

## LITTLE CYCLONES OFFICIALLY RENAME HOCKEY ALUMNI GAME AFTER LONG TIME SUPPORTER GARY HUNZIKER

Game set to take place Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Friday September 29th: Ames, Iowa:

AMES, IOWA | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

## **Ames Alumni Game Named for Long Time Supporter**

Ames Little Cyclone Hockey Coach Chris Schmale today announced that the Annual Ames Hockey Alumni game will be officially named "The Gary Hunziker Memorial Alumni Game" beginning with this year's game, scheduled to be played Saturday, December 23, 6:00 pm.

Hunziker, who was a pillar of the Ames Community, and a long-time supporter of Ames Minor Hockey, Little Cyclone Athletics and Iowa State University, passed away in May after a three-year battle with cancer.

"One of Gary's great passions was bringing people together from across generations and all walks of life, and making a difference—and that was never more evident than when he worked to bring generations of Ames Hockey players together through our alumni game and other outreach efforts on our behalf," said current Little Cyclone Head Coach Chris Schmale.

Schmale went on to say, "Gary was not only a great person who touched the lives of so many people, he was invaluable to me in my first stint as the head coach here—when it came to connecting with alumni, formalizing our alumni game and starting a Blueline Club. Those things wouldn't happen without his passion and leadership and the work of a few others like Scott Elston, Russ Moore and Todd Scebold, to name a few. It is only fitting that our alumni game be named in his honor and that his wife Chris and children, Andy and Megan, know that they will always have a place in our hockey family."

As part of re-dedicating the Alumni game, the Little Cyclones will honor the Hunziker Family between the first and second periods of their Midwest High School Hockey League contest against Cedar Rapids December 16<sup>th</sup> at Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

That night will mark the beginning of a busy dedication week for the Little Cyclones. The team will hold their annual Quinn's Quest Benefit game in memory of Quinn Boylston and in honor of all Ames Hockey players and families affected by cancer on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> against I-35 rival Mason City. The Little Cyclones will welcome all their alumni and play the first-ever Gary Hunziker Memorial Alumni Game on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.

The public, the community and all of Ames Minor Hockey Association and alumni are welcome and invited to attend all of these activities. More details surrounding these events and other events taking place in the Little Cyclones 2017-2018 full schedule will be released soon.