

SPORTS

Brown dedicates decade to smooth Wessman ice rink

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Since 1969 Wessman Arena has been the home of University of Wisconsin-Superior Yellowjackets hockey. This facility has been conditioned and primed to be one of the better arenas in the Division III college hockey landscape.

For a decade ice maintenance duty has been headed by Murray Brown

who also operates the Olympia ice resurfacing machine. Hockey has been part of Brown's life since his youth in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Wessman Arena recreational facility manager Brady Stocker said, "Murray played for the Thunder Bay Hurricanes and even coached with the Superior Amateur Hockey Association (SAHA)."

Brown follows a careful process to prep the ice for games. First the thickness of the ice is checked in different spots during the morning. Ideally it should be 1-1¼ inches thick. Then comes the manual chipping which removes particularly uneven ice that affects the puck.

Finally, the Olympia rolls out and Wessman Arena is conditioned to the high level Yellowjackets expect.

water is blown from jets that push the removed snow into the middle, so it'll go up in the elevator as slush and into the box to be recycled... The recycled slush then fills in imperfections being sprayed with the shower bar to heat and smooth while a towel runs behind and finally smooths it out."

Brown has been around hockey a long time and chose to take the job,

"Because I love being around hockey." This can be seen in his care for the ice, community, the many hockey teams that skate on his beautifully smooth work. Stocker also mentioned the "Sunday Skate" where students can experience the rink firsthand.

Regarding the Sunday Skate program at Wessman Arena, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the month of February. Further dates can be checked on the Wessman Arena website.

Tutor from Page 1

Choi went on to praise how tutoring has also helped develop his communication skills, "Tutors are not instructors or teachers so; they must help students to understand by themselves... In order to complete these duties, I need to improve my communication skill and English skill. In addition, I can learn more things through the [tutor] training program."

Shota Kishimoto has also worked as a Peer Tutor assisting in the teaching of Japanese and mathematics. He said, "I have never taught Japanese so, I am in the process of considering my option [on] how to teach Japanese."

Teaching Japanese has helped him to better understand English, "There are many Japanese words and idioms that are not perfectly matched in English therefore, I need to find the most similar words and idioms. It is really tough work for me because I am learning English as a second language the same as students who come to ask questions about Japanese, however, at the same time it allows me to learn English words and idioms and the way to use them. I believe that working as a tutor is the best shortcut to master something."



Murray Brown on Olympia at Wessman Arena
 Photo by Jeff McClure

In the arena maintenance garage Brown showed the tools and processes used by the Olympia, "Using a blade sharp enough to cut your finger it gets tilted as it cuts a small amount of ice as the cold wash

UWS's First Full-Time Strength and Conditioning Coach

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior has welcomed many new hires to the UWS campus this year.

One of the most notable additions to the Yellowjacket family has been the hiring of P.J. Piotrowski: the first-ever full-time strength and conditioning coach at UW-Superior.

"Definitely a daunting task, coming to a school that has zero strength and conditioning, from a formal standpoint," said Piotrowski.

"I think the other fun part when you flip it and look at it from the other

side of the coin is that, hey, nobody has any of these preconceived notions of what this should be, what this looks like, or how this is going to run. We have this blank canvas, so to speak, to be able to make our own masterpiece."

Though it's only been a few months since his debut, according to Hailey Atwood, a junior and volleyball athlete at UWS, it's clear that Piotrowski's "masterpiece" is already well on its way to creating a lasting mark on UWS athletics.

"I think P.J. brings a new and fresh perspective to UWS and has positively impacted the program. He brings a lot of drive

and passion into the program through what he does and how he goes about the strength and conditioning sessions. You can tell that he wants everyone to improve and perform at their highest level, and he is excited to help us get to that point."

Despite the job's challenges, being the head of strength and conditioning at a school has always been a goal for Piotrowski. "This was always the big stepping stone," said Piotrowski.

Piotrowski has accomplished his professional goal, but his biggest ambition is to positively impact the athletes he works with every day.

"If I can be the kind of person to help you out and make your experience here as a student-athlete a little bit more fun, or a little bit more enjoyable; and just be a good human being and help people along the way. I think that's the biggest piece."

Piotrowski continues his every day while overseeing more than 300 Yellowjacket athletes in 19 different sports programs here at UWS. From the weight room to the court, the rink, or the field, Piotrowski is 'lifting' athletes to new heights.



P.J. Piotrowski
 Photo from Staff Directory

Up Next in Sports

Women's Basketball

- 2/4 @Martain Luther New Ulm, MN 5:30 p.m.
- 2/5 @Bethany Lutheran Mankato, MN 3 p.m.
- 2/11 vs. North Central Home 5:30 p.m.
- 2/12 vs. Northwestern Home 3 p.m.
- 2/18 @Minnesota Morris Morris, MN 5:30 p.m.
- 2/19 @Crown St. Bonifacius, MN 3 p.m.

Women's Hockey

- 2/4 vs. UW-River Falls Home 3 p.m.
- 2/5 @UW-River Falls River Falls, WI 7:05 p.m.
- 2/7 @Hamline St. Paul, MN 3:30 p.m.
- 2/9 @UW-Eau Claire Eau Claire, WI 7 p.m.
- 2/11 vs. UW-Stevens Point Home 3 p.m.
- 2/12 vs. UW-Stevens Point Home 2 p.m.
- 2/16 @Bethel Blaine, MN 7 p.m.

Men's Basketball

- 2/4 @Martain Luther New Ulm, MN 7:15 p.m.
- 2/5 @Bethany Lutheran Mankato, MN 4:45 p.m.
- 2/8 @Finlandia Hancock, MI 6 p.m.
- 2/11 vs. North Central Home 7:15 p.m.
- 2/12 vs. Northwestern Home 4:45 p.m.
- 2/18 @Minnesota Morris Morris, MN 7:15 p.m.
- 2/19 @Crown St. Bonifacius, MN 4:45 p.m.

Men's Hockey

- 2/4 @UW-River Falls River Falls, WI 7 p.m.
- 2/5 vs. UW-River Falls Home 7:05 p.m.
- 2/9 @UW-Stevens Point Stevens Point, WI 7 p.m.
- 2/11 vs. UW-Stout Home 7:05 p.m.
- 2/12 @UW-Stout Menomonie, WI 7 p.m.