

# Goggin Ice Center to be upgraded

**New rink, weight room among features.**

**Coach Enrico Blasi believes changes will help hockey program.**

**By Joe Gleringer**  
Contributing Writer

OXFORD — The Goggin Ice Center is getting a facelift after nearly seven years.

Renovations and additions to the complex will include a new ice surface for practice and a weight room, as well as an area for postgame interviews.

The upgrades were all supposed to be built in 2007 when Goggin was first constructed, according to MU hockey coach Enrico Blasi.

"The decision has been coming for quite some time," Blasi said. "We needed to upgrade



Enrico Blasi

our current situation. When we designed the building, it was something that was eliminated from the original project. It's always been something to go back and finish, and this is the time."

Among other things, the small, auxiliary ice surface will provide Blasi's players with the opportunity to practice shooting drills and work on their precision. It's something that other premier hockey programs across the country have added throughout the years, including some of Miami's old Central Collegiate Hockey Association foes. The weight room will also make life easier on the Red-Hawks. They won't have to trav-



Miami's Austin Czarnik changes direction as he encounters Ohio State's Clark Cristofoli near the goal during a game earlier this year at the Goggin Ice Center in Oxford. Goggin is getting a facelift after nearly seven years. Renovations and additions to the complex will include a new ice surface for practice and a weight room, as well as an area for postgame interviews. CONTRIBUTED BY MARTIN WHEELER III

el to Miami's Gross Center, more than a mile away, to complete team lifting exercises.

In addition to a leg up in recruiting, Blasi maintains that the supplementary ice surface and weight room will add to the formation of his team both on and off the ice.

"I think it just adds to the whole package of what we have to offer at Miami," Blasi said. "(The renovations) will add to what I call the development of the student athlete, not only in strength and conditioning, but in some of the emotional and mental skills that will come along with it."

As for the players, many are just happy to have an area that

is available to them whenever they need a little extra ice time. Right now the team competes for ice time with other university and community programs, but the new addition allows players full access to ice.

"Everyone's excited about this," said junior forward Austin Czarnik. "We have a place to shoot any time now. As for the weight room, it's nice to have your own. It's going to be easy for us to work out after practice. It's a way to maximize our strengths instead of having the two weight racks we have right now."

Renovations of this size and scope take time, however, and Blasi hopes the upgrades will be completed by spring.