

Fourth and long

by Jamie Colvin

Does the NHL All-Star game need a revision? Many of the games purists are calling for a return to the "good-old days" when the all-stars played against the Stanley-Cup champs - a format abandoned in the late 1960's. These same people long for the days when the all-star classic was a closely contested contest; scores such as 5-3 or 3-2 would be the norm - and certainly nothing along the lines

of the 16-6 slaughter that the Wales put onto the Campbell conference.

But could you imagine an All-Star game with the intensity of a league game? If you think that is a plausible scenario, you obviously have not thought about the players perspective. These guys are looking for a rest - it is a holiday time for them and certainly not a time to risk new injuries.

Baby Hab-penings

by Luke Peterson

Thirteen may be a lucky number for the Fredericton Canadiens as they head into Saturday evening's contest with the Moncton Hawks at the Aitken Centre.

The Habs had owned the Hawks through the first eleven regular season match-ups, not losing a single game to Moncton. The Hawks finally got the monkey off their back by handing the Baby Habs a 5-4 defeat at the Aitken Centre almost two weeks ago. This Saturday's contest will mark the thirteenth time the two teams have faced off. The date? You guessed it, February Thirteenth.

Now that the Canadiens have tasted defeat at the hands of their Atlantic Division rivals, they won't be taking them as lightly anymore. The Hawks sit fourth in the division with 51 points, 10 points behind Fredericton and Cape Breton who currently share second place in the Atlantic. A Canadiens loss on Tuesday to Cape Breton by a 5-3 score, ended a three game winning streak by the Baby Habs. Pierre Sevigny, Alain Cote and Craig Ferguson scored for the Habs and Les Kuntar took the loss between the pipes.

Injuries and call ups may soon take a toll on the Canadiens. Paul Dipietro and Jesse Belanger are both in Montreal. Patrik Carnback is out from four to six weeks with a hand injury and recently acquired defenceman Tim Chase is sidelined with a foot injury.

On a brighter note, Steve Larouche was named the Sherwood player of the week in the AHL. The sophomore centre scored 1 goal and netted 10 assists in 4 games last week. Larouche was a +9 over the four game span.

Russian rookie Oleg Petrov named as one of the league's five fastest skaters in a recent AHL coaches' poll. Coach Paulin Bordeleau was forced to move Petrov, who has 34 points in 35 games, to the Centre position from his natural Left wing, due to the call ups of centremen Dipietro and Belanger.

Do the fans want to see a close tight-checking affair where the likes of Joel Otto, Brian Skrudland, Guy Carbonneau patrol the ice shutting down the games most talented and prolific scorers.

I sincerely don't think so. The All-Star game is a showcase of the leagues most talented players and virtually all of them are skilled offensive players.

This is the new path the NHL has taken. Offensive has taken over the league - so naturally the All-Star game will follow suit. It will continue to be a shoot-out and everyone should enjoy it - everyone that is except the goalies.

Staying with the All-Star format - How badly did they screw-up the break-away contest. By having a 35 second time limit the second shooter had no chance to get his 3 shots off. Please change this for next year!

Eric Lindros has finally had his day in court, and now perhaps he can settle down and concentrate on playing hockey. The actual trial seemed like something that should have been decided in "Kangaroo Court". Who cares if some drunk people sprayed beer on each other in a night-club in Whitby. It seems like the courts could be spending their time and energy on something more important. Look for Lindros to return and help Mark Recchi capture the scoring title - however his return is not enough to propel the lowly Flyers into the playoffs.

In a sport aside - the AFC has shown that it can win the big game. In a close battle the AFC got a late field-goal to narrowly defeat the NFC in the annual all-star game. It's too bad that they have not been able to wrestle the Super Bowl from the NFC in almost a decade.

Murray's Trivia

Q: Name the last AFC team to win the Super Bowl.

UNB to host women's hockey provincials

by Brad Travers

The New Brunswick Senior B women's ice hockey championship will be decided this weekend at the Aitken Centre.

Only two teams registered in the league so it will be a best of three final between the UNB Red Blazers and a team from Grand Falls. Action gets underway Saturday at 2pm with game one and will be followed by a 10pm game the same evening. If a third game is required it will be played Sunday morning at 10am.

Cathy Luff a first year forward with the Red Blazers says her team is looking forward to a tough weekend.

"We played them earlier in the year and eked out a 2-1 win, but that was way back in November and since then our team has begun to play better. They have a few good players that are tough to play against, but so do we. It should be a good test and we'll be going into this weekend with some momentum."

The momentum that Luff is talking about is from the Red Blazers pair of wins against some university teams last weekend in Maine. Last Saturday UNB defeated Bowdoin College of Brunswick, by a score of 3-2 and

followed that up with a 4-1 win over Colby College on Sunday in Waterville.

With the pair of wins UNB's record stands at a very respectable 9-3-1. A record that pleses coach Mike Power.

"Considering our recent plague of injuries we're all really pleased with how well the year has gone. In many of our games we have gone with a reduced lineup and that's been tough."

Injuries sidelined 4 players from last weekend's games in Maine and therefore UNB fielded only a team of ten skaters and a goaltender.

Scoring for UNB against Bowdoin were Cheryl Campbell, Carolyn Garrett and Luff with the game winner with just under three minutes to go. Against Colby UNB got goals from Stacy Wilkins, Annette Knowlton, Krista Mullaly and Campbell. Collette Good had a strong pair of games in goal for the Red Blazers.

After this weekend UNB hosts the University of Maine next Sunday at 1:15pm. In March they will travel to O'Leary, PEI for the Eastern Canadian Championships before wrapping up the year at a tournament in Toronto over the Easter break.

AUAA Hockey 1st round playoff schedule

UNB vs. UPEI Game 1
Wednesday Feb. 17 at
7:30pm
Aitken University Centre

Game 3 Sunday Feb. 21
at 2pm
UNB vs. UPEI (if
necessary)
Aitken University Centre

Admission;
Adults: \$5.00
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