

View From The Cheap Seats

by Mark Savoie

Last week you got to read my co-editor's rantings about the NHL playoffs, including his ravings that the Winnipeg Jets will make it to the finals. The only saving point was that they came and took him away before he started predicting a Winnipeg Stanley Cup. This week I will gaze into the crystal ball (*God help me, I sound like Bill Hunt*) and give you a true, unbiased forecast of the upcoming Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

No team from the Norris has made it to the finals since they went to the current playoff format many moons ago. The main reason for this is that for many years this division has been a joke. Laugh no longer. Chicago and St. Louis are playing like teams that actually want to win, while Toronto is playing exciting, though erratic, hockey for the first time since the seventies. Minnesota and Detroit are serving as reminders of what it used to be like.

St. Louis and Chicago will defeat Minnesota and Toronto, although Toronto's offense may force an upset if they meet Chicago. Regardless of who they meet in the second round, St. Louis will win the division, but if it's Chicago it will be a long, potentially nasty series.

Smythe Division

The last three Stanley Cups and five of last six have come from this division. Calgary is a team that is peaking now, and they should be able to steamroll Los Angeles for the second year in a row. How much does Wayne Gretzky inspire his playmates to grater heights? Enough that Los Angeles hasn't played like they meant it since before Christmas. They should sit out the playoffs and let Vancouver have another crack at the Flames. At least the Canucks will try.

Edmonton and Winnipeg will be playing an interesting series. Winnipeg is an enigma. How can a team that was so bad last year play so well this year? Mirrors, for the most part. Edmonton has had trouble with the Jets this year, but there's no way Mark Messier will let the Oilers lose to the Scandinavian National Team.

This leaves a Calgary, Edmonton clash for the second round. Edmonton has a team capable of beating Calgary, but since the Flames are peaking right now they will prevail and win the Battle of Alberta. However, they will be so emotionally drained about this victory that they will be upset by their former farm club, the St. Louis Blues. St. Louis will advance to the Stanley Cup finals.

Wales Conference

Adams Division

Quebec is getting a year's head start on the Eric Lindros draft. They can only pray that the NHL does not decide to emulate the NBA's lottery system before then. Boston has been the league's best team this year and will destroy Hartford in the first round. The winner of the Montreal-Buffalo series will be the team with home ice advantage. Right now that looks like Buffalo.

If so, then Boston makes it to semi-finals. If it's Montreal, then it comes down to one question. Do you believe in ghosts? I don't, but if they do exist they will be found at the Forum. Be that as it may, you've got to go with the Bruins to walk away with the Adams.

Patrick Division

Once the best, now the rest. Philadelphia and the Islanders probably won't make the playoffs this year, the Isles for the second year in a row. Of the others the Rangers will take care of Washington while the New Jersey Devils will handle Pittsburgh. These two teams will clash in a dull series which will be won by New York. If this reads like I don't care it's because I don't. Boston will trample whoever comes out of this division so the point is basically moot.

Finals

The finals will be an anticlimax. Brett Hull will find himself stifled by the Bruins' defense and with him being ineffective the Blues will discover that they aren't deep enough to tackle the Bruins. St. Louis' first trip to the finals since 1970 will be a repeat performance. Four games against Boston and then it's golf season. The biggest difference is that this time Bobby Orr won't score the Stanley Cup winning goal.

The baseball lockout is over. Whoopee!

Don Nelson To Be Honoured

The evening of Saturday, April 21 has been set aside to honor coach Don Nelson's contribution to sports at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Former players and friends are invited to attend a reception and dinner at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre on Regent Street, beginning at 6 pm.

Prof. Nelson began coaching football and basketball at UNB in 1956. Although he was head football coach until 1967,

it was his 32-year tenure as head basketball coach that set the record for the longest term at any one institution in Canada. By the time he left coaching to teach full-time in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation in 1988, Prof. Nelson had coached over 450 athletes.

This special evening to honor Coach Nelson has been organized by friends and former players. Dave Morell of

CFNB will be the master of ceremonies and after dinner a hospitality suite will be available at the host hotel, the Wandlyn Inn.

Tickets for the dinner will be available until Friday, April 6. To obtain tickets or further information, contact Phil Wright, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, UNB, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3; telephone: (506) 453-4579.

The Intramural Report

Ice Hockey

The Intramural Hockey season has finally come to a close. Out of the 29 teams in the league -- The Fallopian Flyers, Hooters, Chemical Engineering Kings, Skidders, D.Y.G.S.P., Bridges Blues, Social Club, Random Measurements, Alpine Spotlights, Legal Eagles, Law Lords, Panthers, Aitken Animals, Harrison Huskies, EE Electronics, and the M.M. Leaps -- sixteen teams found themselves in playoff positions. The four teams which made it to the semi-finals were the Flyers, prevailing over Bridges 3-2, and the Social Club, over the Hooters by a score of 4-1. In the championship game the Social Club defeated the Flyers 3-0.

I would like to thank the following: Campus Police, The Brunswickan, Aitken Centre Staff, Duane Chadwick of Moosehead Breweries, Shirley Cleave, Michael Cox, and the Referees, as well as all the players for making the playoffs very successful.

Bobby Keays
Hockey Coordinator

Waterpolo

There were four teams entered this year for Men's Intramural Waterpolo. These teams included Aitken, Jones, Neill, and The Yadrutas 03:4. Each played each (the others) teams twice, and the winner of the regular season was The Yadrutas 03:4, who compiled a 5 and 1 record. Aitken came in second with a 4 and 2 record followed by Jones (3 and 3) and Neill (0 and 6).

The playoffs began with The Yadrutas 03:4 cruising past Neill House by a score of 21 - 4. Then Aitken barely got by Jones 6 - 4. In the final game The Yadrutas 03:4 proved to be too much for the Aitken Animals and they easily won by a score of 14 - 2.

Congratulations go out to the members of The Yadrutas 03:4. The following people may pick up their certificates at the Recreation Office, Room A121, LB Gym after March 30th: Pang Hian Tee, Robin Godfrey, Prof. Dennis Caine, Rof. Bob McKim, Prof. Andrew Godo, Gary Scales, Derek Smith, Brian Woods, Adrian Tan, Tim Jackson and Kevin McGinnis.

A special thanks to Jody Crowther and the rest of the referees who helped make this season a successful one.

Bruce Nelligan, Convenor

Personnel

As this year's Intramural Program enters its final weeks we are busy preparing for the 1990/91 season. The success of the Program depends in large part on the hard work of dedicated students who serve as sport convenors, referees-in-chief, and officials. While student involvement is essential from the program perspective our student personnel also reap a number of benefits. This is your opportunity to gain some practical experience in organization and administration; develop your interpersonal skills, meet some new friends, make a contribution to your fellow students, enhance your resumé, and earn some spending money. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Intramural Program can obtain further information and application forms from the Recreation Office, Room A121 LB Gym between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.

"Hey All Varsity Athletes" '90 VARSITY EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday April 8, 1990
8:00pm-11:00pm L.B. Gym

This is the night you've really
been training for....
...see your team captain for
details.



Photo by Glen Vienneau