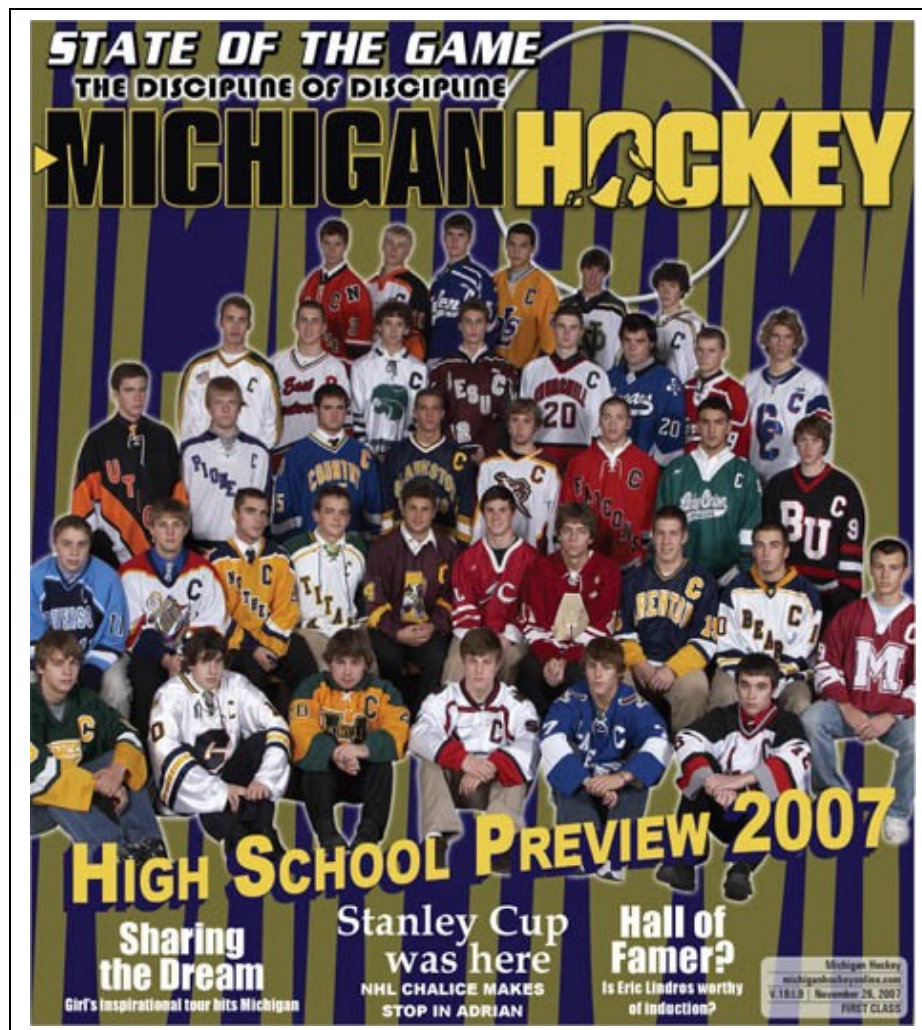


# Adrian College opens season with a bang

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By Christy Hammond

## **A new arena, two wins and the Stanley Cup make for big weekend**

Adrian College's inaugural season started with a big weekend in late October that included the grand opening of their brand new on campus rink, wins for both the men's and women's teams and an appearance of the Stanley Cup.

After the dedication of the Arrington Ice Arena, Adrian's men's team beat Potsdam State on Friday night. The next afternoon the women's team opened their season with a win over Chatham University and drew fans from all over Michigan to see the Stanley Cup up close.

Onsted's Chuck Ercolino and his son Aaron were the first in line to see the Cup up close. Aaron is playing in the Adrian Youth Hockey and Skating Association, in its first year thanks to the new rink. In the past youth hockey players had to travel to Jackson, Ann Arbor, Detroit or even Toledo to play.

"This is our first year as a team and the arena is only ten minutes away so right in our backyard," Ercolino said.

Arrington Arena allows for Adrian College to offer three hockey programs, including a men's club team, and a synchronized skating program. And Adrian area youth will be able to learn how to skate and play.

"The new rink is phenomenal. To have this type of facility at the Division III level is fantastic. Not only is it great for college students here for intramurals, but also for the youth. It just gives them another opportunity on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday to come to the rink and," said Adrian men's coach Ron Fogarty.

After a night in Long Island, NY, the Stanley Cup stopped in Adrian before heading back to Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame.

"For a school like Adrian College to get the Cup, it's just absolutely humongous. I think it regionalized Adrian hockey. We had people from Detroit, Toledo, and Jackson saying, 'we want to come to Adrian to see the Cup.' We could not have gotten anything better for our first weekend," said Adrian College president Dr. Jeffrey Docking.

Adrian's Division III men's and women's programs were made possible by a \$3 million donation made by the Arrington brothers, which allowed the school to start building the rink a year earlier than intended. The arena has already helped the college increase its enrollment by over 90 students from 13 states as well as Canada to compete for the school.

"We've been able to reach into areas like Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver to get great kids because of this arena. So it's really about the kids and giving them a great opportunity outside the classroom because we already know they're getting a great experience inside the classroom," Dr. Docking said.

That commitment has helped Fogarty and women's coach Chandy Kaip recruiting efforts. Both of the new hockey programs are off to winning starts and are working to develop a proud tradition at the college.

"We want to put Adrian College on the college hockey map and you do that by winning," said Fogarty. "But we want to make sure our team has over a 3.0 GPA average. That's equally important to me as the wins are."