

Gord Stech

Counsel for the defenceman

Come to think of it Peter Pocklington, Paul Coffey does own a set of balls.

At the beginning of Coffey's hold-out nearly 2 month ago, I questioned Coffey's stance. I still maintain that the whole thing, especially the salary demand, is a tad outrageous, and the "Coff" had better perform at his very best in Pittsburgh. I suspect though, that all those who disagree with what Coffey did are forgetting how brave he's been, ethics aside.

Paul Coffey has totally uprooted himself from a place where he had great security. He left his team, friends and city, knowing he might be booted out of his new arena if he doesn't play up to his new fans' expectations. Sometimes people don't understand things like age and bad backs. He waited 'out in the cold' for two months knowing it might have been two years had the owners colluded or had Sather not received the perfect

deal. He absorbed a bombardment of possible career-affecting cheap-shots, insults and brain-rattling speculations. Yet he cranked his defectors up to max, grinned, or at least grimaced, and beared it. No question he asked for it, but he also survived it.

I felt a bit of a shiver when I watched Coffey put on that Penguin jersey Tuesday night. The memories he gave us are just that now. #7 will no longer dangerously glide with his patented long deep strides from behind his own net to the opponent's zone, or whip one of his one-timer bullets after a slick Gretzky feeder. I hope Pittsburgh gets seven more good years out of him.

PREDICTION: If you selected Coffey at some point in a draft this year, have no fear poststers. Here's saying, of the Per's 59 remaining scoring summaries, if he stays healthy, Coffey's name appears 100 times.

Good luck, Paul, I wonder if

your buddy Pete has the balls to wish you the same.

Hey history students? Is the human race doomed to always repeat certain mistakes? Even in the CFL!

I wish there was a statistic that listed how many teams have made derogatory remarks about their opponents in the press before a crucial game and then lost. Take the B.C. Lions...please!

The Eks might not have waffled the Lions so badly last Sunday had Lions like Ian Sinclair (a Mikey Jackson fan no doubt) not spurred on the Eks by doing things like publicly laughing at Esk DT John Mandarich's fetish for heavy metal, namely AC-DC (just a very fine kick-butt rock group I might add). As if the Eks were going to lose anyway.

The Toronto Argonauts were, until the Winnipeg traps opened nice and wide before Sunday's Eastern Final. "It's B.C. and us,"

delicately whispered by one obnoxious Blue-Bomber before the game was at least one phrase that helped the Argos squish Winnipeg into Bomber home turf.

By the way, if you wanna make a few bucks, punt the Stock market and bet on the Grey Cup. While some people still cling to the pathetic theory that the solid Argo defense is all the Argos need to stop the big play Eskimo offence and win, call your relatives in the East and wager heavily on an Edmonton victory.

I said it as soon as they lost to Hamilton in Grey Cup '86 and I'm not budging. Too bad the Eks have to toy with the clowns in double blue and not win a close one over Winnipeg.

Granted, in the tradition of the Grey Cup, it might be close and exciting unlike the Super D.J.J. But whether it's by 2 or 20, it's the Eks. FOR SURE. Or I'll write a column on croquet.

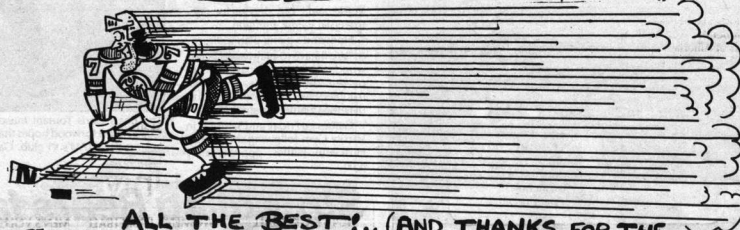
Alright Smathers. Let's go. Against my better judgement, I've chosen not to ignore the silly attention-seeking bantering of your last few columns.

In typical six-team NHL-Leaf fan, and anti-Oiler tradition, you blindly fall into the same biased trap as people who only like '60s music and NOTHING else. Afraid to charge ahead with fresh ideas and thoughts, like dead parasites you cling to music that once was (Maple Leafs), while attacking the establishment (anti-violence in hockey proponents and the Oilers).

Who buried your head first on the beach anyway? Our boss writes a sensible column about the sickeningly miserable whinings of you die-hard Leaf fan cave men, and you call HIM foolish!

Furthermore, the flagrantly high-handed manner in which you cynically stab at the CFL is monstrously immoral. Get a new attitude, pal. Go Eks Go.

BYE COFF!



ALL THE BEST!.. (AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!)

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Banana Slug Trivia

The trivia contest goes down to the wire this week. So far the best score is 4 out of 15. The deadline for entries is this Friday at noon sharp. Prizes are supplied by Molson Alberta Brewery. Good Luck.

Deadline for entries is Friday Nov. 27 at noon.

1. Who's the oldest player in the AHL?
2. Who's the only fighter to hold world titles in three weights at once?
3. Who's the big geek in the Energizer ads on TV?
4. What American school's sports teams are named the "Banana Slugs"?
5. Name the two teams that are in the Vanier Cup.
6. Who was the winning goaltender in the Vancouver Whitecaps NASL Soccer Bowl win in 1979?
7. What were Secretariat's Triple Crown colors?
8. What is King Clancy's full name?
9. What number besides 16 did Bobby Clarke wear for Philadelphia?

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