



January 27, 2019

USA Hockey, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL), announces **OPEN TRYOUTS for TEAM PITTSBURGH 2019**. Any player may photocopy this letter and application and give it to any eligible hockey player who may be interested in trying out.

The tryouts are open and you are eligible to participate at these tryouts if at least one of the following pertains to you:

- 1) You are a Western Pennsylvania High School varsity hockey player in either your **junior** or **senior** year, are a full-time student under the age of 20 as of December 31, 2018 and you will **have played in at least 50% of your high school team's games by the end of your team's 2018-2019 season.**
- 2) You are a hockey player who attends a Western Pennsylvania High School that does **NOT** have a high school hockey team and are a full-time student under the age of 20 as of December 31, 2018.

Other Requirements:

- 1) Hockey players who play exclusively for Junior "A" teams are not eligible.
- 2) A player's eligibility is determined solely by the geographical location of the high school team the player played for during the 2018-2019 season.
A player's legal residence is not the determining factor.

If you are interested in trying out for Team Pittsburgh 2019, please fill out the enclosed application form and mail it with a check for \$65 payable to "Team Pittsburgh" to:

**Gina Colligan
Team Pittsburgh
876 Foxland Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15243**

We must have all applications and checks by **March 8, 2019**. Your nominal check pays for the administrative expenses and ice time for tryouts.

After the March 8, 2019 deadline, the fee for the tryout will increase to \$85. No refunds will be given after March 15, 2019.

As you consider this opportunity to try out for Team Pittsburgh 2019, you need to be aware of the following information:

1) Attending Team Pittsburgh tryouts begins a Personal Commitment by you that includes the tryouts, several practices, possible scrimmage games as well as the tournament itself. If you cannot make that commitment, do not try out.

2) Team Pittsburgh will compete in the 10th America's Showcase (this is the second year in St. Louis, Missouri, the previous eight years were in Pittsburgh, Pa, which was formerly the Chicago Showcase (held for 25 years in Chicago, Illinois). The date of the Showcase is **April 11 through April 15, 2019.**

3) Twenty-four boy's teams will be participating in the Showcase from all over the United States, including teams from New Jersey, Indiana, Philadelphia, Wisconsin and Illinois.

4) The purpose of Team Pittsburgh is to provide the best area hockey players an opportunity to participate in a highly competitive national event for the elite high school student athletes who play for USA Hockey-registered teams **AND** to provide the opportunity for those players to be scouted by most major Hockey programs in the United States including Junior "A", College, College Prep, and the professional levels.

TRYOUTS:

Tryouts will consist of four on-ice evaluations at the end of March. Every attempt will be made to avoid conflicts with any High School or Amateur Playoff dates. Unfortunately, it is extremely hard to find available ice in March.

Players must attend a MINIMUM of two tryouts:

Wednesday, March 20, 2019	5:45pm-8:00pm*	Alpha Ice Complex (Harmar)
Thursday, March 21, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	Alpha Ice Complex (Harmar)
Monday, March 25, 2019	7:00pm-9:00pm	Alpha Ice Complex (Harmar)
Tuesday, March 26, 2019	7:00pm-9:00pm	Alpha Ice Complex (Harmar)

There is also a financial commitment. The last several years, Team Pittsburgh was fortunate to have the America's Showcase in Pittsburgh. But, now with the Showcase in St. Louis, Missouri, there will a significant increase in our cost. We now have transportation costs (Southwest

Airlines non-stop flight) and an extra night in the hotel. The past several years, we have had the benefit of contributions. Until I know the amount of this year's contribution, an exact fee is difficult to estimate at this time. I am anticipating the per player cost to be around \$625. This fee will include hotel expenses, ice time, transportation and some meals.

Team Pittsburgh will continue to compete in the highest level of the showcase due to its success over the last several years. The 2007 Team Pittsburgh team won the Chicago Showcase for the first time in 23 years. This was an unbelievable and memorable experience for these players. The 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2017 Team Pittsburgh team lost in the Showcase finals. The 2015 Team Pittsburgh won the America's Showcase championship game. And, The 2018 Team Pittsburgh team won the first America's Showcase in Missouri. (see below)

PIHL players lead Team Pittsburgh to title at America's High School Showcase

By: [Ray Fisher](#)

Monday, April 30, 2018 | 5:15 PM



Submitted, Twenty PIHL players competed for the Team Pittsburgh hockey team in the 2018 USA Hockey America's High School Showcase championship game held in St. Louis.

Franklin Regional senior Nick Carretta connected on one of the biggest goals of his hockey career.

Carretta, one of 20 PIHL players on the Team Pittsburgh hockey team, scored in overtime on a power-play against Illinois in the USA Hockey America's High School Showcase championship game held in St. Louis.

Team Pittsburgh edged the two-time defending Illinois squad, 4-3, to claim the title.

"The tournament in St. Louis was one of the greatest experiences I have been a part of in my hockey career," said Carretta, a 5-foot-11, 180-pound forward and four-year player at Franklin Regional. "The entire time I was there I had a blast; from obviously playing hockey to meeting and playing with a whole bunch of kids I had never met before. Also, in the hotel we had a lot of down time so I got to know everyone on the team that much more and just had a blast.

"It was very exciting to be crowned a national champion and bring the title back to Pittsburgh. In Pittsburgh, as we all know, (with) it being the 'City of Champions,' we were pressured to live up to that expectation, which we did very well."

Carretta's linemates, junior forwards Oldrich Virag, a Franklin Regional teammate, and Jared Gerger, from Hempfield, were credited with assists on the game-winning goal.

After Illinois was assessed a penalty for too many men on the ice, Carretta, who after graduation plans to either attend Ohio University for business or play junior hockey, ended the contest at the 5:23 mark of the overtime session following a Gerger shot on net.

"The rebound was sitting right in the crease, and my eyes got huge," Carretta said. "I corralled the puck from inside the crease, pulled it around the goalie and put it into the net. After it went in and I knew we had won, everything after was basically a blur, knowing that we had just won a national championship.

"It was one of my most exciting moments in my hockey career. It is one of the biggest and best goals of my career because scoring a goal in overtime to win a national championship is a feeling that is indescribable."

Elizabeth Forward senior Tyrik Barkley was the winning goaltender in the championship game.

The showcase event took place April 19-23 at the St. Peters Rec-Plex in St. Louis.

Team Pittsburgh posted a 6-0 record in the tournament and outscored the opposition by a 34-17 margin. The PIHL squad skated past Missouri Blue, 4-2; New Jersey, 7-3; Wisconsin, 8-4; Missouri White, 7-2; and Colorado Burgundy, 4-3; to advance to the championship game.

The South Hills area was represented by four players on the Pittsburgh team — senior defensemen Nick Antonio (Baldwin) and Michael Daley (Upper St. Clair); and junior forwards J.C. Bele (Bethel Park) and Wyatt George (Mt. Lebanon).

“Being a part of Team Pittsburgh was such an experience,” Antonio said. “I had never really played in a tournament with that type of competition. Going into the tournament, my main goal was just to see how I would be able to handle the speed and talent of the other players, let alone win the championship.

“Once we scored the game-winning goal in OT against Illinois, I was just filled with pure excitement. The entire tournament was such a blast, from the plane rides, to the bus rides to and from our games, and to just being around my teammates. It was an awesome time, and I'm glad we could bring back the win for 412.”

Gerger led the squad in scoring in the tournament with five goals and five assists. He was complemented offensively by senior forward Benjamin Kuzma (Quaker Valley), with five goals and four assists; J.C. Bele, who accounted for three goals and six assists; and junior forward Jace Rearic (Armstrong), with four goals and four assists.

Carretta ended up with four goals and three assists, while senior defenseman Matt Berner (North Hills) and Virag chipped in with three goals apiece.

Rounding out the squad were senior goaltender Sergio Benitez (Plum); senior forward Zachary Kutch (Armstrong); junior forwards Kellen Almady (West Allegheny), Ryan Brown (Connellsville), Wyatt George (Mt. Lebanon), Ben Leslie (Penn-Trafford) and Vincenzo Mazur (North Allegheny); and on defense, senior Patrick Roach (Mars) and juniors Tyler Duderstadt (North Allegheny) and Andrew Jacobs (Conneaut).

The team's head coach was Paul Bonetti (Chartiers Valley), and the assistants were Justin Glock (Baldwin) and Lee Grafton (Armstrong). Gina Colligan was general manager.

Against Illinois, Carretta and Virag posted one goal and one assist; Kuzma and Bele tacked on a goal apiece

“Now that Pittsburgh hockey has brought home another championship, it is up to the Pittsburgh Penguins to live up the name of ‘City of Champions’ and bring home another Stanley Cup,” Carretta said.

Ray Fisher is a freelance writer.

Please DO NOT let this opportunity escape you. We certainly hope to see you at tryouts.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AND RETURN IT TODAY.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at home at 412-561-1812.

Sincerely,
Gina Colligan
Team Pittsburgh General Manager
noogiec@aol.com

2019 TEAM PITTSBURGH APPLICATION

PLAYER'S NAME: _____ YR: JR SR

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

POSITION: _____ SHOT: (R/L): _____ HGT: _____ WGT: _____

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM: _____

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY COACH: _____

AMATEUR HOCKEY TEAM: _____

AMATEUR HOCKEY COACH: _____

**MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION & \$65 CHECK PAYABLE TO
'TEAM PITTSBURGH' TO:**

Gina Colligan
Team Pittsburgh
876 Foxland Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
412-561-1812
noogiec@aol.com

(Please return by March 8, 2019; the tryout fee will increase to \$85 after this date)