



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2008**

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## **MONSTERS INVADE PARMA ICE RINK**

**(PARMA)** – The Lake Erie Monsters of the American Hockey League will visit Michael A. Ries Rink in Parma on Wednesday, October 29. The team will hold a practice session at 7:00 p.m. followed by an open skate with the players and autograph session from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

“We couldn’t be happier to be on the Monsters Tour schedule,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “The City of Parma has a long history of quality skating programs for youth hockey players and figure skaters. Watching the pros up-close on our home ice is a thrill for the entire community.”

The Monsters tour will feature Parma native Tom Fritsche who plays left wing for the Monsters, an AHL affiliate of the National Hockey League’s Colorado Avalanche. Tom’s brother, Dan, plays center for the NHL New York Rangers.

The City of Parma spent nearly \$100,000 to replace the rink’s dasher boards and glass paneling surrounding the arena. The Parma Amateur Athletic Federation (PAFF) donated \$15,000 to help defray the building and rehabilitation costs while the Parma Hockey Association pitched-in more than \$10,000 in paint and supplies.

“This is a unique opportunity for us to show-off our new look at Ries Rink,” said Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi. “The rink has long been a valuable asset to our community, and we’re lucky to have such a facility that makes our great city even greater.”

Still to come is another major undertaking at the ice rink – upgrading the roof and the building’s lighting system. The \$250,000 price tag will be paid by a Capital Appropriations grant from the state of Ohio.

The Monsters Tour is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. For more information call the Lake Erie Monsters at 216-420-0000 or the Parma Recreation Department at 440-885-8144.

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