

Herb's Hockey Picks

By Herb Barton

The trade deadline just past and many teams made last minute deals to improve their clubs. The talk is the Calgary Flames improved their team enough to be the top contender for the Stanley Cup as manager Cliff Fletcher was the most active trader.

The Flames biggest deal was trading Brett Hull and Steve Bozek to St. Louis for Rob Ramage and Rick Wamsley. Not only was Hull disliked by coach Terry Crisp but he often sat out because of defensive deficiencies. St. Louis is banking on him being a consistent 50 goal scorer like his famous father though. The Flames were willing to give him up for more defensive depth and a quality goalie in Wamsley. The Flames hope the trade will eliminate any defensive woes going into the play-offs. They also trade forwards Brian Bradley and Peter Bakovic to Vancouver for former Expresser Craig Coxe. Anybody who saw Coxe play at the Aitken Centre must be shocked to see him traded for 2 players. Coxe can't skate and his stickhandling skills are lacking. He is valuable as a goon and that's why the Flames got him. Despite having a big club they didn't have a goon without value. That is, they didn't have a player who could fight the wilans of the League who didn't have value to their club.

The Boston Bruins also traded for goaltending help. The traded minor league goalie Bill Ranford and 30 goal scorer Geoff Courtnall to the Edmonton Oilers for Olympian Andy Moog. Generally this is regarded as a bad trade for the Bruins. They have got excellent goaltending all year from Rejean Lemelin and Doug Keans. Also Courtnall is a rugged winger and sniper that is tough to replace. Justification that I've heard for the trade has been a recent by Keans and that U.S. olympic

monton for Allan May a minor leaguer. Former U de M Blue Eagle Charlie Bourgeois moved from St. Louis to Hartford. The Leafs picked up big defenceman Brian Curran from the Islanders for a sixth round pick. St. Louis picked up veteran defenceman Gordie Roberts from the Flyers.

The hottest team in the N.H.L. are the Montreal Canadiens. They've won 8 in a row to take over the League lead in points. Also hot are the Washington Capitals who have won 5 in a row. In con-



winger Bob Joyce can fill Courtnall's shoes. Unless Moog proves himself to be a better goalie now than less year trade is worthless for the Bruins.

In other moves Hartford acquired Richard Brodeur from the Canucks for Steve Weeks in a swap of back-up goaltenders. The Bruins got former Expresser Moe Lemay from Ed-

trast the Canucks have lost 8 in a row, Minnesota 6 in a row, and the Leafs 5 in a row. No wonder these teams continue to drift at the bottom of the league.

In the battle for the Art Ross trophy Wayne Gretzky has closed the gap on Lemieux. Upon return from an eye injury he got 13 points in 3 games. This pulled him within 12 points of Lemieux with 12 games to go. He also became the career assist leader by surpassing Gordie Howe. Not bad for a guy who has only been in the league for 9 years.

Two surprises in the goal scoring race this year in Canadian Stephane Richer and Edmonton Oiler Craig Simpson. Simpson has got 49 already. Simpson has benefited from having Lemieux as his center when he was the Penguins and having Mark Messier and Gretzky; as center iceman in Edmonton. Richer has used one of the fastest and hardest shots in the league to his full advantage. The result being a pleasant surprise for the Canadiens.

With 3 1/2 weeks left in the season the pressure is on to Make the play-offs. For teams like the Leafs and Canucks its crunch time. Look to see their losing streaks end quickly. so long for now.

From the Litterbox



Brunsdade 122.22
Editor's Log . . .

The year is almost over. (Sigh). No more sports to report on. . . finally. Now I just have to balance my books and train next year's editor (poor sap).

Expense accounts. . . Stephen Marks. This should take a week or two. I'll need a beer or two, or three.
I feel a hangover coming on.

Cat Victorious in 9 out of 16 states

(CP) In a surprise finish, a cat won 9 out of 16 states for both the Democratic and Republican nominations on Super Tuesday.

The cat, Hitler-Kitty, was not present but his campaign manager, Stephen Marks, spoke on his behalf.

"It's a giant leap forward for the United States. I mean, where else in this commie-infested world can a cat have a chance of becoming President? Just look at Bill."

Marks also announced that if the cat should win the nomination, he would choose Jessica Hahn as a running mate.

(BRUNS) Student Campaign organizers were shocked to learn that Stephen Marks, campaign manager for Hitler-Kitty (SU Presidential Candidate) had entered him in the race for the US Presidential nomination by accident.

Brunswickan sports editor, Al Robichaud was heard to comment, "I'm really pissed off. I sent him out to cover a simple volleyball story and he ends up as campaign manager for a cat! And he couldn't even do that right. I'm seriously considering firing him."

Marks, who appeared on *Nightline* with Ted Koppel remarked "The world is like that sometimes. . . (giggle), but hey, I'm a volunteer."

Excerpt — Diary of Stephen Marks
(Intrepid Bruns Reporter)

"Hey, Eric", I yelled. "I'm back".

"Who cares?" was the instant reply from approximately 30 stumbling Bruns Zombies. They always look so wonderful on a late Wednesday night. Layout. Ha! Ha! Glad I've never done that shit.

"Marks? MARKS!!" was Eric's ear shattering reply. He walked up to me with a satanic look on his face. He was salivating and giggling horribly. "My dear, dear Marks, what a bonus. . . I don't s'pose you have a volleyball story? Do you know what volleyball is? No. . . no, don't say anything. You've got a new angle. . . yeah, yeah, that's it. 135°. Yeah, yeah Presidential campaign manager. . . covers the, uh, uh, CIAU's. Right?!"

I really didn't like the look on his face. It kinda spooked me. Better pick my words with care. . .

He's wringing his hands and playing with a cut-knife. This looks bad. Did you know that 60% of the murders in New York are committed with razor knives? Why does it look like he wants to add my number to that statistic?

I started glancing furtively around the office looking for an escape route. An open window; door; a hostage to take. . . anything. They all have knives. I'm trapped. Gotta start talking. "Yeah, you're right. A new angle. The presidential candidate wanted the exposure from the CIAUs, so I figure, What the hell, could be good. I'll do it. Next thing I knew, I was in Dallas. Uh, Eric, I really don't like the look on your face. Now, Eric, put the knife down. Honest to God, I was just about to write the volleyball story. Really, Eric. You're drooling". I was backing towards the door. I don't think he's noticed that yet. Why the wicked smile? Looks like the cat who ate the canary.

I smell him before I hear him. Then I hear him as he stumbles up behind me after returning from the longest refreshing pause in history. Oh no, not the other one. Please.

"Marks, Marks, Marks", he breathes into my ear. "I'm going to have another hangover due to your incompetence."
Trapped. Trapped. Trapped.

Rumours

562 King St.

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Soul Entertainment
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Thurs Night 5 - 8

Cheeseburger + fries 49¢
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6 till closing

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