrew	Magulick	SO	6'2"	225	D	R	State College, PA	DUS
12	Steve	Marchi	SO	5'7"	168	F	R	Monroeville, PA	Finance
35	Chris	Matteo	SR	5'8"	170	G	L	Ringwood, NJ	Economics
27	Michael	McMullen	SR	6'1"	205	F	R	Chester Springs, PA	Economics
4	Kyle	Mills	SO	6'0"	185	D	R	Trumbull, CT	DUS-Economics
1	Aaron	Myers	SO	6'2"	182	G	L	State College, PA	DUS-Psychology
10	Nate	Obringer	JR	5'9"	180	F	L	Pittsburgh, PA	Mechanical Engineering
7	Mark	Orlando	SO	6'1"	175	F	R	Havertown, PA	Mechanical Engineering
21	Steve	Peck	SO	6'2"	200	F	L	New Hartford, NY	DUS
19	Brandon	Rubeo	SO	5'8"	170	F	R	McMurray, PA	DUS
8	Matt	Schwartz	JR	5'11"	195	F	R	Venetia, PA	Economics
33	Nick	Signet	SO	6'1"	195	G	L	Sewickley, PA	Advertising
13	Steve	Thurston	SO	6'3"	200	D	L	Wallingford, CT	DUS-Business
22	Brent	Tranter	SO	6'0"	185	D	R	Cranberry Twp, PA	Marketing
14	Jaime	Zimmel	SO	5'9"	188	F	R	Lincroft, NJ	DUS - Pre Medicine
18	Paul	Zodtner	JR	5'11"	185	F	R	Wayne, PA	Business-Supply Chain & Info Systems



www.pennstatehockey.com



www.icersboosterclub.org

### 2006-2007 ICERS SCHEDULE

ACHA National Champions 2003, 2002 2001, 2000 1998, 1990 1984	Sept.	29	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	Blue/White Game	
	Oct.	7	Sat.	A	6:00 p.m.	Washington & Jefferson	
		8	Sun.	A	4:00 p.m.	Robert Morris University (PA) (NCAA Div. 1)	
		13	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	SCRANTON	
		15	Sun.	H	12:00 p.m.	NAVY	
	National Runner-up 2006, 2005 2004, 1999 1995, 1993 1985, 1983	20	Fri.	A	3:00 p.m.	(Oklahoma)	ACHA Showcase
		21	Sat.	A	12:00 p.m.	(Weber State)	Youngstown, OH
		22	Sun.	A	3:00 p.m.	(Minot State)	
		27	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	OHIO UNIVERSITY	
		28	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	OHIO UNIVERSITY	
	Nov.	3	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	
		4	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	DREXEL (Parent/Player Brunch & Auction Night)	
	National Final Four 1997, 1996 1992, 1991 1988, 1986 1982	10	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY	
11		Sat.	A	8:00 p.m.	Duquesne (Ice Castle @ Pittsburgh)		
12		Sun.	A	4:00 p.m.	West Virginia University		
17		Fri.	A	7:30 p.m.	RHODE ISLAND		
Dec.	1	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	DELAWARE		
	2	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	DELAWARE		
ACHL Champions 1994, 1993	8	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	ST. CLAIR COLLEGE		
	9	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	ST. CLAIR COLLEGE		
ICHL Champions 1992, 1989	15	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	NIAGARA UNIVERSITY		
	Jan. 10	Wed.	A	7:45 p.m.	West Chester University		
MACHC Playoff Champions 1980, 1979	12	Fri.	A	4:30 p.m.	Scranton		
	13	Sat.	A	5:00 p.m.	Delaware		
	19	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	PITT		
	20	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	PITT		
MACHC Regular Season Champions 1977, 1978 1979, 1980	26	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	DUQUESNE (Alumni Weekend)		
	27	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	DUQUESNE (Alumni Weekend)		
Feb.	2	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	RHODE ISLAND		
	3	Sat.	H	3:30 p.m.	RHODE ISLAND		
	9	Fri.	A	7:30 p.m.	Ohio		
	10	Sat.	A	7:30 p.m.	Ohio		
	16	Fri.	A	7:30 p.m.	St. Clair College		
	17	Sat.	A	7:30 p.m.	St. Clair College		
	23	Fri.	H	9:00 p.m.	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND		
March	1-4	TH-SU	A	TBA	ACHA Nationals @ The Ice Zone Youngstown, OH		

