



HURRICANE WARNING



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The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

December 2001

Rookie Cole making early mark with Canes

It didn't take Erik Cole long to make his mark with the Carolina Hurricanes.

A scant 28 seconds into his National Hockey League debut, the 23-year-old rookie earned his first point – the fastest by a rookie in franchise history – with an assist on Sandis Ozolinsh's goal in the Hurricanes' 3-2 win against the New York Rangers on opening night Oct. 5th.

Cole wasn't fazed – or too impressed – with his start.

"Everybody back home in New York was calling me, saying, 'Wow, you got an assist in the first 20-some seconds,' or whatever," he told CHBC members at the October general membership meeting, laughing at the memory. "I took a shot and it hit the goalie in the chest! If I had

made a nice pass between somebody's legs or something like that...now that would have been different."

Heck, what matters to Cole is just to be in the NHL.

In fact, while getting the point was great, Cole said perhaps a bigger career thrill came a week after the Rangers game, when assistant coach Randy Ladouceur told him it was time to find a more permanent place to live. At the time, Cole was living in a Raleigh hotel, waiting to see whether his place on the roster was secure.

Today, he's not only found a home, but a regular spot in the lineup. The left wing had a regular shift on

the Hurricanes' third line the first few weeks of the season, but a recent promotion saw him spend time on the top line, centered by Ron Francis. He played at a point-a-game pace in the latter half of November and was also leading the team in hits – seeing more ice time than experienced veterans Darren Langdon and Jeff Daniels combined.

Cole has gotten a number of compliments for his gritty play, but perhaps none better than the one issued recently by head coach Paul Maurice.

"Erik Cole," he said, "has earned the right to have a bad game."

Cole grew up in Oswego, N. Y., and began playing hockey at age 5. He joined his high school team at age 16, and during his junior season, he played for both

his high school team and a minor league team across the Canadian

border in a small city in Ontario – some two and a half hours away.

"I was traveling four nights a week up there," Cole said. "Many afternoons I've have practice at high school from 3 to 5 in the afternoon, then my father would pick me up and we'd drive up for a game. I'd sleep the whole way. My dad would stop at a Subway and get me a sub, and I'd eat that. We'd have a game, then we'd drive back and I'd get home, do homework, and then half to get up and go to school in the morning. That whole year

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Cole driving the net against Washington

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December 31st for
the January edition

President's Message / SUSAN STACY

Have a safe and happy holiday season

I would like to begin this month by wishing everyone a safe and happy Holiday season. It's hard to believe that this year is coming to a close.

This month at the November membership meeting, we drew the names for our Limousine ride winner as well as the October and November member of the month. I would like to congratulate Holly Cathcart on being our Limousine ride winner and Lee Ann Horner and Brent Stephens for being our members of the month! Each month we will be drawing a members name and they will be chosen for the member of the month. The more activities you attend, the more times your name will be entered into these drawings.

Our next general membership meeting will be held on December 11, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at the ESA in the Varsity room. Please make sure to have your booster club id badge. This month we have the pleasure of having Ken Lehner from the Carolina Hurricanes Organization as a guest speaker. He will be telling us about the marketing of the team and will be showing videos during the meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

The all-star voting has begun. Please make sure that you fill out as many ballots as you can while you are at the arena. We will be having a ballot marking party again this year. Please watch your email for the date and location. Our tentative date is December 10, 2001. The location is TBD. The booster clubs goal this year is to turn in at least 15,000 ballots!!

The NHLBCC for 2002 is approaching on August 9-11, 2002. This year it will be held in New Jersey. If you are interested in attending the booster club convention this year, the first deposit is due on February 1st of 2002. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel to another hockey city and meet other booster clubs! There are many activities planned throughout the week! Prices differ based on the rooms: \$475 for a single occupancy, \$340 for a double, \$290 for a triple and \$270 for a quad. If you are interested in attending, please email me at sstacychbc@aol.com and we will have more information posted on our website. The convention package will be sent to us in December and we will have more information to share! We would love to have a group in attendance at this event. It's a lot of fun for all!

I wanted to update everyone on the status of the Ron Francis Raffle. As of November 30th, we have raised a total of \$547.00 for the Kids N Community Foundation. If you haven't bought your tickets, time is running out. We will be drawing the winner on December 21st. Stop by the booster club booth and get your tickets!!!

Monthly Booster Club Meetings

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Monday, January 14th, 2002
Monday, February 11th, 2002
Tuesday, March 12th, 2002
Thursday, April 4th, 2002

The locations of most of these meetings are to be determined. Some may be held at the ESA. Watch future newsletters and your e-mail for details.

'South-least' Division joke getting a little old

My Battle with Sherbet: Here is some free advice. When making party punch, get the frozen sherbet out at least one hour prior to making the punch. I struggled with a rock-hard canister of the stuff while making punch for my daughter's 4th birthday party. Luckily, there were no serious injuries to be reported. Speaking of which...

Isabelle turns 4!: Isabelle turned 4 on November 24. She has just about completely turned her attention from hockey to Barbie. She still loves taking the shot on Slapshot Sundays. Boy do they grow up fast. On to hockey!

State of the 'Canes: The Hurricanes are sitting on the Southeast throne at the moment. However, having played more games than any other NHL team as of November 18, the Hurricanes can ill afford to sit pretty. December's home schedule provides ample opportunity to accumulate points in the winter run. Home games against struggling clubs such as Florida, Buffalo, Washington, and Atlanta should chalk up at least six points. On the road against the Rangers and Flyers might prove tough, but this team is capable of beating those teams. The rest of the road schedule includes Florida, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Tampa Bay. December should give us reason to be cheery this Holiday season. All I want for Christmas is Hurricanes Playoff tickets. Thanks Santa...

N&O: I commend Luke DeCock and the N&O sports team for a great hockey section so far this season. I look forward to reading the Sports section quite a bit these days.

Arturs Irbe: I want to say a few words about one of the greatest goalies in Hurricanes history. Not

only is Mr. Irbe stellar in goal, but he is also great to his fans. All the Hurricanes players give the fans some time, but I have seen Arturs Irbe go out of his way to sign autographs for fans. He always says a kind word to those waiting to see him after games no matter the outcome. He deserves our gratitude not only for his play, but his extra effort and awareness to the people around him. Thanks Archie!

Around the Southeast: *The Hockey News* once again labels the division, "the South-least!" Is it just me or is that joke getting old? Sure, the Capitals and Florida are having a tough go of it and the Thrashers and Lightning have not yet reached a competitive level. I'm so glad our division gives writers a chance to overuse a cliché, but when is enough going to be enough? Last time I checked the Eastern Conference, the Southeast was the only division where three of its five teams existed fewer than 10 years. Hopefully, this will be my only rant for the year. Thanks for reading.

Yikes!: Shane Willis suffered his second concussion in eight months thanks to San Jose's Bryan Marchment. Lucky for Shane and 'Canes fans everywhere, a quick recovery resulted in a key road goal in Ottawa to salvage a point for the franchise. Willis will keep talkin'.

Kudos: This month's Kudos goes out to our CHBC President, Susan Stacy. Her hard work and dedication has kept our club rolling. She was the driving force that started the Members Rewards points and lowering the single member dues by \$3 this year. She has also been a good friend. Susan was the first booster I formally met at my first CHBC meeting in March of 1999. She is one of the reasons I served

two years on the board and why I remain active in the club today. Be sure and hug your president today.

Check the CHBC calendar for more great events throughout the year.

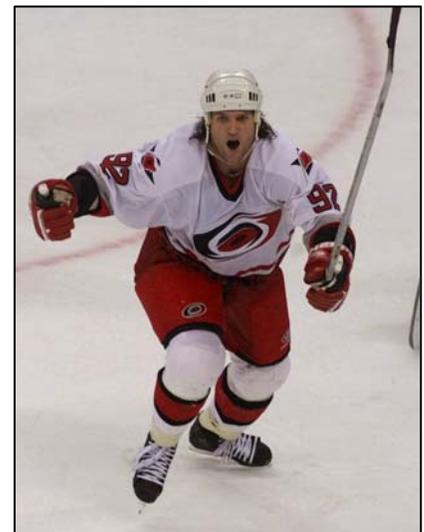
And that's Hockey to me...

LET'S GO 'CANES!

The opinions and views expressed in this article are not representative of the Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club or the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club. This article is designed for entertainment purposes only.

■ CanePoll

'O'-lympics? Will Jeff O'Neill be named to the Canadian Olympic team?



YES
12 votes

NO
7 votes

Editor's Note: almost all of the "no" votes said O'Neill's exclusion from Canada's team would be a mistake and that he should be named.

What's your favorite hockey website – and why?

My favorite hockey web site is **carolinahurricanes.com**. It has all the information I need about my favorite hockey team.

Patsy Elliott

Carolinahurricanes.com, of course...to keep up to date on our favorite team.

Paula Padgett

Carolinahurricanes.com. 'Nuff said!

Karen Harper

My answer: **carolinahurricanes.com**, because it is the official Canes website and it has some good information and great pictures on the site (even from me) and very beautiful Canes wallpaper.

Daniel & Wendy van Buynder

My favorite hockey website is the Hurricanes' site, of course! Great pictures and articles.

Cheryl Robinson

My favorite site is the Carolina Hurricanes site because I love the Canes and can't get enough of a good thing.

Mary Lou Pierce

NHL.com - No info is more definitive or reliable for all the NHL Teams!

John Gallagher

I use **NHL.com** for the stats and I like The Sporting News (**www.tsn.com**) for rumors and general news.

Lisa Wall

NHL.com. It doesn't get any better than that.

Larry Parker

My favorite hockey website is **NHL.com**. It has so many cool features and is updated minute to minute. They don't seem to have a negative bias in reporting like our friends at ESPN. It's a great site!

Dawn Sweder

NHL.com, because they have the super stats, where you can see the playing time of Nic Wallin. Also **carolinahurricanes.com** to see what is happening at the ESA.

Patrick Drollinger

My favorite hockey web site is **headlinehockey.com**. It has daily National Hockey League headlines as well as team headlines by dates. It is an awesome

way to keep up with teams.

Nicole Foster

My favorite Hockey website is SlamSports (**www.canoe.ca/Hockey/home.html**). They have the most in-depth hockey coverage going. It doesn't do the best job with the stories on American teams, but if you are a stat junkie, this is the best on the net.

Steve Wells

I like the discussion board sites the best since they offer a chance to discuss the Canes, the NHL and hockey in general with a wide variety of people... My favorites are The Penalty Box (**www.ncpen.com**) and the Hurricanes Board at **FanHome.com**. The Penalty Box board is a lively discussion among mostly Raleigh-based Canes fans. There are some regulars who have followed the team faithfully since the days of the Hartford Whalers, and they add a depth of historical knowledge of the franchise that adds great flavor to the discussions. The FanHome boards are Canadian-based, but there are a good number of active Canes followers on our board.

Jeff Harrod

My favorite hockey website is NHLPA.com. It's my favorite because it gives you all the stats and scores, as well as interviews with the players. The section called "Parent's Scrapbook" is great because you get to get a parent's perspective and great photos of the players growing up.

Christina Balsour

My favorite hockey web site is mine (**www.patrickwgarrett.com/pgsports.htm**) because there's a picture of me with Lord Stanley's cup there! Seriously? I'd have to pick the NHL.com for scores, game recaps and statistics, or The Hockey News site (**www.thn.com**) for coverage of other news from the hockey world. My favorite local Canes site is **www.caniac.net** by fellow CHBC'er Barry Shafer.

Patrick Garrett

Faceoff.com. They have stats on all players on all of the teams. You can look up a Cane and find out how they did in the minors, juniors and even high school. They update scores for games in progress every minute.

David Alston

The Headline Hockey News is interesting but I go to ESPN-Hockey for score and game updates.

Barry Ostrow

Forever Whalers

*Forever Whalers (From Abrahamsson to Zuke:
an Encyclopedia of Hockey's Icemen)*

by Jack Lautier, Glacier Publishing, Southington, Conn.

Who scored goals for our side in the last-ever Hartford Whalers game?

And which other Hall of Fame #9 once wore a Whalers uniform?

If you're interested Whalers/Canes franchise history and trivia, you need a copy of "Forever Whalers" by Jack Lautier. This photo-filled book serves as an historical reference of the pre-NC years of the

Whalers/Canes franchise. It features player biographies, year-by-year team and player statistics, draft statistics, and over twenty articles gleaned from the Hartford press.

This book is, to my knowledge, one of only a handful of books on the Whalers (and of them all, three others are by the same author) and the only one which seeks to be a Whalers reference. It's a perfect "coffee table/bathroom" sort of book full of facts and trivia that will settle many arguments between you and your Caniac friends.

For 25 years from 1972 until 1997, the franchise played 1,975 regular season and 123 playoff games in both Boston, where they began as the New England Whalers of the WHA, and in Connecticut where they played their last game as the NHL's Hartford Whalers before moving to the Triangle and becoming the Canes. Many die-hard Hartford fans remain very bitter over losing their beloved Whalers and the author appears to be among them.

The book has a very "anti-Karmanos" flavor to it and includes many Hartford-area newspaper articles detailing the team's move to

North Carolina. Every Hurricanes fan needs to understand the point of view of the franchise's former fans, and this book helps you feel their pain. If only everybody in the Raleigh area could understand how special it is to have an NHL franchise and how much it hurts to lose it!

Over half of the book is made up of an encyclopedia of every player ever to play in a Whalers uniform – from Christer Abrahamsson to Mike Zuke. For each player there's a biography which varies in length depending on the player's significance (most players' bios are a few paragraphs, but Ron Francis and Gordie Howe deservedly get well over two pages each).

You'll get to see Jack Carlson, best known as one of the Hanson Brothers from the movie "Slapshot!" And Canes fans will love seeing photos of Francis as a shy-looking 18-year old, Randy Ladoceur and Tom Webster as Whalers players in the 1980s, and an old photo of Marek Malik with shoulder-length hair. Many other current and recently-departed Canes are featured, including Sami Kapanen, Glenn Wesley, Jeff Daniels, and former area favorites such as Kent Manderville, Adam Burt, Paul Ranheim, and Robert Kron.

One of the most striking features of this book is that upon thumbing through the player biographies section and reading of all the former Whalers, one gets a great appreciation of the talent our team traded away who are now stars elsewhere in the NHL. Marc Bergevin, Sean Burke, Shane Churla, Sylvain Cote, Hnat Dominichelli, Ray Ferraro, Chris

Pronger, Bobby Holik, Pat Verbeek and Brendan Shanahan were all "our guys." Also, there's a nice biography of Coach Mo. Prior to reading this book, I didn't know that he had been a defensive star of the Windsor Spitfires until suffering the eye injury that ended his player career.

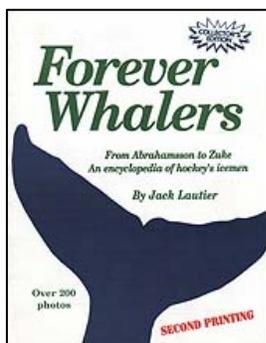
There's also much on on Kevin Dineen and his dad, former Red Wing Bill Dineen, who was one of the team's first coaches. The section on Gordie Howe is great, as is the one on Francis. And the newspaper articles include one on the time that a 1978 blizzard dumped so much snow on the Hartford area that its weight caused the roof of the Hartford Civic Center to collapse.

As I said before, this book is an absolute must for the true fan of the Whalers/Hurricanes franchise. I've never seen it in any area bookstores, but it can be ordered from the publisher (mail me for the address).

By the way, the last Hartford Whalers game was a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in which Glenn Wesley and Kevin Dineen scored for the Whalers and Dino Ciccarelli got the only goal for the Lightning.

And the other Hall of Fame #9 who played nine games for the Whalers in 1979 was Bobby Hull (however, when he was a Whaler he wore #16 because #9 was retired for Gordie Howe).

Pat Garrett played youth hockey and attended every Roanoke Valley Rebels game in Roanoke, Va., in the 1970s. He's followed hockey for more than 30 years and the Hurricanes since their move to Greensboro, and is a current season ticket holder. He writes book reviews and features for Hurricane Warning.



Member of the Month awards for October, November

Congratulations to **Brent Stephens** on being the CHBC's November Member of the Month. Brent has been a Booster Club member since July 2001. He found out about the club from one of our Board Members, Dawn Coe. He has been a hockey fan, in varying degrees, all his life. He was born in Detroit (watched the Red Wings), grew up in Texas (got the Stars when he was there) and went to college in Colorado (when the Avalanche were at the top of their game), but now he is here as a true Hurricanes fan!

Congratulations to Brent again. For being the November Member of the Month, he received an autographed Jeff O'Neill game-used blade.

Congratulations to **Lee Ann Horner** for being the CHBC's October Member of the Month. Lee Ann joined the Booster Club in February 2000 and has been a season-ticket-holder with her husband, Bill, for the last four years. She didn't become a hockey fan – and really wasn't a sports fan – until attending her first hockey game in 1998. She and her family have been on two "road trips" with the Hurricanes – to New Jersey/New York in 1999 and Toronto/Ottawa in 2000. Her favorite player is Sami Kapanen and she can often be seen wearing one of Sami's game-worn jerseys to games.

Congratulations to Lee Ann. For being the October Member of the Month, she received an autographed Rod Brind'Amour game-used blade.

Christmas Top 10

**John Gallagher on the Top 10 ways
to make this year a Hockey Christmas**

- 10) Replace the traditional Christmas Tree with a series of well-glued hockey sticks!
- 9) Instead of chestnuts, roast pucks (keep a clothespin handy...burning rubber does not leave a Christmas-like odor)
- 8) Place a jingle bell on your Zamboni
- 7) Replace the living room floor with a sheet of ice and...
- 6) Check Santa into the wall and steal the milk and cookies.
- 5) Pay off a premier NHL goaltender and buy your favorite hockey player a goal!
- 4) Try to re-gift an old skate as a nutcracker. If you have good marketing skills, someone might even pay you money for such a gift.
- 3) Toss hats at your Christmas tree after opening three gifts.
- 2) Rather than singing Christmas Carols, go tailgate at the ESA on Christmas Eve.
- 1) Give the gift that keeps on giving: Carolina Hurricanes hockey tix!

■ Upcoming home games

Florida Panthers, Dec. 12th, 7 p.m.
Ottawa Senators, Dec. 18th, 7 p.m.
Atlanta Thrashers, Dec. 21st, 7 p.m.
Toronto Maple Leafs, Dec. 26th, 7 p.m.
Boston Bruins, Jan. 2nd, 7 p.m.
New Jersey Devils, Jan. 5th, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia Flyers, Jan. 6th, 5 p.m.

The Supporters

Please submit complete address to:
CanesChris@aol.com or call (919) 676-4874.
One member reward point will be awarded for each verified name submitted.

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1801 Capital Blvd.

Eagles Cleaners
900 Spring Forest Road

Amedeo's Italian Restaurant
3905 Western Blvd.

Cactus Flower Restaurant
5300 Edwards Mills Rd.

Vincents Pizza of NY
3911 Capital Blvd., Raleigh

Atlanta Bread Co.
7400 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh

Applebees
7471 Six Forks Road, Raleigh

Optometric Eye Care Center
720 S. E. Maynard Road, Cary

Optometric Eye Care Center
229 Crossroads Blvd., Cary

Ruby Tuesdays
131 Crossroads Blvd., Cary

O'Charleys Restaurant
Fayetteville Road, Garner

Harris Teeter (Regional Office)
Creedmoor Road, Raleigh

Three Musketeers invade Atlanta

Atlanta, home of Braves baseball, the World of Coca-Cola, and the CNN Center – or more importantly, for those of us in the hockey world, the Atlanta Thrashers.

At the early hour of 8 a.m. on October 12, Stacy Freeze, Kate Stewart and I met at the Raleigh/Durham International airport to board our Airtran flight to Atlanta. The trip was planned the weekend after the NHL released the 2001-2002 schedule and although it was originally meant to be a foursome, it ended up as just us, the Three Musketeers. We boarded the plane for our flight and were settling in when the Captain came over the intercom and said, “Can whomever has the manual please pass it up here so I can figure out how to fly this thing?”

At first, the entire plane was quiet, but then a wave of laughter erupted. The pilot must have known that we were all a little nervous about flying. The flight to Atlanta was uneventful, thank goodness, and we landed at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport safe and sound. A short MARTA ride and we arrived at our hotel, the Westin Peachtree Plaza.

What a beautiful place, even with all the construction! We dropped our bags and crossed the street to have lunch at the Hard Rock Café. This was Stacy’s and my first real road trip, so we were pretty wired about the next day’s festivities. After our late lunch (yummy!) we went back to the hotel to change and check out the famous Sundial restaurant and lounge. The Sundial rotates 360 degrees around the top of the Westin and gives you a full view of the city of Atlanta. As we boarded the glass-enclosed elevator, I started to get a little nervous. I hate heights and this thing rocketed us, on the outside of the building, to the

73rd floor! I survived the trip to the top, but I think I got my first gray hair!

We all enjoyed a drink in the lounge and watched the sunset over the city. While relaxing there, we all realized how oblivious we are to the sports world outside hockey. Not two miles from us, the Braves were battling for the division championship and we didn’t realize this until we saw the fireworks over the ballpark. Oops! Oh well. We decided to head out for a late dinner and to check out the city.

Centennial Olympic Park is beautiful at night and any hockey arena looks good when you know your team will be playing there the next day. We headed back to the hotel and tried to go to sleep. We weren’t very successful, but that’s a whole other article.

Saturday morning we awoke and got ready to head over to the arena. Tripp Tracy had arranged for us to watch the Canes pre-game skate at 11:30 a.m. and we were jazzed. I’d like to thank Tripp and Brian Tatum for arranging that for us. Thanks guys!! Now, there is nothing like walking out of the hotel elevator and practically running into Josef Vasicek! It happened when we headed down for breakfast and we were all so surprised that none of us said a word. We just smiled and kept on walking. I blame it on the shock factor. We got into the line at Starbucks and realized that we were standing behind Josh Holden. A little less shell shocked this time, I said “Good morning, Josh!” At which point Josh jumped and then said “Morning ladies! I’m still half asleep.” I don’t think he was expecting to hear his name said by an unfamiliar female voice in the hotel lobby. Oops again! Anyway, we enjoyed our breakfast watching all the players file through the lobby to their waiting bus and then we headed to Phillips Arena. It’s only

about a three-block hike and the weather was great. The practice was short, but fun as we got to sit in the front row and take lots of pictures. The guys seemed to be in very good spirits and it was an all-around fun atmosphere.

As we were leaving the stands, we ran into Shane Willis who was very pleasant. Then, on the way out of the arena, we ended up in front of Joe Vasicek and again, Josh Holden. We all said “Hi!” and then I said, “We’re just running into you all over the place today. I guess we’re your personal stalkers for the weekend.” Josh laughed and said, “You girls are trouble.” To which my response was “You’ve only been here a week and you know that already?!”

He and Joe laughed and then headed out the door to the team bus. Wow, what a morning we had! Stacey, Kate, and I spent the afternoon sightseeing and then went back to the hotel to get ready for the game. As we headed for Phillips Arena it became extremely windy and we joked that a hurricane was coming. This was opening night for the Atlanta Thrashers, so everyone received a Ray Ferraro bobble head on their way into the arena. We went to the Thrashers store and then made our way around the concourse to our seats. Stacey did a good job ordering our tickets! We were in Section 116, off the blue line, a couple of rows behind the Canes bench. Great seats! There were a lot of opening festivities, including a dedication to the September 11th victims and then the game was on.

And what a game it was! The Canes came out ready to play and scored early in the first period. We all jumped up to cheer when we realized that we were the only ones standing in our section! Our mood

(Continued on next page)

Rookie Cole making early mark with Canes

(continued from page 1)

was kind of a blur.”

But the intense focus on hockey helped his vision for the future become clearer. He moved to Des Moines, Iowa, for his senior



year of high school, living with a local family so he could play for the United States Hockey League's Des

Moines Buccaneers.

Cole scored 64 points (30 goals, 34 assists) in 48 games. That earned him the team's Landmark Trophy as Most Popular Player, the team's Rookie of the Year honors and a spot on the USHL's All-Star team.

It also got the attention of the coaches at Clarkson University, a smaller school close to Oswego known for its powerful hockey program.

In three seasons there, Cole averaged a point a game. But by the end of his junior season, several of Clarkson's top players left to pursue pro careers. Cole, who had been selected by the Hurricanes in the 1998 NHL Entry Draft (71st pick overall), felt the time was right to turn pro. He left school immediately after Clarkson's hockey season ended and was added to the roster of the Cincinnati Cyclones, the Canes' International Hockey League farm team. He played the final nine games of the season and saw action in seven playoff games, getting his first taste of professional hockey.

Cole spent all of last year in Cincinnati after not making the Hurricanes' roster during training camp. He had a strong season at Cincinnati – 23 goals and 20 assists in 69 games – but didn't get called up to play for the Hurricanes.

“I thought I'd be OK,” he said of his first NHL camp, “but nothing compares to getting in room with guys like (Hurricanes captain) Ron Francis. It was hard to be comfortable. I was very quiet – I didn't want to say the wrong thing, so I kept to myself. I was scared to death. And it showed. I ended up in Cincinnati.”

Instead of seeing it as a demotion, Cole determined to improve as a player. He says now that last year, his first full year in the minors, “turned out to be the best thing for me.

“It was what I needed,” he said. “I needed the whole year to understand what it was like, what it takes to play at this level.”

In this year's camp, Cole was still quiet, but unlike last year, his confidence grew.

“I still felt very fortunate to be here every day,” he said. “I'd come to the rink, and my equipment would still be here. I was still on the schedule to go to the ice. It was tough – you wanted to get some kind of positive feedback, anything to kick-start you and give you more confidence.”

That came when the final cuts were made and Cole found himself on the Hurricanes' pre-season roster. Now the only question was whether he would make the team or spend another year in the minors. After an 11 a.m. matinee game at Atlanta on September 26, the Hurricanes coaches told the prospects still with the team to be at the arena at 8:30 the next morning. Cole and the rest wondered if they'd all be sent to the minors.

“Then they call Byron (Ritchie) and me in,” he said, “and said, ‘You're staying.’”

Cole hopes it's a long stay. “I certainly wouldn't want to change a thing because I'm here,” he said. “I just hope I get better as the year goes on.”

Three Musketeers invade Atlanta

(continued from page 7)

was tempered when the Thrashers scored only a few minutes later. The game seemed to fly by and before we knew it, it was the end of the third period and we had won 5-2! Go Canes!

By the way, I missed my boy Jeff's goal while waiting in the concession lines, which are worse than any I've seen at the ESA!

After much celebration, we headed back to the hotel. We decided to stay in, so we turned on the local news. Let's just say that the sports writers in Atlanta don't like us much. The quote was “The Thrashers are 10-0-1 against the Hurricanes, so the Hurricanes can just go home.” We all laughed hysterically at that.

On Sunday we checked out Coke World and Underground Atlanta and then headed to the airport for our flight home. We were all exhausted but happily reminisced about all the great adventures we had just had. I would definitely recommend taking a road trip. It's a lot of fun and a great way to support the team when they are out of town. GO CANES!!!

UPCOMING COOL BARS TOURS

Dec. 10 vs. Rangers
7 p.m.
Seasoned Ticket
3211 Shannon, Durham
493-7797

February 26 vs. Maple Leafs
7:30 p.m.
Ram's Head Grille
102-A Colonnades Way, Cary
851-7080



Canes' Calendar

DECEMBER 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Canes vs. Capitals</i>	3	4 <i>Canes vs. Sabres</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>@ Panthers</i>
9	10 <i>@ Rangers Storm Shelter</i>	11 CHBC MEETING	12 <i>Canes vs. Panthers</i>	13	14 <i>@ Sabres</i>	15
16 <i>@ Penguins</i>	17	18 <i>Canes vs. Senators</i>	19	20	21 <i>Canes vs. Thrashers</i>	22 <i>@ Flyers</i>
23	24	25	26 <i>Canes vs. Maple Leafs</i>	27 <i>@ Lightning</i>	28	29
30 <i>@ Capitals</i>	31 <i>@ Sabres</i>					