

Local hockey scores with magazine piece

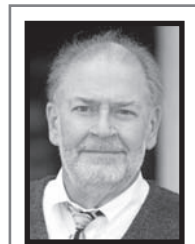
Must say, the six-page spread about the **Sheridan Hawks** hockey program in the current edition (February 2015) of **USA Hockey Magazine** is flat-out remarkable. Good reading, terrific photos, compelling layout. I called the magazine's editor, Harry Thompson, and he agreed that doing a feature story about a non-traditional hockey "hotbed" — Wyoming, and in particular, Sheridan, Wyoming — was a nifty piece of journalism. Pick up a copy, or read online. The magazine is based out of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The nationally-circulated publication focused on the second annual **Wyoming Winter Classic** last month which featured teams from Gillette and Cody and an exhibition of "hockey barrel racing," our own **Sheridan Hawks**. The event drew about 300 fans, according to the story written by **Brad Estes** of Sheridan. Estes wrote in the story how "progress trumps nostalgia" as a preview to the forthcoming \$5 million renovation to **Sheridan Ice** will include a roof, enlargement and other improvements. There are a number of fathers to this success: a generous gift by **Forrest Mars**, fundraising by **Sheridan On Skates**, coordination and cooperation between **Whitney Benefits**, **Sheridan College** and **Sheridan Ice**. Heavy lifting: **Charley Whiton**, **Dave Nelson**, **Dan Carlin**, so says **Zane Garstad**, the Hawks' coach and 24/7 booster of Sheridan hockey (and Sheridan rodeo).

Garstad explains that one day there is hope that Sheridan will be a member of the North American 3 Hockey League Frontier Division that features seven teams from Montana and Wyoming. It's sanctioned by USA Hockey, says Garstad and includes athletes honing their skills for a possible college scholarship in order to take their careers farther. Once the roof and other renovations are made, there's hope towards having a franchise in this league, he says. Sheridan's hockey program has been on ice for 12 years.

Good photos from the story as well from **Dennis Jacobs** and **Bill Cooley**.

(**The Sheridan Press** published Tuesday a page one story about the new Whitney Rink at the M&M's Center, the forthcoming indoor ice arena, which included graphic illustrations of what the new facility will look like.)



PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

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Stephen Woody