

Fourth and long Sports commentary

by: Jamie Colvin

Seeing as this is my last column, I will attempt to present you with some fearless playoff predictions. But first lets look at the major hardware winners.

The MVP looked to be an open race with the untimely illness to Mario Lemieux, combined with the phenomenal play of many less appreciated superstars. This group includes Pat Lafontaine, Doug Gilmour, and Steve Yzerman. However, with magnificent Mario's remarkable comeback, coupled with the fact that the Penguins are now undefeated in 12 games after his return and during these games he has scored an unbelievable 35 points to retake the scoring rue lead, the obvious choice for that trophy is Mario.

The Norris trophy for top defensemen is not so clear. There are many stellar defensemen in the league this year such as Phil Housely, Ray Bourque (whose game has gone up a level lately) and do not forget Washington's Kevin Hatcher who has done it all for the Caps. Longshots in this category also include Jeff Brown of St. Louis and perhaps Steve Duchene of Quebec. However, despite this impressive talent pool, Chris Chelios will claim his second Norris. He has played exceptionally well for the Norris leading Blackhawks and earlier in the year was a candidate for league MVP. Chelios should prevail.

Rookie of the year is a lock. Teemu Sellane will get every vote in this category. His only serious challenge would come from future super-star Eric Lindros. Although he will finish this campaign with close to 40 goals, he battled a bum knee and a fortune seeking woman, and these certainly tainted Eric the Great's season.

Vezina trophy for the league's top puckstopper should be a 2 horse race, with perhaps a long-shot or two. PatrickRoy continues to play incredible nets for the Adams leading Canadians. Although his average is not in the miniscule 2.00's like years gone by, one must remember this is not the Canadiens of old (under Pat Burns). They now play a wide-open style and this certainly tests the tender. The other front runner would have to be Ed Belfour. He has a league leading 8 shutouts and is the backbone on 9 stingy defence. The darkhorse in the race would have to be Tom Barrasso who has done the majority of the tending for league leading Pittsburgh. he is a worthy candidate.

Coach of the year is a lock; Pat Burns has done the unthinkable and brought the Leafs back from the dead. They are currently in a position to finish 1st in the Norris with an astounding shot at 100 points. This is a .500 club at best but Burns has instilled a solid work ethic stressing defence and pride - something the Leafs lost for almost 20 years.

Lady Byng trophy for most sportsmanlike: who cares! What a gay award to win!

Now for Playoff predictions

The Adams: Quebec vs Montreal. Is this a time warp or what? The battle of Quebec will be hot and heavy but the Habs will win.

The Patrick: New York Rangers not making the playoffs. Wow! Anyway the Penguins will win easily.

The Norris: A tough call. I would say that Chicago would be the favorite. Too strong but watch out for Toronto, they might spoil somebody's party.

The Smythe: Vancouver and

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PROMISES TO BE A GOOD TIME, LOTS OF LAUGHS

Calgary final will produce some fireworks, but the Flames will prevail, even without home ice advantage.

Montreal vs Pittsburgh-who would bet against a healthy Penguins led by a healthy Mario. Certainly not me.

Calgary vs Chicago. Call me crazy but I really think Calgary can make it through to the Cup finals. It's Dave King's calling.

However, the Penguins are a dynasty, they will win their third consecutive cup and take their place among the best teams assembled.



UNB Athletes of the month for March, Iona Allen and Iain Tennent both of the swim team, receive their awards from representatives from Valley Graphics and Moosehead Breweries. photo by Kevin Porter

RUSSIAN PRINCE VODKA

PRESENTS

New Stuff

Russian Prince Vodka wants you to listen to and read about the hottest new music available today. Just \$29.50 gets you six different "New Stuff" CD's featuring a minimum of 16 brand new tracks each, and twelve issues of SoundCan magazine, the new pulse of Canadian music. Here's just a few of the bands featured on the current "New Stuff" CD presented by Russian Prince Vodka.

The Lawn



You can't mow it, you can't rake it, but you can rock out to it. It's The Lawn, one of the freshest sounds to grow out of the Toronto club scene. Fronted by the unorthodox slide-guitar stylings and inimitable vocals of Gord Cumming, The Lawn captured their spirited "park bench rock" on *Debussy Fields* (Hypnotic) last year and have set about harvesting a crop of new fans across the country. The mesmerizing playing of lead-rhythm guitarist Patrick Gregory, the relentless noodling of bassist Richard Gregory and the solid grooves of drummer Lonnie James round out the Lawn's lineup.

Alexander Caplin

At the tender age of 25, this Montreal artist has racked up some pretty impressive musical credentials. After studying jazz, focusing on voice and bass guitar, he lived and worked in Los Angeles, playing with the likes of Chuck Mangioni and Santana's Michael Calebero. After a brief stint in London, he moved home and started working on his solo debut, recently released on fre Records. The first single and video, "It's Just The Raid," will surely push him into the international spotlight.



Bachman



Remember the Guess Who? B.T.O.? Of course you do. And you'll be glad to know legendary Canadian rocker Randy Bachman, guitarist of the two legendary bands, is still taking care of business with a new album, *Any Road*. With guest turns from Neil Young and Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies), the new album features some great new material, including the instant classic "Prairie Town." Produced by Chris Wardman, with the solid rhythmic backing of drummer Billy Rea Chapman and bassist Richard Cochrane, *Any Road* is Bachman doing what he does best: "rock'n roll".

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