

RUSTY LUCAS
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February 14, 2004

NHL Offices
1251 Avenue of the Americas
47th Floor
New York, NY 10020-1198
ATTN: Exhibition Season Scheduling

Dear NHL:

Happy St. Valentine's Day. I want to build an ice hockey rink in my back yard. I am already well on my way to getting the proper forms from the City to make these alterations and to get approval for variances from the zoning regulations. Once I am done with the construction, I would like to possibly host a few NHL exhibition games at my rink. How do I go about proposing this to the right person/department? Does it require a lot of paperwork and a background check?

Mario Lemieux is my favorite hockey player and hockey owner. I know that his team has fallen on some hard times both financially and talentwise. It really is a shame that the other professional sports teams in Pittsburgh each got new facilities and yet Mario is trying to compete in a dinosaur of arenas and cannot seem to get a new rink. **BUT DO NOT FEAR, NHL, I WILL NOT** try to lure him away from Pittsburgh. That is neither my motivation nor my intent. I thought it was funny when Art Modell took the Browns away from Cleveland and then won a Super Bowl right away in Baltimore! But I will not do that with the Penguins because I do not think the name goes well with Sandusky and I respect the sports fans of Pittsburgh too much. (Cleveland, on the other hand is just a town full of crackpots). Even so, I would be happy to host some of Mario's games if the need arises. Please let me know.

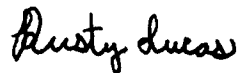
I think you have a large untapped market here in Northern Ohio. I remember growing up in the Upper Peninsula (that's in Michigan) and we played ice hockey 8 months out of the year. We had to take some time off for fly fishing and deer hunting. I think a childhood buddy of mine, Norm Hendricksen, was drafted into the NHL a few years back, but took a bad shot off the side of his head and ended up back in the U.P. teaching P.E. to 10 year olds. But Norm isn't involved in my new ice hockey rink venture.

Please send me whatever information you have about signing up to host exhibition games in my rink. I know that there are probably many regulations and I may need to apply for additional zoning permits for parking and vending. I'd like to know those details sooner rather than later so

that I can plan accordingly. I really don't want to find out at the last minute that a 't' wasn't crossed and see my dream go out the window like the gear shift knob off of a Chevy truck.

Do you guys give out autographs? I don't mean of the players. I'm talking about the movers and shakers there in the main offices. I would really like to have some executive autographs if you can send me any. If you do, please also send me the printed name in case I can't read it and the person's position or office. Because it wouldn't be very impressive if I were to tell someone: "Look! I have Brad Nesphalt's autograph!" and they say, "You don't say... Who's that?" and I say, "I don't know." I would look like a fool!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Lucas".

Rusty Lucas

p.s. I would also like an NHL baseball cap if you have one you can spare. I could add it to my collection/display of executive autographs. Maybe then, me and Norm Hendricksen could start hanging out together again and we would have real collectors items to talk about.