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ANN ARBOR NEWS

Ann Arbor's Kosta has fun on 'CCHA All-Access'

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by **Antoine Pitts**

Once a week the rest of the winter, Ann Arbor native Michael Kosta will be trading in his tennis racket and stand-up microphone for a half-hour of hockey.

Kosta, who played tennis at Illinois and was an assistant coach at Michigan, is the new host of "CCHA All-Access" on FSN Detroit.

The season premiere is at 7 p.m. Friday - just prior to the Michigan-Michigan State broadcast.

Kosta played hockey for nine years as a kid, with Yost Ice Arena as one of his venues. He won two state tennis championships with Huron High School and played on four Big Ten title teams with Illinois.

"Basically, as soon as people started checking, I realized that my body type wasn't going to make it in hockey," Kosta said. "I'm a skinny guy, a tennis player."

Kosta has been doing stand-up comedy for seven years and moved from Ann Arbor to Los Angeles within the last year. His agent recommended him to producers at Fox Sports Net Detroit who liked what they saw.

For the first show, the crew traveled last month to Fairbanks, Alaska.

In between the serious nature of coaches and players talking about what they do, Kosta is seen pumping fog as the Alaska players come out of an inflatable Nanook, banging the glass with fans and goofing around with the players on the ice after a practice session.

"The comedy is definitely there, but first and foremost, it is a hockey show," Kosta said. "I want people to know that. Everyone is going to love the show. Hockey fans are really going to love it."

Kosta said he met some great people in Fairbanks, and that continues wherever the crew goes.

This week, he's scheduled to be in Ann Arbor walking down to practice with Michigan's 12 freshmen and taking a tour of Yost with seniors Chad Kolarik and Kevin Porter for a later show.

Last weekend, he was on the ice taking faceoffs against an Ohio State player.

"Every town and every school has so many fun things to cover," Kosta said. "We were just up in Sault Ste. Marie, and the town shut down for us. It was fantastic."