

# Retired police officer gets to watch Amerks up close

## Greece man attends arena's penalty box

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Florida may have the sun and warmth in the wintertime, but Roland Marchetti couldn't care less.

Although Marchetti, who turns 56 later this month, has considered moving to a warmer climate, he's decided he just wouldn't feel at home.

"I enjoy the winter here. I wouldn't be able to do all the (turkey and deer) hunting that I enjoy if I was in Florida," he remarked.

Yet the one winter routine that Marchetti least wants to abandon consists mainly of opening and closing a door.

Although this activity wouldn't appear to rank terribly high on one's Thrill-O-Meter, Marchetti's duties are anything but ordinary. For the past 18 years, he's been the penalty-box attendant for Rochester Americans hockey games at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

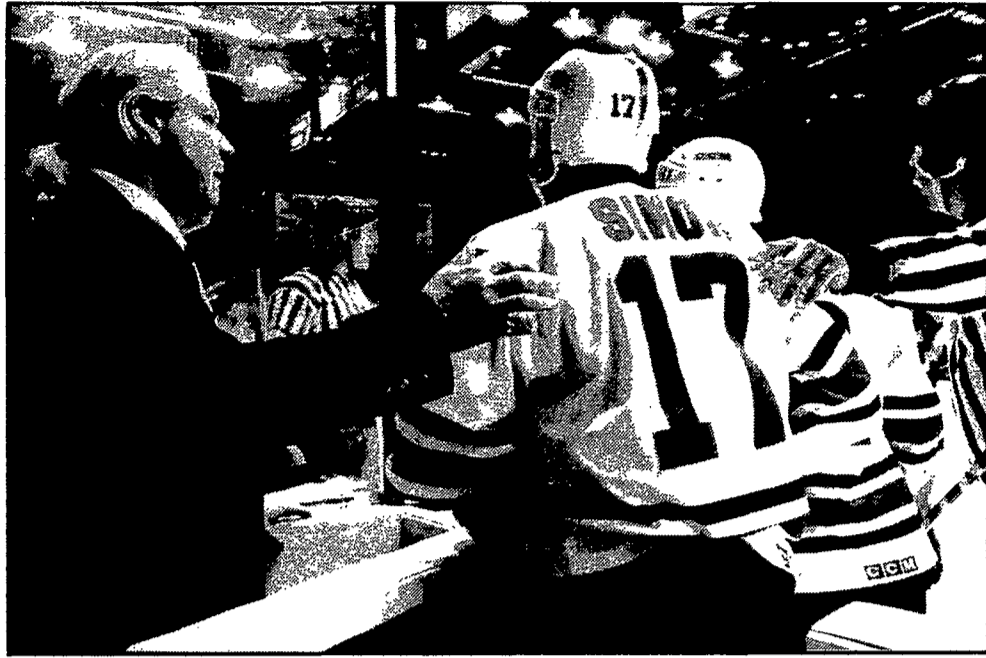
Marchetti's job brings him as close to the action as possible without actually being on the ice. And, he points out, he has often become directly involved in some of hockey's uglier scenes.

"When I started doing this, players from both teams sat in the same penalty box. There were several times that they'd keep right on fighting and I'd be in the middle of it," he said.

Even though the War Memorial now has separate penalty boxes, Marchetti is still required to share space with agitated players.

"What I try to do is let them cool down, and then I break the ice," said Marchetti. He added that one of the most commonly asked questions he encounters is: "Did I win the fight?"

Marchetti's easy-going style has led to numerous friendships. He makes frequent hunting and fishing trips to Canada, visiting the homes of former



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
As Todd Simon (center) is escorted to the penalty box by a linesman, penalty box attendant Roland Marchetti opens the door and attempts to calm the Amerk player during Rochester's 7-5 win over Binghamton May 15.



Roland Marchetti has an ice-level view of all Rochester Americans hockey games.

Amerk greats such as Yvon Lambert and Dick Mattiussi.

"I've been to about every province in Canada," he said.

In fact, Marchetti, who attends St. Anthony of Padua Church, 60 Lorimer St., has even gained a family member through his association with the Amerks. His daughter eventually wed ex-Amerk goalie Kenton Rein after

they were introduced by Marchetti.

The Greece resident has served continuously at the War Memorial since 1966, when he became a security guard there. At that time he was also a member of the Rochester Police Department, where his 30-year career ended in 1991. He retired as a sergeant-major.

Two summers before his association with the Amerks began, Marchetti was part of a violent outburst that could never be equaled in a hockey arena. He was the fifth police officer on the scene when the Joseph Avenue riots, which led to the City of Rochester being declared a state of emergency, broke out.

"That was probably the scariest thing I was ever involved in," Marchetti recalled. "There was no way to control the crowd."

Marchetti's most high-profile duty

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Roland Marchetti

occurred late in his police career, when he served as the Rochester Police Department's chief spokesman in the 1990 Arthur Shawcross mass-murder trial.

"I was on TV a lot of the time," he said. "It was very difficult and time-consuming. Some days I'd have to answer 125 to 130 phone calls. News people from Europe would even call."

As far as Amerk memories go, Marchetti was particularly impressed with the 1982-83 Calder Cup championship squad. "That was the best team I've ever seen here," he commented.

Marchetti has detected an overall decline in hockey violence in recent years, and thinks that the game will benefit from this development.

"The violence has dropped off tremendously, and that's caused some of the fans to stay away. But they're not true hockey fans; they're just there because of the fights," Marchetti remarked. "I think it's a better game without those people."



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