

F'ton Canadiens off on right foot Stevenson, Carnback newcomers with team

by Luke Peterson

The Fredericton Canadiens third season in the American Hockey League got under way in front of 3,707 fans at the Aitken Centre on Monday.

The Canadiens who finished first overall in the league last season, are looking to avenge last year's premature playoff exit at the hands of the Moncton Hawks. If the Canadiens 6-3 win over defending Atlantic division champions St. Johns Maple Leafs is any indication, the Baby Habs could be serious Calder Cup contenders this season.

Head Coach Paulin Bordeleau is back at the helm for his third season and under his guidance the Canadiens remained undefeated throughout the AHL pre-season. The Canadiens lineup has been bolstered this year with an abundance of rookies including last year's Major Junior Player of the year Charles Poulin, who had 135 points with St. Hyacinthe of the QMJHL and Turner Stevenson whose size and scoring prowess made him the parent club's number one draft choice in 1990. Stevenson was a key player for the Seattle Thunderbirds last season.

Also new to the team this year is Patrik Carnback who scored 41 points in 33 games in the Swedish Elite League last year.

Back once again is defensive sparkplug and team captain, Luc Gauthier. Gauthier adds stability to an inexperienced blueline corps. Also playing defence this year is sophomore tough guy Gerry Fleming. Fleming joined

the team last year on an amateur tryout and racked up 133 penalty minutes in 38 games.

All things considered, the 1992-93 season promises to provide some very entertaining hockey. The next home game for the Baby Habs is Thursday, Oct. 22. The Canadiens host the Springfield Indians in a 7:30 p.m. start at the Aitken Centre.

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