

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

# Hockey sticks by Koronowski

## Community service winner helped launch local program

The founding father of the Altoona Area Youth Hockey Association is this year's Blair County Sports Hall of Fame Community Service winner.

Ken Koronowski started the local youth hockey association and the traveling Altoona Trackers program more than 10 years ago. Both are centerpieces of programming at the Galactic Ice rink in Altoona.

As a volunteer, Koronowski has been instrumental in developing and raising money for area high school hockey programs, and more than a thousand players from Blair County and the surrounding region have participated in various levels of youth hockey over the past decade.

Local teams have won numerous regional and state championships along with the Mid-State Mustangs' national championship in 2011.

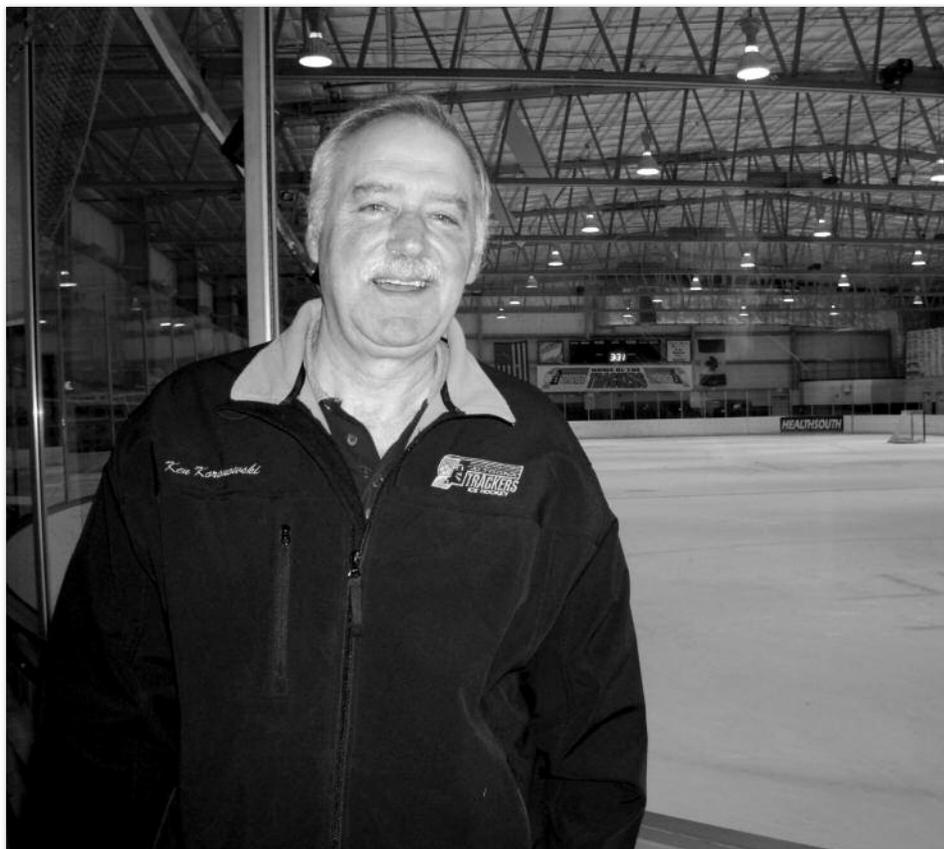
"Ken is a very deserving recipient of the Community Service Award," Hall of Fame president Dave Andrews said. "He has been a moving force in making hockey a popular sport in the county. He has devoted countless hours of volunteer time to help both youth and adults be able to experience ice hockey in our area."

Koronowski is the Hall's eighth Community Service Award recipient, joining John Conlon (Altoona Parochial League), John Robertson (Altoona Boxing Club), Tom Stout (Kelley Federation), Harry Sickler (Tyrone Monogram Club), Skip Dry (Mansion Park Summer Basketball League), The Miracle League of Blair County and Sue Kovensky (Hollidaysburg YMCA Women's Basketball League).

Koronowski called the recognition "a true honor and a complete surprise," adding, "this award truly belongs to all the volunteers that helped me along the way."

Dave Weaver, general manager of Galactic Ice and a longtime local hockey coach, credits Koronowski's passion and fundraising for hockey's growth here.

"Ken was instrumental in the development of ice hockey in



### Ken Koronowski's volunteer efforts have been the driving force behind the success of the local hockey community.

Altoona area," Weaver said. "Even before Galactic Ice was built, Ken set up the Altoona Area Youth Ice Hockey Association, which is the organization of the Altoona Trackers. In the first year there were six teams, and that number has steadily grown to the 11 teams playing under the Trackers this season. If that wasn't enough, Ken was also instrumental in the beginning stages of high school hockey as well, starting the Hollidaysburg program."

Weaver said Koronowski served as president of the AAYHA for many years.

"He organized the association, worked hard to keep costs down through extensive fundraising, and put as many kids as possible on the ice," Weaver said. "If those hundreds of hours was not enough, Ken also served as a coach for many years as well. Without Ken, the face of ice

hockey in the Blair County area would be totally different. Through his leadership abilities, and his tireless work ethic, Ken helped hundreds of kids enjoy the wonderful sport of ice hockey."

Koronowski also serves as an official/umpire in local hockey and baseball leagues.

He and his wife, Sue (who also works at Galactic Ice) have two sons, Bryan and Kevin.

### PAST RECIPIENTS

1998	John Conlon
2000	John Robertson
2002	Tom Stout
2004	Harry Sickler
2006	Skip Dry
2008	Miracle League of Blair County
2010	Sue Kovensky