

**PEGULA ICE ARENA GROUNDBREKING CEREMONY  
PENN STATE HOCKEY  
APRIL 20, 2012**

**Joe Battista**  
**Associate Athletic Director, Ice Arena & Hockey Development**

**Q: Asking about groundbreaking and the construction of Pegula Ice Arena.**

A: It's a dream come true. And certainly it didn't happen without the generosity of the Pegulas and their passion for both Penn State and for the sport of hockey. And for me, personally, I think I should be thankful for the 600 hockey players that have come through our men's and women's club programs, and even our guys that played back on the varsity teams in the 40s. This really is a great day in Hockey Valley and a great day for hockey in the state of Pennsylvania.

**Q: What does this mean for the community hockey programs here?**

A: This going to open up a whole new world, having two sheets of ice, having the amenities in the building for educational purposes. Strength training is going to allow us to take all those programs to a different level. And we see this as a destination. People will come here for not only the regular games and things like that, but they're going to come here for tournaments and competitions ... We'll be having NHL exhibition games and hopefully training camps. We'll also be doing broomball tournaments and youth hockey tournaments and skating classes. The building is going to be open 360 days a year, 7 days a week and for 14 to 18 hours a day. I think one of the coolest things about this building is the cyber café that sits in between the two rinks. It has been a true joy in collaborative effort that is making this dream come true.

**Josh Brandwene**  
**Head Women's Hockey Coach**

**Q: Talk about the excitement a day like today brings.**

A: It's been exciting to not only see the progress on a day-to-day basis, but to have a formal ceremony like this to honor Kim and Terry Pegula and their generosity to this University and the hockey program. It really sort of brings it all into focus and makes it all very real today.

**Q: How are you approaching the next year and a half before it's actually a reality?**

A: The excitement's been palpable. Anytime anybody has come on campus, first and foremost to see Penn State and the educational opportunities here, and then to add on top of it the excitement about the program and the excitement about the facility. People are really just blown away by how special of a program and how special of a facility this going to be.

**Q: As far as the league and the stepping up of the program, what's the status of that?**

A: We think this is fantastic for our program. It's really going to accelerate everything we're doing. It's giving our kids an opportunity as a young team to compete against great competition right away. And that's something that you just can't measure or put a price tag on. It's going to be really invaluable for us as we develop our program.

**Guy Gadowsky**  
**Head Men's Hockey Coach**

**Q: What are your feelings today?**

A: It just pumps everything up a little more, right? I mean it's exciting. It's taken obviously a lot of work and a very generous gift by Terry and Kim Pegula, and a lot of work from the administration leadership from the University and Joe Battista. It's been a vision of his for a long time but to see it all happening and to have this day come just gets you a little more jacked up. It's more and more exciting every day.

**Q: Talk about how much this is going to help the recruiting aspect of the men's program.**

A: It's going to be huge, especially in the Big Ten Conference you're competing against the best programs in the country and they all have great traditions and a lot of success with very successful alumni, and they have great buildings too. For us to compete at that level, we're going to need to step up and I think the Pegula Ice Arena does exactly that.

**Q: Tell me about your feelings about being in the Big Ten and seeing this become a reality with the step up to Division I.**

A: For me it's extremely exciting. I think it's expected to be the premiere conference in college hockey with the best programs and the most storied programs so to be a part of that is extremely exciting. It's an honor and to have a great institution like Penn State join it is just tremendous. It's sort of what you dream about as a coach and the fact that we get to build a program and see how we can compete at the absolute highest level, you don't want anything more than that. It's great.

**Terry Pegula**

**Q: Obviously it's a love for Penn State, but it's a love for hockey too. Where did the love for hockey come from?**

A: It's such a fast-paced game and when you're around hockey players you see what good people they are. Really the athletes are good people.

**Q: How exciting is it? Can you believe that things are progressing so quickly from back on the September 17 announcement?**

A: I honestly didn't think we'd be at this stage yet. I figured there would be some kind of delay, with permitting or environmental whatever. It's nice to see that I think we're actually ahead of schedule.

**Q: When you looked at this building, you obviously have had some input. What are some of the things you'd like to see put in this arena?**

A: The only input I had besides looking and approving the way it looked, which I think it is reasonably unique in the way it looks, is that I wanted it to sound like you were inside a garbage can when there's a hockey game going on. I kept telling people I wanted it to sound like a tin can inside and intimidate the opposition. So I don't know if it's going to sound like that or not, they tell me it is.

**Q: How special is this day for you?**

A: It's very special. Like I said before, we're probably ahead of schedule and I didn't think we'd be where we're at now. It's nice to see it moving along so fast.

**Q: Do you remember the first time you envisioned having hockey at Penn State?**

A: Yeah, it was 2008. Joe Battista and I had a conversation. I asked him a question why we didn't have a Division I hockey program. A lot of people look at the business I'm in and they say, 'This should be easy, or that's easy.' When Joe started explaining to me about the budget and it's hard to get things done, with certain projects like this, that's how I became involved to push it along.

**Q: Why does it mean so much to you to have hockey here?**

A: I went to Penn State. I like hockey. These players that come out of here will be well prepared for the future and hopefully a lot of them go to the NHL.