



PHANTOMS ANNOUNCE CAPTAINS FOR MUNN ICE ARENA GAME



The West Michigan Phantoms are once again ready to travel east out of the Grand Rapids area for a Black vs. Gray game at another new venue for the club. On Saturday, January 28th, members of the Phantom network will hit the ice on the campus of Michigan State University for a Black vs. Gray game at the historic and recently renovated Munn Ice Arena in East Lansing. For over eight years, the players and friends that make up Phantom Hockey have assembled outside of the normal men's league rinks to play in a series of scrimmage games in arenas that many players don't get the opportunity to play in. While rinks such as Joe Louis Arena, Yost Ice Arena, All State Arena, Little Caesar's Arena and Wings Stadium are just some of the facilities that the Phantoms have ventured to in the past, Munn Ice Arena will be the team's tenth special arena to play in. This Black vs. Gray game in East Lansing will feature 26 skaters and 2 goaltenders in a 90-minute battle in the heart of Spartan Country.

For this upcoming battle in the land of the green, the Phantoms selected two members that have been apart of the group since the team's beginning to act as honorary captains for each side. Matt Zehr and Brad Zehr, both brothers, will serve as player bench-bosses for this tilt at Michigan State. Matt and Brad, both graduates of Mona Shores High School, have been apart of the team since the Phantoms were founded back in 2002. Matt was a 2001 graduate of Shores and in addition to the Phantoms, currently also skates with several members in a Tuesday league with the affiliate Lakeside Locomotives. Brad Zehr, the younger brother, is a 2004 graduate of Mona Shores and has seen action for the affiliated Zombies Hockey during recent years in addition to his full time role on the Phantoms. Both Zehr brothers have played in several Black vs. Gray games since the series started in 2014 and both have the knowledge, expectations and fundamentals to help both teams have fun and enjoy this experience of playing at All State Arena. In most of the previous Black vs. Gray games, players for each team are drafted by the dedicated captains.

This Munn skate will be slightly different and will mirror that of the most recent All State Arena game, in which a modified draft will be chosen to decide teams. Each player was given a skill level between 1-5 and some were given a questionnaire to fill out to help best judge the player's ability and hockey history if unknown to most of the group. The Phantoms utilize roughly six players from the main Sunday team to rank players to help give the captains the best input and help with draft selections. From that point, teams were chosen in a round-by-round setting based on skill level ratings and team player position needs to come up with both rosters. At this moment, the total overall average of both teams is just 0.021 different from each other and the total skilled points of the teams are just 0.294 apart. Very very close on paper! Every effort has and continues to be put into place to ensure these Black vs. Gray games are balanced and fun. The main goal has and will always be to have a fun skate and enjoy the atmosphere of a skating at a new rink. If changes are needed during the game, changes will occur to help balance the two benches.

More information on the West Michigan Phantoms can be found on the team's website at www.WMPhantoms.com or www.WestMichiganPhantoms.com. Additionally, 'West Michigan Phantom Hockey' is the team's official Facebook page and 'Phantom Hockey: Munn Arena Skate' is the official Facebook event page for this January 28th event. Be sure to check all three out for the latest news and happenings of the West Michigan Phantoms.