

# DISH FROM THE PITCH



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## HURLING FROM BELFAST TO BREW CITY

by Tony Gilbert



*photo credit: Ellen Burmeister*

After watching him puck around with his friends at the pitch, I caught up with Gareth Walsh, a 15 year old who hails from Belfast in County Antrim. Gareth is spending 4 weeks this summer living with his new friend, Jacob Webb, as part of the Ulster Project. Already he has been to a couple of 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks shows, and this week is headed off to Six Flags for some high speed rides and thrills.

An avid sportsman, Gareth plays Hurling, Gaelic Football, and Basketball. Hurling is his first love and his home club is the Belfast Sarsfields where he plays center half back. Gareth explained that while he is in the US his teammates would be in Carlow battling for the All-Ireland under-16 Blitz title. Gareth's family have a deep hurling background. Both his Dad and Grandad played for Sarsfields and his Great Grandad had the distinction of being the first man to captain Antrim to the Senior Hurling All Ireland Final in 1911. He has been fortunate to avoid major injuries, apart from some knocks on the

fingers, (oh and the minor issue of getting the end of a hurl through his visor), and attributes this to his "go in swinging style."

Sunday was Gareth's first experience of hurling Milwaukee style and he was very impressed. He especially enjoyed the family atmosphere, the multiple barbecues, tent village, and the constant puck arounds going on. He thought of his Dad, who is 46 and hasn't played in 15 years, and relished the thought of them both being drafted and playing side by side in our league, (Captain Jack..... file that idea away for next season). During his stay, Gareth expected to see lots of food and Mustangs. He hasn't been disappointed with the food, even if "the bacon is terrible", but the Mustangs have been less plentiful than he expected.

Other Gareth tidbits -

Favorite movie - Shawshank redemption..."Morgan Freeman is the best."

Favorite Singer - Macklemore

Favorite Song - Thrift Shop

Gareth's Hurleys - 32" Cultec and 32"Setanta

Favorite Hurler - MHC player Andrew Goelz.....I mean Henry Shefflin ("He does everything right")

Keeping up with his athletic endeavors will be even more of a challenge next year as Gareth balances his love of the game with his studies for the GSCE's (O Level exams). If you see Gareth at the pitch over the next couple of weeks be sure to say hello and wish him well in his hurling future and with his upcoming exams.

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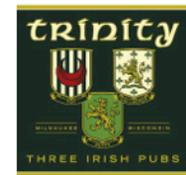
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## Brocach Bandits Steal All Tool Legion's Bid at Undefeated Season



*by Rob Berrones*

*photo credit: Kerry Leonard*

The first adult match of a very humid and sticky Sunday saw a Brocach team quietly moving up the leaderboard in an effort to unseat the juggernaut that is All Tool Sales. The Legion sought to retain their position at the top of the table, and some “friendly conversation” could be heard as the two teams took to the pitch.

Brocach started off hot with sophomore player Jaron Tauchman scoring his first goal of his MHC career in the first quarter. They were down a few players, and subs Brian Marsolek, Teddy Ruetz and Sam Hanrahan helped to keep the ball on the Legion’s side of the pitch. The end of the first quarter saw Brocach up 3-2 (11) on All Tool 1-2 (5).

Brocach’s defense started taking over from there. Brocach goalie Joel Travis quelled the fierce All Tool assault with back-to-back saves. He was not alone though, as the full back line of Jason Kirkpatrick, Davidson Kane and co-captain Jack Harrold shifted seamlessly to cut off angles and gaps. All Tool did manage to close the gap to within 4 going into the half.

Fueled by that “friendly conversation,” Brocach co-captain Shawn “Boston” Connolly led his team’s charge in the third quarter. He seemed determined to get a win. Brocach had a pair of goals early in the quarter, but All Tool goalie Chris Kadrach tightened the reins making a couple great saves. He didn’t allow another goal the rest of the game. All Tool’s ball movement between the half lines improved thanks to great decisions by Gavin Mantyh and John Klein.

All Tool would not give in so easily. Co-captain Steve “Schmidy” Schmid played tough and smart, sending a ball in perfect position for full forward Nick “Tater” Ruetz to double into goal, giving All Tool a much needed spark. Play toughened, and marks guarded each other tight. But Brocach kept their foot on the gas, as Pat Burke pointed as well as Bandit sub Sam Hanrahan, who put two points over the bar (which was exactly one point more than the number of shoes he had on his feet at the time). In the end, Tony Gilbert put it best calling Brocach’s win “Boston Strong” thanks to the amazing game co-captain Boston had. Final score Brocach 6-7 (25) All Tool 3-7 (16). Brocach Bandits claim the top of the table at 5-1.

# Rebels Emerge Over Heavyweights After Epic Showdown in the Sun

by Jason Kirkpatrick



*photo credit: Zoe Braun*

As warm-ups began for the second match of the day the sweat was already flowing freely. This game would be a crucial one with high stakes, and one team was certain to walk away from the match having put an end to the winless streaks that had plagued both squads in the first half of the season. An unusual Rebel yell of “Happy Birthday Aislinn” was heard from the Trinity Rebels as they prepared to take the field against the Silver Spring House Heavyweights.

Trinity and Silver Spring House were both moving the ball well, but it was the Heavyweights who drew first blood with a point from Sean Zalewski. Trinity would up the ante by crashing down on the Heavyweights for two goals in quick fashion. Silver Spring House continued to play their game though and, clearly in the zone, Zalewski would go on to score the next three for the Heavyweights. After a couple more sliothars through the uprights, Trinity found themselves with a small lead going into the second quarter.

Hungry for that first victory, Silver Spring House continued to push the sliothar line-by-line up the pitch to Andrew Engel who was able to sneak in a goal for the Heavyweights. The Rebel defense was reeling from the attack, pulling the offense back to help their embattled teammates. The Silver Spring House defense meanwhile stepped up to counter any Rebel push downfield and held Trinity to a single point in the quarter. Just before halftime Heavyweight Joel

Ingebrigtsen took advantage of the Silver Spring House rally sending a shot streaking across the front of the keeper and bagging three points to put Silver Spring House up by one at the half 2-4 (10) over Trinity’s 2-3 (9).

“All we have to do is get to the ball,” said Silver Spring House captain Dave Olson during his halftime speech. That would be easier said than done however, as both teams came out at full speed. Trinity would take their turn hosting a defensive rally and kept the Heavyweights out of the middle of the pitch to prevent shots on goal. The Rebel offense was now free to take the fight downfield and the women led the charge. Katy Hambrook and Suzanne Beck swarmed around the Heavyweight defense creating scoring opportunities which led to two more Trinity points. Silver Spring House was not about to let the game slip away and veteran Joel Ingebrigtsen led his young team on a charge to chalk up two more points before the last water break.

*Continued on following page*

## ATTENTION YOUTH PARENTS! Concussion Packet Reminder

*Continued from previous page  
(Trinity vs Silver Spring House)*

Fueled by their fierce desire for this win, both teams came out in the final quarter looking like the heat and the last three quarters had little effect on them. Trinity pointed and after a Silver Spring House charge downfield, the Rebels attacked yet again as Shannon Meller drop kicked the sliotar for another Trinity goal. Silver Spring House showed amazing determination and communication as they worked down the pitch for one point and then another to make it, once again, a one point game. With just minutes left Joel Ingebrigtsen pointed yet again to tie up the match. Frantically both teams looked for scoring opportunities as the clock ticked down. Just as it looked like the game may require overtime, the Rebels put up a shot which was skillfully hand-doubled by Shannon Meller just past the keeper for a thrilling Trinity goal. With limited time remaining and despite a valiant effort, a Heavyweight comeback just wasn't possible as the Trinity Rebels emerge triumphant with their first victory of the season. "We really played well enough to win," said Andy Haugh after the game, and nobody could disagree. The final score in this nail biter was Trinity 4-6 (18) over Silver Spring House 2-9 (15).



Medic Tim Sulik has worked hard to pull together all of the necessary concussion related paperwork so that parents, coaches, and players are aware of the procedures to follow if a concussion occurs. Concussion information has been handed out to all parents and must be signed and returned by the next youth game, July 21st, or your player will not be allowed on the field. If you were not there on Sunday speak to your coaches. If you did receive the paperwork, return it to the coaches as soon as possible. **PLEASE DO NOT FORGET.** We, as a club, want to be in compliance with the Wisconsin State Law!

# Faces from the Pitch

by Connor Kilp

Steve Taylor has been playing with the Milwaukee Hurling Club for 10 years. For newer folks, Steve may not look familiar because he took a couple years off since the last time he played. Even so, he has been a decisive player on Burke's half forward line this year.

Steve first found out about the Club over a decade ago in the newspaper, back when we played our games down at the lakefront. Steve is a passionate hurler, and is willing to give advice to teammates at the halftime circle. If you ever need advice or just want to say "Hi" to Steve, you can find him any given Sunday on the sideline listening to music, especially on game day; listening to music helps him get ready for games.

If anyone went to Summerfest this year, you may have seen Steve there- it's his favorite thing about Milwaukee.

Fun Fact: If Steve had a million dollars, he would invest in a Culver's franchise.

Steve Taylor



Stephanie Hobbins



Stephanie Hobbins is another player that has been with the Club for a decade, but fewer people may recognize her. Stephanie has spent the last few years traveling the world, and has spent the last part of her time abroad in Costa Rica teaching literature and language arts at an international school. "It was awesome!" said Steph commenting on her time there.

Steph started playing a decade ago, the first year there was a youth league in the club. Being in the youth league led her to the highlight of her career: the first youth trip to Ireland. Steph, along with a number of other players who are now in their early twenties, went and played hurling with a couple of clubs in Ireland. Her other favorite memory is winning the MHC Championship the year she played on Wolski's.

This year, she is not on a team, but is "looking to be adopted!" If you watched the alumni game, you would have seen Steph wearing orange and squeaking anytime the ball came into her general area.

Steph is involved in a number of other activities outside of hurling, including dance, art, Ultimate Frisbee, and yoga. When asked what her favorite thing about Milwaukee is, she responded "The people. I have done a lot of traveling and living in different places but every time I come back, I am always pleasantly surprised how friendly everyone is."

From Stephanie: "If you want to speak Spanish, I'd love to converse with you!"

# Burke's Irish Castle Defends Against Gael Winds' Squall

*by Ivan Baker*

McBob's Gael Winds floundered short of a win versus Burke's Irish Castlemen on a hot and muggy July day. As the season descends, there is a sense of determination by the lower standing teams to give a final fight to make the playoffs. McBob's was one of those winless teams whose tenacity and willpower gave a well-recorded team a fight of playoff style.



*photo credit: Ellen Burmeister*

The Castlemen started their game of points with a sharp strike over the bar from Steve Taylor, a long time veteran who has returned after a few year hiatus apparently without missing a beat. McBob's went for the throat in response, Andrew "The Rhino" Wozniak doubled to the back of the net for one of the greatest looking goals of the season. This goal helped set the pace of McBob's drive for a first victory.

Despite being muggy, the day's heat eased up into the afternoon, unlike either team's ferocity. The Gael Wind defense fortified against the constant Burke's offensive. Goalies Michael Bathke and Bill Boppre with their steadfast backlines, which included rookie Denise Lubotsky who had a grand showing on D, kept the Castlemen goalless. But Burke's Captain Connor Kilp vied for the field's center and helped maintain his team's composure against a wily McBob's.

A goal in the third by McBob's amped up the gameplay, each team fighting for the ball, for the center, and for the win. And both teams' defenses willingly met the challenge, containing the aggressive offensives to points.

This was a game of defense, the fourth quarter - an exemplar of goal stoppage. But Burke's Irish Castle maintained their strategy, over the bar, over the bar, over the bar. McBob's rallied for a win but only managed to play catch-up against a very coolly composed Burke's.

Yet again we experienced a fine example of competitive hurling as we roll towards the playoffs. And again we see fantastic display from a team whose record does not reflect their gameplay. Tough day for McBob's, and another notch in the handle for Burke's: Gael Winds 2-6 (14) to Castlemen 0-18 (18).

# Alumni Game Celebrates the MHC 'Family' Old and New Alike

by Jack Harrold



*photo credit: Kerry Leonard*

The Milwaukee Hurling Club has introduced hurling to over 1000 Southeastern Wisconsin residents over the club's 18 years. Though we have all come to love the sport, sometimes life gets in the way of spending time at and on the pitch. Fortunately, former MHC members were able to relive the glory days of our sport in the Alumni Game held this past Sunday.

Nine former MHC members dusted off their hurleys, helmets and cleats. They were joined by current players seeking to have a bit of fun with their long lost brothers (and sisters) in-arms. Divided into two teams, Blue and Red - the Alumni game quickly got underway.

The gigantic (6'7) Doug Berigan (Blue) took the throw-in next to the diminutive yet tough Todd "Scrappy" Witt, setting the tone for the game - hurling and

pure comedy. Nearly smacking the skin off the sliothar, Berigan proved early that he definitely had not lost the power behind his stick.

Up front for the Blues, Russ Fink and Karen Seeliger fought off Reds defenders Joe Jawson and Stephanie "Squeeks" Hobbins in their attempts to score. Matt Larsen took goal duties for the Reds and thwarted many shots throughout the game with incredible hands.

On the other end of the field, the Blues enlisted Connor "Baby-boy" Kilp to match up against his dad, Todd Saul or the reds. Early in the game, Todd ran Connor over, nearly sitting on him. The whistle signaling the penalty was late in coming as the referee's were too busy laughing to blow the whistle right away.

By the second quarter, play was bouncing back and forth. And, as is the MHC way, two of our U-11 youths, Jack Hardt and Calvin McKee join in the fray. Red and Blue Alumni players alike made definite efforts to get the young hurlers the ball. All were surprised at how well the kids were able to hit, matching distance with most of the adults. With their example, a few more youth were welcomed into the game.

The MHC philosophy has always been that "if you want to play, we'll put a stick in your hands." In that spirit, several hurlers on the sidelines donated equipment so that Irish Fest Theater Coordinator, Eamonn O'Neill could join in the fun. "Oh, that was good fun," Eamonn later beamed, "I'm looking forward to the next Alumni match - I'll be there!"

When the final whistle blew, the score was a tight win for Blue of 7-10(31) to 8-6(30). For all that participated and watched, the game was not about the score. The MHC Alumni game is about the family that we have built throughout the years and that continues to grow. Smiles and memories were built on the pitch; friendships renewed. That is the true strength of the MHC - we are 300 Strong, but only because of family we have built on the pitch.



by *Aislinn Leonard*

The heat and humidity of the early Sunday morning hardly held the U7s back as they excitedly took the to the pitch with toothless smiles and warrior-like attitudes. The U7s may be tiny, but every week a different bobblehead proves that it doesn't take a big person to "play big." This week it was Alia Witt who showed the others how to be a beast with her sense of field position and beautiful hits off of the tee. Alia knows where to be and fights for the ball wherever she's needed, a team player if there's ever been one. Her dad, Todd Witt, must be teaching her how to play in scrums because she always comes out with the ball!



A lot of the puck outs on the bigger field are going far over the midfield line and are becoming stronger as the players improve from week to week; some players, like Cooper Larsen, are even beginning to hit in the air without the help of the tee. On the smaller field the players were all attracted to the ball (and each other) as they moved with synchronicity across the field. No matter what field the kids were on, there were smiles all around. There were no bigger smiles though, than when ice pops were handed out after the game to help cool everyone down.



*photo credit: Kerry Leonard*

# Tattoo - Guess Who!



*photo credit: Aislinn Leonard*

Guess who belongs to this tattoo! We have a lot of ink in the club and this game will be a fun way to put it on display and get to know a few of your fellow club teammates. Check back next week to find out who this is!

\*Last week's tattoo belongs to **Burke's Irish Castle** rookie, **Tony Sholts!**\*

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