Bryn Athyn Ice Hockey History 1901-2025

Ice hockey has a rich history in Bryn Athyn and at the Academy of the New Church (ANC Secondary Schools and College). The Academy played its first hockey game in 1901. In the early days of the Academy, these combined high school and college hockey teams played against other high schools or prep schools. In 1967, the modern hockey collegiate program was founded. At first, the College team included some players from the Boys' School, but the College and high school started to have entirely separate teams since 1974-75. Bryn Athyn College started to participate in intercollegiate league play in 1971-72.

Early days of hockey at the Academy:

Two league championships and Pennsylvania State Champions

The Academy played its first hockey game on February 19, 1901, against the Cheltenham Military Academy. Richard R. Gladish noted in "A History of the Academy of the New Church," published in 1967, that this hockey game was the first sports game ever played against another academic institution in the history of the Academy. Hockey continued on a season by season basis in the early 1900s.

Hockey returned to the Academy between 1920-24. In 1920-21 the first ever high school hockey league in the Philadelphia area was formed. The games were played at the new indoor rink, The Ice Palace, in Philadelphia, and Academy faculty member Charles R. Pendleton was the president of the league.

The 1920-21 Academy team, composed of 10 Boys' School students and two Bryn Athyn college students, is arguably one of the most successful athletics teams in the Academy's history: they won every single game, scored 95 goals, and allowed only 9, and was the focus of considerable newspaper attention.

Alexander Lindsay, forward and manager of the 1904 Bryn Athyn ice hockey team.

The Bryn Athyn Academy Ice Hockey Team, 1920-21. The newspaper headlines are primarily from the major Philadelphia newspapers from February and March 1921.

The team won the Philadelphia District High School Ice Hockey League and went on to become Pennsylvania State Champions. The team also won practice games against University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University.

The captain of the 1920-21 team was Boys School senior Werner Schnarr. Joining the Academy from Kitchener, Canada, Schnarr went on to play as an original member of the Boston Bruins, the first U.S. team to join the National Hockey League (NHL). Werner Schnarr is the only Boys' School or Bryn Athyn College alumnus to have played in the NHL.

The following year, in 1921-22, the Academy team became champions of the Philadelphia Interscholastic Ice Hockey League. For many years following, ice hockey disappeared from the Academy's athletic program, returning briefly in 1949 and 1950.

"The writer no more than a week ago saw an academy ice hockey team meet and defeat the variety of a college famous the world over. And the boys did the trick with precision and dash. Their victory resulted not from luck but from a planned system of attack, executed with co-operation and supported by no little amount of individual brilliancy. The score was 5 goals to 1. Assuredly that tenishes all thought of luck. Bryn Athyn was the team of schoolboys. The college we will refrain from mention. Bryn Athyn was the team of schoolboys. The college we will refrain from mention. Bryn Athyn was the team of schoolboys. The college we will refrain from mention. [Newspaper article about Bryn Athyn's game against Princeton University]

"If Werner Schnarr of the Bryn Athyn hockey team keeps improving his playing with age it won't be long before he will be another Hobey Baker," *Evening Public Ledger*, March 15, 1921.

"In Werner Schnarr, center, Bryn Athyn has one of the hockey stars of the year," *Public Ledger*, March 24, 1921.

"Bryn Athyn has one of the strongest school teams in the country and is on a par with some of the college [teams]" *Evening Bulletin*, February 5, 1921.

"It may as well be candidly confessed that the Academy schools have experienced something of a hockey craze." *Bulletin of the Sons of the Academy* 8, no. 7 (April 1921): 145.

Werner Schnarr, captain for the Bryn Athyn team in 1920-21 (left), and with the 1924-25 Boston Bruins NHL team (right). (Photos from the Academy of the New Church Archives, Swedenborg Library, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania and the Hockey Hall of Fame, Toronto, Ontario)

"You are no doubt interested to know that Bryn Athyn beat the University of Pennsylvania at Hockey several weeks ago by a score of 5 to 0. This is big score. Cool Wednesday evening, if you can. There will be no disappointments."

Bryn Athyn Post March 2, 1921

"A team like Bryn Athyn's present aggregation is one of the greatest advertisements that a school could have," Wallace McCurley, *Public Ledger*, March 28, 1921.

By FREDRIK BRYNTESSON *Bryn Athyn College*

This historic overview is the product of three research projects sponsored by the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church Research Committee.

The Lions in 1961-62. The team had a season record of four wins, two losses and one tie.

The Lions in 1962-63. The team's season record was four won, two lost and one tied game, thus an identical record as the previous year.

Game re-cap from a 1963 game against Lawrenceville. Article from the January 1961 student newsletter *Academian*.

Articles from the *Academian* newsletter that describe the first season (1961-62) under Brian Schnarr, the head coach and organizer of the hockey program. Left: article from December 14, 1961. Right: article from March 22, 1966.

The roster of the 1970-71 team.

The 1968-69 team.

Bobby Hull, hockey superstar and Bryn Athyn College alumnus, with the Boys' School hockey team in 1970-71. Hull was a student at the Academy of the New Church from 1957-59 and played hockey for the Academy. Hull played for the Chicago Black Hawks and the Winnipeg Jets. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983.

In 1970-71 hockey was being firmly established as a major sport at Bryn Athyn. The figure above shows a portion of a page from the Spring 1971 issue of *The Bulletin of the Sons of the Academy*.

1960-1967:

The origins of the modern hockey program

The origins of the modern College hockey program took place during the 1960-61 academic year when a group of Canadian students took the initiative to form a hockey team. Composed of Boys' School and College students, they played against other high schools. This program persisted until 1967, until the arrival of new faculty member Brian Schnarr.

"We are fighting hard this year to get a hockey team organized and are beginning to see just the difficulties. That last game of the season when the blizzards were here and not there are a few of the things that we have to overcome if we are to have a hockey this year. In Canada, naturally born hockey is our blood and we have to take advantage of every chance we get, and the ice we had for the game was the best we have had this season. Our supply of picked hockey players is adequate. I believe that we do in this respect have a slight advantage over the Academy team. We have been lessons on hockey, and haven't buying that we are successful."

Article from the January 1961 student newsletter *Academian*.

The 1971-72 Bryn Athyn hockey team. Some players are missing, and the team photo includes some players who played for the team that represented the Boys' School. The 1971-72 team won the first championship in Bryn Athyn College's history. The conference record was 6 wins and 2 losses, and the team scored 67 goals and allowed only 9. The overall record for the season was 13 wins, 5 losses and 3 ties. The 1971-72 championship team was celebrated with a banner at a ceremony at the Jungé Pavilion on December 12, 2014.

The 1974-75 team. This was the first Bryn Athyn College team that did not have Boys' School students on the roster. It was also the first team in the 1970s that was not coached by Brian Schnarr, as he spent the year in Canada completing his graduate studies. This team reached the semifinals of the conference playoffs.

The 1976-77 team won the regular DVCHC season, beat Philadelphia University 6-3 in the semifinals, but lost the final to Drexel in the dying seconds of the game.

"The College Hockey Team finished in first place with a league record of 9-1-2 (overall season record 12-6-2). [Four members of the team, Steve Hendricks, Paul Jewett, Dario Blair, and Mike Hassert have been elected to the All-Conference team.]" *Bryn Athyn Post*, March 3, 1977.

Item made from another bumper season... After a near-impossible 1st place finish and an 11-game winning streak, the Lions were edged out in the playoffs by an all-JV squad, 10 goals to 9. We have a video of the game, but it's not for the faint of heart. Check it out at the Jungé Pavilion on Sunday, 12/4.

Portion of a December 6, 1977, article from the Bryn Athyn College newsletter *Academian*.

Brian Schnarr's contributions were pivotal in establishing the hockey program and making hockey a major sport at both the College and Secondary Schools. Nowadays, the hockey program has evolved to include teams representing the Boys school, Girls School, and Bryn Athyn College.

In 1971-72, Bryn Athyn College (then called Academy of the New Church College) became co-champions of the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey League (nowadays DVCHC).

Several strong seasons followed. The team finished third in 1972-73, only two points behind the champions. The DVCHC went to a play-off system in 1973-74 to determine the champions. Bryn Athyn reached the semifinals of the DVCHC playoffs three years in a row: 1973-74, 1974-75, and 1975- 76. In 1976-77, the team won the regular DVCHC season, but lost in the finals of the play-offs.

The 1972-73 team that finished 3rd in the DVCHC. Several players are missing from the team photo. The conference record was 10 wins, 2 losses, and 2 ties, and the team scored 71 and allowed 36 goals. The overall record for the season was 11 wins, 7 losses and 2 ties.

The hockey rink before the semi-enclosure was built. This photo shows a men's game in the late winter of 1990-91.

The Bryn Athyn hockey rink before the semi-enclosure was built. This photo shows a men's game in the late winter of 1990-91.

The 1983-84 team. Jodi Dohner received the team Most Valuable Player award, and the Coaches Award went to Keith Henderson and Craig Bostock who were co-captains of the team.

The 1984-85 team. Scott Henderson received the team Most Valuable Player award. The Most Improved Player award was given to Steve Dyck. Randy van Zuiveden and Garth Rycraft received the Coaches Award.

The 1986-87 team. Only seven players (6 games, won 11 ties 5 and lost 5 games.

1967-2025:

The modern hockey program; Championships, National Tournaments, NCAA and ACHA

In 1967-68, Brian Schnarr, encouraged by Academy Athletic Director Ronald Nelson, reorganized hockey at the Academy and founded the hockey program which is active today. For the first time, a team that represented Bryn Athyn College was formed. E. Bruce Glenn, Dean of Bryn Athyn College wrote in his annual report for the 1967-68 academic year, "Varsity sports in the College, inaugurated with last spring's lacrosse team, became more strongly ingrained in our life with full and successful seasons in ice hockey and lacrosse this year – the former under the coaching of Mr. Brian Schnarr, the later under Messrs. Ronald Nelson and Dudley Davis."

The 1991-92 team. Steve Hendricks, Paul Jewett, Dario Blair, and Mike Hassert have been elected to the All-Conference team. Jewett was also the MVP of the team. Tyler Bryn-Athyn Post, March 3, 1977.

The 1994-95 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Anthony Carbone (first team) and Anthony Notarfrancesco and Isaac Sayre (second team) and Vojtech Luza and Anthony Asterino (third team).

The 1996-97 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Anthony Carbone (first team) and Anthony Notarfrancesco and Isaac Sayre (second team) and Vojtech Luza and Anthony Asterino (third team).

The regular season trophy for 1997-98 and 1997-98 Brian Henderson received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Isaac Sayre (first team) and Vojtech Luza and Jason Hoffman (second team) and Jason Marhoefer and Randy van Zuiveden received the Coaches Award, and Brian Henderson and Jason Marhoefer were co-captains of the Warriors at the 1997 annual sports dinner.

The 2000-01 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Isaac Sayre (first team) and Vojtech Luza and Jason Hoffman (second team) and Jason Marhoefer and Randy van Zuiveden received the Coaches Award, and Brian Henderson and Jason Marhoefer were co-captains of the Warriors at the 2000 annual sports dinner.

The 2001-02 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Isaac Sayre (first team) and Vojtech Luza and Jason Hoffman (second team) and Jason Marhoefer and Randy van Zuiveden received the Coaches Award, and Brian Henderson and Jason Marhoefer were co-captains of the Warriors at the 2001 annual sports dinner.

The 2002-03 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Isaac Sayre (first team) and Vojtech Luza and Jason Hoffman (second team) and Jason Marhoefer and Randy van Zuiveden received the Coaches Award, and Brian Henderson and Jason Marhoefer were co-captains of the Warriors at the 2002 annual sports dinner.

The 2003-04 team. Jason Marhoefer received the Most Valuable Player award, and Jason Marhoefer and Isaac Sayre (first team) and Vojtech Luza and Jason Hoffman (second team) and Jason Marhoefer and Randy van Zuiveden received the Coaches Award, and Brian Henderson and Jason Marhoefer were co-captains of the Warriors at the 2003 annual sports dinner.

In 1987-88, Bryn Athyn College won the DVCHC regular season championship, but lost in the finals of the playoffs, and in 1988-89, the college reached the semifinals. The team of 1992-93 was the last Bryn Athyn College team to use the Bryn Athyn outdoor rink for its conference home games. After this season the construction of a semi-enclosure at the rink began. The College team in 1993-94 did quite well and almost qualified for the DVCHC play-offs.

The construction of the semi-enclosure of the Bryn Athyn rink was completed in 1995. This new facility was named the James F. Jungé Ice Rink and Pavilion in honor of Mr. Jungé's support and devotion to the game and is nowadays often referred to as the Jungé Pavilion. The Pavilion continues to serve the College, Secondary Schools, and the Bryn Athyn Youth Hockey programs as well as the wider community. The Pavilion was officially opened on December 3, 1995, and the opening ceremonies were followed by the first-ever game to be played at the Pavilion, in which Bryn Athyn College skated to a 2-2 tie with Rider University.

In 2002-03 the team reached the conference semifinals, and in 2005, it won the DVCHC D3 Invitational Championship.

The James F. Jungé Ice Rink and Pavilion. Right: puck from the opening ceremony of the Jungé Pavilion on December 3, 1995.

2004-05

The team that won the DVCHC Invitational Championship in 2004-05.

2015-11

The 2015-11 team. This team played an independent schedule.

2017-18

The 2017-18 team. The season record was 11 wins, 12 losses, and 1 tie.

2018-19

The 2018-19 team. The season record was 7 wins and 17 losses.

ACHA Atlantic Region D3 Rankings for Bryn Athyn College 2013-2017

Logos from the three ACHA D3 National Championship tournaments that Bryn Athyn College played in 2015, 2016, and 2017

2019-20

The hockey program at Bryn Athyn College then transitioned to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and played an independent NCAA D3 schedule for three seasons: 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20. The team had a winning season in 2019-20 and reached the championship game of the Boston Landing Collegiate Invitational.

2021-22

The 2019-20 team. The season record was 12 wins, 10 losses, and 2 ties.

2022-23

The 2021-22 team. The season record was 11 wins and 10 losses. The team won the championship of the ACHA D3 Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Conference. It finished the regular season in 5th place and reached the quarterfinals of the playoffs.

2023-24

The 2022-23 team. The season record was 4 wins and 20 losses.

The 2023-24 team. The season record was 11 wins, 13 losses, and 1 OT loss.

2013-14

The James F. Jungé Ice Rink and Pavilion, Right: puck from the opening ceremony of the Jungé Pavilion on December 3, 1995.

2014-15

The 2014-15 team. This team played an independent schedule.

2015-16

The 2015-16 team. This team played an independent schedule.

2016-17

The 2016-17 team. This team played an independent schedule.

2020-21

The 2020-21 team. This team played an independent schedule.

The hockey program at Bryn Athyn College joined the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) in 2011 and competed at the ACHA D3 level until 2017. During this time, the team made the playoffs each season. In 2011-12 it reached the quarterfinals and in 2013-14 the team was the runner-up. Importantly, Bryn Athyn College won four conference championships: the DVCHC American Division in 2012-13, and the DVCHC National Division in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17.

2011-12

The 2011-12 team. The season record was 8 wins and 11 losses. It reached the quarterfinals of the conference playoffs.

2012-13

The 2012-13 DVCHC American Division Championship Team. The season record was 16 wins and 12 losses. This was the first championship for a Bryn Athyn College team in a long time, and the team was celebrated with a parade through Bryn Athyn, led by the local Law Enforcement and Fire Departments.

2013-14

The 2013-14 DVCHC National Division Championship Team. The season record was 21 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie. This team made Bryn Athyn College history as it was the first team to play in a National Tournament. The team finished in fourth place at the ACHA D3 National Tournament. Jayson Marhoefer was named a number one scorer in points in ACHA D3. Scott Wimmer and Terence Johnson finished first and second in points at the National Tournament. Scott Wimmer and Kyle Walters were selected to the first and second teams, respectively, at the National Tournament. Head Coach Andrew Burke received the Coach of the Year Award from the conference.

2014-15

Between 2011-17 the goalkeepers recorded 17 shutouts, including 5 in a row in early 2017, and the skaters amassed no less than 54 hat tricks.

Bryn Athyn College was regionally ranked in the ACHA D3 Atlantic Region between 2013 and 2017. In 2014 the Lions for the first time qualified to the ACHA D3 Regional tournament. The Lions peaked at #1 in the ACHA D3 Atlantic Region in February 2015 and held the #1 rank between January 2015 and March 2017.

As a result of being ranked #1, Bryn Athyn College automatically qualified for three ACHA D3 National Tournaments: 2015 (Pelham, AL), 2016 (Grand Rapids, MI), and 2017 (Columbus, OH). Twice, in 2015 and 2017, the team won their group games at the National Tournaments and therefore reached the semifinals (Frozen Four).

The team won 80 out of the 91 games it played in 2014-17. The win percentages for these seasons were: 87.93% (2014-15), 89.39% (2015-16), and 89.66% (2016-17).

The Lions were undefeated for 25 straight home games at its home rink, the Jungé Pavilion, between January 31, 2014, and February 6, 2016 – a Bryn Athyn College record.

In 2015-16, the Lions played an unbelievable 27 consecutive games without losing (26 wins and one tie), a streak that included 17 straight wins, which is the longest win streak in program history.

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18

2018-19

2019-20

2021-22

2022-23

2023-24

Professional and International Play

The Bryn Athyn College men's ice hockey program has recently had several alumni who have played professional hockey domestically and abroad, and represented their countries in international play.

Examples of our alumni who have played in **Europe** are **Terrence Johnson** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2014-15), **Jayson Marhoefer** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2015-16), **Ty Wheeler** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2016-17), **Graham Lorrette** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2016-17), **Brenan Allstaar** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2017-18), **Scott Wimmer** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2017-18), **Jayson Marhoefer** (Swedish 2nd tier league Division 1 in 2018-19), **Lander Todd** (different teams in Slovakia and France between 2018-23), and **McKenzie Chalmers** (Finnish D2 team Lion FC in 2023-24).

Examples of our alumni who have played in the **U.S.** are **Isaac Sayre** (Professional Women's Hockey League Boston Pride in 2018-19), **Dakota Ulmer** (Adirondack Thunder in 2018-19), **Jayson Marhoefer** (Adirondack Thunder in 2019-20), **Terence Johnson** (Worcester Railers in 2021-22), **Mckenzie Chalmers** (Binghamton Rangers in 2022-23), **Jaxson Marhoefer** (Worcester Railers in 2022-23), **Jennet Rakiten** (Watertown Wolves in 2023), **Devon Butcher** (Adirondack Thunder in 2023-24), **Jayson Marhoefer** (Adirondack Thunder in 2023-24), and **Ryan Farquhar** (Glasgow Thunderbirds in the Federal Hockey League of America in 2023).

Examples of our alumni who have represented their countries in **international play** are **Jayson Marhoefer** (Bermuda Senior Men's team in international competitions between 2017-24, including the upcoming World Championship in April 2024), **Alexander Lindsay** (Bermuda Senior Men's team in 2018-19), **Mirko Bartolomeo** (Canada Senior Men's team in 2022-23), and **Griffin Camacho** (Puerto Rico's junior team in 2022-23), and (Puerto Rico's senior team in 2023-24).

Hockey Alumni Weekends 2023, 2024 and 2025

Very successful Alumni Weekends were held in January 2023, 2024, and 2025. These events have included Alumni vs. Alumni games, A total of 48 different alumni have played in these games, representing teams from all decades of the program, from the 1980s to the 2020s. All our championship teams have been represented in these games. Many BAC hockey alumni have also taken part in the festivities without playing in the games.

Alumni vs. Alumni Game 2024

The Lions had four players amongst the top 15 in the regular season conference statistics for skaters. Zack in 1st place with 52 points (22 goals and 30 assists), Landon Gill in 5th place with 37 points (17 goals and 20 assists), Ryan Farquhar in 12th place with 31 points (14 goals and 12 assists), and Miles Pavesich in 15th place with 30 points (7 goals and 13 assists).

BRYN ATHYN HOCKEY