

Roller Derby skaters end strike

Replacements return to day jobs in engineering and finance

Lazy Bastards Press

NEWARK - After a hiatus of 237 days the roller derby strike is over. Player representative Gonad Fear announced yesterday that in a unanimous vote 57% of the players have agreed to accept the owner's offer of recognition of the union in return for the players dropping their demand for pay equal to that received by American Gladiators.

This was heralded as a major victory by owner representative Tub Stealit. "The players have to realize that with the added competition from American Gladiators and Knights and Warriors, we can no longer afford to pay the huge salaries that roller derbies have been making. The loss in television revenues alone has forced several of our owners into near bankruptcy."

At last notice, the Montreal Expose, Milwaukee Stewers, Pittsburgh Pyres, and Minnesota Twines are reporting financial difficulties. However, they have yet to respond to the players' request that they open their books for public scrutiny.

The players union has repeatedly claimed that no such financial problems exist. "The owners have shown that they are unwilling to bargain in good faith," said Fear from his car phone in Acapulco. "While the skaters are literally being forced to beg for a living, the owners are living high on the hog. Their refusal to open their books merely proves that they have actually been making money."

During the strike, star San Francisco Defiant point man Barely Bondable was given permission by a California judge to skip his alimony payments. Bondable has become poverty stricken since the strike put an end to his \$30,000/week cheques. "I'm completely unable to pay my alimony under the present conditions," said Bondable when interviewed as he left his Porsche. "I've got an expensive lifestyle that I've got to maintain if I want to maintain my position as the single most spoiled athlete in the universe." Details of Bondable's contract reveal that he has a clause which

states that on all road trips he is to have his own private suite complete with massage attendants.

Roller derby fans throughout North America have expressed disgust with both the owners and skaters over the labor dispute. Many fans questioned whether they would return to roller derby once the strike reached its conclusion. "I really just don't care any more," said long time Aureoles fan Mary Chamberlain. "I've been to just about every Aureoles event that Baltimore has ever had, but d*** it, I'm fed up. Maybe I'll just start watching the Gladiators. At least you know that they're going to give 100% every time and not be worrying about what their agent thinks."

The real losers in the strike have proven to be the replacement roller derby skaters. With the settlement, the start of the season has been pushed back by three hours, allowing the real skaters plenty of time to get in good roller derby condition. The replacement skaters, who had

been signed with the promise that although they would have to go without pay throughout spring training, they would also be able to fulfill their dreams of becoming a professional roller derby skater. Wane Grateski was particularly distraught. "I've been dreaming of a career in roller derby ever since my own career started going down the tubes five years ago. I figure that if I could dominate my sport to the degree that I did before I got married, then it should be no problem to cross over to a sport that takes less of a toll on my body." Grateski, of course, is a highly overrated member of the Los Angeles Kinks organization.

With the start of a new season, the Toronto Blue Gaze will be once again defending their title as world champions. The Blue Gaze had a poor season prior to last season's strike, but Canadian fans had been rewarded by an excellent performance by roller derby's most embarrassing team: the Montreal Expose.

The Expose have proven to be an embarrassment to the roller derby owners' claim that small market teams are unable to compete against the big cities. The Expose, competing in the league's second smallest market, managed to have the best fatality and injury record in all of roller derby en route to what seemed to be their first post season appearance since 1981.

Major League Roller Derby is hoping that the inroads that have been made by American Gladiators will not translate to 1995. Gladiators President Tim Bjorn is confident that the Gladiators will be able to maintain their popularity. "We've got the best athletes that money can buy. All of our gladiators can press 93 pounds and have a vertical of 9.3 inches." The Gladiators, of course, instead of having evenly balanced squads, field teams of nine men and three women.

The first game of the upcoming season will be played two weeks from the day after yesterday, with the Cincinnati Dreads hosting the Chi-



Replacement skater 'Dancing' Mark Bray shows his trading card pose.

cago Pubs for their traditional season opener. The Dreads are considered to be one of the best roller derby teams in the sport today, but are expected to face tough competition from the Atlanta Bravados.

Dreads Coaching Switch

Ex Canuckian switches to field hockey

By KNEEL HEDGE
Telecrap Urinal

FREDERICTON - The UNB Varsity Dreads field hockey team got a surprise when they discovered the identity of their head coach for the 95/96 season. Granny Grunt, the ex Montreal Canuckian player and head coach of the UNB hockey team this season takes over from Donner Antlerstream when she and her husband head off to spend next year going bush in upstate New York.

Head of the athletic department Tim Bjorn justified his decision in an interview shortly after the announcement.

"Granny did an incredible job this year. He managed to keep the team motivated through the tough regular season and I think our record shows this. While many blame him for the 9-3 loss to the Atlantic Bible College Pussy Cats in the playoffs I think that this is a little unfair. In the playoffs it is the players that need to step up, both physically and mentally and I don't see how we can blame Granny for their inability to do this."

Bjorn then turned his eyes toward the field hockey program for 95/96. "Next year will be an even tougher year for Granny. Keeping the girls motivated through the regular season will be a difficult job, especially considering that they play the same two teams week in, week out. There is so little to play for except a bye in the first round of the playoffs."

How has Granny Grunt reacted to his appointment? Speaking yesterday from his luxurious north side apartment he gave freely of his opinions.

"Well, I was honoured to be considered for the job. Obviously, it is one of the most prestigious at UNB and I'm pleased they think I could do a good job."

Grunt is confident that he will not be a figurehead, employed solely for his local rapport to boost attendances.

"Not at all. I believe that the skills I've learned on and off the ice over the years will contribute greatly to the hockey program. I believe the girls should be using a more physical style. I think we are too offensively minded and I hope to get my assistants to work on some forechecking during



Coach Grunt's First Practice

the practices."

The change in jobs will dramatically affect Grunt's life. "I'm looking forward to spending more time with the family. With so many games this year, I found I was having trouble spending enough time with the kids, J. Bean, J. Walker and Granny Jr and of course our pet wild turkey. I've no idea how Wayne Heater managed to get through the year, having to attend all those mid-week practices too."

Grunt is confident that his physical approach will pay dividends to his new recruits. "As I said before, we're aiming for a more physical team this year. To move towards this I've managed to secure a couple of new recruits to bulk up the defence, Tonya Shoop and Wendy Simpkins. However, I also recognize the need for fast breaks out of defense and I really like the look of the front line that comes with the arrival of the twins Taby & Lucy Nail'er and Dede Corme. The toughest job was finding a replacement for the standout Chris Tompsun, Frannie LaBlanket."

These recruits have led to a lucrative sponsorship deal for the V-Dreads. "That's correct. Having heard of our new recruits, duB fLite has expressed an interest in sponsoring the team next season."

It's certainly good to see such an enthusiastic new coach for a program that seemed to be going stale under its previous minder. After all, what's the point in playing against the best in Canada if you can't compete.

McBane Bros. in the Fryer

Lazy Bastards Press

FLORENCEVILLE - The McBane Brothers have determined a method for deciding who gets the family fortune: Hot Oil Wrestling. Hairyson challenged his brother by saying that "You suck!" Wallet replied with, "Ya, well your momma!" and something about 250 pounds of cream of wheat, a dwarf pony and a small army of mercenaries.

The bout will take place at either

the Florenceville Civic Centre, or a clearing beside the Trans Canada Highway. The McBanes are reportedly shipping in 7 tons of hot oil from their french fry plant via an Irbing tanker that sets sail for the Saint John River tomorrow. Tickets go on sale yesterday at \$250.00 for the bleachers and \$5.00 for front row seats, as rumor has it the brothers will wrestle with sequined jump suits, strip down to tiger stripe thongs and whip each other.

Saint John Frames bought by Gone Fairy

Grates to stock team with red meat eaters

By BRADY BUNCH
Telecrap Urinal

TORONTO - In a surprise move yesterday, hockey novelty Gone Fairy purchased the St John Frames for an estimated \$8-million.

In a hastily organized press conference at Toronto's most pristine erotic fantasy club, Runway 66, Fairy disclosed the motivation behind the move. "Can you believe my restaurant empire has gone down the drain? Too many food poisoning lawsuits and that franchise in Fredericton had less business than my operation in Sweden. White collars don't have any class or taste."

"I decided to shop for an all-Canadian hockey team to pay off my legal fees. A team with heart and courage. The DOA Murder Squad rejected my offer so I approached the Frames."

The deal was finalized yesterday. Fairy has already fired head coach

Dob Franceen and his staff, and released several non-Canadian players. Former Montreal Canuckian and Boston Booser Kristi Nihilist will replace Franceen as head coach. Nihilist and assistant Gory Sloberson combined for a total of 4794 penalty minutes during their NHL careers.

"Hey, its no secret that I'm trying to steer this team in a certain direction. I just want my boys to play solid Canadian hockey. We won't win another game this year, but you can bet we'll fill the stands every night."

Saint John native Randy 'Sinbin' Bozo will play on a checking line with recently demoted Brawny Firm and newly acquired Lacy Simone. Coach Nihilist conceded "I'll be playing this line against Obeg Petrovitchskianov and that Russian schmuck Valium Buryovskivitch. He's a pretty boy and we don't like pretty boys. Should be quite a match-up."

Fairy also revealed the new team

uniform which will make it's debut tonight. The team color will be black while the logo features a representation of Fairy's dog Brew crapping on a mosaic of European flags.

The crest is a tribute of sorts to the famed hound, who was bludgeoned to death accidentally by Fairy's close friend Fawn Kord-Dick just minutes before Kord-Dick overdozed on a mixture of steroids and cocaine.

The new ownership has already begun paying dividends. The St. John Police Force has hired and trained a SWAT team of twelve officers to deal with crowd and player control while the Frames have added seven medics to their medical staff.

The Frames first home game will be this Monday night against the Cape Breton Strikers. The first 1500 fans will receive a complimentary cricket bat and coupons good for 5 beers from the concession stand. Should be interesting.

Druggie faces ex-con

Lazy Bastards Press

LAS VEGAS - Canadian rowing sensation, Silky Layman, has announced her intention to fight Mickey Titlest for the W.B.A., W.B.O., I.B.C., I.B.F., I.H.A.V.E.B.O., and I.G.P.A.B.O.Y.B. (I'm Gonna Put A Beatin' On You Boy) boxing titles.

Layman, who was recently stripped of a gold medal for drug use, stated that her plans do not reflect that of other athletes switching sports. "I did it because the two greatest athletes in the world, Michael Jordan and Lawrence Taylor, told me that money is . . . I mean isn't everything and that I should do what I believe in." When asked why she choose boxing and Mickey Titlest, she commented, "I didn't want to but I thought Titlest would enjoy being beat up by a woman for once, since he was in prison for three years."

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