

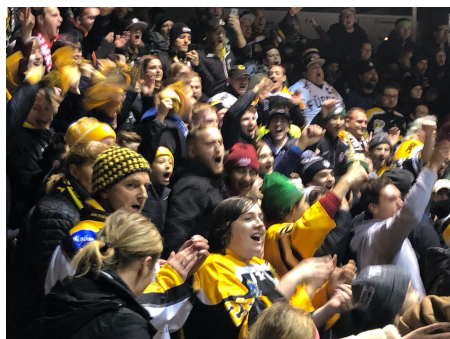
## **“Meet at the Fountain”: Loomis Chaffee Boys Hockey Europe Trip 2019**



Whether at the rink, on the plane, at the restaurant, in the mountains, at a historic site, on the bus, or at the Christmas markets, Loomis Hockey's 2019 Trip to Germany and Austria created unforgettable memories for the 27 team members, three coaches, and 10 families that spent nine days traveling together. The group set up home base for the first five days and nights in Fussen, Germany, where the group enjoyed the cafes, shops, sights, and a lot of fresh eats by day, and played hockey games in the vicinity by night. The final three days and nights were spent in Munich with a day trip to Nuremberg. The group visited several churches, Neuschwanstein Castle, WWII-related sites, the sites of four Olympic Games (Garmish '36, Munich '72, and Innsbruck '64 and '76), and three Christmas markets. Throughout the trip, the group enjoyed a mix of free and structured time, and the most frequent coming-together place was a local fountain.



On the first day, after arriving at the Munich Airport, the group visited the BMW Plant



showroom and the site of the infamous 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich. In the evening, after a traditional meal of wiener schnitzel and fries, the travelers attended an Oberliga professional hockey game between Fussen and local rival Garmish. The atmosphere was electric and, after purchasing Fussen jerseys, the Loomis boys brought the noise—in broken German. Several Pelican players noted that it was the best sporting event that they had ever attended.

On day two, the team enjoyed a morning skate at the German national facility, followed by a tour of Fussen with trip organizer Jim Tibbetts. Visiting buildings more than 300 years old and seeing the inside of a lavish European Catholic Church, the group learned about Fussen's founding by St. Magnus, its past as a producer of stringed instruments, and its role as the backdrop of the classic movie *The Great Escape*. That evening, the team traveled to Bad Tölz for the first match-up. Behind several scorers and solid goaltending, Loomis emerged with a decisive 12-3 win.



The next three games took place in Garmish, Fussen, and



Peiting. The group spent one afternoon driving through the Alps in Austria, seeing the Zugspitze along the way before spending several hours in picturesque Innsbruck. In Innsbruck, the group visited the first Christmas Market of the trip and received a state-of-the-art tour of the Hofkirche containing former Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I's cenotaph. That night, the team competed in Garmish, coming away with a big 9-1 win in the now enclosed 1936 Olympic rink. Two nights later, the boys wrapped up competition with another solid 7-1 win in Peiting.

The best game of the trip came against Fussen, at the national training rink — the team's only "home" game. Stevenson College's club hockey team happened to be in town and lent Fussen a line of players to make the game more competitive. The Loomis chemistry between the lines



and D partners was tight, and many beautiful plays were made. Overall execution was at times flawless. It was a great night for the Pelicans, culminating in a 10-0 win that saw 16 Loomis players on the score sheet. Though shots against were minimal, goaltending was also great, coming up big when tested.

The team spent Thanksgiving morning in the mountains just outside Fussen, visiting the famed



Neuschwanstein Castle with its medieval-themed and Wagner-inspired interior and impressive surrounding scenery. Everyone hiked up to a foot bridge behind the castle, and some made their way to the top of the adjacent peak for a bird's-eye view of the Schloss. Back on flat land, the group came together for a fantastic lunch with some American Thanksgiving standards, including a turkey butchered by the chef that morning, and a little Bavarian flare to keep it interesting. It was a beautiful meal and a great opportunity to give thanks for the opportunity before us.



The historic experience was just as central to the trip as the hockey and cultural experience. The World War II era took center stage as the group visited Zeppelin Field and the Nazi Documentation Center in Nuremberg as well as Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial. To stand in a gas chamber, to see the disturbing images of pain and death, and to stand where Hitler once addressed his people at mass rallies in Nuremberg was to emotionally connect to the past in a way that many of our players had never before experienced. These visits were perhaps the most important pieces of the entire trip.

Being in Germany in the late fall also provided the opportunity to indulge in a unique seasonal and sensory experience: The smell of Gluhwein, Bratwurst, and candied nuts amongst other delectable traditional mainstays filled the air at each of the Christmas markets that the team visited in Innsbruck, Munich, and Nuremberg. Holiday spirit was alive in the music, lights, Christmas-themed gifts, and jovial atmosphere.



In Munich, the group was again treated to a lively professional game, this time of Germany's top league, as the No. 1 Munchen Red Bulls took on the No. 2 Straubing Tigers. The sights, smells, tastes, sounds again demanded attention and contributed to a fan experience unique to Europe. This stuck with the boys as they jockeyed for space in the standing room section, ate currywurst with fries, and listened to opposing fan sections attempting to drum, sing, and chant their respective teams to victory. Moved by this experience, the team has adopted the Munchen goal and win song, "Rockin' All Over the World," as their own goal and win song.

Thank you to the many who contributed and sacrificed much toward making this trip possible. A special thanks to our families who sent their boys along and to those who joined us as well. Thank you, too, to guide Andy Hanig and to Edge Sports for organizing many of the trip details. Our players made this special, too, as they went all-in toward every aspect of the travel experience. The team's closeness as a result of the trip is enough to make the trip worth it. But it is the memories that will last forever and will always provide this group with a special bond.

We hope that this group continues “rockin’ all over the world!”

