

Hurricane Warning

Vol. 7, No. 6

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

February 2004

CHBC member goes on the road with the ECHL

Editor's Note: CHBC member Steve Wells recently wrote for the website lcs-hockey.com about his experiences "on the road" with the Greensboro Generals of the East Coast Hockey League. Arley Johnson, former Generals broadcaster, and Coach Rick Adduono were kind enough to allow him to see life as it is in the ECHL. Wells got to be broadcaster for a day with the Generals, on top of everything else. For a lifelong hockey fan (and sometimes journalist), this was a day to remember.

by Steve Wells
CHBC Member

Craisins -- never leave home without them.

That was one of many messages taken away from my day with the Greensboro Generals of the East Coast Hockey League.

The day started with a brisk 10 a.m. practice at the Greensboro Icehouse. Unlike the groupie-mobbed practices of the Carolina Hurricanes at the RecZone in Raleigh, the Generals practice in relative obscurity. A designated booster club member, an intern (who remembers hockey from the 1950s) and I were about the only people not connected with the team at the practice. Once practice is over, the players disperse to various places to grab lunch and chill. Everyone was scheduled to return at 1:45 p.m.



Pre-game with the Generals

to get on the bus.

The bus arrives about 45 minutes later than it should. Patrick Houlihan (a.k.a. Hoops) has a discussion with the bus driver – imagine Mr. T. without the gold, the mohawk or the bad acting – about when the bus is supposed to arrive. Amazingly, all of the equipment is loaded on time.

That's when booster club member Ray Fuller shows up and informs Toronto Maple Leafs' property Jamie Hodson that he has his Craisins.

Oh yes, the Craisins.

The Ukrainian players, Vlad Serov and Roman Marakhovski feel the need to investigate this genetically altered-looking snack that apparently isn't too popular over there. After much convincing, they try them and determine that they are tasty. Score one for the power of

dried cranberries.

While this mini-drama is going on, another one begins. The tires on the bus just don't look right. No one can figure out exactly why, but they just seem low. After consultation, the problem is deemed to be one of simply cold tires. At least that is what we all hope...

Head coach Rick Adduono arrives. He is about 5-foot-10 and looks the part by wearing the official Generals windsuit, his full head of dark hair with just

(continued on page 8)

What's inside

3 Cheap Seats / Jeff Harrod

4 Your Turn: the Markov/Williams trade

6 Snow, ice and Stormy

6 Drollinger wins Fantasy Hockey #1

7 CHBC Holiday Party photo page

Visit the CHBC website at www.hurricanesboosters.org!

Next CHBC meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 18th • 7 p.m., RBC Center

Officers & Directors

John Gallagher
President

(919) 363-8817
johng@hurricanesboosters.org

Patrick Drollinger

Vice President
Denali414@aol.com

Cheryl Mulhern

Recording Secretary
cherylm@hurricanesboosters.org

Patricia Staino

Corresponding Secretary

Laura Harper

Treasurer
laura@hurricanesboosters.org

At-Large Board Members

Dawn Colby

(919) 466-9777
dawnc@hurricanesboosters.org

Donna Scanlon

donnascan@aol.com

Kendra Andrews

kendraa@hurricanesboosters.org

Suzanne Hagen

suzanneh@hurricanesboosters.org

Committee Chairmen

Newsletter: Bill Horner
Garden: Loreice Jernigan
Sunshine Committee: Lisa Wall

Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

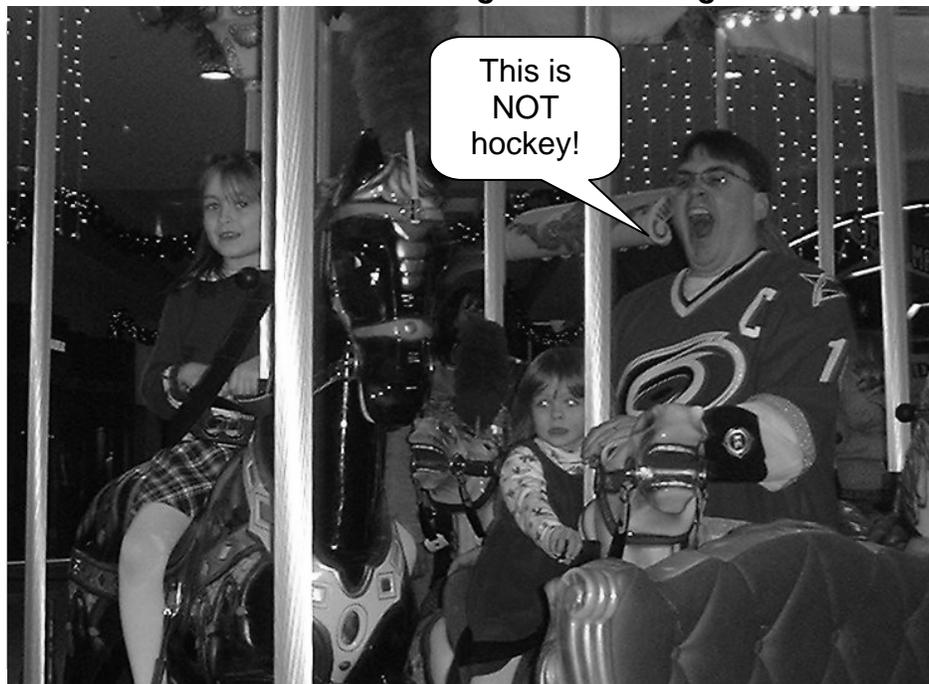
P. O. Box 20776
Raleigh, N. C. 27619
hurricanesboosters.org

Send newsletter submissions to:
bhorner3@sanfordherald.com

Newsletter deadline:

Monday, March 1st
For the
March 2004 Edition

President's Message / John Gallagher



Isabelle, Allison and John Gallagher take a break from Carolina Hurricane hockey games at a Cary mall.

While the month of January did not bring us the team success we all were hoping for, the Boosters found ways to make the month fun as the Holiday Party was re-established as our premier social function and the first-ever Stormy Party for the CHBC kids went on as planned despite the inclement weather. Related stories on these events are in the latter pages of this newsletter.

The Booster Club and Hurricanes event calendar

Wednesday, Feb 18th - General Membership Meeting at the RBC Center. Our guests for this meeting will be **Doug Warf** from the Hurricanes' Fan Development Office and members of the **2003-04 Storm Squad**.

Saturday, March 13th - UNC Telethon - We are seeking 40-50 volunteers for the UNC Telethon on Saturday, March 13th. Please stop by the CHBC booth or e-mail johng@hurricanesboosters.org and sign up for our shift from 6pm-11:30pm. As in past years, food and beverages will be provided by area restaurants. Let's fill the room with Canes jerseys!

And that's hockey to me...

Carolina Hurricanes Cool Bar Stops

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Hurricanes vs. @ Washington Capitals
7 p.m. - Gemini Club 127 Cabarrus Street, Raleigh (919) 890-4531

Wednesday, March 17

Hurricanes @ Chicago
8:30 p.m. - time & location TBA

All-Stars, Young Stars and a question

Each January, the NHL announces the rosters for the Annual All-Star Game, and every year about this time, the second guessing about those selections lasts pretty much right up to game time.

As always, fan voting is responsible for the starters on both the Eastern and Western Conference teams, and as usual some favorites got the nod ahead of more deserving players. No big deal there, as that's to be expected. Fans want to see their favorite stars and never seem in the mood to quibble over details like who has the most goals this season or who hasn't pulled their weight. After all, any All-Star game is as much about the fans as it is about honoring the game's best players, but the inclusion of Dallas Stars center Mike Modano on this year's Western Conference list of starters is a bit too much to pass without comment.

Modano is clearly one of the stars of the modern game. He is a Stanley Cup champion, an Olympian, a perennial All-Star, a truly dynamic player in an era that is sorely in need of more offensive standouts. Great...well done. All that said I just can't shake a nagging question. Just what exactly has this guy done *THIS* season to deserve inclusion on the All Star team at all, much less a starting spot? Through 47 games this season, Modano has managed only nine goals, 29 points and has posted an atrocious plus/minus rating of -18 on a team that has struggled without his usual high caliber two-way play. This is simply not the kind of play that should be rewarded with an All-Star game appearance, fan vote or no fan vote. While popularity has its place in these matters, fans have to be accountable when they miss the mark, and this mark was badly missed.

Locally, Carolina's rookie stalwart Eric Staal was named to the Eastern Conference Young Stars team, which will square off against a similar group from the Western Conference during All-Star weekend festivities. Staal stood fourth in NHL rookie scoring at the time of his selection, and all Canes fans know just how solid his all around play has been throughout the season. Hopefully this is only the first of many honors for the Canes' teenaged center. This is the second year in a row that a Hurricane has been named to the Eastern Young Stars lineup, as winger Erik Cole was selected last year. Unfortunately Cole broke his leg soon after his selection was announced and the injury forced him to miss the game and the rest of the 2002-03 season.

Looking around the league, there was a trade in recent weeks that just leaves me scratching

my head. New York Rangers General Manager/Coach Glen Sather looked at his position in the Eastern Conference standings and at his roster and apparently came to the conclusion that what his team really needed to compete for a playoff slot this year was...drum roll please...another big name, big salary, big ego, big skill scoring forward.

Don't get me wrong, Jaromir Jagr remains one of the best offensive players in the NHL, despite his failure to produce at or near his career average rate with the Washington Capitals for the last two seasons. My concern is that Glen Sather could possibly think that adding Jagr to his already top-heavy lineup would really do anything to improve the Rangers' chances in the playoff race. He's got Eric Lindros, Alexi Kovalev, Anson Carter (who was shipped to Washington for Jagr), Bobby Holik, Brian Leetch, Martin Rucinsky, Jan Hlavac, Petr Nedved and Tom Poti in his room already. Has it never occurred to Mr. Sather that perhaps his problem could possibly be a lack of gritty guys willing to do the dirty work to support those skilled players? Has ever paused to think that his problems stem from a lack of quality on the LEFT wing, rather than on the right side where Jagr plies his trade?

Washington needed to cut its salary burden in the face of mounting losses, so one can hardly blame them for making this deal, but the fact that the Rangers have once again swooped in to add an expensive, marquee player to an already bloated payroll when their spending levels of the past have already threatened to exacerbate the league's shaky financial situation concerns me a great deal.

Kudos

With the Hurricanes falling further out of the playoff picture as January draws to a close, I think it's a good time for some positive accomplishments to be recognized.

Kevin Weekes posted his sixth shutout of the season when the Canes beat Toronto 2-0 on January 27th. Weekes has simply been a rock for the Canes all season, and currently ranks second in the NHL in clean sheets.

Also deserving of recognition is Hurricanes center Kevyn Adams, who notched his fourth short handed goal of the season on January 25th. Although he will unfortunately be out of the lineup for a while with a knee injury, Adams' work ethic and flare for the dramatic while on the penalty kill has been a team highlight.

Sounding off on the Markov/Williams trade...

It is incredibly disappointing to have our pocket picked by Philly again. We traded for the fifth time in 4 years with Philly getting a second line winger by giving up what management called our "future franchise defenseman." It's very hard to see the logic in this trade.

Scott Place

This is a trade I will wonder about. An all-star caliber defenseman for a skater described as a "third line player"? To me it seems like we should have traded for a bigger offensive punch. Sorry, Justin.

Ken LaFlamme

I am not convinced that trading Markov for Williams will give us the offensive boost we need. I also wish these rumors about O'Neill would stop. Give him a chance to play for the new coach.

Steve Wells

We think the Canes gave up a great, all-star caliber defenseman for a young forward. We would have rather seen a more veteran forward if the Canes had to give up Danny. At the very least, it would have been nice to get some draft considerations in the future along with Justin. The defense should not have been sacrificed for the offensive lack of production.

Wendy and Brian Williamson

Danny Markov was a good defenseman, but I think Justin Williams can be a very good offensive player for now – and for the future, I say keep him.

Daniel van Buynder from Belgium

Justin Williams is a great young player in the NHL. He is already a 4-year veteran at 22 years old. With his speed and scoring ability, I believe this will help the Canes in the long run. It was disappointing to see us having to trade Markov to make the trade happen. He was probably our best defenseman this season. Rumors are all over the place about Jeff O'Neill as possibly being traded. I feel that if the Canes trade O'Neill, it would be a mistake. O'Neill is a goal scorer and having a tough season getting the puck in the net, but he has to be part of the solution to this team turning it around.

Brett Ciancanelli

Justin Williams was a good pick up he will add goals, he is also plays very well on the penalty kill. He goes to the net, which is much needed.

Jennifer Ebling

Markov who?

Paulette Gallagher

A change was needed. Something had to be done and it is unfortunate that Danny Markov had to go via trade. The Canes needed goal scoring. That was a given. While they gave up a great defenseman in Markov, Justin Williams is showing he can hold his own and still may

(continued on next page)

■ **CanePoll**

We're past the halfway point in the season, and the Hurricanes are well out of the playoff picture. **YES or NO: will the team recover and make the post-season?**

YES
6

NO
12

have upside potential. At first I was disappointed at the time that we did not get more value for Markov like a draft pick or minor league player, but Williams' 9 goals and 21 assists this season show there is some value that has yet to surface.

John Gallagher

As good of a player as Markov was, we need offensive help and in order to get talent like Williams, you have to trade talent back. From what I have seen of Justin Williams, I think we got the better end of that deal. With regards to other trades, it is unfortunate, but it is time to break this team up. They have not performed well together for the most part this year, and that chemistry has to be changed. The worst thing is that (back to the "trade something to get something") we will likely see some of our better veterans being traded for both salary reasons, and to mix things up a bit. As depressing as this will be to sit through, after this season, I as a fan, will not sit through another season of mediocrity.

Nick Gregory

I think it is a great trade. Justin Williams is already showing some results!! Plus he is a former Flyer, which warms my former Philly suburb dwelling heart!

Tricia Andrews

I really hated to see Danny Markov go, because he had such an enthusiastic outlook and good personality. He seemed to be liked well by the other players. However, we are in more desperate need of players that can score goals! So overall it appears to be a good trade.

Barbara Stump

Markov/Justin Williams-something had to be done, we gave up a great defenseman, but Williams is looking good so far to and could be a real offensive anchor for our team in the future. He is so young, only time will tell for sure. Promising!

Terry Byrne

CHBC Holiday Party

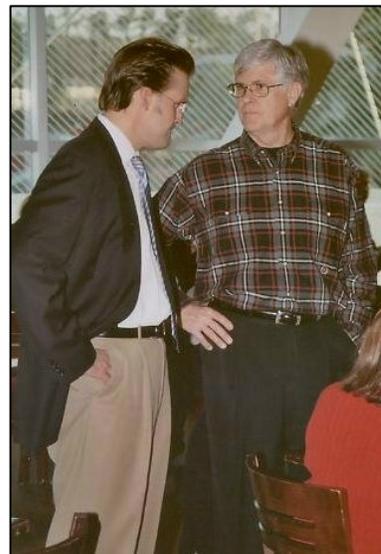
Excellent reviews after two-year hiatus

On Sunday, January 4th, the Booster Club held the Annual holiday party after the Phoenix game upstairs in the Arena Club. About 70 members enjoyed a great variety of food, from Chicken Fingers, to spring rolls, to veggies, and a great desert bar just to name a few of the delicacies.

Besides great food and hockey talk, there was a variety of items auctioned off to help raise money for charity including a signed Craig Adams stick, a Chuck Amato signed poster, a few signed Hurricanes pucks to help charity.

A special thanks to John Forslund for coming to the party and answering all the hockey questions for the boosters and taking the time out of his busy schedule to share his vast knowledge of hockey with us! He is a special gift to the community and you always learn so much from listening to him.

Also very special thanks to Mike Potter (from the *Durham Herald Sun*), the Storm Squad, Kids n' Community Foundation, and the Fan Development team for taking time out of their busy game-day schedules to make an appearance at this year's event. Most of all, we thank the membership for their support and attendance. It is the members of our club that make it so great. Tune in next year for a bigger and better party!



Gary Thømmes (right) and John Forslund chat during the CHBC Holiday Party.

Stormy entertains despite blizzard of 2004!

Inclement weather couldn't keep Stormy away from entertaining some of the kids from the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club as the first ever Stormy kids party took place this past Sunday.

Members Ethan Webber, Savannah Russell, Kayla and Evan Harper, Elizabeth and Joshua Beese, Madison Witzke, and Isabelle and Allison Gallagher shared a pizza, a special cake, and some good, clean fun with the official mascot of the Carolina Hurricanes.

Each child received a highly coveted special edition Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club magnet and a special Stormy hat exclusive to the Stormy Birthday patrons and the Booster Club Kids.

"We had thought twice about braving the weather and attending, but we had told Ethan he was going to see Stormy and the Canes the previous evening, and he was excited about going, so we didn't want to disappoint," Said Booster Club Member Michelle Webber.

Stormy was dressed in his army fatigues and all ready to celebrate armed forces day, but the snowfall put a damper on those plans and a 4-2 home loss made it a tough day. The presence of Stormy and watching my own kids run around the house with their Stormy hats on made it all worthwhile. THANKS STORMY!



Patrick Drollinger wins first CHBC fantasy hockey season!

The inaugural CHBC Fantasy Hockey season has concluded with Canes in 7, owned by Patrick Drollinger, coasting to the title. Bill Horner made a good run at the top spot, but finished 1,365 points behind the winner. If there was to be a Championship final, you might as well say it was a sweep. Just a few hundred points separated 3rd from 6th and the order changed almost daily. Evan Harper boldly hung on to third with Coles Town, but Tim Mulhern's Happy Gilmours took home 3rd place and a Booster Club prize pack.

The Eye of the Hurricanes, owned by Jim Andrews, held the top spot early and finished dead last in the standings. The fierce start could not be maintained. The same could be said of team Sabaca owned by Leigh LeClair. Leigh also held the number one spot as the league's best team, but finished a respectable 7th place in the final standings.

Your CHBC President, who once held the 4th spot on the strength of Marc-Andre Fleury, fell hard to finish with a disrespecktable 5,498 points in 13th place. While not the worst team in the league, All the President's Men are a team in dire need of a lottery pick for season 2!

The league has expanded into two divisions: The Booster Buds and the Patrick Division. There will be a brief awards ceremony at the next CHBC meeting on Feb 18th to give our winners 15 minutes of fame and then it is on to season 2, which begins on February 10th!



Patrick Drollinger bobblehead dolls coming soon?

(continued from page 1)

the right amount of executive gray creeping in. Getting everything settled in with that many people is challenging. Coach began by trying to find the movies he had left for the guys. After searching, he locates the trip's entertainment. When questioned about the location of the box he had labeled "Greensboro Generals Movies," he was informed that the cleaning crew had removed the box. Crisis averted, things began to settle in.

If you don't know your way around a bus, we were riding a Sleeper 12. This is great because it has two separate sleeping compartments and 12 guys can stretch out and relax before the game. Of course, let's do the math – 12 beds, 19 players, one trainer, one assistant coach, one Broadcaster, an equipment manager, an assistant equipment manager and an lcs Hockey.com reporter.

I quickly learned the pecking order of the ECHL: Veterans get beds, rookies get the floor, one player, in this case Chris Bell, get stuck up front listening to the coaches, team people and the media guys talk for the entire trip. This didn't seem to bother him – more on that later. Of course, lcs Hockey.com guys get a choice between the end of the bench with Chris Bell's legs in their backs for the three-hour trip or the cooler. I chose the bench. Trainer D.J. Amadio got the cooler.

Rookie goalie and former Brandon Wheat King Jamie Hodson came up front looking for something and Coach asked him if he had an air mattress.

"If you're on a bus, you should have one of these," he said. He went up front, turned on what has to be the world's smallest hair dryer and inflates it. Pecking order redefined: Vets on beds, Rookies on floor, starting goaltender on air mattress.

lcs Hockey.com reporter still on the bench.

For those of you who wondered what life was like with the players, it isn't exactly Slap Shot (OK, maybe the French-Canadian goalie, Daniel Bearthiaume did bring back some memories). Bearthiaume is a journeyman goaltender who played in "the show" back in the 1980s and early 1990s. He wears a very stylish bandana under his helmet. The French are known for fashion, you know.

The trip to Richmond is mostly about sleeping. Some guys read, but for the most part they all take a nap. Even the colorful "Bertie," as he is known to his teammates, takes time to relax.

The rest of the trip was spent talking hockey with Adduono, assistant coach Dean Shmyr and broadcaster and director of media relations, Arley Johnson. To give you a taste of what life is like for those guys, picture a booth at your favorite late-

night eating establishment. Cut it in half. Then put a 6-foot former defenseman and the broadcaster in the smaller half. Got the picture? Good. You have now defined torture for three hours.

Arriving at the Richmond Coliseum was probably much the same as it was in the 1970s for the Richmond Robins. Everyone piled off the bus and grabbed their equipment from the cargo area. The players began to file into the main locker room while some of the guys, most notably Jamie Hodson, went to the training room. The training room was also the coaches' dressing room.

If you have never been to the Richmond Coliseum, everything about the building is gray (except for the brown seats). There doesn't appear to be a redeeming thing about it. The access to the building is underground, there is always water dripping. The Coliseum has the cheery ambiance of Kurtz's "Estate" in *Apocalypse Now*.

Hoopsy, as the Generals' Equipment Manager is known, immediately went to work unloading sticks. This is fascinating: a strip of tape (hockey players love tape) is strung along the wall and then the players numbers are put in numeric order, the sticks are then put out in order. Unlike the NHL players who have different sticks for each period, most guys have one or two sticks. Parrish quipped, "I am still waiting for my sticks to arrive from Canada."

If you have the wrong color blade in the NHL, call your manufacturer. If you have the wrong color blade in the ECHL, call Hoopsy. He brings the spray paint over and, after a few quick hits, there you have it: a black blade. Of course, what do you do with a black blade? Tape it white.

If you have the wrong color socks in the NHL, call your agent and he brings you a new pair. Of course, having the wrong color socks in the ECHL causes different problems. Not that he's ever done this, but assistant coach Schmyr said that using black spray paint on white athletic socks creates a nice "dress gray." Who needs Martha Stewart?

The first 55 minutes of the game were fairly uneventful. When many of our NHL fans think of ECHL hockey, they look at Slap Shot and the awful Slap Shot II. The reality is something quite different. Where expansion has diluted the talent in the NHL, the talent level at the ECHL has become much better thanks to experienced coaches, stronger affiliations with AHL and NHL teams. Guys like Bertie can make a decent living and still be involved with the game of hockey.

Just when it looked like the best of what the ECHL has to offer, the game turned on its ear with 5 minutes remaining. From the broadcasters' booth it

was difficult to see why, but the game turned into a "Gong Show" – a penalty-filled affair that often results in injuries and stupid penalties. Think, well... Slap Shot. OK, Slap Shot with less fighting and more stickwork. Think Philadelphia Flyers of the early 1970s.

During the last five minutes there were two slashing majors, one slew-foot, two fights and three game misconducts. There were so many penalties that it was very difficult to figure out who did what to whom. At any moment, WWE star and fine actor (he was great on Saturday Night Live), the Rock, could have made an appearance and still been upstaged.

Pete Gardiner was the first to go down to a vicious slash to the back of the legs. What made this worse was that his parents were listening in via the Internet. Fortunately, he was only out for the next game. The video showed a swing worthy of Barry Bonds. Gardiner was lucky to be walking. How does the song go, "Mama's don't let your babies grow up to be Hockey Players..."

The stick-swinging incidents ended with Generals captain Jay Murphy suffering a broken index finger. Lars Pettersen used a baseball swing to slash Murphy, then Dan Vandermeer slashed Murphy a few more times for good measure. This resulted in Murphy's finger being in his words "twisted around." Murphy flapped his mangled digit in the referee's face to no avail. Two minutes for Pettersen, six weeks for Murphy.

Murphy showed great toughness by getting a shot toward the net with a severely broken finger, but he'd need even more dexterity for what awaited him. NHL players get X-rays, MRIs and a personal nurse. Amadio, the Generals trainer renowned for his Oriental-influenced massage, acupressure techniques, and his excellent spiky blond hair, had to twist Murphy's detached bone back into place and wrap it with a splint. Murphy's reward for scoring two goals and putting together an overall strong game: a bus ride back in immense pain and a noon date with a doctor to re-adjust his finger about a quarter of an inch.

Two fights punctuated the Gong Show, including one by Serov, the diminutive Russian winger. After trading slashes with a Renegades defenceman, the Craisin-loving Serov dropped the gloves and started to go. The best part of the fight

was watching all three officials falling all over themselves to try and stop Serov from throwing punches. That wasn't the only time these guys fell all over themselves. Where is MacMahon, of the Jesse Ventura WWF days, when you need him.

The game ended with Renegades coach Gord Dineen and Generals boss Adduono shouting at each other. Great theater, but not exactly how you want a game to end.

When asked about the situation later, Adduono said, "Gord is a class guy... This is not his type of game." Everything else was said to former NHL official Gord Broseker, who happened to be in attendance, during a hallway conversation outside of the officials' dressing room. Broseker spoke with both coaches after the game, and there were several suspensions to Richmond and Greensboro players. The teams played the following night with rosters smaller than most mite teams.

The locker room was somber after the game.

Every one of the guys seemed upset about what occurred. The Generals' players piled back on the bus for, you guessed it, more sleep. The Richmond Coliseum doesn't do a good job of separating the team locker rooms, so the players have to deal with each other on the way out. Sometimes this can result in interesting situations.



Coach Rick Adduono

Once everyone got on the bus, it was time for the video replay. Many of the players sat at the front of the bus and watched the last five minutes in utter disbelief. The oohs and aaahs while watching slash after slash made the bus sound more like a circus than a slumber party. Eventually, everyone settled down and got some rest.

Benchmate Chris Bell didn't seem to mind the distractions of the ride up. He put together an impressive night, assisting on a goal and scoring one. He got a sleeper compartment on the way back. Hodson, who won, the game still got the air mattress. I got the cooler. Serov got the Craisins and the bench.

The bus arrived back at Greensboro with a total of one swollen ankle, one broken finger, a pair of bruised fists, my ripped pants (from the cooler) and a bunch of tired players. Practice time was announced by the coach for the next day: 11a.m. Why so early? They have to prepare to play, who else, Richmond at the Greensboro Coliseum. Don't forget the Craisins.

Next Booster Club Membership Meeting:

**Wednesday, Feb 18th
7:00pm
RBC Center
Doug Warf and members of
the 2003-04 Storm Squad**
From the Carolina Hurricanes Fan
Promotions

CHBC Event Info:
**Saturday, March 13th
UNC Telethon
6-11:30pm**
To volunteer, please e-mail
john@g@hurricanesboosters.org

More details and event information inside!

Office DEPOT
What you need. What you need to know:

Crossroads Plaza; Cary, NC
2011 Walnut Street
919/233-8575
Fax: 919/233-8724

Proud Sponsors of the
Carolina Hurricanes
and
Official Printers
of

HURRICANE WARNING

Websites for Canes Fans: www.hurricanesboosters.org , www.hurricanes.com

Hurricane Warning
The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club
P. O. Box 20776
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619
www.hurricanesboosters.org

