

The Leprechaun

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SEPTEMBER 2011 EDITION



NHL Great,
Doug Weight '89,
Retires

Plus...

Mike Kozlowski '02 ~ Alumni Softball

Rick Court '97 ~ Danny Ryan '01

Joe Heilig '89 ~ Jason Selleke '96



Doug Weight '89 Retires

Islanders Captain Retires After 19 NHL Seasons

Age and injury finally caught up to **Doug Weight '89**, who retired from the NHL after a two-decade career that ended with a stint as the New York Islanders' captain. The longtime captain who played for six teams announced his retirement Thursday at a Long Island hotel. He has accepted a job with the Islanders as an assistant coach and senior adviser to general manager Garth Snow.

Snow provided a bit of help to the 40-year-old Weight, who bid a tearful farewell to the game he has played since he was a boy in Michigan. Weight paused several times during his prepared remarks to wipe his eyes with tissues provided by Snow, utter an audible sigh, and take sips of water as he tried to corral his increasing emotions. "Saying goodbye and never going to play again in the league, it's terrible," Weight said. "It's tough. It's a sickening, sad feeling, but it's also a new chapter to hopefully the greatest part of my life," Weight said.

Weight will work with the power play in his job as an assistant coach and will help Snow in all aspects of personnel decisions whether it be free-agent signings, trades, or draft preparation. Weight thinks he will ultimately prefer the front-office side of the business. "I would lean toward the management more than the coaching, but that's just because I'm green and I don't know," he said. "In six months I could tell you, this is unbelievable. I love being behind the bench," he said.

A back injury that cut his final season way short hastened the decision to end his playing career. Weight didn't play after Nov. 17, having totaled two goals and seven assists. He played in only 36 games during the 2009-10 season and 53 games the previous season, his first with the Islanders.

"My health hasn't come back as much as I'd like," Weight said. "I still have some issues with my back and some soreness. If I felt 100% at the end of the season, I think I'd still be making this decision. I'm fulfilled and I feel good about it," he added.



Doug Weight '89



Doug Weight '89:
Stanley Cup Champion

In 1,238 NHL games with six teams, Weight had 278 goals and 1,033 points as one of the league's top playmakers. He won a World Cup of Hockey championship for the United States and was a three-time Olympian — winning a silver medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

His time with the Islanders made a lasting impression — Weight and his family have relocated from St. Louis to make their home on Long Island. Weight, a four-time All-Star who ranks sixth in career points among American-born players. All of that experience and insight convinced Snow to keep Weight within the organization that has missed the playoffs in four straight seasons and five of six. "He has a wealth of knowledge and he has a great hockey mind that can help our team get to the next level," Snow said.

Weight was flanked at Thursday's announcement by Snow and Islanders owner Charles Wang. Also attending the news conference were family, friends and former teammates such as Bill Guerin, as well as some current New York players. "I knew the writing was on the wall and it was something I was going to have to face," Weight said. "As sad as it is, I am very excited and fulfilled with my career. You can't have regrets. I just wish I was healthy," he added.

Weight's long career started in New York, with the Rangers in 1991. He spent parts of nine seasons with the Edmonton Oilers and became a star there, posting 104 points in 1995-96, including a career-best 79 assists. After a stay of three-plus seasons with the St. Louis Blues, Weight was dealt to Carolina in January 2006. He helped the Hurricanes win the Stanley Cup before returning to St. Louis in the offseason.

Weight was traded again by the Blues in 2007 to Anaheim and then signed with the Islanders the following summer. He joined longtime friend and fellow American star Guerin, who was New York's captain at the time. Guerin and Weight were teammates often along the way, most notably in Edmonton, St. Louis and on U.S. teams. Their reunion in New York was short as Guerin was traded to Pittsburgh in March 2009 during their first season together. Weight took over as captain in the 2009-10 season. "He could make plays, he could score goals, he could stand up for his teammates in the dressing room, he could take control at any time," said Guerin, who ended his 18-year career in December. You hope that what you bring rubs off on the guys who are going to be carrying the torch. I like to feel that I had some influence on some of the younger players, and I know for sure Doug did," Guerin added.

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Weight, chosen by the Rangers with the 34th pick in the 1990 draft, made his NHL debut in 1991. He began preparing for his post-playing career last season, spending some games behind the bench alongside coach Jack Capuano. "Just the five games last season I stood on the bench helped me immensely," Weight said. "It's going to be an easy transition for me." Weight has served as a mentor to 2009 No. 1 overall pick John Tavares, the Islanders' franchise player who has spent two seasons in the NHL. Tavares and forward Matt Moulson lived with Weight's family as they got acclimated to the NHL. "It's going to be a little different, but we got a taste for it at the end of the year," Tavares said. "He's got great insight. With his experience and playing in big situations and crucial games, a lot of that stuff will come into play," Tavares concluded.

Doug Weight was Front and Center in Great USA Hockey Generation

By Kevin Allen, USA Today

With the retirement of Doug Weight, the NHL has lost another member of what is now called USA Hockey's greatest generation. This is the group of American players that arrived in the NHL roughly between 1983 and the early 1990s. These were the first group of Americans who entered the league with a swagger and cockiness intertwined with their style. When these Americans lined up against Canada in international competition, they didn't hope to win. They expected to win. They proved that by winning the 1996 World Cup.

Chris Chelios was the leader of this pack. Brian Leetch was a difference-maker. Bill Guerin and Keith Tkachuk were power forwards who could punish you with their goals and their grit. Mike Richter was the group's very popular goalie. But what powered that group offensively was the best generation of centermen USA Hockey has ever produced. The big four centers of that era were Pat LaFontaine, Mike Modano, Jeremy Roenick and Doug Weight. When you compare that group of centers to today's American centers there is really no comparison. Only Ryan Kesler would fit into that group, and he really doesn't yet have star power or resume that these players had.

Weight's goal-scoring touch didn't match that of LaFontaine, Modano and Roenick, but he was a superb passer who totaled 1,033 points in his career. He was also a gritty player who could match up against any star in the game. Weight always came to play with fire in his belly. He had almost 1,000 penalty minutes in his career.

I've known Weight for almost two decades, and I've always found him to be honest and respectful to the game and to people in the game. One of my favorite Weight moments came in 2006 when his Carolina Hurricanes marched to the Stanley Cup championship. Weight waived a no-trade clause to go to Carolina because he believed they could win. It was actually quite an endorsement because Weight is an astute hockey guy. But in the Eastern Conference finals, he checked Jason Pominville from behind in overtime and the Buffalo Sabres scored while he was in the penalty box. I remember him telling me that he was to blame for the loss. It almost seemed like he needed to confess that. He felt so bad about it. That was his nature. As I said, a very honest athlete.

In the next game, it was Weight who scored the tying goal in Carolina's Game 7 victory. You could tell just by talking to him that he wanted that goal because he felt like he had let down his teammates in the previous game. He was always a team guy. "It was a rough night after Game 6," Weight said after the clinching win. "I screwed up. Bill McCreary is a great ref, and I feel I put him in a vulnerable position. I think more than half of the time maybe he would have called it and maybe he wouldn't," Weight said.

The other favorite memory I have of Weight came during the Stanley Cup Final. By then, he was sidelined with a shoulder injury. But during the deciding game, Weight went into the Carolina dressing room and put on his full uniform. He watched the game in his uniform and when the 'Canes won the Cup, Weight joined his teammates on the ice. Weight couldn't lift his arm because of the injury, but when it came time for him to hoist the Cup, he fought through the pain to lift it over his shoulder.

Doug Weight was a very proud athlete.



Doug Weight '89

Source: The USA Today

Doug Weight '89 Makes LSSU Hall

Islanders Captain Inducted into Laker Hall of Fame

Lake Superior State University great, **Doug Weight '89**, who has enjoyed an impressive National Hockey League career recently returned to the campus where he first garnered national notoriety. Doug Weight was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Lake Superior State University on June 26.

Weight didn't get a chance to play in an NCAA final, but he led the team to two NCAA quarter-final appearances in the two seasons that he played for LSSU. "It's an honor to even be able to stand up here," said LSSU President Tony McLain in addressing the honorees in the LSSU Arts Center. Playing on the words found on the Taffy Abel Arena scoreboard, McLain noted "There are two categories of people who come to campus, 'visitors' and 'Lakers.' Visitors become Lakers or 'wannabe' Lakers....It's hard not to fall in love with this place," he said.

"If you go to Taffy Abel Arena and just take one lap around the building you'll be struck by the history and tradition as you look at the trophies, uniforms and displays," he added, ticking off the statistics that include nine Olympians and many All-Americans, including Weight. "The awards go on and on. No other college of this size can match it," he said.



Doug Weight '89 with wife Allison and children: from left - Danny, Addison, and Ryan.

"I'm very proud just to be talking to you about it," McLain continued. "I can't imagine how proud you honorees must be for contributing to it...Your accomplishments off and on the ice won't end here tonight. Because of you, we're proud to say we're Lakers," he concluded.

Honoree Doug Weight was introduced by his father, Doug Weight Sr., who said he rarely missed a game during the two seasons Weight played for the Lakers. "I wanted him to get out and meet people and get to know his surroundings, but I really didn't have a clue as to what went on during the week here," Weight Sr. said. "But on the weekends, I knew what he was doing. I was there with very few exceptions, making the 700-mile round trip," he added.

Weight credited his close-knit family for helping his son choose LSSU for his collegiate career. "His time as a Laker left an impression on him and helped to form Doug's character. He has remained close with his Laker family," Weight Sr. said.

"He's taken us on quite a road...an NHL captain, an Olympian and now a family man - we're watching his coaching debut and waiting to see what's next and we're very proud of him as a husband, father, and teammate," said Weight Sr.

The influence of everyone from his family to his teammates was not lost on Weight Jr., who recognized many of those who have helped him along the way, including the LSSU Blue Liners and Laker fans. He thanked his father: "my first coach until I was 16 years old, who taught me about hard work and gave me support and advice, even when I didn't ask for it," Weight said.

"It was a tough decision whether to stay at LSSU or leave school for the NHL in 1991," Wright said. He called the 1990-1991 Laker team one of the best he's ever played with. "I learned a lot about myself as well as the game of hockey in my short time on campus," Weight said. "It's soon to be 19 years for me in that league, and I owe Lake Superior - the players, coaches, everyone - in helping me with preparing for my future," Weight added.

In thanking his teammates, Weight said, "Jimmy (Dowd) said it best - success comes with friendship and teammates. I've never been on a successful team that didn't have close-knit teammates," he said.

Weight saved his biggest thanks for his mother and his wife, citing his mother's "strong, silent support, shown in a wink, or a hug, or her famous baked goods. I respect you and want to take this opportunity to tell you how much I love you," he said.

"My wife Allison," he said, "truly defines the word *support*," noting the times she had to pick up and move the family to follow him to a new team. "You're 100 percent behind me and I'm lucky to have you," Weight added. Weight and his wife have three children. The Weights live in Old Brookville, N.Y.

How Weight '89 Spent His Time With the Stanley Cup in 2006

Doug Weight and his family were so anxious to greet the private plane carrying the Stanley Cup to St. Louis that they were standing on the tarmac at 2:15 on the afternoon of Thursday, August 17 when the plane landed. "Man, I was like a kid at Christmas," Doug admitted. "I could not sleep last night!" he exclaimed.

It wasn't just excitement that forced sleep to elude Doug — the fact he signed over 500 autographed photos that night may very well have contributed to his weary state that day. Having waited his entire life for the opportunity, Doug made the most of his time with the Stanley Cup. Leaving the airport, Doug and his wife Allison headed straight to Children's Hospital.



Doug Weight '89 took the Stanley cup to children's hospital of St. Louis.

A brain tumor stole Doug's cousin from the family several years ago, so the high-flying forward understands the need for lifting spirits; something he has accomplished with great success with his Weight's World program, which allows children being treated for cancer, along with their families, the chance to attend St. Louis Blues' home games as his guests. From three until four o'clock that afternoon, Doug made the rounds, visiting children and leaving behind autographed photos. Doug obliged one dear little girl, hairless from her treatment, by signing her head. He offered another young girl an autographed photo, but she seemed perplexed. "Who's that," she asked. "That's me," Doug replied. The girl studied the photo of Doug taken during the playoffs, beard in full effect. She looked at the image on the sheet then looked up at the man in her room. "You look a lot better in person," she testified, cracking up Doug and Allison.

Weight was traded, along with Erkki Rajamaki, from the St. Louis Blues to Carolina on January 30, 2006, with Jesse Boulerice, Magnus Kahnberg, Mike Zigomanis and three draft picks going the other way. Allison and the three kids, Ryan, Danny and baby Addison, remained in St. Louis when Doug played for the Hurricanes, and often stopped in at Carl's Drive-In for hamburgers and french-fries, so it was only appropriate that the gang stop in at Carl's for a burger once again. Then, they drove over to the Brentwood Ice Arena, where 200 members of the St. Louis Rockets' organization were treated to a visit from Doug Weight and the Stanley Cup. Doug's six-year-old son Danny is a Rocket, and they thought it'd be a great opportunity to have each player get a photo with the Stanley Cup champion and the trophy he helped Carolina earn. At the end, an aerial shot was taken, with Doug, the Cup and each of the 200 members of the Rockets' hockey association smiling for the picture.

Thursday evening at six, the Cup arrived at Doug's house for a quiet evening. A professional photographer took family photos of the Weights surrounding the Stanley Cup. Then, the Cup was turned into a gigantic sundae dish, with gallons of ice cream, chocolate sauce, marshmallows, M&M's and chocolate chips decorating St. Louis's largest ice cream sundae. The kids dug into the treat and polished off most of it. After a good wash, the Stanley Cup's bowl was filled with popcorn, as the family sat down to relax with a movie. Afterwards, Doug and Allison traced the names of some of the players whose names already adorn the Cup. "There's C MacT," pointed out Doug, referring to Craig MacTavish, a former teammate in Edmonton who, as the current Oilers' coach, was an adversary this past spring.

It was time for bed, but this would be a special night for the family. "We're bringing the sleeping bags in and the baby crib," explained Doug. "We're literally all sleeping together in our bedroom with the Cup!" Weight said.

The next morning beginning at 8, the parade of friends and family began to arrive from all across North America at the Weight's St. Louis home. Former teammates from Lake Superior State University mingled with neighbors, nieces and nephews.



Doug Weight '89 and family have a sleepover with the Stanley cup.

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Sportscaster Joe Buck, Doug's next door neighbor, was one of several guests who arrived to enjoy the festivities. The kids ate Fruit Loops out of the Stanley Cup, then at 9:30, photographs were taken with the trophy in the Weight's backyard.

Just before lunch, the Cup was taken to O.B. Clark's, a local pub, where friends and family were able to enjoy an adult beverage out of the Cup's famous bowl. At 12:30, 60 family members and friends climbed aboard a double-decker bus decorated in Carolina Hurricanes' banners and a sign that read, 'The Weight is Over.' Among those on the bus were Joe Buck and his wife Ann, and Bill Guerin, who will play with Doug in St. Louis this season. Like everyone else on the bus, Guerin was offered a red Stanley Cup champion ball cap embroidered with 'The Weight is Over,' but politely declined. "Thanks, but no thanks, Doug," he said. "I'll wait until we win the Cup in St. Louis this year," Guerin added.

The bus headed straight for the city's most recognizable landmark — the St. Louis Arch. Doug carried the Cup to the top of the stairs for pictures. Then, it was over to Busch Stadium, where baseball's Cardinals play their home games. The team was on the road playing the Chicago Cubs at the time, but Doug, a huge Cardinals' fan, had secured the stadium for his celebration. After drinks in the lounge, Doug took the Stanley Cup out onto the field. Cameras and cell phones snapped pictures of Doug standing on home plate cradling the Cup with 'Congratulations Doug Weight' on the ballpark's enormous scoreboards in the distance behind him. The group clapped heartily, but even more so when Doug was handed a Cardinals' jersey with his name and number. He then filled the bowl of the Stanley Cup with baseballs for a few more shots.

At six o'clock, the double-decker bus took the entourage to an elaborate party at a local golf and country club. The room was beautifully decorated in red for the Carolina Hurricanes, and a life-size ice sculpture of the Stanley Cup served as a focal point as guests arrived at the party. Appropriately, the bar was serving Hurricanes, which were poured into the top of the ice sculpture and filtered through the ice into cups bearing the now familiar motto, 'The Weight Is Over.'

Joining the Weights, their family and friends, were Carolina teammates Ray Whitney and Mike Commodore. A band from Chicago was playing disco-era dance music, and Doug wasn't shy about dancing with the Stanley Cup.

At midnight, the party moved from the country club to the incredible home of Joe Buck and his family. One of the guests shouted, "Hey Joe, must be nice to live in a joint like this." Buck laughed and teased, "Yeah, I work three hours a day and I don't even hafta get hurt like the athletes I cover!"

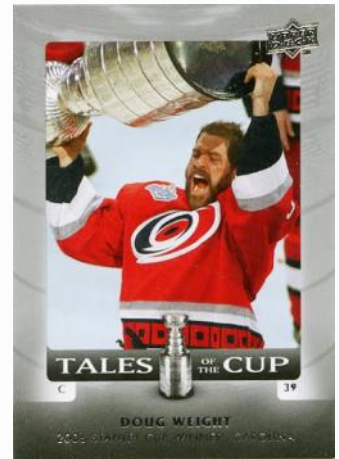
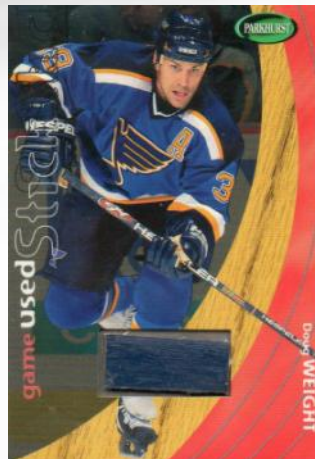
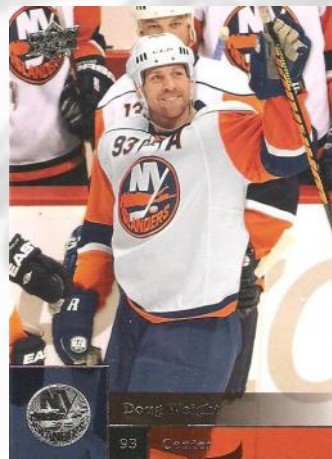
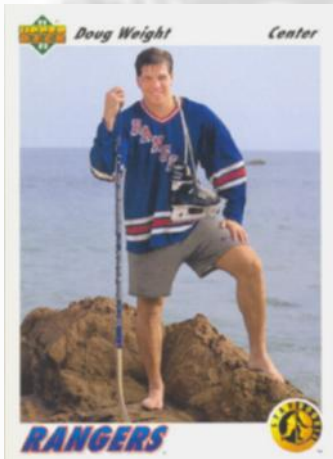
The party came to an end at four on Saturday morning when a chartered plane carrying the Stanley Cup and the next recipients, Whitney and Commodore, was scheduled to leave for Edmonton. Doug had waited for this day from the time he started playing hockey, and had enjoyed the celebration immensely. "My wife, Allison, did so much planning for this celebration," Doug said. "It was so worth it. It felt like I won (the Stanley Cup) all over again!" Weight concluded.

Source: Hockey Hall of Fame



Doug Weight '89 and family turn the Stanley Cup into a giant sundae bowl.

Doug Weight Hockey Cards



Doug Weight's Career Stats

Season	Team	League	Regular Season					Playoffs				
			GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1989-1990	LSSU	CCHA	46	21	48	69	44	-	-	-	-	-
1990-1991	LSSU	CCHA	42	29	46	75	86	-	-	-	-	-
1990-1991	NY Rangers	NHL	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	0
1991-1992	Binghamton Rangers	AHL	9	3	14	17	2	4	1	4	5	6
1991-1992	NY Rangers	NHL	53	8	22	30	23	7	2	2	4	0
1992-1993	NY Rangers	NHL	65	15	25	40	55	-	-	-	-	-
1992-1993	Edmonton	NHL	13	2	6	8	10	-	-	-	-	-
1993-1994	Edmonton	NHL	84	24	50	74	47	-	-	-	-	-
1994-1995	Star Bulls Rosenheim	DEL	8	2	3	5	18	-	-	-	-	-
1994-1995	Edmonton	NHL	48	7	33	40	69	-	-	-	-	-
1995-1996	Edmonton	NHL	82	7	33	40	69	-	-	-	-	-
1996-1997	Edmonton	NHL	80	21	61	82	80	-	-	-	-	-
1997-1998	Edmonton	NHL	79	26	44	70	69	12	2	7	9	14
1998-1999	Edmonton	NHL	43	6	31	37	12	4	1	1	2	15
1999-2000	Edmonton	NHL	77	21	51	72	54	5	3	1	5	4
2000-2001	Edmonton	NHL	82	25	65	90	91	6	1	5	6	17
2001-2002	St. Louis	NHL	61	15	34	49	40	10	1	1	2	4
2002-2003	St. Louis	NHL	70	15	52	67	52	7	5	8	13	2
2003-2004	St. Louis	NHL	75	14	51	65	37	5	2	1	3	6
2004-2005	Frankfurt Lions	DEL	7	6	9	15	26	11	2	10	12	8
2005-2006	St. Louis	NHL	47	11	33	44	50	-	-	-	-	-
2005-2006	Carolina	NHL	23	4	9	13	25	12	3	13	16	20
2006-2007	St. Louis	NHL	82	16	43	59	56	-	-	-	-	-
2007-2008	St. Louis	NHL	29	4	7	11	12	-	-	-	-	-
2007-2008	Anaheim	NHL	38	6	8	14	20	5	0	1	1	4
2008-2009	NY Islanders	NHL	53	10	28	38	55	-	-	-	-	-
2009-2010	NY Islanders	NHL	36	1	16	17	8	-	-	-	-	-
2010-2011	NY Islanders	NHL	18	2	7	9	10	-	-	-	-	-
NHL Career Totals			1238	278	755	1033	970	97	23	49	72	94

NHL Draft: 34th overall pick by the New York Rangers in 1990

Awards: CCHA First all star team - 1991, West second All-American team - 1991, NHL All Star - 1996, 1998, 2001, 2003, Stanley Cup Champion - 2006, King Clancy Memorial Trophy - 2011.

Medals: Silver Medal - 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, Gold Medal - 1996 World Cup United States.

Doug Weight's Videos



Click the image above to see Doug Weight '89 receive the King Clancy Memorial Trophy.



Click the image above to see a day in the life of Doug Weight '89.



Click the image above to see Doug Weight '89 announce his retirement.



Click the image above to see Danny and Addison Weight talk about their dad's retirement from hockey.



Click the image above to see Doug Weight, Sr. talk about his son's retirement from hockey.



Click the image above to see Doug Weight '89 take questions from the media after announcing his retirement.

The Muggs

See Tony DeNardo '90 and Danny Methric '90 perform live!

Friday, Aug. 19, 2011
Woodruff's
(Ypsilanti, MI)

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011
Green Lantern Bar
(Lexington, KY)

Friday, Sept. 30, 2011
Upfront & Company
(Marquette, MI)

Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011
Dark Horse Brewery
(Marshall, MI)

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011
Upfront & Company
(Marquette, MI)

Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011
Arts, Beats, & Eats
(Royal Oak, MI)

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011
Callahan's
(Auburn Hills, MI)



← click the elephant to see *The Muggs* perform 'Mr. Beardsly' live on FOX 2 News!

Court '97 Joins SDSU Staff

Hired as Aztec's Strength and Conditioning Coach

Rick Court '97 was named the football strength & conditioning coach at San Diego State. Court spent the past two seasons as the director of football strength and conditioning at the University of Toledo, where he oversaw all the aspects of weight training and conditioning with the program. The Rockets finished 2010 with an 8-5 record and a berth in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl.

"We are excited that Rick is joining the Aztec coaching staff," Head Coach Rocky Long said. "He comes to San Diego State with a great reputation and we're anxious to get started. He's hard working, professional and does a tremendous job of getting the most out of his student-athletes," Long concluded.

Prior to Toledo, Court spent six years on the strength and conditioning staff at Bowling Green, including the 2008 season as the head strength and conditioning coach for the Falcons.

Court is a 2002 graduate of Michigan State, where he played baseball and received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. He later earned a master's degree in sport administration from Eastern Kentucky in 2003.

In 2001 and 2002, Court was an intern in the strength and conditioning program at MSU, where he worked with the hockey, basketball and football teams. He's also interned in strength training with the Detroit Tigers.

Court and his wife, Molly, have a daughter and a son.



Rick Court '97

Ryan '01 Earns Spot on Prestigious List

Named One of the top 20 Business Persons in Their 20's By Crain's

Just a few years after graduating from Wayne State University, moving to New York for two years and then moving back home to Detroit, **Danny Ryan '01** bought a franchise operation from his cousin. Ryan's cousin had launched the College Hunks Hauling Junk franchise in Washington, D.C., in 2005. Crain's Detroit Business has named him to their top 20 in their 20's list.



Danny Ryan '01

In 2009, right after the economic crash, Ryan and a business partner decided to venture into the franchise business after securing startup capital to purchase a truck and equipment. They bought a franchise covering Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and hired a handful of college students at a time to haul away items for homeowners and businesses. The business currently employs four but expects to ramp up to eight to handle summer demand.

Ryan and his partner, **Patrick Lipa '02**, donate 65 percent of the items the franchise picks up to Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army of Southeastern Michigan and local schools, preventing items from hitting the landfill, providing a tax benefit for its clients and helping the nonprofits fund services for their clients.

Ryan, who oversees sales, is constantly on the road meeting with potential clients or attending networking events to bring in new jobs. His efforts helped bring in about \$125,000 the first year and a profit of \$20,000 to \$25,000. This year the franchise is on track to do \$200,000, with about \$65,000 in profit.

Ryan constantly searches for low-cost ways to market the business, including search engine optimization, social networking and guerilla marketing. He and Lipa donate about 2.5 percent of the revenue from every job to the national scholarship program The CollegeBound Network.

Ryan said he sees opportunity in Ann Arbor, given the density of upper-income, single female homeowners that are typical of their current customers.

Why he lives in metro Detroit: "I live in the Detroit area because my roots are here. ... (Detroit) has a real rawness about it that truly captures all who live in it."

Next step: To open a second **College Hunks Hauling Junk** franchise, to serve Ann Arbor.

Source: Crain's Detroit Business

Kozlowski '02 Puts Panhandler's Safety First

Samaritan and Fire Fighter Help Despite Cops

Mike Kozlowski '02 will tell you up front that he swore at the police officer. You might have, too, if you'd been willing to do what he did in the first place. Kozlowski, 27, was on eastbound Jefferson Avenue, about to make the sweeping right turn into the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. Straight ahead, he saw something odd: a black sedan, facing the wrong way, toward the cars exiting the tunnel into the United States of America.

In front of the black sedan, near the orange cones and orange-and-white barrels that mark the middle of the Randolph Street entryway, sat a man in a wheelchair. Idling in front of Mariners' Church, Kozlowski rolled down his window. "I assessed the situation," he said. He left the Army in 2006, after two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq, but that's still the instinct. You stop, you observe. If need be, you act.

The sedan, he quickly realized, was a Detroit police car. The man in the wheelchair was an amputee, probably in his 50s or 60s, missing his left leg and right arm. There were two officers in the car — man driving, woman riding shotgun — and the man was on the vehicle's loudspeaker.

"Get the bleep out of the road," Kozlowski heard. "Stop your bleeping begging. You need to hurry up," said the cop. As best he could with one arm, the man began to roll himself west, Kozlowski says, toward the sidewalk. Maybe intentionally, maybe not, the bumper of the car tapped the back of the chair.

Kozlowski threw his teal-colored Ford Escape into park, set the emergency brake, punched the hazard light, and stepped into the street.

Nine years ago, fresh from Notre Dame High in Harper Woods, Kozlowski swore an oath to defend his country. He enlisted as a kid and mustered out, four years and 29 parachute jumps later, as a sergeant. On an early leave, he met a Canadian psychology student named Nicole who's now his wife and the mother of their 3 1/2-year-old girl. He runs the overnight shift for a food distributor in Detroit, and he was on his way home to Windsor when he walked across three empty lanes, grabbed the handles of the wheelchair, and pushed the beggar out of harm's way.

"I'll be honest with you," he said. "I don't give money to panhandlers." But there are ways you treat someone and ways you don't. Ways that make a situation better, and ways that don't. Ways you conduct yourself in a uniform, and ways you don't.

The police car swung around, facing Jefferson against tunnel-bound traffic, and Kozlowski approached the driver's-side window: "Is that so bleeping hard to get him off the road?" The officer barked back, the F-bombs bursting in air. "He's just a bleeping alcoholic," the officer said. "No," Kozlowski said, 'he's a human being. He's got someone, somewhere, who cares about him," he added.

The officer gave Kozlowski five seconds to get back to his SUV. Kozlowski met the deadline. The police car pulled away, he says, and as it did, the officer in the passenger seat flipped him the bird.

It's not easy being a police officer anywhere, let alone Detroit, and there are surely times when "pretty please" doesn't get the job done. Just as surely, it's poor policy to splash kerosene on a dwindling fire.

Kozlowski hollered a response out his window. The police car swung around behind him.

The policeman wrote him a nuisance ticket — no proof of insurance — even though the card in Kozlowski's glove box clearly say he's covered through October. He'll go to court and show it to a judge who's too busy to worry about the beggar and the language and couldn't do anything about them anyway.

The officer's name is on the citation. His initials are P.J. and his badge number is in the low 800s, and the department can find him if it cares to. The Office of Public Information didn't return a call, but what could a spokesman say? It's OK to shout amplified profanities at a harmless, armless citizen in a public place?

The panhandler was still on the corner as the officer wrote the ticket, Kozlowski says, and the officer kept badgering him, telling him to move on. Silently, the man turned his chair and started the laborious journey across Jefferson. Moments later, a fire truck stopped in the left lane. The driver hit the overhead lights, and another firefighter swung open the passenger door and jumped to the pavement.

The firefighter wore a uniform, too, the way the officer does and Kozlowski so proudly used to. He pushed the panhandler all the way to the north side of the street, Kozlowski says, through 10 lanes of traffic. Then the truck rumbled off, the police car drove away, Kozlowski went home to his family and the panhandler went wherever panhandlers go, knowing that at least on this morning, somebody cared.



Mike Kozlowski '02

Congratulations Are in Order!



Congratulations to **Joe Heilig '89!** He is engaged to Deena Shields. The couple will marry on October 23, 2011.



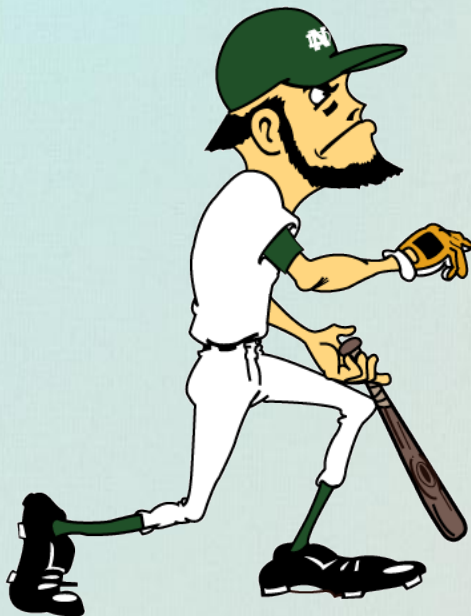
Congratulations to **Danny Ryan '01!** He is engaged to Aimee Altier.



Congratulations to **Jason Selleke '96!** He married Roxanne Mandeville on July 15, 2011.

Friends of Notre Dame On-Line Store

<http://friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com>



2011 Alumni Softball Tournament

When: Saturday, September 24, 2011

Time: 9:00am

Where: Total Sports - Harrison Township

Cost: \$30 per player

Format: Double Elimination, 3 balls, 2 strikes.

Included in the cost to play: Facility usage, umpires, balls, minimum of two games per team, pizza, salad, and pop (at lunch time).

Who can play: Alumni of Harper Woods Notre Dame, sons and grandsons of HWND alumni, and 2 non-ND alumni per roster. (To be fair to everyone, please - no ringers!)

Contact: Alumni Softball Chair, Tom Jenkins '97 at jenkinst79@comcast.net

Rojo Mexican Bistro to Expand

Group's Goal is to be the P.F. Chang's of Mexican Food

Now that the Rojo Mexican Bistro has its flagship restaurant up and running in The Mall at Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, the venue's owners are looking at other areas for their next ventures. The Andiamo Restaurant Group, which launched the first Rojo in Novi in 2008, plan to next bring the Mexican bistro concept to neighborhoods in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids before they branch out to East Coast states. "Our Rojo at Partridge Creek is our flagship store now," said Andiamo president **Joe Vicari '75**. "It's in an A-plus location with a traffic pattern on M-59 that you can't beat. We're very excited to be here."

The Andiamo group invested \$2 million in building the 8,400-square-foot restaurant – the first free-standing Rojo built from the ground up – at Partridge Creek just down the street from an Andiamo Italia restaurant on M-59 in Sterling Heights. The new Rojo has been open for more than a month now, and so far, customers have "embraced them from day one," according to Steve Berlow, the open-air mall's general manager. "It's great to have the Vicari name associated with Partridge Creek because they have a reputation for being a quality group and they've done an outstanding job on this project," Berlow said.

The new Rojo complements Partridge Creek's lineup of premiere eateries including P.F. Chang's and California Pizza Kitchen. Macomb County Chamber of Commerce President Grace Shore said Rojo is not only a major investment in the county, but also serves as an endorsement for Partridge Creek as a destination shopping center. "I think it speaks to the confidence of Partridge Creek and adds to the vitality of the mall," Shore said. "It rounds out the restaurant and dining choices shoppers will have. You'll have to come back here several times just to try out all of the wonderful restaurants."

Andiamo has converted some of its former eateries to the Rojo brand in Novi, Rochester and St. Clair Shores. Dominic Vicari, Joe's son and the general manager of the Partridge Creek restaurant, said this Rojo differs from the others in several ways, although the menu and beverage list is consistent with the others. For one, it's a bit roomier with a seating capacity of about 300. It also has both an outdoor patio and a screened-in patio.

"This one is a little bigger than the others and the atmosphere is different because it seems like we have a little more energetic clientele," Dominic Vicari said. "I think that's probably because we're in this great location with so many shops and restaurants. This mall has become a destination spot, which is why we chose to become involved here."

Executive Chef Luis Garza's menu includes a number of traditional contemporary Mexican dishes including burritos, tableside-prepared guacamole and fresh salsas with spicy, pepper-infused oils, signature lobster quesadillas, stuffed roasted poblano peppers, enchiladas, fajitas, grilled chicken breast, ribs and more.

In the beverage category, Rojo boasts 110 tequila choices along with agave nectar and juices for tasty margaritas. On the rear wall of the Partridge Creek Rojo is a huge mural similar to Mexican artist Diego Rivera's auto factory image at the Detroit Institute of Arts. This mural shows the process of farmers harvesting the agave plant as part of the tequila-making process. Other walls are decorated with whimsical items such as bicycles, while the high ceiling is set off by stone columns leading down to the vinyl wood floor on one side of the restaurant, but the dining room floor is covered in hand-dyed carpeting.

"We want the place to be fun, we want it to be festive," said Dan Linnen, a partner in the Rojo projects and owner of the Novi store. The Andiamo group's expansion is part of an overall business plan of survival as restaurants continue to struggle to retain existing customers or snare new ones in this sour economy. The plan could include an Andiamo in Albany, N.Y., and a Rojo in Richmond, Va., but they'll continue their major focus on their Michigan locations, the core base of support.

"We wanted to invest in this market first because we truly believe in this area and want the other stores to represent what we've accomplished here in southeastern Michigan," Linnen said. "We want to be on par with the Brios and P.F. Chang's of the world. We offer a fun atmosphere, great Mexican food and culture and an overall great dining experience."

Rojo Mexican Bistro is located in The Mall at Partridge Creek, 17240 Hall Road, Clinton Township. Hours are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday, bar stays open until 2 a.m. For more information, call (586) 226-4110 or visit www.rojomexicanbistro.com.



Dan Linnen, a partner in the Rojo projects, from left, Joe Vicari '75, and Dominic Vicari, general manager of the Partridge Creek Rojo restaurant.

Jones '93 Releases Book



Ron Jones '93 has released a new book - *The Hood Survival Guide, Book 1 - Make It Out Alive*. It is your sarcastic key to survival against the many threats that face you in The Hood. This book, the first in a series, covers beginner knowledge and defines The Hood, dangers, and preparation.

Ron Jones is a leading luxury lifestyle professional with vast contacts throughout the US and abroad. Residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, Jones is the CEO of The Glitterati, one of the world's most prominent lifestyle groups specializing in delivering experiences seemingly unattainable.

The book is available in paperback at Barnes and Noble and for Kindle via Amazon.com.

← Click the book cover to order from Barnes and Noble.

In Memoriam

Mattiacci, Guy - Class of 1976

Guy Mattiacci passed away on July 9th at St. John Hospital in Detroit at the age of 53. He was born on January 20th 1958; son of Guido and Joann (nee Cussigh) Mattiacci. He attended Assumption Grotto Grade School, Notre Dame High School, and then graduated from Lawrence Tech. He leaves behind his loving wife Rose. He was proud of his sons Joseph and Nikko, and step son Jeffery Padot. He will be missed by his brother Gary (Julie) and sister Renee Caputo (Dan). He is survived by many loving extended family members and a multitude of friends. Guy led an active life. He enjoyed golfing and boating. During his childhood he loved spending time with his family at the cottage on Elk Lake in Attica. He loved it so much that he bought property on the lake as an adult.



Martel, Michael T. - Class of 1987

Age 41 died on July 17, 2011 at Mt. Clemens Regional Medical Center in Mount Clemens. He was born on October 2, 1969 in Detroit, the son of Thomas and Paulette Martel. Mike grew up in St. Clair Shores and attended St. Isaac Jogues Elementary School. He graduated Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods in 1987. Mr. Martel enlisted in the United States Navy and served aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS Lexington. After his two year enlistment, Mike joined the Navy Reserves and was stationed at Selfridge ANG Base in Mount Clemens. He also served in the National Guard. On June 13, 1992 Mike married Colleen Beels at Selfridge. In 1993 he joined the Detroit Police Academy and was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on September 20, 1993. From the Academy he was assigned to the Tactical Support Section; Public Housing Unit, Detroit Municipal Police Academy and Tactical Services Section. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on January 22, 1999. As a sergeant, he worked at the Fourth and Fifth Precinct, Eastern District and was currently assigned to Homicide. During his career, Sgt. Martel received the following citations: (1) Lifesaving Award, (3) Chief's Citations, (3) Chief's Merit Awards, (1) Perfect Attendance Award, a DPD Honor Guard Award, (1) Perfect Driving Award, (1) Rosa Parks, (1) Superbowl and (1) All Star Game Award. Mike was extremely proud of his family and enjoyed being a father. His hobbies included motorcycles, hanging out with friends, and teaching others by imparting his vast knowledge. Mike was described as being a jokester who often had a sarcastic sense of humor, fun-loving, and a man with a heart of gold. He was a member of the Blue Knights, a police officer's motorcycle club. Mr. Martel is survived by his wife Colleen; his two sons Mitchell and Brett; his sister Cynthia Pajkic; his father Thomas Martel, his mother Paulette Arietta and his uncle John Courie. Memorial contributions should be directed to the Martel Family Trust Fund, c/o Huntington Bank, 36291 Harper Avenue, Clinton Township, MI 48035.



Goltz, Daniel P. - Class of 1967

Age 61, died June 26, 2011. Beloved husband of Denise (nee Kirchinger). Dearest father of Michael Patrick (Beth) Goltz, Rebecca Goltz and Stephen (Lauren) Goltz. Proud grandfather of Caleb Michael Goltz. Loving son of Robert Nelson Goltz and the late Norma Jean Goltz. Dear brother of Janet Onofrey, Susan (Dan) Ryan, Joanne (Rob) Croy and Kathleen (Jim) Smock. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their On-Line Guest Book at WujekCalcaterra.com.





*St. Charles
125th Anniversary Gala*

Friday, September 16, 2011

6:30 pm Cocktails

7:30 pm Dinner

Assumption Cultural Center
21800 Marter Rd.
St. Clair Shores

Buffet Dinner
Dancing
Open Bar
Silent Auction

\$50.00 per Person

For tickets and information contact
the St. Charles Parish Office, 313-331-0253

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
www.stcharlesdetroit.org

Upcoming Reunions

Reunions in 2011

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2011:



2006 - 5 Years
2001 - 10 Years
1996 - 15 Years
1991 - 20 Years
1986 - 25 Years



1981 - 30 Years
1976 - 35 Years
1971 - 40 Years
1966 - 45 Years
1961 - 50 Years



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?

E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com.

We are your *only* source for the most up-to-date alumni contact information!

Class of 1961: Celebrating 50 Years

Hello Gentlemen,

How are you? Hope you are healthy and enjoying life.

WHO: The Notre Dame Class of 1961 Reunion Committee currently consists of your fellow classmates: Paul Baeckeroot, Denny Bolen, Joe Brigulio, George Clausen, Pat Doyle, Ken Engler, Larry Ferrin, Terry Kozikowski, Ray Lucas, Pat Milostan, Tony Pecoraro. We extend a warm and hearty greeting to each one of you.

Please consider helping us in any way you can. Especially, we need your assistance in locating members of our class.

WHAT: The 1961 Reunion Committee invites you to attend your 50th High School reunion. It has been a mere fifty years since we shared time together at Notre Dame shaping the direction of our lives. We have a lot of history and memories to share with each other since then.

WHEN: Saturday, November 5, 2011

WHERE: Penna's of Sterling Heights located at 38400 Van Dyke near 17 Mile Rd.

RESPONSE: (ASAP) Please take time to let us know if you will or will not be attending your 50th Reunion by calling or emailing one of your classmates listed below.

Paul Baeckeroot '61
Tel: 586.286.6654
Email: ptbaeckeroot@comcast.net

Ken Engler '61
Tel: 586.949.4005
Email: ken.engler@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for your cooperation regarding the reunion so that we can make timely and cost effective decisions.

VALOR VIRTUSQUE

Class of 1965: Celebrating 50 Years in 2015

Asking all classmates of '65 to plan ahead... will be here before we know it.

Please make sure you or classmates are still in contact with or get on the Friends of Notre Dame emailing list.

It is not too soon to be suggesting when, where and events.

Contact Dennis Berger '65 * dennisaberger@aol.com * (909) 223-4483

GO IRISH!

Class of 1986: Celebrating 25 Years

Saturday, August 13, 2011

Please contact John Kaminski or Dan O'Brien at:

John Kaminski: jkaminski1700@yahoo.com H: (612) 822-4759 C: (952) 261-5546
Dan O'Brien: dobrien734@comcast.net (248) 840-8391 Paul Arnone paul.c.arnone@gm.com
Stephen Schultz stephen2000_fl@yahoo.com Jonathan Zaidan jkmzc@sbcglobal.net

Notre Dame Class of 1971



40

1971-2011

Class of 1971 40th Reunion
Saturday, November 5, 2011
Club Venetian, Madison Heights

We are creating a video/photo presentation. Please send a current family photo and any vintage shots from your ND days.

Want to be part of the celebration, but cannot attend? We will be skypping that night!

Mike Scharl at notredame71@att.net

Class of 1991: Celebrating 20 Years

Date: September 10, 2011

Location: Comerica Park Suite - Detroit vs. Minnesota

Time: 4 pm * Cost: \$100

Contacts: Ron Stempin: (313) 642-5267

Eric Woodhouse: (248) 925-4357

Rick Nowicki: (586) 295-1338

Details: Spouses/Sig Others Welcome. First 60 paid people are in.

Get money to one of the above contacts or send payments to:

Ron Stempin

27704 Cameron Court

Harrison Twp, MI 48045

Class of 1976:
Celebrating 35 Years

Saturday September 10, 2011

First pitch 4:05 pm

Comerica Park - Detroit, Michigan

Tigers vs. Twins

Tiger Terrace Seats - section 116

Bring your wives - bring your kids -

Event is open to Alumni, family and friends

For info, contact **Dean Ricci '76** at dean@deanricci.com

Class of 1962:
Celebrating 50 Years

Target date is the week before the 2012 Dream Cruise.

Contacts will be made soon via email and snail mail and if

anyone has any questions or information on any of our

classmates they can contact me, **Jerry Lesperance '62** at jerrylesperance@yahoo.com or on my cell (231) 818-0791.



The Leprechaun Staff

Jim Mandl '90: Reporter, photographer, researcher and layout editor

Jim Mandl '66: Researcher and contributing writer

Marge Mandl (Regina '66): Editor

Chet Szerlag '66: Artifact contributor

Rob DeBruyn '89: Contributing photographer

Eric Woodhouse '91: Contributing writer

Charlie Langton '79: Contributing writer

Mike Olechowski '05: Distribution



We Heard From...



Mike Balow - Class of 1990

Just finished going through the last couple of newsletters. You did an incredible job with them. Thanks again. Loved the Fr. Bryson one!

Joe Herbertson - Class of 1982

The Man! I loved that guy! No one loved N.D. like Fr. Bryson!

Ron Humenny - Class of 1971

Thanks for the note and the link. Very nice job on the "special edition!" As Fr. Bryson would say, "Thanks a million!"

Tom Somyak - Class of 1976

I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am with the Fr. Bryson tribute! An outstanding piece of work, and a fitting tribute to Fr. Bryson. Once again, thanks for all you do!

Dennis Huggett - Class of 1964

I just wanted you to know that Fr. Bryson also loved the water, many times in the early 60's my brother Ken Huggett class of 1960 and I would accompany Fr. Bryson to Metro Beach. He never wanted us to call him Father, just John. He will be truly missed, keep up the good work, we all appreciate the updates.

Mark Place - Class of 1965

Wow! That sums up my reaction in a word. Jim, the special tribute issue for Fr Bryson is just simply wonderful. What an epitaph for a man, to have so many people remember him so fondly. Thank you so much for your effort in putting the issue together.

Robert Walmsley - Class of 1959

Just read the edition to Fr. Bryson, it brought back so many memories. Thanks so much for putting it together. He was a great priest, and a great man. Will always be remembered.

Tony Mardirosian - Former Head Baseball Coach and Teacher

Awesome job as usual!

Jerry Rutledge - Class of 1959

That was very, very special. One thing not mentioned was he often referred to a student as "Big Boy." "Hey Big Boy," he would say. These were during my years 1956 through 1959. As a result, we started to refer to Fr. Bryson as "Big John" until it was pointed out that might be disrespectful. That was not our intent but rather a term of endearment to our dear friend who we all respected. Thank you very much for all the extensive work you put into the history of Fr. John Bryson.

Dean Ricci - Class of 1976

What a wonderful tribute to Fr. Bryson. Excellent job!

Bryan Kowalczyk - Class of 1990

You did an excellent job on Fr. Bryson's tribute. Just wanted you to know.

Jim Belloli - Class of 1967

That was spectacular! I can't thank you and everyone who helped put this special Fr. Bryson edition together enough.

Mike Young - Class of 1986

Outstanding job pulling this together Jim, a really nice tribute to Fr. Bryson! Thanks!

Chet Szerlag - Class of 1966

Excellent special edition on Fr. Bryson! Thanks for pulling it together.

Pete Klein - Class of 1961

A great and deserving tribute to a very gentle man.

Chris Cameron - Class of 1996

I just want to get in contact with everyone. I am curious about any projects. As a Realtor here in Michigan and friends with so many of my alumni I can help buy, sell or just chat. The large commercial inventory here in the state creates many options. The low value in residential property for lower Michigan makes selling hard for current owners. My team and I can help. The beautiful Northern and Middle Michigan property seems to be holding it's value. Let me find it for you. Other than our business I am here in Howell, MI. Living right on Grand River above the Thai Cafe in front of the court house. Free concerts every Friday in front of the court house. Come on down. agent.chris.cameron@gmail.com

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