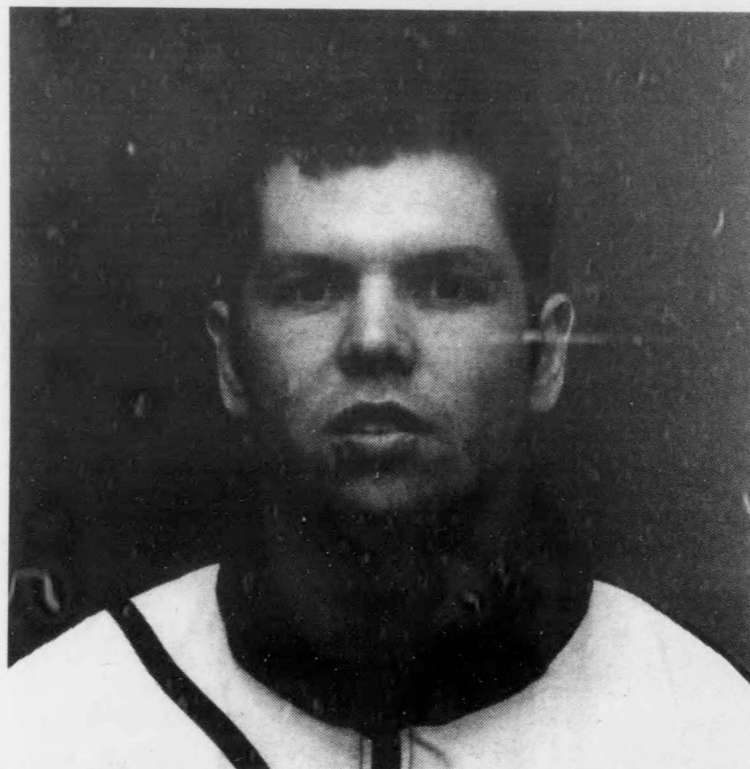


Living in America Kamikaze Chair Racing Returns



Todd Sparks.

by Peter J. Cullen
Brunswickan Sports

Todd Sparks' homecoming may not have unfolded as he pictured it last Friday, but the Springfield Falcons' latest left winger at least gave his old school another look at an NHL prospect in training.

Sparks began the contest versus the Fredericton Canadiens, but a hit by the Baby Habs' Gerry Fleming during Sparks' second shift knocked him from the game with a separated shoulder. "It looked like I was starting on a line that was going to play a lot tonight, so it's unfortunate. But it was a clean hit on Gerry's behalf, and it wouldn't happen if he hit me the same way 100 times. It's just one of those freak things," Sparks stated to the media after the Falcons' 3-0 victory.

During his tenure at UNB, Sparks, a Fredericton native, fuelled the V-Reds hockey team with his impressive skill, athleticism, and leadership capabilities. These same traits piqued the interest of the Hartford Whalers last year. "I got a contract with Hartford and I went down to their training camp," Sparks said, explaining how the American Hockey League experience came to be. "I just

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game valuable. "We might as well learn right now that if we're going to go any place there's going to be a certain amount of adversity. The last thing I wanted was to glide along, a bit like we did last year, and things come easy and take it as the dime bounces around this time of year."

The Varsity Reds have a quick opportunity for revenge, when they host the Tommies Wednesday night at the Aitken University Centre in the Mark Jeffrey Memorial Game. Before then both teams have a pair of difficult games. UNB are at home to Acadia and Dalhousie, facing 6 of the AUAA's top 8 snipers. Meanwhile STU welcome Acadia and UdeM to the LBR.

got called up this week so it's good timing coming back."

Sparks had spent the early part of this season in the East Coast Hockey League. However, his skills warranted him a consideration by the management to graduate to the AHL's Springfield Falcons. Craig Martin, a fellow Falcon and former National Junior teammate of Sparks, hyped 'Sparky's' abilities. "I've played with him for two and a half years and he's a great player ... He can go a ways because he's definitely got the skill."

Although Sparks entered Fredericton pointless after two games with Springfield, and also saw very little ice time prior to the injury in Friday's game, the homecoming was still a treat for Sparks. "I was a little anxious [before the game] ... It was good to see a lot of familiar faces and a lot of friends, too." Those faces will no doubt be cheering him on as his quest to reach the NHL continues.

It's that time of year again for all of you fearless souls with a thrill for speed and danger. It's Kamikaze chair race time. This year the Student Society for Mechanical Engineers will be organizing the event as part of Engineering Week. The event is open to any faculty, residence or individual who dares attempt this death-defying feat. The race date will be February 2nd at 12:30 P.M. on Buchanan Hill.

The rules are simple. Your racing contraption must consist of sitting device (e.g. toilet bowl, lay-z-boy, high chair, etc.) attached to a sliding device (e.g. skis, snowboards, etc.). You must also wear a helmet of some sort to contain any brain spillage that may result from a high speed crash. You may race as a team or on an individual basis. Time trials will be held and then head to head single elimination race will decide the winning positions. Waiver and release forms are available in the lobby of Head Hall and at the event on race day.



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There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, most original entry and the best wipe out! If you have any questions concerning the event, please e-mail SSME@UNB.CA or call 455-7963 and ask for Larry.

If you don't have the guts to participate, at least come watch and bring your video camera. You never know, you could be the next big winner of \$10,000 on America's Funniest home Videos.

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