Griffins hockey teams ecstatic about new home arena

Edmonton – The wait is finally over -- the MacEwan University Griffins Hockey teams officially move into their permanent home at the Downtown Community Rink adjacent to Rogers Place on Saturday, September 24.

“This marks the first time in our history that we’ve had the opportunity to practice and compete in an arena this close to the university, and we couldn’t be more excited,” said Ken Schilgroth, director of Athletics, MacEwan University.

Last season the men’s team played in the Bill Hunter Arena and the women’s team in the Confederation Arena, as the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association graciously incorporated the Griffins into their schedule. Now, in partnership with the City of Edmonton, the Downtown Community Rink is giving the teams a permanent facility complete with, dedicated locker-rooms, athletic therapy room, storage space and laundry room.

“This new arena for our hockey teams is program-changing,” said women’s hockey head coach Lindsay McAlpine. “This marks an opportunity for us to elevate our program, and from a recruitment standpoint this will certainly help.” Men’s hockey head coach Bram Stephen shares those sentiments. “It’s pretty exciting; it’s nice to have a place to call home.”

The home opener on September 24 will see the Griffins Men’s Hockey team open their Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) season by hosting the UAlberta/Augustana Vikings at the Downtown Community Rink. It’s guaranteed to be a festive occasion as fans get a taste on the rink’s incredible atmosphere, and Mayor Don Iveson and MacEwan University President David Atkinson make the first ceremonial puck drop.

When: Saturday, September 24
Time: Ceremonial puck drop at 5:55 p.m. (Game starts at 6 p.m.)
Where: Downtown Community Rink (10245-105 Avenue)

The women’s hockey team begins their ACAC season on the road and will host their first game in the Downtown Community Rink on October 8 when SAIT comes to town.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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