

McLean County Museum of History

Hockey Collection

Processed by
Jonathan Oesterlein
Winter 2024

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1983-
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Bloomington has been the home to two indoor recreational ice rinks—The former “Skatium,” now ARC (Normal Township’s Activity and Recreation Center), 600 E. Willow St., Normal, and the Ice Center in downtown Bloomington. In addition, U.S. Cellular Coliseum / now Grossinger Arena, has been home to a series of professional “minor League” hockey teams, 2006 to the present (with interruptions). .

Scope

The collection includes season schedules, tickets, ticket order forms, programs, event flyers, 1983-2024.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 List of Bloomington hockey teams and leagues based at U.S. Cellular Coliseum / Grossinger Arena, and years they operated, 2006-2019.

Folder 2: Stingers

- 2.1 Twin City Stingers, 1983 program.
- 2.2 The Skatium presents the Stingers, 1983-1984 program.

Folder 3: Bloomington Prairie Thunder

- 3.1 Ticket for Prairie Thunder vs Fort Wayne Komets at the Cellular Coliseum, October 14 2006.
- 3.2 Schedule, 2007-2008 season.
- 3.3 Schedule, 2009-2010 season.
- 3.4 Schedule, 2010-2011 season.
- 3.5 Certificate, congratulating the Prairie Thunder hockey team on ribbon cutting, October 6 2009.
- 3.6 Business card for Tim Leighton, Prairie Thunder hockey team containing president.
- 3.7 Note, Tim Leighton to Karen Schmidt, includes five “Thunderbucks,” November 19 2010.

Folder 4: Bloomington Blaze

- 4.1 Inaugural schedule, 2011-2012 season (2 copies.)
- 4.2 Schedule, 2012-2013 season.
- 4.3 Sticker, Bloomington Blaze and Mid Illini Credit Union, undated.
- 4.4 Game Program, Blaze vs. Quad City Mallards, March 1, 2012.
- 4.5 Season ticket order form, 2012-2013.

Folder 5: Bloomington Thunder

- 5.1 Ticket, Thunder vs. Fayetteville FireAntz, January 23, 2014.
- 5.2 Ticket, Thunder vs. Muskegon Lumberjacks, w/ note, September 24, 2016.
- 5.3 Ticket, Thunder vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints, January 6, 2017.
- 5.4 Voucher for \$5 tickets—Reebok Pack the House Weekend—good for game on February 13 or February 14, 2015.
- 5.5 Voucher for \$10 tickets—Opening Night presented by HyVee—good for Friday September 25, 2015.
- 5.6 Voucher for \$10 tickets, good for May 6 or Saturday May 7, 2016 (2 copies.)
- 5.7 Decal, undated.
- 5.8 Home schedule, 2013-2014.
- 5.9 Schedule, 2015-2016.
- 5.10 Value Book, 2015-2016, unpagged (2 copies.)
- 5.11 Kid's Club Sign-Up Forms, 2016.
- 5.12 Season ticket order form, 2016-2017, with schedule and additional information, 3 pp.
- 5.13 Flyer, Star Wars Night, February 21, 2015.
- 5.14 Upcoming Events, U.S. Cellular Coliseum, January-March 2016.
- 5.15 Gameday Program, 2016-2017.
- 5.16 Game program, Thunder vs. Fayetteville FireAntz, January 23, 2014.
- 5.17 Game program, Thunder vs. Cedar Rapids RoughRiders, April 22, 2016.
- 5.18 Game program, Thunder vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints, 2016.
- 5.19 Three game programs, no dates.

Folder 6: Central Illinois Flying Aces

- 6.1 Schedule, 2017-18.
- 6.2 Schedule, 2018-19.

Folder 7: Bloomington Bisons**Newspaper Articles** (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 7.1 "Hockey coming to Bloomington in 2024," *McLean Chronicle*, January 31, 2024.
- 7.2 "Bloomington Ice Boss[:] Bloomington opens first ECHL season with Matsushima as captain," October 22, 2024.

Magazine Articles

- 7.3 "Back on ice, Bloomington Bison to put hockey back in downtown arena," *B-N Sports* magazine, March 2024.
- 7.4 "Bison come rumbling into Bloomington for inaugural ECHL season," *B-N Sports* magazine, November 2024 (includes "Bison to pit focus on fans" and Bloomington Bison November-December Promotional Schedule).

Miscellaneous

- 7.5 Two mini-stickers, 2024.
- 7.6 Pocket schedule, 2024.
- 7.7 Ticket, Opening Night, October 19, 2024, vs. Toledo Walleye, Grossinger Motors Arena.
- 7.8 2025 Education Day Workbook, with Concourse Activities Map and vendor pass.

7.9 Pocket schedule, 2025.

Flyers

- 7.10 309 Night, College Night, Jan. 17, 2025.
- 7.11 Pucks & Paws, March 21, 2025.
- 7.12 Hockey Fights Cancer, March 28, 2025.
- 7.13 Rotary World Polio Day, October 24, 2025.
- 7.14 Milner Field Trip (Milner Library, Illinois State University), December 14, 2025.
- 7.15 Kappa Delta Kaydee Night, Illinois Wesleyan University, October 24, 2025

Gameday lineups / statistics

- 7.16 Bison vs. Iowa Heartlanders, March 8, 2025.

Folder 8: Emil Ludy

- 8.1 “Ludy, Stingers set high goals,” *Pantagraph*, November 11, 1983.
- 8.2 “Skating for life,” *Pantagraph*, February 6, 2000 (full-page spread on Ludy).
- 8.3 “Teams Played On,” handwritten, photocopied list.
- 8.4 Five photo prints: Ludy with wife Jennifer, undated; Ludy and Stan Mikita, undated; Ludy with Denis Savard. dated; Ludy with Bobby Hull, undated; and Ludy with Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, March 4, 2025.
- 8.5 USA Hockey National Championships. 75+ Champions team photo (print), Wesley Chapel. FL, April 13-16, 2023.
- 8.6 Certificate, Emil Ludy as “honourable” member of the Order of Flying Fathers, 2007 (print).

Folder 9: Miscellaneous

- 9.1 Sealy Seals team photo (blue jerseys), print, with identification, 1970s.
- 9.2 Sealy Seals team photo (white jerseys), print, late 1970s.
- 9.3 Email on the McLean County Youth Hockey Association, from Museum Library volunteer Julia Perez, January 28, 2025.