

Out in left field

by: Paul Arsenault
Murray Nystrom

Ye - Ha it's play-off time! Those who are true hockey fans don't mind the long play - off format implemented by the NHL. Nor do the players, coaches, and owners who will make or lose thousands of dollars depending on how far they go. Intensity increases as we ravel down the road to Lord Stanley's. Each team starts with a clean slate, the regular season has little importance to teams like Minnesota and Hartford - nothing to loose everything to gain. Unfortunately the opposite is true for teams that finished at the top of the standings ie. LA, Boston and Chicago. These teams carry high expectations, especially in the first or second rounds, we've seen too many upsets that have played havoc on play - off poolers.

The key to success in the playoffs is a solid defence and a hot goaltender. That's why Paul's picking Chicago and Montreal in this year's final. Murray agrees, but picks Los Angeles and Boston lead by Andy Moog. A recent example was in 1986 when the "Defensive" Montreal Canadians won their 23rd.

This year Montreal has the goaltending, Patrick Roy, that will carry them past Buffalo and Boston. This years Habs' star will be University of Vermont's John Leclair who adds size and strength to an already solid defensive team. Veteran Denis Savard will lead the Habs (always) offensively along with Rusty Courtнал on their revived powerplay.

There are draw backs to a lengthy playoff schedule; one is the effect on studies, it makes for a difficult decision for students. Should he/she burry their nose in a book or sit back in the lazy-boy with a pizza and a cold one. The other problem that arises as a result of long playoffs is the amount of quality time spent in front of the tube and not with the wife or girlfriend (Just Kidding). For the next 4 or 5 weeks games will be on TV every single night.

Even though the world League of American Football is only two weeks into its inaugural season, critics are already waiting for spring football to falter. Many people are going to be surprised when this league flourishes. There are many reasons for this. Number one, the league was developed by 26 of 28 National Football League owners. Leagues in the past such as the U.S.F.L. or the A.F.L. attempted to compete head - to - head with the N.F.L. The N.F.L. owners knew this and did what they could to crush the upstart leagues. The W.L.A.F., however, was developed by the N.F.L. in order to work with the N.F.L. Number 2- the W.L.A.F. has player salary caps which will keep expenses down and revenues up - keeping the owners smiling. Number 3- American football is catching on. Large crowds in Montreal, Barcelona and London will prove that . . . Former St. Mary's Huskies quarterback Chris Flynn got some playing time with the Montreal Machine last weekend, scrambling for 8 yards on his first professional play . . . New Jersey Devils could be a dark horse in the Patrick Division ie, Sean Burke gets hot like he was in 1988 .

. . . Brett Hull is having the best year of his life and Wayne Gretzky is miles ahead of him in the scoring race . . . Red Devil hockey standout and part time basketball expert, Jim Landine, predicts that the Detroit Pistons will win the N.B.A. championship . . . Sure they will, Jim. . . there could not have been a better winner of the Copeland award at this years' athletic banquet than Pat Zwicker - congratulations.

Last weeks trivia: There are 33 banners hanging at UNB - 30 in the LB Gym, 2 in the SMA pool and 1 at the Aitken Centre.
Hard trivia: What is the only NHL team that does not have numbers on the back of their helmets?
Easy trivia: What number does Tia Toner wear for the UNB Reds?

Good Luck

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exams

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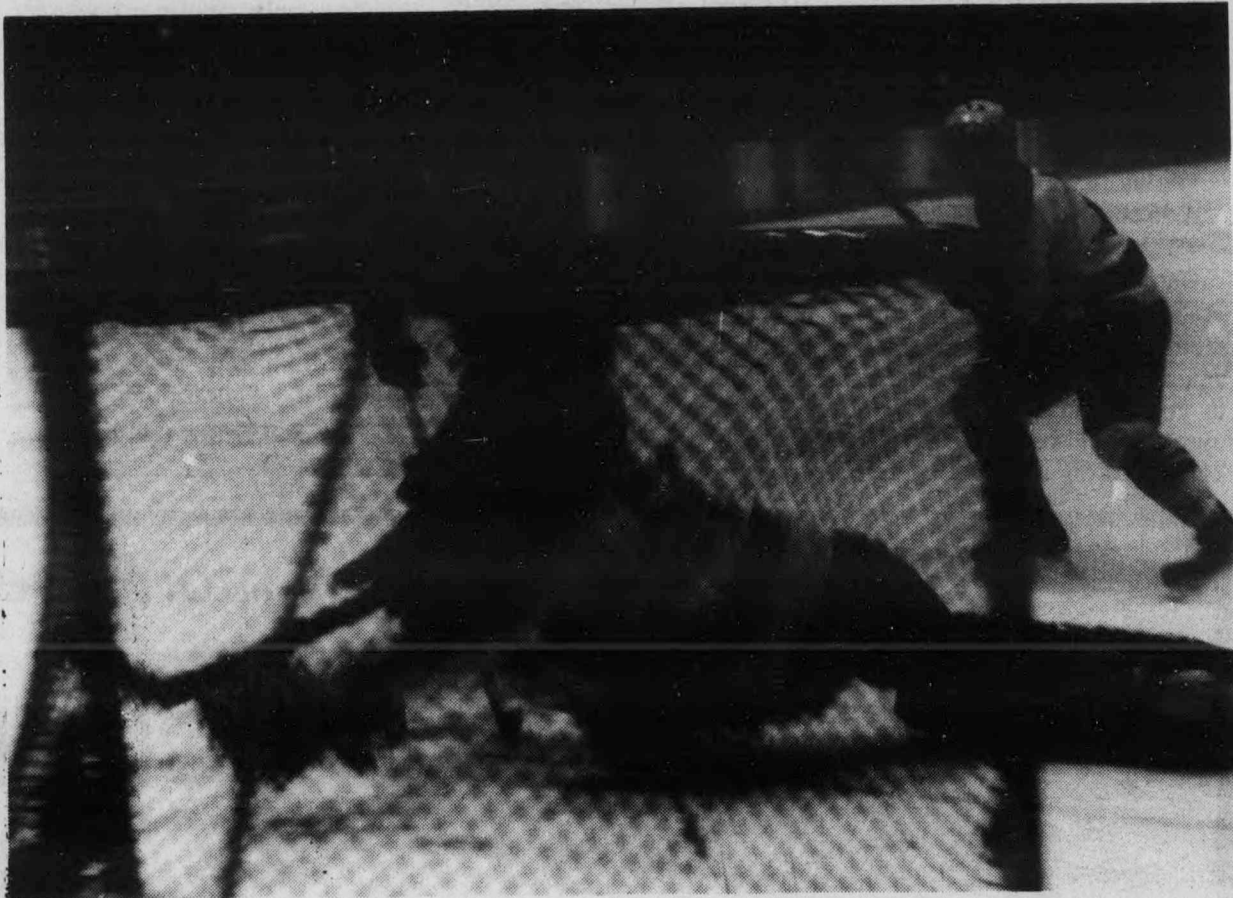
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