

Rangers have nothing left to play with

NEW YORK (CP) New York Ranger General Manager Phil Esposito has finally outsmarted himself... right out of a hockey year. Espo may have dealt for the two best defencemen in hockey, but he gave up almost an entire team to get them.

The New York Rangers are now three players: Ray Bourque, Paul Coffey, and Bob Froese. Earlier yesterday, all other Rangers were traded to either Boston or Pittsburgh.

For their game against the lowly LA Kings last night, the Rangers dressed only five skaters in front of goalie Bob Froese: besides Coffey and Bourque manning the bluelines, a Ranger trainer joined ex-Rangers Kelly Kisio and Brian Mullen up front. Fortunately for New York, Kisio and Mullen missed their flight to Pittsburgh earlier in the day. LA machine gunned New York 26-1, outshooting them 98-12.

The exhausted Rangers periodically resorted to lying down in front of their net 5 high to prevent the Kings from scoring. Several of LA goalie Rolfe Melanson's 11 saves were off-lame Ranger icing attempts, while at the other end, Froese later said through a translator, that he hadn't seen that much rubber since he worked in a Good Year Tire factory one summer as a kid.

Adding insult to injury, Kings' Jay "Sniper" Wells had an NHL record 7 goals, while the Rangers' lone marker was scored by Froese himself on a brilliant 3rd period "coast to coast" solo dash. "The tired were guys, and besides, I knew they couldn't... this one, take away me from... If I scored," stammered a

delicious and shell-shocked Froese as he tried to "save" the reporters' microphones as they moved towards him. Jimmy Carson, Luc Robitaille and Bernie Nicholls each had 20 point nights for the Kings.

It was practically a Kings' power-play all night as Kisio helplessly hobbled around for the last 2 periods with what was eventually determined as 2 broken legs and a major concussion he suffered after a spectacular first period collision into the boards. "When I started heading to the trainer's room after the crash, Espo called me a coward and ordered Bergeron to put me back out," murmured a purplish corpse-like Kisio, as reporters laid their microphones on the dressing room floor to reach his hand.

When asked about his team's performance Espo offered: "Hey, we've finally got a nice tight knit group. They're really getting to know each other. [We had a few lapses, but wait 'til I get a conditioning coach.]"

His new "tight-knit" group started coming to be early yesterday morning when Espo dealt promising young defenceman James Patrick, star goalie John Vanbiesbrouck, center Marcel Dionne, the Rangers' next 5 first round draft choices and a large sum of cash to Boston for Ray Bourque. Espo made the deal after failing to snare Bourque from Ray's parents in return for Espo's own son, Vinnie, wife Donna, and the Espositos' Ontario lake cottage.

Espo explained the deal this way: "I can't believe the Bourques didn't go for it. Sure Vinnie's a pimp and he's in jail for drugs, but that cottage

alone makes the deal, plus Donna and her cooking... what do you want, the moon? Anyway, after what that kid [Bourque] did for me last week — taking his own jersey off his back so I could have my old number retired — I thought if I can't trade my family for him, then damnit I'm gonna trade to get him on my team. At any cost." (Much to Bruins' GM Harry Sinden's delight of course)

After getting off the phone with Sinden, Espo immediately called Pittsburgh's Eddie Johnstone about Coffey. As soon as he knew it was Espo, Johnstone snapped, "If you're re-entering the Coffey-Sweetstakes Phil, suffice it to say that I wouldn't give you Paul for your whole team; whoever that may consist of today." Espo came right back with, "Are you sure about that Eddie-baby?" Soon after, Coffey became a Ranger, while all other remaining Ranger skaters became Penguins. (Later today, Johnstone is expected to announce another blockbuster deal of his own that would involve the unloading of some of his newly acquired surplus of talent in return for at least one quality defenceman to replace Coffey.)

When asked why he was so generous, especially on a game day leaving such little time to find replacements, Espo reasoned, "Ash what the bleep it's Christmas. Besides, Bourque without Coffey is like Pizza with no toppings. I was so excited to get both of 'em I forgot about tonight's game. But hey, I got the two best defencemen in the world and that makes us a Stanley Cup contender."

When asked if the current team's lack of depth might hamper its quest for the Cup, Espo explained, "Look, we're damn proud of our minor league kids and confident that any of 'em could step right in and — well at least some of them... er maybe two — hey mind your own bleeping business!"

Challenging his mood, a bold young scribe asked Espo for his thoughts on free trade. "I'll could ever make a trade for free, my life would be complete," dreamed Espo. Someone else asked what a man like Espo does for Christmas. "Well, this Christmas I was gonna go to my condo in Tahiti, but I just traded it to my brother for his Ferrari. I'm not sure about the (car's) colour though. I think I'll trade it in tomorrow."

At press time, the "New Look" Rangers still only consisted of Bourque, Coffey, and Froese.

Jeopardy ain't nuthin

Here are the answers. You come up with the questions. Could I have Sports Trivia for \$600, Alex.

1. Og, in a game of grunt-grunt-point, which is surprising seeing as how his elocution was usually so poor.
2. Cricket, really!
3. Right.
4. White. No self-respecting black guy would wear a moustache that looked like he had two McDonalds french-fries stuffed up his nose.
5. ZZZZZZZZZZ. Huh? What?
6. 3.9, 12. Former race-driver Jackie Stewart is believed to be the record holder, with 129, including a "Goodyear" logo tattooed backwards and forwards on his ass.
7. Ooh, wouldn't you like to know?
8. 1993, the year that Stanley Toaks donate a mug to the NHL for the team with the most weird names on it.
9. Not soon enough, but we are recruiting for volunteers to help them.


10. The mid-Pacific, where you belong. Tie-breaker: the goalpost, which hides behind a highly trained professional athlete for protection. The color commentator only hides behind clichés (and usually a pseudonym.)

U of A breaks records

by Red Blazer

The University of Alberta Track & Field Team broke several records during a track meet at the University of Lethbridge last weekend.

Among the records broken were six albums, two dozen 45 RPM singles, and an old 78 that had remained unbroken for almost 50 years.




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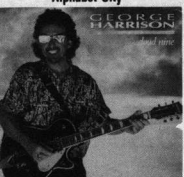
■ George Harrison
Cloud Nine



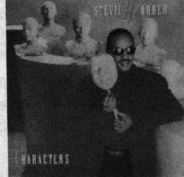
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