

October 15, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Mediacom Ice Park goes PINK for breast cancer awareness

Ice park crews will begin to "pink the rink" late tonight, Tuesday, Oct. 15, and work through the night into Wednesday morning, painting the East Rink's ice pink in preparation for weekend of hockey at Mediacom Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway, downtown Springfield.

The Div. II Missouri State Ice Bears will appear in custom pink jerseys as they face the St. Mary's University of Minnesota Cardinals at home Friday and Saturday nights—on pink ice. Fans are also encouraged to wear pink. The Ice Bears' custom pink jerseys will be auctioned off during Saturday's game, with all proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks.

"This is the third year we've had this fantastic event to raise awareness for breast cancer," said Joe Combs, Ice Hockey Coach with the Greater Springfield Community Olympic Development Program. "Hockey is the toughest, hardest-hitting fast-action sport in the world. And nothing compares to watching these athletes give 100 percent in pink jerseys, on pink ice, for a cause much bigger than the game."

The Ice Bears will also wear their pink jerseys as they march in Saturday's MSU homecoming parade.

Game time is 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19. Tickets are \$4-\$8 and are available at starting one hour before game time at Mediacom Ice Park, or in advance through Missouri State Fix: 417-836-7678, or 888-476-7849. More information is at missouristatehockey.com.

The Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks is a resource for individuals and families in southwest Missouri and the four-state region impacted by breast cancer, providing financial assistance, emotional support, free mammogram screenings, educational programs and lymphedema garments. More information is at bcfo.org or 417-862-3838.

The process includes shaving 3/4-inch of ice from the rink, then hand-misting a special paint onto the remaining ice. When dry, the painted ice is misted with water to build a protective coating before the rink is flooded to rebuild the top 3/4-inch.

Media outlets interested in viewing the painting process or interviewing Joe Combs early Wednesday morning must make arrangements by 4 p.m. today. For more information, call Joe Combs at 417-866-7444. Ext. 237; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.