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Cyclone Hockey Announces Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2011

Class features three players, one builder, and the first cheer squad member to be inducted

September 21, 2011 – Ames, Iowa – Cyclone Hockey is proud to announce the Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame class of 2011. The class of five inductees includes two former players, one former player who also went on to become an assistant coach and later an associate coach for Cyclone Hockey, the first former Cyclone Hockey Cheer Squad member to be inducted into the Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame, and an Iowa State graduate who pre-dated Cyclone Hockey and only laced up the skates on rare occasion but who has perhaps made as big of an impact on the game of hockey as anyone in the Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame.

Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame class of 2011

- Kelley Brandt – Player Category
- Don Geiger – Builder Category
- Daniel Gowan – Player Category
- Sherry Sunderman – Cheer Squad Category
- Brian Wierson – Player and Coach Category

The inductees will be honored Hall of Fame/Alumni Weekend Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1.

CYCLONE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE PROFILES

Kelley Brandt (1974 – 1978)

A hard-working, reliable, two-way player during Cyclone Hockey's "Golden Era" in Hilton Coliseum, players like Brandt are the types of player Cyclone Hockey still looks for today.

Brandt came to Cyclone Hockey in 1974 after being named the most valuable player of Albert Lea, Minnesota's high school team and after serving as the team's captain, and he made a similar impact at Iowa State. He was named Cyclone Hockey's most improved player following his freshman season and went on to become a team captain his junior and senior years. A player of decent skill, Brandt maximized his effectiveness by giving it his all every game and by leaving nothing in the tank. His combination of skill, coachability, and work ethic made him a player Coach Murdoch could count on and utilize in all situations.

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree in industrial administration in 1978, Brandt moved to the Twin Cities and worked for Minnesota Mutual Life for three years before moving on to Farm Credit Banks. While working at Farm Credit Banks, where Brandt earned recognition as an elite employee, he earned a master of business administration degree from St. Thomas University in 1986. After receiving his MBA, Brandt then moved to the Valspar Corporation, one of the largest paint and coatings companies in the world, where he held several management, senior management, and director positions over his 17 years with the company. He went into business for himself as a real estate broker in 2004 after an attractive buyout offer from Valspar and joined the University of Minnesota three years later in 2007 as its real estate transactions manager, which position he holds today.

As a player who was coachable, gave it his all, and possessed a decent skill level, Brandt stands as a prototypical Cyclone Hockey player 33 years after he played for Iowa State, and the professional success those qualities translated into likewise makes him a role model off the ice for Cyclone Hockey players past, present, and future.

Don Geiger (1957 – 1961)

Geiger's days at Iowa State pre-dated the formation of Cyclone Hockey under Dr. Murdoch, and his playing experience only include a little shinny on Lake LaVerne as a kid and a couple years of men's league hockey in Des Moines, but perhaps no one outside of Dr. Murdoch himself in the Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame has had a larger impact on the game of hockey.

After graduating with a bachelor's of science degree in industrial administration in 1961, Geiger moved to Des Moines and started working as an accountant with Wolf & Company just before New Year's of 1962. He became a certified public accountant in 1966, became a partner of the firm in 1970, and continued with the firm when it merged with Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells in 1978, which later became Deloitte & Touche. A season ticket holder and avid fan of Des Moines' professional hockey teams in the late 60s and early 70s (the Oak Leafs and Capitols) and parent of two sons in the Des Moines Youth Hockey Association, Geiger was a leader amongst a group of hockey parents who stepped up to lease the Des Moines Ice Arena and keep it afloat after it was threatened to be closed after the departure of the Capitols in 1975. In 1979, Geiger helped organize an exhibition game between the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team and the St. Louis Blues that helped generate the cash necessary to keep the rink afloat long enough for him and a few others to come up with the cash necessary to purchase a franchise from the United States Hockey League and form the Des Moines Buccaneers, who began play in the USHL in 1980-81 and have played in the league ever since. He served as the president of the Buccaneers in their early years, then served as the president of the Greater Des Moines Ice Sports Association from 1983 to 1986, and served as a board member of the Buccaneers and other Des Moines ice sports associations until 2003, seven years after retiring from Deloitte & Touche.

Geiger not only helped save youth hockey in Des Moines, which has moved numerous players on to Cyclone Hockey over the years, he also had sons tend the net for Cyclone Hockey for eight consecutive seasons, as Scott and Kyle Geiger were part of Cyclone Hockey's tremendous success in the late 80s and early and mid-90s and rank amongst the top goalies in Cyclone Hockey history.

Having played an instrumental role in saving the Des Moines Ice Arena and youth hockey in Des Moines and in the formation of the Des Moines Buccaneers, the ripples of Geiger's contributions to hockey in Des Moines, central Iowa, and beyond, are incalculable.

Daniel Gowan (1977 – 1981)

Gowan was a role player on some talented Cyclone Hockey teams who was not only big in stature at 6-foot-5, 220 pounds, but huge in heart.

Gowan was named the team's most improved player at the conclusion of the 1977-78 season and he gained the respect of his teammates for his willingness to put the team first and to provide an imposing physical presence to protect the team's skilled players during his four years with Cyclone Hockey. Although Gowan's contributions to the team didn't always show up on the score sheet, his contributions were important in helping Cyclone Hockey win a Big 8 title in 1979 and consecutive Central States Collegiate Hockey League championships in 1980 and 1981.

After earning a bachelor of science degree in forestry and pest management from Iowa State in 1981, Gowan went on to a sales position with the Eli Lilly subsidiary Elanco before starting his own landscaping company in the Dallas area in 1986. Gowan owned his landscaping business through the early 2000s, but his life started taking a different direction in the '90s when he earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Methodist University and became an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA. After becoming ordained, he worked in the pastoral care department of Methodist Hospital in Dallas and helped form and develop the hospital's palliative care service. Gowan has since received a master of arts degree in counseling from Amberton University and currently serves as the director of Benchmark Counseling in Plano, Texas, and is a licensed professional counselor-supervisor and a licensed chemical dependency counselor. He is also a regular contributor to the Dallas Morning News newspaper on parenting and mental health issues.

Gowan's team-first attitude made and makes him an exemplar to other Cyclone Hockey role players, and the friendship he has provided to his teammates through good times and tough times in the years since his playing days and his service to his fellow man serve as an example for all.

Sherry Sunderman (1972 – 1976)

The first member of the Cyclone Hockey Cheer Squad to be inducted into the Cyclone Hockey Hall of Fame, Sunderman was a hard-working member of some of the earliest Cyclone Hockey cheer squads and she translated that work ethic into a level of professional success nearly unmatched amongst Cyclone Hockey graduates.

Sunderman came to Cyclone Hockey as a freshman and for four years she diligently led cheers at games, assisted in public relations by making appearances for the team at numerous events in and around Ames, helped in fundraising efforts, and was a leader in season ticket sales and advertising sales during a period when Cyclone Hockey experienced phenomenal growth playing its home games in Hilton Coliseum. She graduated from Iowa State in 1976 with a bachelor of science degree in industrial administration and worked for Donnelly Marketing for a year before going to the University of Iowa and earning a master of business administration in 1978. From there, Sunderman went to work in Chicago for accounting giant Arthur Andersen, specifically in its consulting division. Sunderman made partner in 1988, shortly before Andersen Consulting became a unit separate from Arthur Andersen, and helped lead Andersen Consulting to the staggering growth it experienced during the 90s, when she became a managing partner in 1996, working primarily in the telecommunications and high-tech industries. She continued with the company after it became Accenture, which is now the largest consulting firm in the world, before retiring in 2006.

Sunderman has remained busy, however, as a member of the Iowa State University Foundation's board of directors during its "With Pride and Purpose" campaign. The campaign, which began in July 2003 and went public in October 2007, concluded June 30, 2011 and raised over \$867 million, generating more private support in 8 years than it had in the previous 25. Sunderman's leadership and generosity have also earned her membership in the ISU Foundation's prestigious Order of the Knoll.

In addition to her work on the ISU Foundation's board of directors, Sunderman has been involved in several philanthropic causes including the National Association for Down Syndrome and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She also recently concluded a six-year term on the board of directors of the North Texas Business for Culture and the Arts, which focuses on active and effective business participation in support of the arts & culture in the Dallas metroplex.

Sunderman and her husband, Tom Mueller, reside in Dallas, Texas, and Scottsdale, Arizona, where she is also an active member of their Homeowner's Association. She enjoys bridge in her spare time and she and her husband love to play golf, travel, and enjoy spectator sports.

Sunderman's professional success and her continued and significant support of Iowa State University serves as an example of what's possible not only for those who are a part of Cyclone Hockey, but for all whose enjoyable adventure includes time at Iowa State.

Brian Wierson (1995 – 1998, 2001 – 2003, and 2007 – 2011)

Everywhere Wierson has gone, he has established himself as a leader, and he led Cyclone Hockey to success in all three of his stints with the team.

Wierson was named team captain of his high school team (the Ames Little Cyclones) his senior season and the captain of the Fargo-Moorhead Jr. Kings in his second season with that Minnesota Junior Hockey League team, and he similarly quickly established himself as a leader with Cyclone Hockey, too. As early as his sophomore season, Wierson was named an alternate captain, and he went on to serve as a captain his junior and senior seasons as well. During his four years as a player with Cyclone Hockey, Iowa State finished third, second, second, and third respectively at the ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament, making it the most successful four-year stretch in team history.

Immediately upon graduating from Iowa State with a bachelor of science in exercise and sports science in 1998, Wierson started coaching youth hockey. He served as an assistant coach for the Des Moines Oak Leafs of the Iowa High School Hockey League for two seasons before holding the same position with the West Fargo Packers of the North Dakota High School Association in 2000-01. Wierson returned to Cyclone Hockey for the 2001-02 season and the team went on that season to win its first Central States Collegiate Hockey League championship in five seasons. After a second season as an assistant coach in 2002-03, Wierson moved to Minnesota and became an

assistant coach for the Roseau Rams of the Minnesota High School Hockey League for three seasons. He returned to the Des Moines/Ames area in 2006 and served as the general manager of the Metro Ice Sports Facility for a year, but once again returned to Cyclone Hockey for the 2007-08 season for a four-year stint as the associate head coach. During his recent four-year stint, Wierson helped lead the Cyclones to the championship game of the 2010 ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament and also served as the lead instructor/associate director for the USA Hockey bantam select camps for the Tri-State region.

Wierson relinquished his associate head coaching position with Cyclone Hockey following the 2010-11 season to work as a bio-diesel sales representative for the Renewable Energy, and he's also finishing up his master of education degree from Iowa State in higher education with an emphasis on leadership and learning. With a résumé that screams leadership, it's almost certain Wierson will become a leader for REG like he was for Cyclone Hockey.

Having served three tours with Cyclone Hockey, one as a player, one as an assistant coach, and one as an associate head coach, for a total ten years, it's arguable that no one person not named Al Murdoch has had a larger daily, direct impact on Cyclone Hockey than Brian Wierson.

The Iowa State Cyclones play in the Central States Collegiate Hockey League (CSCHL) and are a member of the American College Hockey Association's Men's Division 1. The Cyclones' season continues this weekend with a series against the St. Cloud State Huskies Friday, Sept 23, and Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. Season tickets for the 2011-12 season are still available. Group-rate discounts start at groups of 15 people, and group leaders receive significant rewards. Call the Cyclone Hockey office today at 515.294.6164 for more information or visit www.cyclonehockey.com

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