

Randolph woman's youth hockey work honored by Bruins

Bruins to honor Randolph woman for involvement with youth program



By Dennis Tatz
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RANDOLPH —

Calling Gloria Heerman of Randolph a “hockey mom” falls far short of giving her the recognition she deserves. But Heerman isn’t one to trumpet her accomplishments and would likely shy away from kudos coming her way.

“I’m not big on awards,” Heerman said in a recent interview. “I love what I do.”

And Heerman has done much during her more than 30 years of involvement with youth hockey.

She has served as secretary, treasurer, vice president, president and on the board of directors of Brockton Youth Hockey, and more recently, as a high-ranking official with Massachusetts Hockey.

The Boston Bruins a few weeks ago named the 60-year-old Heerman as a “community captain” and invited her to a game with the Montreal Canadiens at TD Garden to be recognized for her efforts.

Heerman has been a key organizer of the Mass. Hockey Hall of Fame awards dinner and volunteered to promote Bruins'-sponsored events in local communities.

“If my son didn’t play hockey, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” Heerman said.

It all began when Heerman’s son, Roger, took to the ice at age 4 with Brockton Youth Hockey. At the time, Heerman, her husband, Paul, and their son, were living in Brockton.

“My son liked skating, and we would flood the backyard,” said Heerman, who has been manager at Aleixo Arena Ice Skating Rink in Taunton for 14 years.

Heerman said she became active in the Brockton youth hockey program while also taking her son to early morning practices. Heerman’s husband served as a coach at the time.

“I truly enjoyed it and got more involved,” she said. “Hockey became our life.”

Heerman’s continued involvement landed her a post with USA Hockey in Plymouth County and led to her being in charge of 390 teams in 10 programs.

Heerman said she has enjoyed her work with the Bruins as a special events coordinator.

“I can’t tell you how honored I am that they would choose me as a community captain,” she said. “The Bruins have always been good to Mass. Hockey volunteers.”

National Hockey League Hall of Fame and one-time Bruins’ captain John Bucyk tops the list of those Heerman has enjoyed working with at community events.

“Johnny Bucyk is the kindest man I have ever met – besides my husband,” Heerman said.

These days Heerman also enjoys watching her 4-year-old grandson, Andrew, learn to skate with her daughter-in-law, Heather Heerman, a former professional figure skater.

“I don’t skate anymore, but I do enjoy watching it,” she said.