

From the Litterbox



This is a transcript of the call I got 2 weeks ago Monday:

- Brunswickan. Sports Editor.
- Hi chief!
- Where's the story?
- Uh ... Uh ... story?
- The story. You know, the strike.
- The strike? ... postal strike? Yeah ... it's almost written.
- NFL. Chicago. Assignment. Remember?
- Oh yeah! It's Thursday! Chicago! Yeah, the players' strike. I, uh, yeah, gotta new angle, really! Look, I gotta go. Call you later.

This is a transcript of the call I got a week ago Tuesday:

- Brunswickan. Sports Editor.
- Yes. This is Officer Cromwell of the Chicago Police Department calling.
- (sigh)
- We would like to confirm that you have a certain person working on your staff.
- Yes, he does.
- But, I haven't told you his name yet.
- Don't bother.

These transcripts clearly indicate why our story on the NFL strike has not been published yet. Over two weeks ago, armed with a camera, a tape recorder, and an expense account, we sent our intrepid sports reporter, Stephen Marks, to cover the NFL players' strike. We haven't seen him since.

However, from police reports, CSIS, the FBI, and the Belizian secret service, we have been able to piece together why his story is unavailable.

Inside sources with the Chicago Bears Football Organization confirmed that Stephen Marks fraudulently obtained a position on the replacement player's squad. Although the coaching staff reported that they never saw Marks, the training and medical staff reported giving him various pharmaceuticals, including pain killers, steroids and amphetamines.

On Sunday, game day, it was said that Marks was "very ready for the game, both physically and mentally. He was tackling players in the dressing room, assaulting fans and during the warm-up, was counting the strands in the astroturf."

The strangest part of the story is that only four hours later, high government officials in Belize reported seeing Stephen Marks at a private Royal gathering, running across the Polo pitch screaming "Vive la Revolution! Free the peasants! Throw me the damn ball!"

We finally contacted Marks in a Belizian jail shortly before deadline, Monday, 5 pm (Tuesday noon):

- Yeah?
- It's me, your editor. Where's the story?
- I'm working on it. I got a new angle. I'll call you back.

We hope to have his story next week.

STARTING NEXT WEEK. . . Herb's NHL Puck-Ups

Herb's new column will look at a run-down of the week to week happenings in the NHL. The ups and the downs, the goals and shutouts, the penalties, the checks, and the winners and losers. Tune in.

Beavers season begins

By BRENT STAEBEN

The swimming Beavers begin their 1987-88 AUSA schedule this weekend with tri-meets at Dalhousie and Acadia. Friday evening sees UNB up against Dal and MUN at the Dalplex and then, with MUN again, at Acadia's War Memorial pool on Saturday afternoon to challenge the Axemen.

The tri-meet set-up is unique to swimming. Even though each of the three teams has two swimmers in the pool for each race, points are scored in a dual meet fashion. This weekend, for example, even though the swimmers are all racing together, it's basically DAL vs. UNB, UNB vs. MUN and MUN vs. DAL. Thus UNB swims in one tri-meet but in reality, it's really two dual meets.

Coach Bruce Fisher is looking for some good performances from both the men's and women's teams this weekend. The men, with eight rookies in the line-up, should handle Memorial University quite handily but against Dal and Acadia, the competition should be much tighter. "This weekend will give us a chance to compare ourselves to our main competition for the AUSA championship", says Coach Fisher, "we should come away with a win at Acadia, but with Dalhousie being the defending champs, I'm looking for us to gain on them as the season progresses." Wins should come this weekend from Robyn Godfrey in the backstrokes, John Duncan and Brent Staeben in the butterflys and individual medleys and John Hartholt in the free styles.

The women should be in for somewhat of a tougher time this weekend. Travelling with a team of five, they find themselves slightly undermanned against Dal and Acadia's teams of fifteen. However, though short on numbers, this team is tall in talent. "I'd like to stay as close to Dal and Acadia as we can", says Coach Fisher, "but we've got a real good chance of coming away with two wins against MUN". Watch for Kelly Cuddihy in the distance free styles, Jackie Hatherly in the backstrokes and Marie Yelle in the sprint frees to come up big and win their race this weekend.

The women's swim team is still looking for some new recruits, so if you're interested drop by and see Coach Fisher in the Phys. Ed. building anytime.



Photo: Eric Drummie

Herb's hockey picks

THIS WEEK: The Smythe Division

1. Edmonton Oilers - One has to pick Edmonton to win their division again. With Gretzky, Kurri, Messier, Anderson, Coffey, and Fuhr, they have talent to spare. Still, the defense could improve and back up goaltending is a question mark due to Andy Moog's free agency.

2. Calgary Flames - Despite the play-off loss to the Jets, this team should finish ahead of Winnipeg this year. The goaltending of Mike Vernon and offense of Joey Mullin are keys. Young talent that joins the regular line-up should improve the team a lot.

3. Winnipeg Jets - The Jets will be a solid club. They have the young goaltending of Pokey Reddick and talent like Dale Hawerchuck, Paul MacLean and Laurie Boschman help out a lot as does good defence.

4. L. A. Kings - This is a different club without Marcel Dionne, but it's still talented offensively with shaky defense and goaltending. The offense of Luc Robitaille, Jimmy Carson, Bernie Nicholls, and Jim-



By HERB BARTON

my Fox is going to win this club a lot of games. All four should be good picks for hockey pools.

5. Vancouver Canucks - This club is a sad one. Their best young prospect is John

LeBlanc (UNB). They resigned goalie Richard Brodeur. We know Tony Tanti will score goals, but how about some help. The promising young defense no longer looks so promising. Vancouver should get last over-all this year. They need the number one over-all draft choice.

Order of Finish

1. Edmonton
2. Calgary
3. Winnipeg
4. Los Angeles
5. Vancouver

Herb's Prediction for Stanley Cup Final

Washington vs. Calgary
Winner: Washington
Conn Smuthe: Dale Hunter

(Ed. note: Ha, Hal Why are we printing this? It'll be Philadelphia vs. Edmonton yet again, and Edmonton will win.)