

Express impressive

By MARK THOMPSON

Saturday, October 8th, 7:00 p.m. at the Aitken University Centre. The scene was set for the opening game of the Fredericton Express. Their opponents were the Sherbrooke Jets, one of the weaker teams of the AHL. The express were quick to prove this as the scoreboard read - Express 4, Sherbrooke 0 at the end of the game.

Fans enjoyed a fast paced, well played game. Coach Jessiman commented

that he had sold his team on his style of defensive system and this became evident throughout the game. During Sherbrooke's powerplays the Express were not only able to keep them out of their end but pushed Sherbrooke back to a defensive powerplay rather than an offensive one. Overall, Coach Jessiman was very pleased with his team and so were the 3000 fans.

Scoring for the Express were Christian Tanguay, Rejean Vignola, Grant Martin and Tony Currie, respective-

ly. The three stars for the game were; Tony Currie, Gerry Minor and Stu Kulak. While not very busy but still impressive was Frank Caprice as he stopped a few strong offensive plays by the Jets.

With such a strong defensive showing, the majority of shots were at angles, thus reducing the chance of a goal.

If the Express can keep it up for the whole season, they should have no problem acquiring the Calder Cup. Let's hope they stay on the right track!

MacAdam names Kelly captain

University of New Brunswick hockey coach Don MacAdam has announced that third-year player Mike Kelly will captain the Red Devils this season in the Atlantic Universities Hockey Conference.

A former team captain of North River North Stars of

the Prince Edward Island Junior Hockey League, MacAdam feels Kelly is the ideal person to serve in that capacity with the Devils.

"Mike is a mature and responsible person who can accept and function easily in a leadership position," MacAdam said. "He has the total respect of the players

and the coaching staff."

MacAdam also announced the two alternate captains for the season, they being Scott Clements and Mark Jeffrey. Clements is starting his second season with the Devils after three years of Ontario major junior "A" experience. "Scott doesn't mind being vocal and making his feelings known," MacAdam said. "His experience is hockey allows him to add a special dimension to the team.

Jeffrey, meanwhile, is returning to the Devils for his second year after playing with Halifax Lions in the Nova Scotia junior "A" league last season. Mark was that team's leading scorer in the playoffs. "He has the ability to keep the team relaxed and at appropriate times, focus on intensity," MacAdam said.

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Arg! That's the only way I can describe my feelings toward last weekend's results. I refuse to dwell on how poorly I fared - believe me, it takes courage to have your mug posted atop a record, open to public derision-but really, it was a weekend for upsets. Did you really think Buffalo would beat Miami, after the Bills were thrashed by the Jets last week? (There's that Monday Night trend again!) And who expected Detroit to change from pussycats into Lions, and rake the Pack the way they did? Overall, 8 of 14 underdogs won last week; I was fortunate enough to call only one of those.

Well, so much for crying in my beer. And enough of the Pete Rozelle axiom, "...on any given Sunday..." Here's hoping a few more of the favourites win this week. (Home team in CAPS):

L.A. RAMS over Atlanta by 5 - the Falcons were one of many favourites that let me down last week, and they've really been crunched by injuries, so give it to the vastly improved Rams.

Buffalo over BALTIMORE by 2 - the Bills at 5-2? Both of these teams are having surprisingly good years, and no matter who wins this one, one of them will have won at least 5 games by the halfway point of the season. Chicago over DETROIT by 6 - forget about last week's win (by the Lions) over Green Bay. The Lions still have problems, while the Bears are actually contending for a play-off berth.

DENVER over Cincinnati by 4 - the Bengals were pre-season favourites to contend for the AFC crown, highly unlikely now after numerous injuries and a 1-5 start. The Broncos have been up-and-down, but should prevail in Mile High Stadium.

PITTSBURGH over Cleveland by 2 - an AFC Central division title, between two old rivals. Give it to the Steelers, who rarely lose at home.

DALLAS over Philadelphia by 7 - the Cowboys have to lose sometime, but it won't be this game.

MINNESOTA over Houston by 9 - the Oilers are in turmoil, and besides that, the Vikes just have too much firepower for Houston to handle.

SEATTLE over L.A. Raiders by 3 - the Seahawks lost a close one last week, while the Raiders won a close one, both against inferior opponents. The Raiders have Dallas next week, so they could get caught looking ahead.

NY JETS over Miami by 3 - The Big Game of the year for both of these clubs. Both are having disappointing seasons, and if either of them want to get back to AFC Championship game, they'll have to make their move soon. Whoever loses this game can almost kiss the AFC East Division title "good-bye". Give New York the edge because of home field advantage.

KANSAS CITY over NY Giants by 3 - the past two weeks, the Giants have lost on very questionable calls by the officials, or they'd probably be 4-2 instead of 2-4. Unfortunately, things will not be getting easier for them - they'll probably find a way to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory once again.

St. Louis over TAMPA BAY by 4 - the Cards are another team very proficient at beating themselves - the only thing is, the Bucs take the cake in that department.

San Diego over NEW ENGLAND by 5 - the Pats have lost twice to the Colts - they don't deserve to be on the same field with the Chargers on PAPER. But games are played on the field, so it should be close.

NEW ORLEANS over San Francisco by 3 - this may finally be the year when the Saints make the play-offs - maybe even a division title! They're hot, and should win at home.

Washington over GREEN BAY by 9 - Will the real Packers please stand-up? Bart Starr's crew has been terribly inconsistent this year, while the Redskins have been a model of consistency.

RECORD:

This week: 5-9 (.357); vs the spread: 3-2 (.600)

Overall: 41-43 (.486); vs the spread: 20-8 (.714)