

MAINE ROBOTICS

eNewsletter 11/1/2012

[* Hockey Masks](#)
[* FIRST LEGO League](#)

Building a safer hockey game...

Did you know that the record speed for a slap shot in hockey was 108.8 miles per hour (MPH) by Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins? Can you imagine getting hit by a 6 oz puck travelling at over 100 miles per hour? Well, in hockey the goalies are constantly being hit with pucks that travel at speeds of 70, 80, 90 even 100 MPH. Can you imagine playing the goalie without a helmet and mask? But that is what players did routinely up until the 1960s and 1970s.

The first recorded use of a face mask in hockey dates back to Elizabeth Graham in 1927. Elizabeth played on the Queen's University hockey team in Kingston, Ontario. The mask was a fiberglass fencing mask and Elizabeth was wearing it to protect her teeth following extensive oral surgery.



For the next 30 years there were a few players who wore them occasionally, mostly to protect themselves while they recovered from injuries already received.



It wasn't until Jacques Plante of the Montreal Canadiens refused to return to the ice during a game in 1959 that a goalie regularly wore a face mask. Jacques, who had been using a homemade fiberglass mask during practice, had his nose broken three minutes into the game's play and after being stitched up he refused to play without his mask. As there was no relief goalie in those days his manager had to give in. The manager had been refusing to allow him to wear it for fear it would reduce his ability to see the puck, but when the team went on to win the game, and every game that year except one where Jacques did not wear his mask, he didn't have much to argue with.

Now facemasks are required to be worn by all goalies playing in the sport.

Over the decades the battle between visibility, light weight, and strength has been the issue. Here you see Dan Sullivan of the UMaine Black Bears in his goalie helmet.



Being hit in the head with an object travelling at over 100 miles per hour would cause serious injury to the goalie, but the goalie also has to be able to see the puck, the players, and all the action going on. Helmet makers also have to worry about heat and sweat. Stainless steel face grills and carbon fiber or Kevlar reinforced helmets; foam liners and throat guards have all been added to keep visibility high, weight light, and the structure strong.

What do you suppose it would be like to work making today's hockey masks? Even though we may think of them as "done", they will continue to be modified and improved as long as we play hockey.

Did you know that in the winter of 1885-6, Orville Wright lost several front teeth to a hockey accident?

In 2001, the NHL reported that teams were losing an average of 7 teeth per season. While there aren't statistics for 40 years prior, it was likely much, much higher then.

See how they make a hockey mask on this YouTube Video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9IUgKsfKds&feature=related>

Image of Elizabeth Graham from: <http://womenshockeylegends.blogspot.com/2009/11/elizabeth-graham.html>

Image of Jacque Plante from: <http://www.lapresse.ca/sports/hockey/200911/05/01-918665-les-50-ans-du-masque-de-jacques-plante.php>

Wikipedia(Goalie Mask): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalie_mask

Wikipedia(Jacques Plante): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Plante

Wikipedia(Slapshot): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goalie_mask

Maine's FIRST LEGO League Championship!



Don't forget! Come to this years HUGE FLL bash!

December 8th

Augusta Civic Center

72 Teams

575 team members

100 volunteers and

1200 spectators!!

New for 2012 will be a TEAMWORK activity for all the teams. Each team will have to work together to solve a problem in 5-10 minutes and get scored on how well they display teamwork and the FLL Core Values.

Also new this year, we'll be having a RULES ACE program. Each team will be able to elect one team member to take a test and see if they qualify for the RULES ACE! Any team member who passes this test will get to proudly display their RULES ACE button.

And we've got a great RAFFLE shaping up again this year! You can see what will be in the raffle by visiting the [raffle page](#). If you would like to donate something for either the children or the adults (for the raffle) please [contact our office](#).

For [more information](#) or to [volunteer](#), visit our webpage.

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