

SPORTS RAP



OFFSIDER



Felix Potvin is an amazing goaltender. The Toronto Maple Leafs are truly one of the most talented teams in terms of goaltending: although Grant Fuhr has not returned to Vintage Oiler form, he still can be considered one of the game's best; Rick Wamsley is a more-than-adequate back-up; Potvin is probably the best goaltending prospect around. Luckily for Potvin, both Fuhr and Wamsley are injured so he is getting a lot of time. How will Leaf's coach Pat Burns be able to send Potvin back to St. John's? His play indicated that he is ready for NHL-level games right now; perhaps Leaf management should look into trading Wamsley and forming a tandem system between Fuhr and Potvin like the Rangers' program between Mike Richter and John Vanbiesbrouck.

Potvin was named the first star in Toronto's Saturday night victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins. Potvin held the high-scoring Penguins to two goals on thirty-six shots. His best saves came in the third period, specifically the ones on Jaromir Jagr. It is looking as if Toronto might actually have a good year this year.

The Panther's home game last Saturday night resulted in a 7-7 tie between them and the visiting St. Mary's University Huskies. The Huskies played a determined game which led to the tie; their goaltender Graeme Harvey made some important saves before he was kicked out of the game. Offensive star Craig Teeple showed us what a natural goal-scorer plays like.

WENDEL COLUMN

By Chris

Toronto downs the might Pens 4 - 2.

For all the non-believers, and there are plenty -- Wendel and the Leafs are a force to be reckoned with. The hardest check of the Penguins/Leafs game was delivered by no not Tocchet or Stevens, but by Wendel. There is talk that the Leafs may deal Wendel out of Toronto. Sounds like a mistake to me. I know Wendel would be more useful if he played 70 games or so, yet when he's healthy, he can impact on the game. Players with heart are hard to find for the love of the Leafs keep Wendel in Toronto.

The Panthers played strongly during the first half of the game. It was an impressively played game on their part; it looks as if they are starting to connect as a team. The fans are pleased.

I am going to try to solve a little problem. I was not critiquing the Panthers' goaltending situation two weeks ago. I apologize to certain individuals if they misinterpreted what I wrote and turned it into a critique. My intent in writing the article was to defend the playing of Kevin MacDougall. The fans where I sit at the games were not impressed with Coach MacMillan's keeping MacDougall in the game in the 9-4 loss to Dalhousie on October 23rd. I had intended my comment to be an illustration of the necessity of playing MacDougall; obviously my meaning was misconstrued.

The Panthers play at home three times in late November:

25 November -- Universite de Moncton

28 November -- St. Thomas University

29 November -- St. Thomas University

See you at the Civic Center; let's get a good crowd at the games to show the guys that we're all behind them. The game against Moncton ought to be a really good game because of divisional rivalries. ■

With Rob Pearson "P" means power. Young Pearson is tough as nails and better than average talent. How tough is Pearson? I believe he could take Tocchet in a battle. Pearson, for sure, hasn't yet paid his dues in the NHL but I'm sure Pearson can be double the player Tocchet is.

Felix Potvin is so cool. He just refuses to panic. Cliff should trade Fuhr. Give credit to Burns, his Leafs are playing confident and rude hockey. Rude means ticking off the other team and their fans.

Leafs must put more zip zap splat into games at Chicago stadium. The Leafs played well enough to win, mind you. A bigger opposition than the Hawks was Andy VanHellmond. Give us what we expect. Call a game. ■