



1111

ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

FALL 2019

It's Membership Renewal Time Act before Dec. 15

This issue of 1111 Echoes concludes the Red's Heritage Society's 19th successful season. As one of our valued members, it's time for you to renew for the 2019-2020 season. Your membership dues are only \$25 for the full season (just 48 cents per week).

To remain on the Society's membership roll you must act by the Dec. 15 deadline. So please put your new membership form at the top of your "To do" list.

As a paid member, you'll continue to receive three newsletters annually, plus exclusive invitations to our 20th Annual Reunion and other special events.

If you've already paid your membership dues for 2019-2020, you're all set. To check your membership status, please call Mal Goldenberg at 401-864-6191.

A Heritage Society membership makes an ideal and affordable Holiday gift!

Please note that the Society's mailing address has changed and is now:

**PO Box 504
Lincoln RI 02865**



Judge James E. Dooley, front row, fourth from left, with the 1928-1929 Reds.

Rhody Honors Hockey Greats

Judge Dooley and Pete Demers Enshrined in RI Hall of Fame

**By Vin Cimini
Board of Directors**

Two of the most prominent figures in RI Reds hockey history, founder Judge James E. Dooley and renowned NHL trainer Pete Demers, were among the 10 new inductees enshrined into the Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 6 at the Twin River Event Center in Lincoln.

In addition to Judge Dooley and Pete Demers, the "Class of 2019"

included Brother Adelard Beaudet, SC, Brian Boucher, Brian Burke, Jack Capuano, Malcolm Greene Chace, Tom Eccleston, David Emma, and Margaret "Digit" Murphy.

In his opening greeting, Hall of Fame chairman and Reds Heritage Society Director, Vincent Cimini, proudly noted, "This year's class is a diverse group that spans the entire history of the game in Rhode Island. Among

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Dooley, Demers Enshrined in Hall

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them are pioneers, visionaries, and innovators. In some cases, all of the above wrapped into one.”

Cimini added, “As players and as pillars of the game, our newest inductees represent the very best of our state’s rich and illustrious 121-year hockey heritage.”

Judge Dooley, the founder and owner of the Reds, was also one of the organizers of the Canadian-American Hockey League, which eventually became the AHL. He served as league president for many years. At the same time, Dooley owned the Providence Grays baseball team and the Providence Steam Rollers, which won the NFL championship in 1928. Eight years later, he opened Narragansett Race Track.

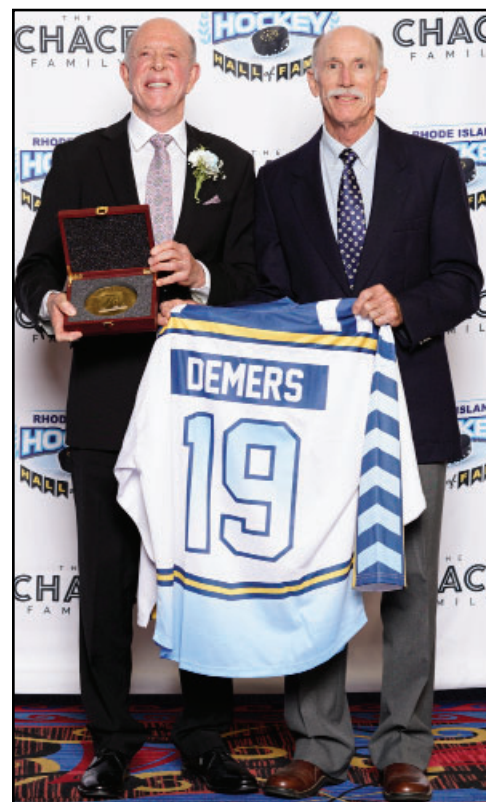
Pete Demers, a self-described Auditorium “rink rat”, apprenticed under the tutelage of legendary Reds’ trainer George Army before moving on to a heralded career with the Los Angeles Kings. In his 34 years with the Kings, he worked 2,634 consecutive games and represented the USA in Olympic & World compe-

titions.

In his acceptance speech, Pete was effusive in his praise of George and all that he meant to him. Pete also has plaques in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto and the US Hockey Hall of Fame in Minnesota. Last year, Reds’ alumni, Louis A.R. Pieri, Zello Toppazzini, and Harvey Bennett were elected into the Hall’s charter class.

Video profiles preceded the enshrinements of each honoree. Master of ceremonies, Dale Arnold, expanded on the significance of each inductee’s achievements to the more than 300 attendees at the event. Warwick’s Todd Angilly, new singing voice of the Boston Bruins, opened the ceremonies with a rousing rendition of our national anthem.

Inductees were each presented their bronze Hall of Fame medallions showcased in their own mahogany box. They were escorted to the stage by players from the Brown and Providence College women’s hockey teams, who wore Hall of Fame jerseys personalized with the name of each respective inductee and the year of their class emblazoned on the back.



Pete Demers (left) and his brother, Art, display Pete’s Hall of Fame medallion and jersey.



Accepting for Judge James Dooley were his great-grandson, Adam Dooley, and grand daughter-in-law, Carol Dooley.

The Torch is Passed

Clegg Retires and Mayer Elected President

By Andre Mayer
Heritage Society President

Change is always scary and it's no different with us. We, on the Board of Directors, have anticipated that Buster Clegg would not serve as President forever, no matter how great a leader he has been since our birth back in 2000. So, recently I was elected President of the Society, and my wife and Board Member, Reba Golden, was elected Director of Operations.

Yes, it will take two people to do the work that Buster has done over the years

On August 15, Buster officially retired as President but asked to continue work as President Emeritus of the Society and lead two of our most important operations: fundraising and player relations. For that we are most fortunate and grateful.

Moving ahead, next year's Reunion will be held at a brand new venue with more creature comforts – the Twin River Casino Hotel & Event Center in Lincoln, RI, an easy direct highway drive only 15 miles north of the airport.

Twin River offers the accommodations of a brand new hotel with access to an adults-only pool, fitness center, several restaurants



Buster Clegg at the 2019 Friday Night Meet and Greet.



Andre Mayer and Reba Golden.

and pubs, and the excitement (if you choose to take advantage) of many on-site gaming and live entertainment options.

We'll gather and reminisce in the climate-controlled comfort of an environment that offers adult beverages, great acoustics, and

a professional staff trained to cater to your every need. Private parking is available right at your hotel door. Downtown Providence is close by and also accessible by bus from the hotel.

Your RI Reds Heritage Society will be sharing the weekend with many more hockey greats as we begin to blend our festivities with those of the RI Hockey Hall of Fame, which will be holding its spectacular annual Enshrinement Celebration & Dinner at Twin River that same weekend (See Vin Cimini's HOF article on Page 1).

Despite these exciting changes, one thing that will not change is our mission. We will continue to maintain and preserve the illustrious history of the RI Reds and its legendary players with the continued publication of our newsletter, the maintenance and upgrading of our informative kiosks at "The Dunk", and continue to help grow the game while promoting improved safety and sportsmanship through our popular youth Skills Challenges and Unsung Hero programs.

As our Society's new President, I want to thank Buster and our Board for their faith in me to continue the work that our Society has done so well for 19 years.



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From Humble Beginnings, Look What We've Accomplished!

By **Andre Mayer**
Heritage Society President

In 2000, at the dawn of the new millennium, the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society was formed by Buster Clegg and six other visionary charter members: Tom Army, Arnie Bailey, George Patrick Duffy, Eddy Ellsworth, and Tom McDonough. Each founding father invested \$20 to create a whopping organization fund of \$140.

Armed with this modest amount of cash but a wealth of many well thought-out ideas, the RI Reds Heritage Society was born with the sole purpose of honoring the RI Reds and keeping its iconic name and spirit alive.

Buster has served as our Society's president from the very beginning. Board members have come and gone but Buster has been our constant, always steering the ship in a forward direction.

As an organization, we would have not come this far, accomplished so much, and lasted so long without his untiring leadership. Buster's gentle but firm style made people want to help him and see the Society succeed. And that we did. And did you know that our Society was the first of its kind and for many years the only such organization dedicated to honoring AHL professional athletes?

Buster has been our chief visionary for 19 years, dedicating his "retirement" years to the the

success of our Society's mission. He has also been our main "Host a Hockey Hero" fundraiser, building and maintaining personal relationships with former players, their families, and our deep and loyal fan base.

Now, after 20 years, Buster has passed the torch of President. And while he will remain on our Board, he will now be free to enjoy his retirement and his beautiful grandchildren far from the everyday stress of presidential duties.

Our Society

The RI Reds Heritage Society, is a 500-member non-profit organization whose goals are to restore and preserve the legendary 51-year history of the RI Reds (AKA Providence Reds) of the AHL, a team that thrilled hockey fans from 1926 through 1977.

Our Accomplishments

Since our founding in 2000, our Society has:

- Organized and held 19 annual reunions for former players and fans.
- Built membership from seven original founders to 500 members (including over 100 former Reds and other professionals).
- Built four museum-like kiosks chronicling the Reds' history and displaying memorabilia at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, home of the P-Bruins.
- Published "Hockey in Providence," a 128-page photo essay of the Reds history in the Cam/Am

and American Hockey Leagues.

- Produced "When the Reds Ruled the Roost," a 45-minute DVD video chronicle that was awarded the New England Emmy Award for the best one-time sports TV special of 2009.

- Created a series of "Munch & Crunch" events which consisted of tasty meals followed by watching a professional or college hockey game.

- Created an entertaining, interactive website: www.rireds.org, and built a well-visited Facebook presence.

- Forged a partnership with RI Hockey, the state affiliate of USA Hockey, to create the new RI Hockey Hall of Fame in 2018.

Introduced and coordinated AHL Skills Tests throughout the region to help youth and high school hockey players identify the skills they need to improve on to reach and excel at their next levels of competition.

- Created a unique "Unsung Heroes" program that recognizes high school hockey players who contribute in important ways to their communities while exemplifying the phrase "student-athlete."

- Created the coveted "Tops Award", named in honor RI Reds' "Player of the Century", Zellio Toppazzini, and presented to those who have made a significant contribution to the game.

- Established the unique "Host A Hockey Hero" fundraising program to support its annual reunions and run its various charitable youth programs.

Handshakes and Hugs Start Reunion Weekend

By Joe Rocco
Heritage Society Board of Directors

The start of another memorable Rhode Island Reds "Reunion Weekend" began at the Hampton Inn in Warwick on Friday, Aug. 2, where there was no shortage of hugs, handshakes and laughter. The annual meet and greet welcome reception to kick off the reunion was well attended and entertaining, to say the least.

Among the approximately 60 who attended were former Reds players including Bruce Cline, Hartland Monaghan, Buzz Deschamps, Mike Bloom, Mike Corrigan and Doug Keeler.

Mike Corrigan came for the second time. He made the trip from Florida.

The former Springfield Indian who played on a Stanley Cup winning Pittsburgh team, was delighted to be there amongst old friends even though he never played for the Reds.

Hall of Fame trainer Pete Demers, who was with the Reds for just two seasons in the late 60s, remains a loyal and regular participant of "Reunion Weekend". Pete traveled the most miles to attend flying in from Los Angeles.

It's become a popular tradition for some in attendance to take the microphone and share some memorable moments from their playing days or past reunions. Hartland Monaghan revealed



Bruce Cline shares a story.

that he weighed more than 300 pounds when he attended his first reunion. That's when Pete Demers talked to him about a change in lifestyle and how to lose the weight. Hartland now credits Pete with saving his life. When it was Pete's turn with the microphone, he reminded the attendees how the hockey community is unique, looks out for one another and why he so proud to be a part of it.

Greg Bouris, special guest speaker for the Saturday night awards dinner dance, also attended. Greg's impressive resume includes Communications Director for the New York Islanders, Florida Panthers and Major League Baseball Players Association.

Warwick comedian and special guest Ray Harrington was a hit with a 30-minute set that was family friendly and very funny. His life as a tired dad and frustrated hockey player was among the many topics he brought up. "I'm a die-hard Whalers fan. Having a favorite team that's not around anymore is tough, but they haven't lost a game in 22 years. I love Hockey even though I know I'm not built for it. I could maybe be a goalie if they'd let me sit down on the ice."

Once again this year the enthusiasm and comments from all in attendance served as another testament to a strong tradition of passion and loyalty to a Rhode Island Reds team that was beloved by so many.

Noel Acciari: The Kid Makes History

By Frank Caparco
Board of Directors

The first time I met Noel Acciari, recipient of this year's Native Born Hockey Award, was when he was 3 years old. I was working a skills-based hockey camp with my fellow high school teammate, Otto Tingley. That camp was known as R I High School Development. This camp was from mites to high school players.

The parents of Noel Acciari, Mike & Edna, brought their son to register for this camp. Otto originally said no, due to Noel's age. I stepped in at that time telling Otto that I would personally take care of this player. Noel's parents were very polite and respectful, and Noel showed his ambition and desire to play through that great big smile. He had the normal attention span of a 3-year-old, but it was rewarding to watch his improvement.

By the end of ten weeks Noel was amazing, his ability to work his edges from east to west and his smile and hard work were extremely rewarding. To this day, whenever I see Noel, he thanks me for teaching him how to skate and always calls me "Coach".

Noel went on to play for Edge-wood Youth Hockey; I made sure I was assigned to referee his games so I could see the development firsthand. I always spoke with his parents to discuss his



Noel Acciari accepts the Heritage Society's Native-Born Hockey Award at this year's Reunion Barbecue.

progress. This went on from mites to pee wee divisions.

Noel went on to play pee wee level for an elite team known as South Shore Kings. At that time, I was the president of a state league organization known as West Bay Islanders. I got a phone call from Edna Acciari looking for more ice time on a part-time basis. I had two pee wee teams in the A division, so I placed Noel on one of those teams.

From there, Noel went on to play for Hendricken High School, which you probably guessed. I was assigned to officiate often and always had my chat with Edna & Mike after the games.

After Hendricken, Noel went on to two years at the Kent School and later became captain in his senior year at Providence College for a team that won the national collegiate championship in 2016.

The rest is history. With his most recent successes in the National Hockey League for the Boston Bruins, who would ever think this 3-year-old with the biggest smile would ever be that player? Not me.

A few months ago, as a free agent, Noel signed multi-million, three-year contract with Florida of the NHL and began lacing his skates with the Panthers beginning in October 2019.

Reds Return to Twelve Acres for Saturday Dinner Dance

By Reba Golden
Society Director of Operations

The RI Reds Heritage Society returned to Twelve Acres in Smithfield, RI, for their annual dinner dance on Saturday, Aug. 3. It was well worth the trip.

The always awesome Barley Hoppers played while the well-dressed attendees socialized, reminisced and later enjoyed delicious chowder and clam cakes, and lobster, chicken or steak dinners and fresh watermelon.

Andre Mayer, son of RI Reds Hockey great Gilles Mayer, and Craig Cimini, son of Board of Directors member Vin Cimini, were each presented with The President's Diligence Award. Both awards are well deserved, as both gentlemen have gone over and above for the society for many years.

Pawtucket native Greg Bouris was the evening's keynote speaker. He entertained the crowd with his rich stories of his notable sports industry career.

One of the earliest graduates from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's prestigious sport management program, Greg boasts decades of experience inside and outside of the sports industry.

Most notably, the Rhode Island



Hartland Monahan scores at the buffet line.



Hockey Hall of Famer Pete Demers shows off some swag, a framed quote by hockey great Bobby Hull, at the dinner dance.



Craig Cimini receives his President's Diligence Award from Master of Ceremonies and Vice President Tom McDonough.

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Ray Ross Award goes to Ross Brooks

The Ray Ross Award is annually given to a player who, like Ray, has exhibited persistence to go along with talent throughout his hockey career. Ross Brooks played eight years with the Reds. He also played on several other minor league teams, such as the Washington Presidents and the Philadelphia Ramblers (EHL). Ross' big break came at the age of 36. After playing with the Boston Braves he got a call-up to the Boston Bruins where he played for three years. He set the record for the longest goalie winning streak- 14 games (since surpassed). Ross proudly introduced his family at Goddard Park. He then highlighted his career, including the bumps along the way. Brooksie's talent and persistence made him a great choice for this year's Ray Ross Award.

– Bill O'Connor, Heritage Society Board



Sons Glen and Gary Ross present the Ray Ross Award to Ross Brooks.

Marge McKinney Gets Fan of the Year Award

This year's Frank McCaffery Fan of the Year Award was given to Marge McKinney. Marge was committed to husband Don's career both on and off the ice. Don, of course, was a great Reds player, Bruin captain and Northeastern U. coach. In addition, Marge and Don have been staunch supporters of the Society since its inception almost 20 years ago. Marge, always a classy lady, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the award. The Society is blessed to have great fans like Marge.

– Bill O'Connor, Heritage Society Board



Marge McKinney speaks after receiving the Frank McCaffery Fan of the Year Award.

On Saturday, Twelve Acres was the Place to Be

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native created, and for 19 years oversaw, the Major League Baseball Players Association's (MLB-PA) communications department.

There, he served as chief spokesperson and media liaison,

crafted strategic communication efforts, and guided digital content creation, to name but a few of his numerous responsibilities.

Today, he is the president of Power X Communications, an innovative public relations, communications, and marketing firm.

In this recent career episode,

Greg reflects on the lessons learned throughout his career and offers insight for aspiring sport management leaders how to succeed in pursuing their dream careers.

It was a great night for hockey and here's to next year's event.

Annual Reunion: REDS HONOR THEIR OWN

By **Bill Connell**
Heritage Society Treasurer

A typical sultry Sunday afternoon awaited the roughly 200 that attended the 19th annual Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society Reunion on Sunday, Aug. 4, at Goddard Park in Warwick, R.I. There was no rain in the forecast and that was all that was important.

Attendees were treated to former NHL player and referee Paul Stewart, a Dorchester, Mass., native who played in NHL 21 games for the Quebec Nordiques in the 1979-80 season before embarking on a very successful and lengthy career as an official. Mr. Stewart regaled the crowd with various anecdotes about his playing and refereeing days, which included a dustup with Boston Bruin fan-favorite Terry O'Reilly.

A picture of the prelude to that fight is on the cover of Mr. Stewart's book "Ya Wanna Go?" with the Forward written by O'Reilly.

Interestingly, Mr. Stewart commented that he missed playing in Providence by one season, as he ended up in Binghamton, N.Y. for the 1977-78 campaign — one

year after the Reds departed Providence for that location.

This year's reunion saw two



Vin Cimini speaks to the crowd after receiving his Topps Award.

Topps Awards given out by the Society to individuals who have distinguished themselves with service to the game.

Our own Vin Cimini and former Red and longtime Bruin Rick Middleton received the 2019 issue.

Vin Cimini is a Reds Heritage Society Board member and President of the newly established and very successful Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame.

Vin's attention to detail and energy for all aspects of our Society and the Reds have been on full display since he joined the Board in 2014. His enthusiasm for the Reds, Rhode Island hockey, and the game, in general, made him an easy selection for the Society's highest honor.

Rick Middleton played for the Providence Reds for just one memorable season, the 1973-74 campaign. And what a season it was for the 19-year-old when he arrived on the scene. He amassed 84 points in 63 games scoring 36 goals as he helped lead the Reds to the 1974 Calder Cup Finals.

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Middleton, Cimini Receive Topps Honors

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Rick talked about his days in Providence and the appreciation he had for the city and his experience with the Reds. As most know, he was traded to Boston by the parent club New York Rangers in 1976 for Ken Hodge, a Bruin stalwart. The Rangers rued that decision, as Rick became an awesome two-way player and went onto a dozen stellar years in Boston. He has also given back to the community in a big way by, most-notably, his charitable activities with the Boston Bruins Alumni Association. Another great choice for a Topps Award!

The gathering was treated to six standout student-athletes who received “Unsung Hero” Awards for their accomplishments in the classroom and on the ice. Split into categories by position, the awards are named after three former Reds: Gil Mayer (goal), Chuck Scherza (forward) and Ferny Flaman (defense). This year’s recipients were Rebecca Yasheen (Toll Gate), Madison Cataldo (MSC) Joseph Catarina (Smithfield), Cameron Rancourt (Mt. Hope), Brendan O’Rourke (Chariho), and Taylor Vecchione (LaSalle).

The afternoon was awesome and was filled with the love and respect for an organization that is gone but never ever forgotten. “Roll Out The Barrel.”



Rick Middleton holds aloft his Topps Award. To the right his Reds great Bruce Cline.



The overall scene at Goddard Park.



From left, unsung heroes Joseph Catarina, Rebecca Yaseen, Taylor Vecchione, Madison Cataldo and Brendan O'Rourke.

Heritage Society Recognizes Unsung High School Heroes

By Andre Mayer
Heritage Society President

Unsung Heroes are high school hockey players who contribute to their teams in ways that only their coaches and other players are aware of. Often, they exemplify the term “student athlete” but there is usually more than that. Often, they have overcome personal hurdles and have inspired their teammates to push through their struggles. Sometimes they are natural (or conditioned) leaders on and off the ice. Many are civic minded and go above and

beyond to serve their community and still maintain their focus on academics and hockey. The stories are as varied as the athletes. Three awards are given to both male and female hockey players in memory of three former Rhode Island Reds stand out players.

The Chuck Scherza award is given to forwards. The Ferny Flaman is given to defensemen, and the Gil Mayer award is given to goaltenders or defensive players.

Cameron Rancourt won this year's Chuck Scherza award for men. Cam attended Mt. Hope High School.

After his team lost the first 5 games of the season, Mr. Rancourt assessed the team's strengths and weaknesses and shared that information with the coaches. He led by example, set the tone and helped the team finish the season securing fourth seed, made the playoffs and gave the returning champs their toughest battle of the playoffs. It was this off the ice and on the ice thinking and leadership that got him elected to captain.

Cam was an All-State Hockey athlete while maintaining a 3.8

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Society Honors Unsung Heroes

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weighted GPA. He also joined the prestigious "100 Point Club" by his junior year with a career 167 points. Not surprisingly, the assists are almost as high as his goal production.

Joseph Catarina also won this year's Chuck Scherza award for men. Joe attended Smithfield High School. Part of what makes Joe an Unsung Hero is that he is a true leader in spite of having average ability as a hockey player. In spite of often not playing on a regular shift, he still maintains an excellent attitude.

While in high school he dealt with and assisted in caring for his grandmother who had both legs amputated. Taking a negative and making a positive out of it, he used this experience to learn about and choose biomechanical engineering as his major.

Madison Cataldo won this year's Chuck Scherza award for women. Madison attended Mount Saint Charles Academy where she earned the Tri-Sport Scholar Award by achieving honor roll status every marking period while being a member of 3 varsity sports. She also concurrently served on at least 5 volunteer and community service organizations including goodwill trips to Louisiana and Costa Rica.

As two-time captain of Mount's Girls Hockey team, she actively recruited and mentored new players. Madison was known for addressing the team before games encouraging sportsmanship and representing the team, school, and self with dignity. She

is a true leader.

Brendan O'Rourke won this year's Ferny Flaman award for men. Brendan attended Chariho High School and played defense for the Narragansett/Chariho Ice hockey team.

Brendan has always been a silent leader on and off the ice. His work ethic and dedication to the team is unmatched as he is consistently the first person on the ice for 5am practices.

He is not the "flashiest" player on the ice; however, he is one of the top defensemen on the team and will always give his best effort on the ice. Although a defenseman, he is willing to play forward when asked with the response, "absolutely, anything you need".

Mr. O'Rourke has an even disposition and has never argued with a coach, teammate or official. This is remarkable as the team has finished last all 3 seasons he has played. In spite of this he kept his cool, been focused and does everything he can to help his team win.

Taylor Vecchione won this year's Ferny Flaman award for women. Taylor attended LaSalle Academy where as captain she took the role of leader to heart. Besides talking to the team about leading by example, treating everyone with respect, and putting the team first, she walks the walk. She has helped younger players understand the ins and outs of competitive high school sports where playing time, work ethic, and a positive attitude are keys to being a successful student athlete. She has shared her experience of not playing a regu-

lar shift and being switched to defense from forward.

Rebecca Yaseen won this year's Gil Mayer award for women. Rebecca attended Tollgate High School where she struggled a bit academically until she found her niche in the Marine Trades program at the Career & Technical Center. Since then she has made honor roll 4 times.

During her freshman year Ms. Yaseen earned the starting goaltender position by the end of the year. Rebecca was a big part of the teams wins. Unfortunately, Warwick was disqualified because one of the players was disqualified for academic reasons. That player was Rebecca.

The next year Warwick had to rebuild the team. The other goalie was progressing well and the team needed more fire power up front. Rebecca took over at center and was the team's leading scorer during both her sophomore (a very disappointing winless season) and junior years. However, due to her character and leadership qualities, Rebecca was voted Assistant Captain as a senior.

Rebecca spent her senior season splitting goaltending duties with another goalie until that goaltender got hurt. Rebecca finished the year in goal with the 4th best record in the state!

Rebecca has endured and overcome several heartbreaking events in her high school hockey career but has come out a better person for it. Oh yeah, academically, she competed in the State Skills USA competition in welding (marine trades) finishing 9th in the state!

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 L QTY _____
 XL QTY _____
 XXL QTY _____



\$45

PULLOVER POCKETED HOODIE
 EMBROIDERED PUCK LOGO
 (CHOICE OF RED, BLACK OR GREY)
 PLEASE CIRCLE SIZE(S)

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 XXL QTY _____ CLR _____



\$29

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\$45

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 XXL QTY _____



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 (BATTLESHIP GREY)
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