

Baby Hab-penings

by Luke Peterson

When the Fredericton Canadiens embarked on a 4 games in 5 nights road trip to the United States, few would have thought that the Canadiens would go undefeated throughout the trip.

Despite their lineup being decimated by injuries and call-ups, the Canadiens managed two victories and two ties to pick up six of eight possible points in what was the most grueling road trip in the team's three year history. The goal-tending tandem of Frederic Chabot and Les Kuntar were voted Sherwood co-players of the week, by virtue of their contributions to last week's road success.

The Baby Habs were originally slated to be on the Rock for a pair of games with the Atlantic Division leading St. John's Maple Leafs; however due to a strike at the St. John's rink, the games will be played in Saint John, N.B. at the LBR. Both games will be broadcast live Friday and Saturday evening on Country 105.3 KHJ, with the pre-game show starting at 7:20 p.m. Next home action for the Baby Habs comes this Tuesday evening at the AUC with the St. John's Maple Leafs visiting the capital city for a 7:30 start.

The Atlantic Division is almost certain to take on a new look next season with the addition of one or more new AHL franchises on the not-so-distant horizon. The Ottawa Senators have announced their intention to move their farm club out of New Haven and into a maritime site, most likely either Moncton or Charlottetown. The Winnipeg Jets have decided to pull the plug on the Moncton Hawks after this season due to the inherent costs of running an AHL franchise. The Jets hope to reduce these costs by cutting their minor league roster down to a more manageable size of 10 to 12 players. They hope to find another NHL club interested in sharing a farm team, much like the Vancouver Canucks and Quebec Nordiques did with the now defunct Fredericton Express.

It seems all but certain at this point that the Calgary Flames will be pulling their Salt Lake City franchise out of the IHL in favour of establishing an AHL club in Saint John, N.B. Such a move could bring former Fredericton Canadiens left winger Patrick Lebeau back to the province. Lebeau who shared the Canadiens' lead in scoring last year with Jesse Belanger, is currently perched in fourth place in the IHL scoring derby. Lebeau has 62 points in 49 games with Salt Lake City. Needless to say, the Port city will be more than happy to welcome the 22 year old star back to New Brunswick.

Fans of the old New Brunswick Senior Hockey League will readily attest to the fact that the cities of Fredericton and Saint John have one of the most intense hockey rivalries around. Canadiens defenceman Gerry Fleming knows full well what can happen when the two cities clash on the ice. Fleming was a member of the now defunct Fredericton Metro Alpines during their final NBSHL season in 1989-90. The 6'5" 240 lb. Fleming pounded out decisions over several of the acknowledged Saint John Vito heavyweights, enroute to establishing himself as the toughest gunslinger in these parts. Fleming has done much of the same in the American Hockey League this season. In a recent poll of the league's coaches printed in Rinkside Magazine, Fleming tied with Bill Huard of Providence, for the accolade of top fighter in the entire American league. Perhaps nothing serves witness to Fleming's reputation, better than the fact that after a tussle with big Gerry, very few opposing customers opt to come back for seconds. As the season has progressed, Fleming has begun to blossom into a solid defenceman, seeing time on both the power-play and in short handed situations. The 25 year old Montreal native would like nothing better than to muscle his way onto the parent club's blue line.

Fleming's veteran defence partner Luc Gauthier was also voted one of the league's top five bodycheckers in the Rinkside poll. The Canadiens' fiery team captain is in his seventh AHL season and in my opinion, worthy of an NHL shot - if not in Montreal - perhaps with an expansion team. A consummate team player, Gauthier's competitiveness and dedication make him a fan favourite at the AUC. Well known for his shot blocking ability; Gauthier often subjects his body to numerous slapshots in order to help his team's cause. Much of what Gauthier contributes to the Canadiens may not be visible on the scoresheet, but nonetheless contributes substantially to the team's continued success.

The Hockey News has released its NHL Future Watch '93 supplement, wherein each team's top ten future prospects are evaluated. Six Fredericton Canadiens made the grade: Turner Stevenson, Paul Dipietro, Pierre Sevigny, Yves Sarault, and Jesse Belanger, are rated as numbers three thru seven respectively. Russian forward Oleg Petrov copped the ninth spot on the list. Brent Bilodeau of the Swift Current Broncos was the top ranked prospect for the Habs.

Of the Fredericton players who made the list, two are already playing in Montreal: Centreman Dipietro and Belanger. Former Seattle Thunderbird Turner Stevenson, the Habs first round pick in 1990, is currently tied with injured left winger Patrik Carnback for fourth place in Fredericton team scoring. Carnback who is out for a month with lacerated tendons in his hand is conspicuous by his absence from the top ten list. The speedy Swede's crafty playmaking has netted him 30 assists in 38 games.

Sophomore left winger Pierre Sevigny has earned his fifth place ranking amongst Habs prospects by virtue of his work ethic and scoring touch. Sevigny is known around the league as both a hard worker and a hard body checker. Whether his team is up by six goals or down by one he never misses a beat; always finishing his checks and hovering around the net, looking to pot another goal to add to his team leading 29 tallies.

Parsons: A Devil for a day

The Dean 'Jelly Bean' Parsons story

by Bruce Denis

Dreams are meant to come true, and for Dean Parsons they did, two weeks ago.

With nine players out of the lineup for the final two games of the season, Red Devil's coach Mike Johnson called on the Physical Education student and also assistant coach Shane Easter to fill in.

Not bad, for a kid from Wabush, Labrador. Parsons, affectionately known to friends as 'Jelly Bean', began his competitive hockey career with Wabush High School. He dominated the scholastic league enough to garner an invitation from the Laval Titans of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League to attend their training camp in the summer of 1988.

However, Parsons was cut after two weeks and returned to Labrador to complete his education. "After Laval, I put hockey aside. I didn't really think I had the talent to play at the university level," says Parsons.

After graduating from Wabush High School, he enrolled at UNB and is now the Red Devil's trainer. He is also a starting winger for the Social Club Shooters of the intramural competitive league.

In the days before the Devil's final games against Mount Allison and Moncton it was evident that the team would need some extra players. But Parsons never figured it would be him.

"The guys were joking about it for a few days saying 'you should come out and play' and I'd say 'sure'. Then, one afternoon after my hockey class, Mike Johnson approached me and asked me if I wanted to play, the next day he signed me up. I was really surprised he asked me, but happy nevertheless."

The young winger had two days to practice with the team before his debut against the Mounties. On the night of the game, his dream went one step further.

"I expected maybe to dress and warm-up with the team but not to actually step on the ice. Playing in the game was quite an experience." He



Dean Parsons nails a Moncton forward during his 'game of fame'
Photo by Kevin G. Porter

said after the game.

"It was a little faster than intramural, but you have to expect that, it's a pretty high level of hockey. I was kind of worried that it was going to be rough, but it wasn't quite as physical as I thought it would be."

Those fans who attended the games noticed a healthy 'Jellybean' fan club who came out to support the affable winger with giant signs. And Parsons gave them something to cheer about midway through the second period against Mt. A. when he assisted a goal by Brunswick columnist Jamie Colvin.

However, had he not lost his footing on the play he might have scored the goal.

Parsons recounts "We broke out of our zone and I saw we had a chance for a 2 on 1, so I jumped into the play. Jamie's a fairly fast skater but when I looked across the blue line

I saw I was already a few strides ahead of him. I tried to cut in towards him to avoid the offside but in doing that I caught a bit of a speed wobble and took a dive."

Does he think he could play at the university level on a regular basis? "I could go out and skate up and down the ice every second or third shift. I just had to think alot about keeping my head up and my stick on the ice, something you don't think about when you're playing intramural hockey."

And so, after managing a fairly regular shift for two games and making a dent in the Atlantic University Hockey Conference with an assist, Dean Parsons is forced to return to reality.

"I'm just going to finish out the season playing with the Shooters in the intramural league. As for the future, who knows what's in store."

Pepsi/Pizza Hut Player Profile

Pepsi and Peter Allison's Pizza Hut honor a fine UNB athlete, Yaw Obeng. Yaw is a fifth year Red Raider basketball player whose accomplishments include:

- twice named team MVP
 - 2 years as team captain
 - Coaches distinction ring
 - recipient of many other awards
- Join the Raiders in honoring this fine athlete Sunday at 2pm when the Raiders host UPEI**

Peter Allison's



Yaw Obeng

Thanks for the memories Yaw