



THANKS FOR A GREAT AFTERNOON AT THE CHICAGO WOLVES

Thank you to everyone for another successful Black vs. Gray game. As we as the Phantoms continue our journey in our 20th year as a team and edge ever closer to 900 league games played, it is truly amazing to see how this group continues to expand. From our West Michigan teammates and friends, to our newly minted friends from the Chicagoland area, it's the events like this afternoon that continue to create new memories and experiences. Having spent so many summers in Chicago as a kid, it felt great to be able to skate on the ice in such a great and fun city.

It takes a tremendous group of teammates and friends to make these games possible. From the officials, to the photographers and to all of the players, I can't say 'Thank You' enough for allowing this game to take place. It is your passion and your drive that keeps pushing me to locate new venues and new experiences for all of us to share. It is very difficult to take such a diverse group of players, many of which I have never met until today, and form teams that are competitive against each other. Despite its challenges, your devotion and love of the game helped make it all possible. While this game was just a scrimmage, it was a game that again created great memories, great fun and great experiences for our players, family and friends. Again...I say Thank you!

We continue to try to make these events bigger and better because of your desire to have fun. Today was our first Black vs. Gray game outside the state of Michigan. I have to give a large shout out to Jay Allendorf for helping spread the word to the guys around Chicago about this event. Without the nearly one-third of Chicago area players agreeing to give us a chance and skate, this skate at the home of the defending AHL champion Chicago Wolves would not have been possible. Thank you Jay for your help in answering all of those texts messages and phone calls during the process of getting this game off the ground floor; you were instrumental in growing this event from a dream into a reality. Big thanks to Kenny Zschach Jr. for stepping up and helping to officiate this game today. It always helps to have referees at these games to help speed up the flow and of course help with those judgement calls of off-sides and penalties. On the photographer side, big thanks to Steph Hillabrandt and Glenn Gould for taking photos of this special event. The moments that you both captured, will allow everyone to look back on this day and have the memories of skating at such a great arena. (Once we get the photos from Steph and Glenn, we will post them in our dropbox account and will be made available via our Phantom website at www.WMPhantoms.com. I will email everyone once the photo albums are posted). I also need to say thank you to Andrew Page for taking the time to personally create the medals that were handed out to everyone following the game today. Andrew (or AP) spends so much effort and time in designing and producing these keepsakes so that everyone can have a piece to remember these events by. The Phantom logo, in conjunction with the Chicago skyline and 'All State Arena' is yet another great piece that is designed in house by a fellow player and friend. Additionally, I have to give a large thank you to Abigail Kruzel for stepping up and taking charge after our original Chicago Wolves sales representative departed the organization. Abigail, and the entire Chicago Wolves organization, were purely professional during our entire journey and made this event so easy to plan for. I can't thank Abigail and the Chicago Wolves enough for allowing us to skate at your home.

Everyone's support and commitment to join us at All State Arena this year is greatly appreciated. Hopefully everyone had a great skate and fun time. I hope to see many of you tonight as we watch the Chicago Wolves and Iowa Stars do battle on the ice. Remember to join us at the end of the first intermission for a group photo with Skates in Section 112 near the 'North Mural'. If you are looking for additional Black vs. Gray games to play in, we have two more during this 2022-2023 series and we encourage you to sign up. Currently, we have TWO spots open for Michigan State's Munn Arena on Saturday, January 28th. Additionally, just announced today is a March 18th skate at 53rd Arena...official practice rink of the Chicago Blackhawks. Both events are \$40 and you can sign up at www.WMPhantoms.com.

Again, thank you everyone for another great Black vs. Gray game!

Thanks

Woot

231-638-1396