

Pens

(continued from page 1)

world-class athletes. "I think it's awesome that these players came here to talk to us," said Brian Gregory. "This is like the best day of my life."

For Jill Ungvarsky, who plays right wing on her youth hockey teams, the chance to meet some of the Penguins was a dream come true. "I play hockey at the Ice-A-Rama and the Ice Box and I've grown up in a hockey family," she said. "My dad and my brother both play hockey and my mom loves the sport and watches all the games on television and everything. We have season tickets so we'll be going to all the Penguins' games. I can't wait - hockey is like the only thing we talk about in my house."

The Penguins' appearance drew enthusiastic responses from less avid hockey fans as well. "I thought the program was really interesting and I thought the hockey players were so cute," said Noreen Sarieh.

Five homerooms were selected to participate in a mini-clinic in which the players demonstrated hockey skills. "I learned how to handle and pass the puck," said Ben Chopka. "I didn't know until today that you are supposed to pass the puck softly so that your teammate can handle it easily. It's really cool that the Penguins did this because I feel like they're really our team, not just some team you only see on television."

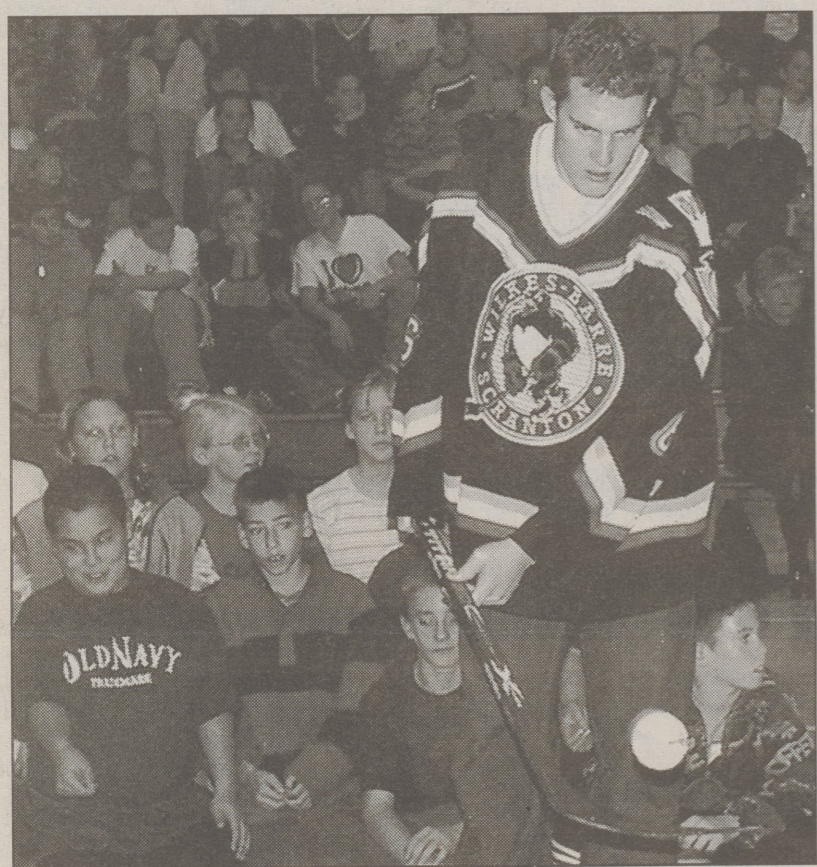
Tom Grace, who works in the Penguins' broadcast booth, said

"...I chose hockey because I thought it gave me the best chance at getting a college scholarship."

Mike Pomichter
Penguins player

the organization is confident such fan allegiance will grow quickly. "We knew when we came to the area we weren't moving into Montreal or Toronto. This is a football region," he said. "Fortunately, everyone I have talked to has been just great. I think we're all looking forward to opening day."

Developing a positive identity with community organizations is expected to have an impact lasting long after the first puck is dropped at the new arena. "Our goal in organizing events like this one at Dallas Middle School is not so much to get more people to come out to see our hockey games," said Grace. "But we hope parents will say 'Oh, I know that guy, he's one of the Penguins who visited my child's school' or 'When my son was in the hospital that player stopped by his room.' The players are living here, this is their community too and as you can see from the enthusiasm shown by the players today they are excited about the opportunity to make a difference."



Richard Smith mimicked stick handling skills demonstrated by Curtis Drummond.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

BACK MOUNTAIN HARVEST ASSEMBLY - 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville. 696-1128. Pastor, Daniel S. Miller. Christian Education for all ages, 10:00 a.m. Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Wed., 7 p.m., "Genos" youth service. Midweek home groups; call for days and times. Weekday prayer 6:30-7:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. 675-0122. Rev. William D. Lewis, Pastor. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m.

PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 420 Main St., Dallas. 675-1723. The Rev. Robert A. Nagy, Rector. Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.; Sunday School pre-K thru high school 10 a.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist Tues. 7 p.m. & Thurs. 10 a.m. Both are healing services on the second Tues. and Wed. of the month. Bible Study Tues. 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors: Rev. Douglas and Janet Bryant Clark. Music Dir., John Vaida. Saturday Services: 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Services: 9 a.m., Family oriented Service; 11 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. Sunday Child Care Provided. Visitors expected. PHONE-A-PRAYER 675-4666.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. Sat. Worship 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Phone 675-3859 or e-mail: stpaul@epix.net for more information. Everyone welcome! Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor:



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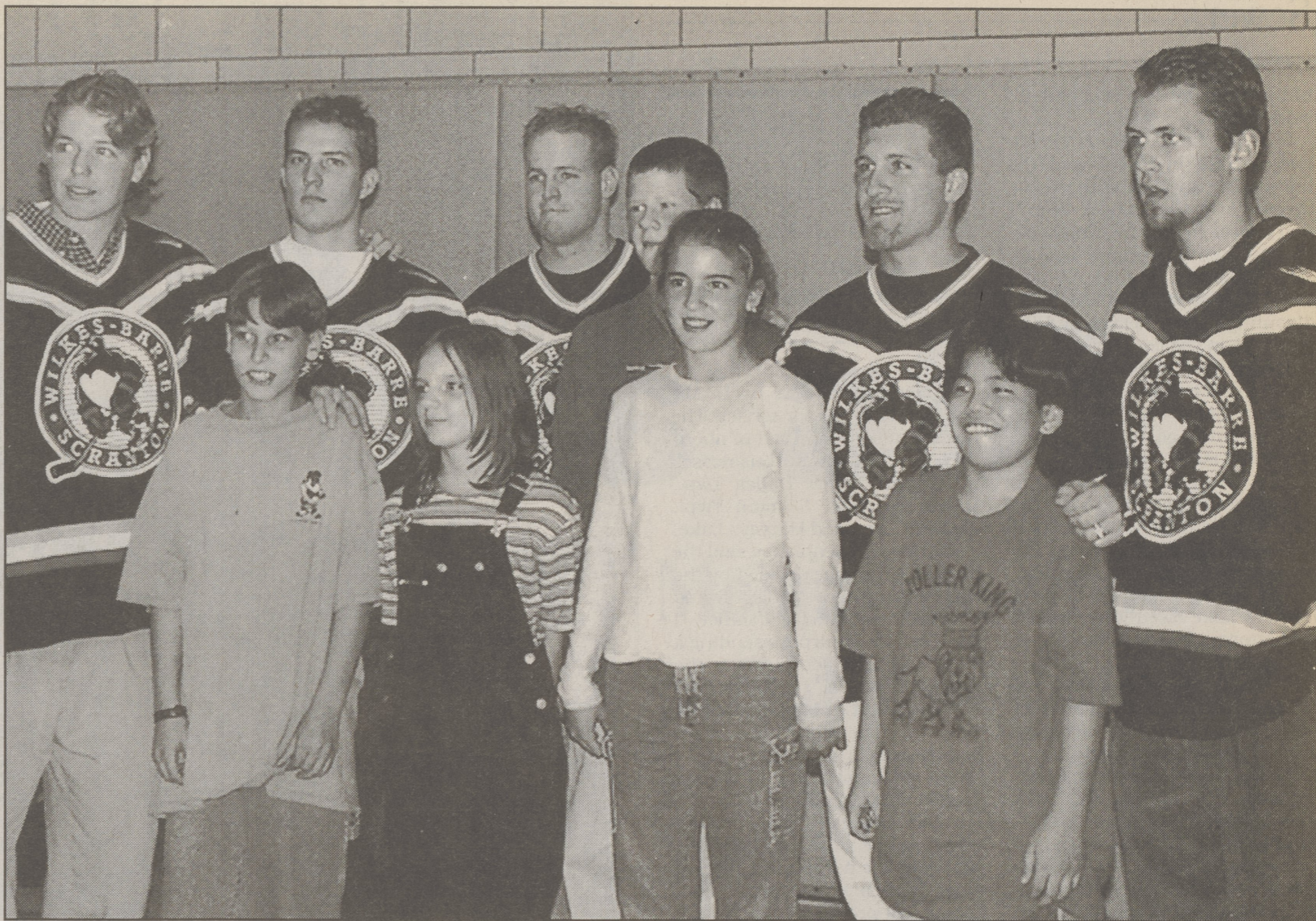
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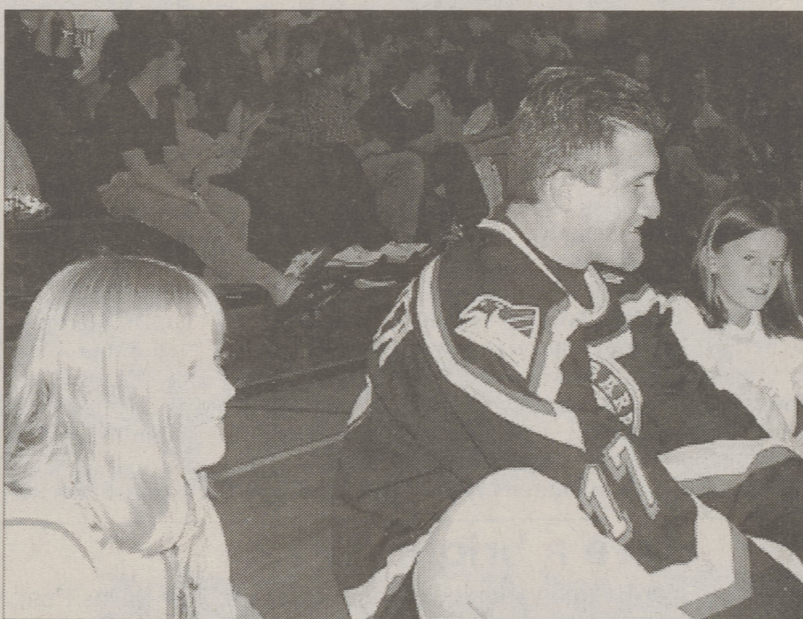
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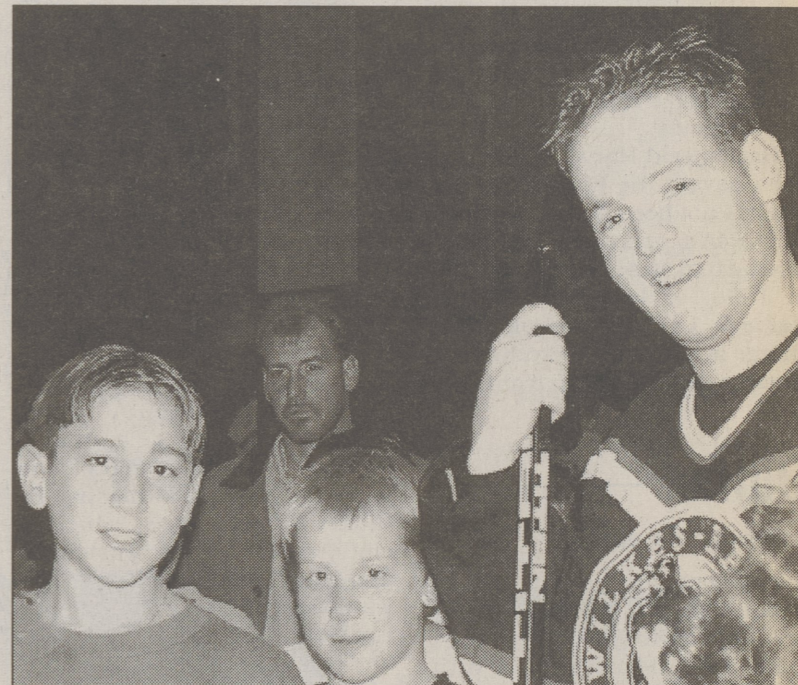


Five Dallas Middle School students will take part in a Penguins shootout at the first home game. From left, foreground: Brandon Harris, Ashley Kusma, Brian Deeble, Caitlin McGuire and Chris

Yamaguchi. Penguins players, background from left: Casey Harris, Curtis Drummond, Chris Kellerher, Mike Pomichter and Greg Crozier.



Jill Ungvarsky, left, who plays right wing on her youth hockey team, and Cassie Snider, right, were eager to meet Penguins player Mike Pomichter.



Brian Gregory, left, and Kenny Martin got up close and personal with Chris Kellerher.

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