Courier Classifieds

To place your listing call 716-328-4340 before noon on Friday, six days prior to publication.

GENERAL

Announcements

ADOPTIONS The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 716-328-4340. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

LAST CHANCE FOR APPLICATIONS!! Greece Summer Festival - AUG. 26 & 27. Free Skycoaster Concert, daily entertainment & children's events. 60,000+ in attendance last year! Call Sue Louth, 723-1332.

VENDORS NEEDED for Guardian Angels Flea Market Aug.5 '95, 9-3 pm. For information, call 321-1836.

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU, BLESSED VIRGIN for favor received. V.S.

EMPLOYMENT

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Contact:

Director of Housekeeping
St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary
716-381-4064
Mon.-Fri. 9am-2pm

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We make house calls.

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To advertise in the Courier classifieds call 328-4340

FEATURE



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Greece resident Jason Bonsignore, who made his NHL debut with the Edmonton Oilers early last month, signs an autograph for Dan Masiulis during a June 18 reception in his honor at Bathtub Billy's Sports Bar in Rochester.

Greece teen gets NHL gold

By Mike Latona Staff Writer

GREECE — At this time of year, in this part of North America, Jason Bonsignore considers himself "just one of the guys."

Yep. Just your average 19-year-old, multimillionaire, budding superstar hockey player.

Superstar? A guy who has only one National Hockey League goal to his credit thus far?

Take it from his high-school coach, Ray Maluta, a former player with the Rochester Amerks and later in the NIXI with the Rochester Amerks and later in the Rochester in the Rochester Amerks and later in the Rochester in the Roch

NHL with the Boston Bruins.

"He could do anything he wanted against players three or four years older than him," recalled Maluta, who now serves as coach and general manager of the Flin Flon Junior Bombers in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Bonsignore led the Maluta-coached Greece Lightning to the Section 5 championship in his freshman season of 1990-91, and also starred for Greece in 1991-92 before leaving town to play junior hockey in Canada.

Bonsignore's swift ascent continued as he excelled against the top teenage players from Canada and the U.S. Shortly after Bonsignore completed his second season in the Ontario Hockey League, the 6-foot-4-inch, 210-pound center was selected as the Edmonton Oilers' No. 1 choice — and the fourth overall pick — in the NHL's June, 1994, draft.

Then, early last month, Bonsignore experienced the most head-spinning, yet rewarding, 24 hours of his life.

Following Bonsignore's strong playoff run with the OHL's Sudbury Wolves — in which he logged 13 goals and 11 assists — the Oilers were anxious to see how Bonsignore could perform in the Big Show.

One problem, however: the Oilers only had one game left in their season, and Bonsignore could not play for Edmonton because he was not yet under contract.

After swift negotiations on the morning of May 3, Bonsignore boarded an afternoon plane for Calgary as hockey's newest millionaire. He had agreed to a four-year deal for \$4.05 million, which included a \$1.85 million signing bonus.

And that night in Calgary, Bonsignore made his NHL debut with a bang by scoring a second-period goal in the Oilers' 5-

3 loss to the Flames. "It makes for a

good summer, that's for sure," Bonsignore joked as he relaxed at his Greece home during a recent interview.

With the goal, the Athena High School graduate became the first Monroe County-bred player ever to score in the NHL. The area's only other NHL' product, Aquinas Institute graduate Jim Brown, played three games for the Los Angeles Kings in the 1982-83 season.

Bonsignore said he's not awed by the

fact his lucrative contract and NHL debut came only a month after his 19th birthday.

"I figured that there's 400 players in the NHL, so why couldn't a kid from Rochester be one of them?," he said.

Bonsignore said his development has been nurtured by the quiet support of his parents Gene and Chris, parishioners at Greece's St. Lawrence Church.

"They've always stayed in the background," he noted.

Although he has spent most of the last three years away from Greece, Bonsignore said he remains "a pretty homeoriented style person. I really see myself coming back here to live; I hate being away from home."

Bonsignore said he'll also strive to remain down-to-earth in his upcoming years with the Oilers – yet he admits being a millionaire celebrity athlete can make this ideal a challenge.

"I think you have to be careful who your friends are at this point, not that I don't try to be as nice to everyone as I can," he commented.

Bonsignore hopes to be part of a rebirth in Edmonton, where the dominant NHL team of the mid- and late-1980s has struggled following the departure of Wayne Gretzky and several other stars.

"Obviously, getting the Calder Trophy for Rookie of the Year is in the back of my mind," said Bonsignore. "But my only real goal is to help the team get back into the playoffs."

Maluta, for one, thinks Bonsignore has the raw ability to reach the highest levels.

"He has to earn the respect of his teammates, along with having a 100-percent work ethic," said Maluta.

"If he does that, he's certainly going to