

THE MILWAUKEE HURLING CLUB

WEEK 8- July 14, 2013

DISH FROM THE PITCH



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I-SCREAM FOR HURLING



Who doesn't need a bit of ice cream in this heat? It's time for the Second Annual I-Scream for Hurling event this **Thursday, July 18th!** This is a great way to get to know some new members in the club and spread your love for hurling with our youngest hurlers. Each adult player is paired up with a youth player to help unite our club and further grow the MHC family. After a series of fun and exciting drills there will be frozen treats for all! Don't miss this great opportunity for some good summer fun!

It's All in the Family

What's great about playing with your family?



Matthew and Andrew Goelz

Andrew says, "There's always good communication between us. We know how the other plays, so it's easy to find him on the field. It's also fun to tear him up when we play against each other."

The Zei Family

Coach Dad (Kevin Zei) says, "We like that all age groups play at the same time and we don't have to split up in a million different directions. It's a great place for a family." U7 hurler Laurel says, "My sisters and I sometimes like to practice together in the yard."



Gavin and Killian Mantyh

Gavin commented, "At one point we had five of our family members playing: Mom, Dad, Killian, Tyler, and me. It's nice to be able to talk about the games and have everyone understand what you're talking about. They know what it's like on the field."

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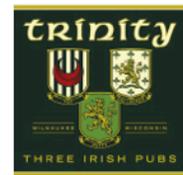
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Pride of Clare Cats Takes Down McBob's

by Jason Kirkpatrick

As the regular season rapidly comes to a close, both the McBob's Gael Winds and the County Clare Cats are fighting to move up the leader board. Both defenses established their dominance early and both did a great job of forcing the offenses to rush their shots. County Clare exhibited some of the best passing that's been seen all season, but the scoring stalemate was broken by a goal from McBob's captain Mike Stucht. The Gael Winds would follow up with a point, but Nolan Hoffmann was able to sneak in a goal for the Cats off the keeper's chest. After another County Clare goal, the McBob's defense pulled together to close the scoring lanes and the Gael Winds began to blow.



photo credit: Darci Neuenschwander

McBob's caught up with three pointing drives before the Cats were able to strike back with a goal from Mike Hoffman that snuck over the Gael Winds keeper.

Eric Lemmer, Erik Sambergand, and Denise Lubotsky were leading a resilient McBob's fullback line that was trying hard to carve out some breathing room near the net. McBob's then began to transition downfield with some fluid passing and ended with a goal doubled in by rookie Daniel Christenson for his first goal. The Cats rally again hit the McBob's defensive wall but Mike Hoffman blasted a shot from the perimeter to grab back a point for County Clare as did his son Nolan Hoffman. Two more points would add to their comeback, but the Cats' defense was soon inundated with shot after shot and allowed three McBob's goals to fly in before being saved by the halftime whistle.

The score at half was McBob's 5-5 (20) to County Clare 3-4 (13), but it was still close enough to make it anybody's game. The Cats turned on the jets early as Sean Minster turned and fired on the run for the point. McBob's was desperate to get the sliothar back, and Tom Hereley made some great midfield stops. Bill Boppre also stepped up and had a beautiful block as he dove across the front of a shot to prevent a point for the Cats. County Clare was not to be outdone though, and two goals and two more points would quickly be tacked on. However, after a McBob's score from Andrew Wozniak and a point doubled through the uprights by Pat Murphy, the teams would once again find themselves within three points.

McBob's was looking to take a stand, but County Clare tied up the match early in the final quarter with a goal that just trickled by the keeper. Both teams were thundering to the ball as if this quarter were going to determine their entire season, and the tension and heat were so thick you could cut it with a hurley. County Clare pointed followed by McBob's, but then Cat Nolan Hoffman netted a goal in what would be a crushing blow to the Gael Winds squad. Point-by-point the lead began to creep away from McBob's and the door was firmly shut by County Clare with two more goals in what would turn out to be a ferocious seventeen point scoring fest in the last quarter. McBob's continues to improve and never gave up on the field, but County Clare would prove to be too much this week with a final score of McBob's 6-8 (26) to County Clare 9-12 (39).

Brown Deer Bigfoot?!



No! It's just our very own Appalachian Trail adventurer Sean Minster! After six weeks in the wilderness we're happy to welcome you back.

Tuesday Girls' Night Out



Hey ladies of the MHC! Don't forget to head out to Brown Deer on Tuesdays and Saturdays for those extra camogie practices. It's always a blast!

Burke's Castlemen Charge the Ale House Marauders

by Christopher Patrick



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

As the day heated up so too did the matches for week 8, with the Milwaukee Ale House Marauders facing off against Burke's Irish Castle. Closely matched going into the week, with the standings at Ale House 3-2 and Burke's 4-2, both teams played a strong defense. Milwaukee Ale House took early control of the sliothar, swiftly moving it around the pitch. However, it was Burke's Irish Castle's defense that held the Marauders at bay, with rookie Bill Courtwright blocking the opening shot on goal. With strong defense on both sites, the quarter ended tied, Ale House 1-2 (5) to Burkes 0-5 (5).

Heading into the second quarter, both teams were poised and focused - not letting the close match get to their heads. The pressure built in the midfield, with Ale House players Sam Hanrahan and Matt Danahey executing excellent communication and passing, keeping

Burke's half-back Christian Neuenschwander busy defending their attacks. The quarter ended with a dramatic shot on goal by Dennis Davidson of Burke's that was deflected by Ale House keeper Jerry Miksch but ricocheted off his stick and over the bar for a point, leaving the teams tied again with Ale House 3-3 (12) to Burkes Irish Castle 1-9 (12).

It was after the halftime break that the pace of the game changed. Shifting from a defensive to an offensive focus, Burke's Irish Castle set the tone

with a quick succession of goals led by Captain Tony Johnson. The Marauder's defense had some excellent scrums, with Captain Tim Sulik and Rebecca Sigmon giving the Castlemen a run for their money. By the time the whistle blew, Burke's had taken the lead, 4-3 (15) to 5-12 (27).

Entering the final quarter, the Marauders made a valiant effort yielding three points, but it wasn't enough to overcome the earlier goals scored by Burke's Irish Castle, ending the match 4-6 (18) to 6-16 (34). Coincidentally, this match was not just the matchup of two teams, but also two new dads! With John "Lindy" Lindstorm (Burke's Irish Castle) welcoming baby boy Reid and Matt Danahey (Ale House) welcoming baby girl Marlo, we're looking forward to seeing the newest members of our community at the pitch!

Faces from the Pitch

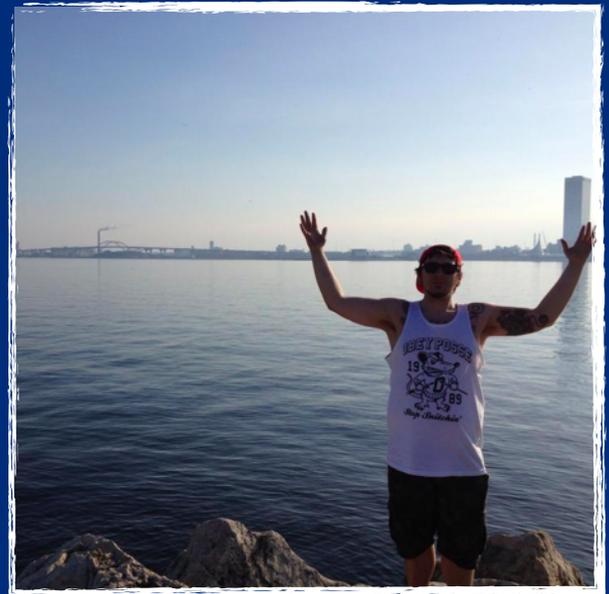
by Connor Kilp

Ryan Mosur

Ryan Mosur is one of the many mid-season additions we had this year. Some of the additions are players from the past, but Ryan only started playing about a month ago. After coming to the pitch with Brenna Olson for a couple weeks, he was placed on Trinity where he can be seen playing half and full back. While he does not have any career highlights, Ryan likes the feeling of preventing opponents from scoring. If you are looking for Ryan before a game, chances are you will find him either stretching or hitting around with Tony Sholts behind the goal. Friends and teammates of Ryan also commend him on his rapidly developing hurling skills.

Ryan does not have a particular sponsor he prefers, but really “any bar that has a pool table and a good IPA on tap” is a good choice to spend some time. Along with that, his favorite things about Milwaukee are Summerfest, the beer and the brats. While Ryan loves these things about the city, he loves going camping to get away from the big city for a while to just relax in the woods. His favorite thing, however, is simply spending time with his son Killian and girlfriend Katie.

Fun Fact: If Ryan had one million dollars, he would build a professional style pitch in Milwaukee.



Tony Sholts



Tony Sholts is another mid-season addition brought to the club by Brenna Olson. Since he has been placed, he has been playing outstanding defense for Burke's Irish Castle. He describes it as “Brenna Olson invited my roommate and me to a match. Halfway through her game we got sticks in our hands and hit the rest of the time. Needless to say, we signed up that day and haven't put our hurleys down.” Before a game, you can find Tony hitting around with Ryan after a nice stretch. Although he has only played four games, he knew right away when asked what his current highlight is: “I scored my first goal this last Sunday.”

Tony was raised on hockey and wrestling. As fellow hockey players know, hockey playing rookies tend to have a leg up on other rookies, as can be seen with Tony's rapidly developing skills. “I wish I would have found hurling sooner,” he said. Aside from sports, Tony manages a retail shop at Bayshore Mall, where he spends days working.

“I love the history of Milwaukee and how people from all parts of the world chose this place to settle. Also, the attitude that people from Milwaukee can out drink just about anyone.”

-Tony Sholts

Heavyweight Burden Shouldered By Legion

by Jack Harrold



photo credit: Aislinn Leonard

As the sliothar was thrown-in for the middle game, the All Tool Sales Legion had secured a spot in the playoffs, and they were looking to improve their standing on the leaderboard. Meanwhile, the Silver Spring House Heavyweights were still searching for their first win. Could the Heavyweights finally find a way to win and manage a playoff birth?

Necessity being the mother of invention, the Heavyweights opted to place co-captain Joel Ingebrigtsen in goal. This proved to be an odd though effective move for Silver Spring House. Although their midfield was a bit weakened, Joel's saves throughout the day were nothing short of amazing. His Superman dive across the net, fully extended to block a speeding bullet of a

shot from Legionnaire Nick "Tater" Ruetz gave credence to his comic book-esque nickname of Jo-el. That is to say nothing of his puck outs reaching well past the opposition's 65.

All Tool Legion, for their part, continued in their normal style, fast and furious. Interestingly enough, as their season has continued on, All Tool Sales seems to have replaced brutal physical play with exceptional teamwork and passing as is befitting a playoff contender. Thanks to Silver Spring House's

defense, the Legion's score was not as high as previous games. But, do not let that fool you, their high-octane play was perhaps their best team effort of the year.

On Silver Spring House's offense, veteran Sean Rae Zalewski continues to improve; slinging shots. Also, the first points ever were tallied for vet Matt Kunz and rookie Matt Mangan.

Silver Spring House is clearly an improved team; taking the game right down to the wire. "We are Starting to GET IT!" the Heavyweight captains proclaimed, "We are close!" Sadly, close was just not quite enough to get past the Legion for their first win. All Tool Sales held on for a final score of 2-11 (17) to 2-6 (12).

Irish Pub Ninjas Liquidate Griffins

by Ivan Baker



photo credit: Connor Kily

The Shamrock Club Griffins fought their hardest against the zealous Irish Pub Ninjas to no avail. The Ninjas jumped at the chance to gain a bit of ground this week as the Griffins had to battle without one of their big pointers, co-captain Vinny Moloney.

The Ninja's tested the Griffin-waters in first quarter pointing with precision. The Griffins couldn't hold strong against the daring Irish Pub. The second quarter showed a merciless Ninja crew taking advantage of the center of the field, scoring at will, and wearing down a usually steadfast defense.

More of the same execution in the third as in the second, the Ninjas showed no kindness with Captain Tim Dombrowski, who scored a number of their points, putting the sliothar over the bar and in the net with relative ease. The Ninja defense kept cool heads every time the ball hit their half, passing ahead to their ravenous offense.

Lopsided score aside, the Shamrock Club never gave up. They played to the very last whistle. Captain and goalkeeper AJ Varelas played a remarkable game, saving many goals and keeping his team resolved during sixty minutes of Irish Pub terror. When a team is missing key proponents, it is hard for the remaining players to make up for it, and the score certainly showed it this game - Shamrock Club Griffins 0-3 (3) and Irish Pub Ninjas 5-14 (29).

Slim McGinn's Show Bandits Life isn't Easy at the Top

by Rob Berrones

The final match on this hot and very humid afternoon saw the first place Brocach Bandits squaring off against a tough Slim's Sláintes squad. Sitting at 4-2 on the season, Slim's was determined to show they were still a force to be reckoned with. But Brocach had fight in their eyes as they took the pitch. They wanted to make their reign at the top continue after last week's upset, and deliver a wedding gift to absent co-captain Shawn "Boston" Connolly who was married on Saturday. Congratulations to him and his new bride, Anna, from the entire MHC!

Slim's started hot in the first quarter, scoring two goals to Brocach's two points. This was aided by the return of Slim's co-captain Matt Ebert from injury. Play was very defensive minded, with both full lines making the opposition earn everything they got.

Slim's started to pull ahead in the second quarter with continued strong play from Steve "Jake" Jakubowski. Erin Clapper also played well, cleaning up the front of the Bandit's net, and had a goal. Going into the half, Slim's had a 3-4 (13) lead over the Bandits' 0-6 (6).

After letting in 3 goals and one point in the third, it seemed that the Bandits were on the ropes. But Brocach would not be counted out. Their defense stiffened,



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

and held the beastly Slim's offense to just four points thanks to excellent play by Mike Meyers. Brocach's effort resulted in two goals and two points, but in the end the deficit left by the second and third quarter Slim's offense was too much. Final score: Slim's Sláintes 6-9 (27) defeat Brocach Bandits 3-9 (18).

When asked for comment after the match, Brocach co-captain Jack Harrold was disappointed in the loss, but remarked on Slim's character. "[They] seem truly happy to just be playing and sharing in the camaraderie that is the MHC. As a captain on the losing side of this game, I feel no shame in the loss. They are a great team all the way around - on and off the field." He made sure to emphasize that it was the team all-around with this mentality, not just a few.

Notes from the Net

by Joel Travis



Had a lot of work today, probably more plays than I've had in any game this year, and allowed six goals. The theme of the day was being aggressive. Those of you who read my postgame posts may know that I've been concerned about playing too passively this year. In this particular game I had a lot of plays where I needed to come out of goal and attack the ball, challenge the opposing players, put my body right in front of their shot. I'm pleased with how I responded to those plays.

One of today's plays in particular illustrated why a goalie needs to be willing to come out of the goal. It was in the first quarter; a ball was hit in the air, and was dropping down in front of the goal box. I could see that one of the forwards was going to be able to catch the ball before any of my teammates could get to him, and probably turn right around and take a point-blank shot on goal. So I charged up behind him and tried to knock the ball away from him as it came down. (Meanwhile, one of my fullbacks alertly slid into goal behind me.) I never actually saw what happened to the ball after that, as I wound up off-balance and fell down,

leaving me out of the play from that point on.

But I did see that I'd kept him from controlling the ball, turning and firing right away; he had to come away from the goal, and toward the sideline, before he was able to control the ball and take his shot. When he did, it went just wide. Part of the strategy of playing defense is to always try to up the difficulty level for offensive players; push them toward the sideline, make them take more difficult shots, make them pass the ball to teammates, etc. Even if it leaves the goal undefended, you can't let them catch the ball unopposed right in front of the goal box. That's too easy.

Three of the six goals came on plays where I came out of goal to challenge the offense, but I didn't succeed. Goals 3 and 6 happened on plays very much like the play I just described; I came up behind a forward to try to keep him from gaining control of a ball dropping just in front of the box. On #3 he was able to double the ball into the net as it came down; on #6 he made a great catch despite me swinging at the ball while he caught it, and was able to turn around and take a shot on goal. Goal #2 was a little different. An offensive player passed the ball across the face of the goal, and two uncovered forwards were both in the area to receive the pass for a point-blank shot. I came out to challenge them for the ball; one of them got to the ball first, while the second blocked me out of the play, allowing the first forward to take her shot without interference from me. (Note that I don't think this was an intentional pick; it's just something that happens when several people are all charging for the same spot. Some of them just get in each other's way.)

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I'm not bothered by any of these three goals; although I wasn't able to make the plays, I made the right decisions. To stay in goal and not challenge the offense on those plays would have been to concede easy shots on goal.

I blew goal #1, although it was only a physical error, not a mental one. The ball was a high fly, coming down at a steep angle as it approached the goal. Those are always difficult plays to judge; the ball can be well above your head, and still drop just under the crossbar (as this ball did). The proper way to play it is to just get into position to block the ball and assume, right from the start of the play, that the ball is going to drop below the bar. You can let it go at the last moment, but until you're certain you take no chances. And that's how I played this ball; I was in position, but simply missed the ball when I tried to block it down.

Goal #5 was a hard-hit ball; I jabbed my hurley to the side and got a piece of it, but not enough to stop it.

Goal #4 was the most interesting one; it was the one play today where I made a conscious decision not to play aggressively. A ball had been hit cross-field, somewhat in front of the goal box; it was well off to the side of the goal, but obviously coming to rest before it would go out of bounds. Two opposing forwards were racing for the ball, and none of my teammates were close enough to impact the play. I could have come out of goal to challenge for the ball, but three considerations convinced me not to:

- 1) I had no chance of getting to the ball before the closest forward would get control of it.
- 2) There was a second forward wide open at the top of the box; if I left goal, the first forward would be able to pass the ball to him for a wide-open shot. (If I stayed back and they tried to pass anyway, I would be close enough to the second forward to challenge for the ball.)
- 3) The first forward would be shooting on goal from near the end-line, aiming for a very narrow angle, most of which would be occupied by my body; quite a difficult shot.

So I allowed him to take the difficult shot; and, unfortunately, he nailed it. I am still not certain whether I made the best decision there. It's a defensible decision, but there are also arguments against it. For instance, if I charge the first forward, get in his face and force him to pass the ball to his open teammate, there's always a chance that the pass will go astray. There's also a chance that the time it would have taken them to make the pass would have allowed my teammates to get into the play and disrupt it.

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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 **Trinity Three Irish Pubs'**, Jesse Rapkin!*

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