

NHL Hockey

by Chris McCarron

Well the Philadelphia All Star Game is history. It was fabulous, really. For me, the high points occurs when Bobby Clarke received a thunderous standing ovation from the spectrum crowd. Everyone in Philly still loves Clarke. The ovation was incredible, must have lasted nearly 5 minutes. The announcer had to beg the spectrum to stop cheering so he could announce the other former NHL greats. Clarke and the former Flyer greats defeated Lafleur, Potvin, Sittler, Dionne and the rest 3-2. On Saturday for the 92 All star game, Clarke and Lanny MacDonald served as honorary captains for team Wales and Campbells respectively. Once again Clarke was given a thunderous cheer. Then team owner Ed Snider stepped onto the ice with to join Clarke & MacDonald. Loud Boos were given to Snider, why? Because he was responsible for firing Bobby Clarke as Flyers General Manager. Clarke is a huge legend in Philly just as important as Orr is to Boston, Lafleur is to Montreal Howe is to Detroit. Anyway the Campbells led by Gretzky, Hull, and Ellet defeated the wales 11-8 or something. I've been asked to bash the Vancouver Canucks and so I will since I don't care for them. If you read this Bruce, you have no idea what real hockey is like.

Trevor Linden is often compared to his idol, Bobby Clarke. This angers me. Linden never went thru the hardships of being a Diabetic, struggling to overcome the disbelievers. Linden had it easy, he's no Clarke. The swift skating soviet player on the Canucks bores the hell out of me. The Canucks have got to be foolish. They don't know a good thing when it's right underneath them. Coxe the guy who was tough enough to bash his fists against Bob Probert, is now playing with the Sharks. Look for the Kings to dispose of the Canucks as usual in the playoffs.

The Black Hawks and Leafs played a fighting game just before the all star break. "Maple Leafs the Black Hawks break knuckled before all star break" is an appropriate title. The mad, ugly Stu Grissom manhandled the referee. Grissom ignored his teammates and disobeyed Mike Keenan. Grissom stormed away from the ref and Keenan, jerseyless he looked ready to fight anybody. With hate in his eyes he skated towards the Maple Leafs at center ice. Give Doug Gilmour a beaucoup de courage for he tackled Grimson. Finally Grimson was taken off the ice. Grimson had wanted to get Wendel Clark but Wendel had already left the game. Clark cut one of the Hawks

and was given a match penalty. They said Hextall lost his cool against Chelios in 1989 but the unprovoked Grissom made Hextall look like a gentleman in comparison.

Offsider

I am starting to get fed up with people whining about the Flyers. They are not the only team not living up to standards--I doubt that the Edmonton fans are pleased with the 17 points separating them from the Sharks that the Kings are supposed to be playing under--. So hockey. People expect too much from Rick Tocchet; that and his capacity are the roots of his problems. Tocchet is simply not ready enough to offer the Flyer's guidance and experience they need from him. The team has not been a unit long enough to form the required chemistry. Give it time. The All-Star game was played in Philadelphia on January the 18th; to nobody's surprise, the game was a showcase of the League's top offensive talents. The Campbell Conference squad (under Bob Gainy) defeated the Wales Conference (under Scotty Bowman) 10-6 in the historic, penalty-free match. Brett Hull drove away in the new truck as the player-of-the-game; he had two goals and an assist for the Campbell Conference. The All-Star game is not supposed to be an exciting afternoon of good hockey; it is fun hockey.

The Panthers played two games away this past weekend. On Saturday they defeated the U.C.C.B Caper 7-5, but on Sunday they lost to the St. F.X. x-men 3-1. This Friday night they travel to Mount Allison to take on the Mounties, and the Mounties will be at the Civic Center Sunday night at 7:00 to complete the weekend home-and-home swing. One subject worth discussion is the Canadiens. As of January 13th, the Habs were on the course for only 172 goals against but the few games after that indicate there might be a problem. The young defensive corps has grown up since last spring's playoffs. The two reasons why Montreal could not make it past the Adams division finals were the young, immature defense and goaltending of Boston's Andy Moog. This year Pat Burns has turned the Canadiens into a defense-first team and it seemed to be working for a while. But on the 15th of January, the Habs allowed a year high 19 shots on goal in a loss to the Minnesota (North) Stars. Maybe it was just a bad game, but it seems to be an indication of trouble to come in Burns' defensive game.