



NEWS RELEASE

B7A Industrial Ed II | Ames, Iowa 50010 | 515.294.6164

Media and Public Relations Staff

Al Murdoch | Head Coach | phone 515.294.6164 | amurdoch@iastate.edu

Kyle McDonald | Associate Head Coach | phone 515.509.1009 | mcdonk@iastate.edu

Kevin Wey | Director of Communications | phone 515.779-4434 | cyclonehockeymedia@gmail.com

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Contact: Kevin Wey (cyclonehockeymedia@gmail.com)

Cyclone Hockey Defenseman Brent Cornelius Signs Pro Contract

Inks deal with Idaho Steelheads of the ECHL

Dec. 22, 2011 – Ames, Iowa – Cyclone Hockey is pleased and proud to announce that former Cyclone Hockey defenseman **Brent Cornelius (Fairbanks, Alaska – Tri-City Storm/USHL)** has signed a professional contract with the Idaho Steelheads of the ECHL.

Cornelius, who was a standout defenseman for the Cyclones from the 2006-07 season through the 2009-10 season, inked the deal December 16 and played his first pro game that same night against the Stockton Thunder. The news of Cornelius's signing was received enthusiastically by Cyclone Hockey.

"I'm really proud of him," said Cyclone Hockey General Manager and Head Coach Dr. Alan Murdoch. "He's been working hard over the years getting his electrical engineering degree and playing four years of Cyclone Hockey and playing for Team USA at the World University Games in 2009, so it's great to see him make the jump to pro hockey at such a high level."

Playing with the Steelheads, who are the ECHL affiliate of the National Hockey League's Dallas Stars, Cornelius is only two steps from the NHL, with the American Hockey League between the ECHL and the NHL on the North American professional hockey hierarchy. As of December 21, the ECHL has had 478 players move on to play in the NHL.

Not only does Cornelius's signing have the potential to open doors for himself, it has the potential to open eyes and open minds to what's possible playing in the American Collegiate Hockey Association and for Iowa State in particular.

"I think it's the way of the future, that people are seeing that you can get the opportunity to continue to grow and develop in the ACHA with an ACHA team, a Division 1 team, and then move on to a higher level while also accomplishing your degree, and Iowa State is an excellent school where you can get a quality degree from a respected institution while playing hockey at a high level," said Murdoch.

The pursuit of that quality degree forced Cornelius out of high-level hockey in 2010-11, as he undertook an internship as part of his electrical engineering degree, but prior to that he established himself as one of the most decorated defensemen to come through Cyclone Hockey.

He started his college career strong in 2006-07 by leading all Cyclone defenseman in scoring his freshman season by tallying 10 goals and 17 assists in 40 games and was awarded Cyclone Hockey's Larry Saal Award as the team's most outstanding defenseman and was named Rookie of the Year. Not only was Cornelius deemed Iowa State's top rookie, he was looked upon as one of the top two rookie defensemen in the ACHA and named to the ACHA Men's Division 1 All-Rookie Team.

As a sophomore, Cornelius once again led all Cyclone blueliners in scoring in 2007-08 by compiling 16 goals and 19 assists in 41 games and was also tabbed to play in the inaugural ACHA Men's Division 1 All-Star Game. In addition to skating in the All-Star Game, Cornelius was named an ACHA Men's Division 1 Third Team All-American.

The Fairbanks, Alaska, native represented his country in international play during the 2008-09 season by playing for Team USA at the 2009 World University Games in Harbin, China, and although his production dipped to 9 goals and 19 assists in 41 games, Cornelius still impressed during his junior season and was named an ACHA Men's Division 1 Second Team All-American. He was also once again tabbed to play in the ACHA Men's Division 1 All-Star Game.

Cornelius achieved nearly all there was to achieve his senior season. He was named to the ACHA Men's Division All-Tournament First Team after helping lead Iowa State to the championship game at the 2010 ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament, tabbed for his third straight ACHA Men's Division 1 All-Star Game, and named an ACHA Men's Division 1 First Team All-American. Not surprisingly, he also received Cyclone Hockey's Alexander Murdoch Award as the team's most valuable player. By scoring 11 goals and 16 assists in 45 games in 2009-10, Cornelius closed his college career with 46 goals and 71 assists in 167 games.

Prior to coming to Iowa State, Cornelius played Tier 1 junior hockey for the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders and the Tri-City Storm of the United States Hockey League (USHL). In 2004-05, his first of two seasons in the USHL, he helped the RoughRiders win the USHL's Anderson Cup as the team with the best record during the regular season and then win the Clark Cup as the USHL's playoff champions. He was traded to Tri-City shortly into the 2005-06 season and finished his junior hockey career with the Kearney, Nebraska, team.

With Glenn Detulleo—now in his 11th pro season—playing for the Huntsville Havoc of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL), Mike Lebler skating for the Linz Black Wings of the Erste Bank Ice Hockey League in Austria, Erik Hudson tending net first for the Pensacola Ice Flyers of the SPHL and now the Fayetteville FireAntz of the SPHL, and Matt Cohn skating for the Danville Dashers of the Federal Hockey League, Cornelius becomes the fifth Cyclone Hockey alum to sign a pro contract and play professional games this season.

Carrying on the tradition of excellence established by such players as Cornelius, the Cyclones return to action in the New Year on the road to play Indiana University January 6, and 7, 2012. Friday's game in Bloomington, Indiana, is scheduled to start at 9:25 p.m. Eastern Time, 8:25 p.m. Central Time. The opening face-off for Saturday's game against the Hoosiers is slated for 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time and 1:30 p.m. Central Time. Both games will be broadcast online live on the American One Network. For more information, visit the Cyclone Hockey website: www.cyclonehockey.com.

Cyclone Hockey's next home games are Friday, January 13, and Saturday, January 14. Opening face-off both nights is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Group-rate discounts and benefits start for groups of as few as 15 people. Contact the Cyclone Hockey office at 294.6164 for more information or visit the Cyclone Hockey website.

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.