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Red Wings skate for charity

By KURT MENSCHING Journal Sports Writer

MARQUETTE — Lured by the north woods and a chance to help the Bell Hospital Foundation, Mickey Redmond and 10 fellow Detroit Red Wings alumni visited Marquette's Lakeview Arena Saturday.

"We always look forward to coming into the U.P. to help raise funds," said Mickey Redmond, who played for the Wings from 1970 to '76. "It's great to be able to come into great Red Wings fans and great hockey fans. They love the game."

Redmond will mark his ninth year as a hockey analyst for FSN Detroit this season.

"I've got lots of friends up here, and it's no coincidence that every time I come into the U.P., I have a good time," Redmond said. "I like to get in the woods and enjoy nature, and just as we're seeing right now, this beautiful weather up here. Just relax, take it easy."

The Red Wings alumni comprise about 40 players who cycle on and off the team as they have time for events.

The game, coupled with a reception afterwards, was set to help raise funds for Bell Hospital.

"We know this is Hockeytown, we wanted to bring a fun event to the community," Bell Foundation executive director Jackie Chandonnet said. "We ended up bringing in the Red Wings alumni team and also putting together former (Northern Michigan University) players and Michigan Tech players from the community."

Alan Swanson of Marquette, an NMU player from 2001 to '05, said he just hoped to have a good time against guys he watched and listened to while growing up a Wings fan.

"Shawn Burr, when I was growing up, was one of my favorite players," Swanson said. "I'm looking forward to running into him."

Chris Gobert of Marquette and Justin Kinnunen of Negaunee were among others on the Hockey Central team.

"Their average age is probably 27 or 28," Red Wings alum Shawn Burr said. "Ours is probably closer to 50. I think I'm the youngest at 40 by about five years. I think we have our hands full tonight."

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As for pregame predictions, Redmond did not look forward to facing the team taking warm-ups across the ice from him.

“We’re looking for ropes to tie these young guys down,” Redmond said. “They’re going pretty fast in the warm-ups.”



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