

HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 8, No. 1

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

Fall 2004

Kaiton awaiting Hall of Fame induction

by Bill Horner III
Hurricane Warning Editor

For the past quarter-century, autumn's arrival normally means one thing to Chuck Kaiton: time to warm up the voice, memorize the name pronunciation and numbers of new players and get ready for another National Hockey League season.

The league's labor strife, and subsequent lockout, has delayed that. So with no games, Kaiton – the radio voice of the Hurricanes since the team was incarnated as the Hartford Whalers in 1979 – is miffed that his normal routine has been shot.

But that doesn't mean his calendar is totally open.

In just a few weeks, on November 8, Kaiton takes the day to answer hockey's ultimate call. He'll travel to the sport's version of Cooperstown – the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto – to receive the 2004 Foster Hewitt Award, given annually to an NHL broadcaster in recognition of professionalism and contributions to the sport. In addition to the plaque

and the pomp that come with such things, the award also brings with it a new tagline for Kaiton: in addition to being "the voice of the Hurricanes," he'll now also be a full-fledged Hall of Famer.

"I'm really flattered," he said last week. "This wasn't a goal for me, but it is an acknowledgment of something I did right over the years as a broadcaster. I'm honored by it. Everybody in that (writers and broadcasters) wing of the Hall of Fame ... they're people I looked up to, colleagues of mine throughout 25 years, broadcasters I grew up listening to as a little boy when I started following the game."

That group includes the award's namesake and the wing's first inductee, Foster Hewitt, who broadcast one of the first hockey games ever on radio in 1923 – against his will

one night after a tiring day shift – and became the "voice of hockey" for more than 50 years for millions of hockey fans in Canada and the United States.

This year's induction ceremonies will also honor
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Chuck Kaiton has broadcast 2,257 games for the franchise since 1979 and will take his place in hockey's Hall of Fame in November.

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Next CHBC Meeting: 7 p.m., Oct. 6, RBC Center. Speaker: Davin Olsen

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Newsletter deadline:

Monday, November 1st
For the November 2004 Issue

President's Message / John Gallagher



Saved by the Bell? John poses with "Mr. Belding" himself, Dennis Haskins, at the Jimmy V Golf Tournament.

The summer months ended far too quickly for me as heavy travel and family life made the months of August and September fly away too quickly. I spent a good portion of the summer building up the CHBC prize bin, which now includes autographed photos of Guy Lafleur, Mike Modano and Jim Craig just to name a few.

The Convention in Toronto was a fun place to be. The good part was the presence of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club representatives that included Lisa Wall, Pat Drollinger, Lynnae Paegels and Kate Stewart. I had a fabulous time visiting the Hall of Fame and the sites in Toronto thanks to the company I kept. These representatives helped bring in substantial funds to our general fund by selling merchandise and raffle tickets at our hospitality suite, which we shared with the Washington Capitals and Florida Panthers. Next year's convention will be held in Los Angeles in August. More information will be released at a later date.

Also in August, I had the opportunity to catch the USA versus Canada World Cup of Hockey Exhibition game. It was a great contest with the USA defeating Canada 3-1. I was able to bring back some goodies for the CHBC prize bin, which some of you won at our August meeting and Storm Shelters for the World Cup games.

Our August meeting was very well attended for our guests, Emma Bennett and Anne Clinard, from the Kids n' Community Foundation. The members asked all the tough questions and these ladies answered every one. All had a great time and I would like to thank our speakers and attendees for making life as a Booster Club President very easy. It is very gratifying to see members eager to show up and help wherever needed. THANKS Y'ALL!

Our September Stormshelters for the World Cup of Hockey were very well attended and showed that the fans are ready to come back as soon as the NHL finds a way to resume the 2004-05 season.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement expiration has made it very difficult to plan ahead for the coming year. One thing is definitely certain: **The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club will continue to meet regularly and have activities monthly regardless of when the season starts.**

Anyone interested in the Corresponding Secretary position on the board for the 2004-05 season, please contact me as soon as possible at johng@hurricanesboosters.org. We would like to see this position filled as soon as possible to round out our nine-member board.

In one of the more moving stories in hockey not given much notice due to the lockout, Phoenix Coyotes center Mike Ricci will wear jersey number 40 this coming season in honor of former Arizona Cardinals player Pat Tillman.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to fill out the 2004-05 membership form and distribute to all your friends. If you have chosen not to join the Booster Club for the 2004-05 season, this will be your final issue of *Hurricane Warning*. We hope to see you all at our next CHBC membership meeting. And that's hockey to me...

KAITON

(continued from cover)

three of the games' best defensemen – former Hurricane Paul Coffey, long-time Boston Bruin Ray Bourque and the venerable Larry Murphy – along with Cliff Fletcher in the builders' category and ESPN.com writer Jim Kelley, who will receive the Elmer Ferguson Memorial Award for distinguished hockey writing.

Kaiton is unquestionably hockey's best ambassador in this part of the country. For people familiar with his work and his love for the game, the honor doesn't come as a surprise. Last season Kaiton visited the Stormtrackers Club, the organization of Hurricanes' season-ticket-holders, for a luncheon meeting to introduce fellow broadcaster Mike Lange of the Pittsburgh Penguins as a guest speaker. In bringing up Kaiton to introduce Lange, who won the Foster Hewitt Award in 2001, Stormtrackers president Jim Gates matter-of-factly introduced Kaiton as a "future Hall of Famer." Heads nodded in recognition across the room.

Later in the season, Kaiton was honored by the Hurricanes for the 2,257 games he's broadcast for the Hurricanes/Hartford Whalers franchise since 1979 (he missed one game in 1992 to attend his father's funeral), for his passionate approach to the game and for his patience and teaching skills in a market new to hockey.

And when the Hall of Fame announcement was made May 28, all those sentiments were summed up by the man who announced Kaiton's selection.

"Chuck Kaiton combines so many enviable traits: enthusiasm for the sport and its people; leadership as president of the NHL Broadcasters Association that extends over part of three different decades," said Mike Emrick, the vice president of the NHL Broadcasters' Association. "His impassioned voice is memorable to anyone who loves hockey. He is long overdue for this honor."

With characteristic modesty, Kaiton said he goes into the Hall of Fame "kicking and screaming." That's partly because he's been president of the broadcasters' group for the last 18 years, and he and Emrick, the voice of the New Jersey Devils, and four other Hall of Fame broadcasters usually make up the committee picking the honoree. Kaiton says the group "did an end-around" on him in the spring, picking him without his knowledge and against his wishes.

"They kind of overruled me," he said.

Kaiton normally attends the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies to help introduce and induct the Foster Hewitt Award winner, missing out only when the

Hurricanes are playing. He'll go as a recipient this year, but even as such would skip the ceremony if the NHL players were on the ice.

"The accolades are nice," he said. "But if we had a game that day, I'd be broadcasting. I've got a job to do. They'd have to pull me out of the broadcast booth."

At the RBC Center, his booth is set above a banner recognizing his years of service to the team and its fans. And now, the Hall of Fame beckons. It's a trip far removed from Kaiton's days as a student broadcaster for the University of Michigan. He left there in 1975 to cover University of Wisconsin's sports teams and was named the state's Sportscaster of the Year in 1979. It was later that year he left for Hartford to become one of the original employees of the Whalers, which moved to North Carolina to become the Hurricanes in 1997.

Kaiton is careful to point out that as an honoree in the broadcast wing, he's not voted upon by the actual Hockey Hall of Fame committee – where players are considered "honoured members," Canadian spelling included.

"We're in the Hall of Fame, but we're not 'honoured members' of the Hall of Fame," he said. "We don't want that. We're separate, but equal, just like in the baseball and football halls of fame."

He says "the thing hasn't hit home with me yet," but he has considered the possibility that one day, if he has grandchildren, they might travel to Toronto to see his plaque in the grand hall at the Hall of Fame, located in a cavernous but beautiful converted bank on Yonge Street – the same place where the Stanley Cup and the NHL's other prized trophies reside.

Kaiton should have plenty of opportunities to accompany them, having signed a new three-year contract with the team during the off-season. That means he'll probably keep going back to Toronto to help induct other Hewitt Award winners in between broadcasts.

He has no plans to slow down. At 52, he thinks – but he doesn't say it too loudly – he can work another 25 years.

"I can see myself doing this into my 70s," he said. "I have the mindset for it. I feel very young. I enjoy what I do... The players keep you young. They're really terrific. Just being around them and this game keeps you young."

Just like being around Kaiton helps you develop a love for the game.

"There are so many people around here I would have never thought would be hockey fans," he said. "It's been great to be a part of all that."

"(Chuck Kaiton's) impassioned voice is memorable to anyone who loves hockey. He is long overdue for this honor."

- **Mike Emrick, vice president,
NHL Broadcasters' Association**

CBA meltdown means no hockey...for now

As every NHL fan is painfully aware, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the NHL and the NHL Players' Association (NHLPA) expired on September 15th. In practice the expiration of the CBA led immediately to the NHL locking out its players, which has so far accounted for the cancellation of training camps and the first 30 days of scheduled regular season games through the end of October, with more games to be cancelled on a 30 day rolling basis as the labor stoppage continues. While none of this is really a shock to those who follow the league closely, the events leading up to and since the lockout have been jarring to those who care about professional hockey in North America.

In the months leading up to the work stoppage, the NHL polled season ticket holders and other who regularly bought tickets in their six Canadian markets. According to the NHL's press release on the subject, in excess of 70 percent of those fans supported the League's position that a salary cap or similar "cost certainty" is necessary to provide for the economic recovery of the League.

Wow. Seventy percent isn't one of those polling results that make you search the fine print for the margin of error, now is it? Now, it is the very nature of fans that they want to see the sport that they love actually played out in arenas and on television so that they can enjoy themselves. That's just basic, and it goes a long way towards explaining the strong lean towards the owners' position. We hockey fans are not dumb. We feel the pinch of ever-increasing ticket prices, we read about the alarming decrease in league television revenues, and we see the meteoric rise of the average salary of an NHL player. Those factors clearly convince the average fan that the NHL's current economic model is indeed broken and must be fixed. I worry however, that we're not getting the whole story here. There is more going on than increasing player salaries and decreasing television revenues.

Other Leagues – Other Models

While the NHL is clearly the smallest of the four major professional sporting leagues in North America, there is much we can learn by looking at how Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Football League (NFL), and the National Basketball Association (NBA)

handle their collective finances. For example, all three of the other major leagues is more financially hearty than the NHL, so clearly the way they approach financial issues can shed some light on the NHL's problems. We can rather easily see that the percentage of revenues that go to player salaries is out of whack in the NHL.

According to The Hockey News, MLB players get 63 percent of league revenues in compensation. NBA players receive 58 percent, while the financially healthy NFL distributes 54 percent of revenues to its players. All three leagues have some form of either a salary cap or a luxury tax on big spending teams, although MLB's luxury tax really only impacts their single highest spending club. When you look at those percentages and realize that NHL player salaries account for a whopping 75 percent of league revenues ... well you don't have to be a Sesame Street fan to know which one of these things doesn't belong here.

There is another glaring disparity between the four leagues, but the circumstances vary from league to league. I'm speaking of revenue sharing. The NFL's television contracts dwarf those of the other three leagues, and their revenue sharing is geared to the fact that each member club receives an equal cut of the television pie. On top of that, each club contributes 40 percent of its gate receipts (ticket sales) to the league for equal distribution. MLB clubs also evenly split the national television contract receipts between their clubs, but the league also requires each club to contribute 34 percent of all locally generated revenues to the league for equal distribution. The NBA on the other hand, equally distributes the revenues from its National television contracts, but requires no sharing of locally generated revenues.

It is important, however, to bear in mind that the NBA has the weakest players union among the four leagues, and that its salary structure is both restrictive with regards to players' entry contracts and flexible towards owners who want to keep their star players in the fold.

Structurally the league that has the most in common with the NHL is MLB. Baseball's national television contract revenues are relatively small, and each team generates much of their revenue through local television and radio deals. With revenue sharing

"I worry however, that we're not getting the whole story here. There is more going on than increasing player salaries and decreasing television revenues."

on those locally generated revenues in place, MLB assures that the smaller market teams are simply blown out of the water in terms of revenues by their large market counterparts.

Sure, Baseball has its fair share of small market blues, but at least that league makes an attempt to level the playing field. The NHL has never had any level of revenue sharing other than the equal distribution of national television contracts and expansion fees. In fact it was those very expansion fees that allowed the NHL to extend its current CBA twice since it was originally hammered out in 1994. To allow for relative stability during the expansions of the 90s, the league was all but forced to simply extend a labor agreement that they found unworkable after the expansion fees dried up. The most troubling aspect of this look at the finances of the other pro sports leagues is that nobody has been discussing revenue sharing as a negotiating point of the current CBA discussions. According to The Hockey News, the owners are proposing changes to their revenue sharing concept, but I can guarantee that if there were serious structural moves afoot, we'd have heard a heck of a lot more discussion on the matter.

So what ARE they arguing about?

Simply put, this lockout occurred over the issue of a salary cap. The owners have made multiple proposals according to every major news organization covering the lockout. Apparently they all contained some sort of cap on total team salaries in the neighborhood of \$35 million, give or take a few million. Meanwhile the NHLPA has apparently made two counter-proposals, both of which contained an immediate 5 percent reduction of existing contracts and a luxury tax scheme.

So on the face of it, we've got two parties thinking along the same lines, right? Wrong. The luxury tax proposed by the NHLPA mirrors that currently in use in MLB. In other words, the salary figure at which the penalties begin is set so high that only one or two teams would be at risk of having to adjust their payroll. From the owners' perspective that isn't even close to what they have in mind, and if one does the math one finds that the two parties are currently separated by a gap of approximately 25 percent of league revenues. That is a huge gap to be trying to bridge once the lockout has already been called and both parties have their hackles raised.

Stuff you need to know

The hockey media seems to have landed on two opinions with regards to how long this work stoppage

will last. The sunshine and roses camp says that the lockout will be resolved in a similar manner as the 1994 lockout, and hockey will resume sometime in January 2005. In this scenario both side realize the damage that the lack of games is doing to the game after about the first month of the traditional season goes by and beat out some common ground prior to Christmas. The Eeyore Fan Club (a.k.a. the gloom and doom camp) seems to think that this lockout will last at least a full year and perhaps longer. Yikes. Given the fact that the NHL and the NHLPA haven't seen fit to even schedule another negotiation session since the announcement of the lockout, the Eeyore folks are starting to look more insightful by the day.

Here are a couple of other tidbits that you need to know, and that haven't been clearly covered in any article I've read on the CBA negotiations.

First, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman only needs the agreement of eight owners to ratify a new CBA, or to make a new CBA offer official. On its face that fact isn't all that big a deal, but when you factor in the second bit of information it gets pretty important. The NHL conducts business in both the United States and Canada, but for legal purposes, it is governed by the labor laws of the United States. Under U. S. labor law, management (the owners) can declare what is called an impasse once it can be proven that the differences between the positions of labor (the NHLPA) and management are beyond negotiation. In other words, so long as the NHL sticks to its guns about a salary cap and the NHLPA sticks to its guns about never accepting a salary cap, it would be relatively easy to declare an impasse once six months of negotiations have proved fruitless. Once a U. S. court declares that negotiations are in impasse, management has the right to implement its last formal offer as the new CBA, and the union is required to either accept the offer or reject it and basically go out of business.

At that point players are forced to make an individual choice as to whether or not they wish to break picket lines to play hockey in the NHL. Since the commissioner only needs eight owners to ratify a proposal as a formal offer, it is conceivable that only 26 percent of the NHL's clubs could eventually force these negotiations into an ugly, ugly place that few labor negotiations have gone in U. S. history.

Bottom line ... if you're frustrated then know that you're not alone. All fans that care about the NHL game should be frustrated because the way things are going right now, we could be looking at one of the worst labor disputes in history. I sure hope not, but you deserve to know what's at stake.

What kind of activities would you recommend for the CHBC as we wait out the lockout on the 2004-05 season?

Activities for the group can be bringing in speakers, some of whom might better spell out the issues in this labor-management dispute. Secondly, I think there is TOO MUCH GREED among both the parties. Should they see this and allow there egos to settle down, there may be an agreement that improves HOCKEY and respects the FANS.

Barry Ostrow

Meet to eat and talk about the Canes. Possibly go on a group trip to see an AHL game or even a game in Fayetteville or Greensboro. Any hockey beats no hockey.

Mary Scott

I am for the idea of going to Norfolk for the Lowell games in December. There is also an ECHL team in Fayetteville that plays games in the Fayetteville Coliseum. Maybe we could all drive our own cars and meet down there for a few games, just to see how the other half lives. That might be fun. If someone has a big house, we could meet there and watch hockey movies and have raffles like we do at the restaurants.

Cathie McCorkle

Attend local college team games. I'm not so devoted that I'm traveling to see Appalachian State play. Convince a local movie theater to show "Slap Shot" & "Miracle" as a double feature.

Ginny Paisie

My suggestion for activities is to stay active and interested in the NHL/CBA. Talk to each other, organize groups and fan protests to keep the issues in the open, "earn a voice"--JOIN THE "NHLFA" (www.nhlfa.com). Only 100 more members are needed to become a political voice in the NHL/CBA. We (the fans) can become a "force" together!

Terry Byrne

We should plan on taking a trip or two to minor league games in Charlotte or Norfolk to see Lowell, or even to Fayetteville to see the Fire Ants.

Brian & Wendy Williamson

Personally I think following college hockey is a blast because it's all heart and honor! College Sports TV on

satellite carries many of the games and tournaments throughout the winter with the Beanpot (BU, BC, Harvard, & UMass) and the NCAA frozen four series being my favorites. It's a great way to see prospects too and how I was able to recognize Al Montoya at the Draft. I would hope that Canes Boosters would support all forms of hockey and perhaps even lend some support to the local club teams like NC State, UNC and Duke.

Beth Campbell

I am hoping to help organize a trip to Fayetteville and go to Norfolk in December. More than anything, I hope to have extra time with my family during the lockout and take in some youth hockey league games.

John Gallagher

Where they are now...

#2 - (D) Glen Wesley - lives in Raleigh, practicing
#4 - (D) Aaron Ward - committed to play in OSHL
#6 - (D) Bret Hedican - lives in Raleigh, practicing
#7 - (D) Niclas Wallin - contract with Luleå of Swedish Elite League
#11 - (F) Justin Williams - playing with Luleå (Swedish Elite league (SEL))
#12 - (F) Eric Staal - assigned to Lowell
#14 - (F) Kevyn Adams - practicing in Raleigh
#15 - (F) Marty Murray - at offseason home in Manitoba
#16 - (F) Ryan Bayda - assigned to Lowell
#17 - (F) Rod Brind'Amour - lives in Raleigh, practicing
#18 - (F) Mike Zigomanis - assigned to Lowell
#19 - (F) Radim Vrbata - playing with Liberec (Czech league)
#23 - (F) Pavel Brendl - playing for Trinec (Czech league)
#25 - (D) Bruno St. Jacques - assigned to Lowell
#26 - (F) Erik Cole - lives in Raleigh, no word on plans
#36 - (F) Jesse Boulerice - committed to play in OSHL
#38 - (D) Allan Rourke - assigned to Lowell
#47 - (D) Brad Fast - assigned to Lowell
#63 - (F) Josef Vasicek - playing with Slavia Prague (Czech league), no current contract with Canes
#92 - (F) Jeff O'Neill - lives in Raleigh, practicing
(D) Frantisek Kaberle - signed to play in Czech Republic
(F) Matt Cullen - signed to play in Italy
(D) Richmond - assigned to Lowell
(G) Martin Gerber - playing with Langnau (Switzerland)
(G) Cam Ward - assigned to Lowell
(G) Rob Zepp - assigned to Lowell
(F) Andrew Ladd - Calgary Hitmen (CHL juniors, WHL)

Canes' last practice as team held on lockout day – Sept. 15

September 15th was the last day of practice and 10 Carolina Hurricanes players were in attendance. Jessie Boulerice, Jeff O'Neill, Glen Wesley, Eric Cole, Brind'amour, Kevyn Adams, Ryan Bayda, Bruno St. Jacques, and Eric Staal skated. Brett Hedican was there as well to work out, but didn't skate.

Eric Staal, who is now sporting a goatee, has put on a good 10 pounds of muscle, and filling out his body. This will help him greatly later in the year, either herein Raleigh or down in Lowell, where he will play due to the lock out.

Also playing were Shane Tatomir (Wally's son), who lives in Windsor, Ont., and was down here for two weeks before heading off to help coach the St. Charles University team as an assistant. He looked good skating with the boys and there was one very proud dad watching from the stands at the Rec Zone. Good luck Shane!

Also in goal, as he has been for the last 2 weeks was Jorge Alves, who has looked great and really did a fantastic job in the net. Jorge was a goalie at N. C. State after being in the Marine Corp, and is currently after his great experience at the practices going to tryout with the Fayetteville team, the Cape Fear Fire Antz. We wish Jorge all the luck in the world, and someone to follow his progress this year, while awaiting NHL hockey to start again. His experience playing against the Canes the last two weeks will leave him in good spirits and the confidence to take his game to the next level.

Staal looked very good potting a breakaway early and Glen Wesley continued with his offensive surge in the second pick up game. After practice, the players left will all their equipment and tapes and sticks, and still hoping something would happen. Kevyn Adams said a few were going to try and practice next week, but no definite times or days have been selected as of yet. We will inform you as more details become available.

- Patrick Drollinger, CHBC Vice President

MEMBER PROFILE

Lynnae Pagels

Lynnae Pagels has been a member of the Booster Club since April 2001. She has always loved the game of hockey. Some of her all-time favorite players include Andy Moog and Milan Hejduk, which is sometimes why you might see her sporting a

Colorado Avalanche jersey at some Hurricanes home games. She has also been spotted in a number 7 jersey featuring Niclas Wallin's last name sewn on the back.

She grew up watching IHL hockey and her first NHL game was the Chicago Blackhawks at the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1996. Lynnae once lived in Florida just for wanting warm weather and she also followed the Tampa Bay Lightning in her stay there.

Her collection of hockey memorabilia is quite diverse from photos with Lightning and Hurricanes players to autographed jerseys of many different NHL teams and stars.

Lynnae graduated from Eisenhower High School just outside of Milwaukee and has an associate's degree from Waukesha County Tech College. She is presently employed by Bassett where she has spent the last two years in a sales support role.

When not watching hockey, she can be found at a little watering hole called Playmakers watching Chicago Bears games in the hopes that another Cinderella team might make the playoffs.

Lynnae celebrated a spectacular summer that included a trip to Toronto for the NHL Booster Club Convention. She was one of five members from the Hurricanes Booster Club represented.

One of her favorite TV shows is the cancelled series, *Felicity*, starring Keri Russell. While the show may be gone, the miracle of DVD keeps it all alive for Lynnae while hockey season bids adieu during the summer months and because of the CBA situation, it looks like she will have ample opportunity to watch them again and again.

- John Gallagher, CHBC President



Pictured L to R: Lynnae with fellow member Kate Stewart at the Hall of Fame during Convention 2004.

KAITON

(continued from page 3)

knows about impartiality and the old "no cheering in the press box" adage. But when it comes to the labor dispute that has bitterly divided the National Hockey League's owners and players and stalled the hockey season with a lockout, he has picked a side. The fans.

The war of words between the owners - who seek a team cap on player salaries commensurate with revenues generated by the game, and players - who pledge to never accept a cap - kept the NHL's 30 teams from opening training camps last month. So far all pre-season games and some 150 regular-season games, starting with what was to be seven season-opening games on Oct. 13, have been cancelled. No negotiations are scheduled between the two groups; with each passing day the likelihood that the entire season will be cancelled grows stronger.

"Most fans don't relate to millionaires and billionaires fighting," he said. "The players aren't starving. You know the owners aren't starving. But you hear a lot of the mind games, the propaganda coming from both sides. If both sides really cared about the fans, they'd work harder to get down to the basic crux of this thing. And if the fans enjoy hockey, they need to put pressure on both sides to save it."

A year ago, the ever-optimistic Kaiton was thinking that a lockout would be averted. That was based on his experience watching an NHL labor strife unfold a decade ago - a situation which ended with the creation of new collective bargaining agreement (CBA), an agreement extended in 1999 and the same one which expired Sept. 15. Months of negotiations between the players' union and the owners up to the deadline this time around accomplished nothing. Now he questions whether the two sides really want to do what's best for the people who love and follow the NHL.

"If they really cared about the fans, there'd be some way to get them involved," he said. "They're the third party that pays 90 percent of the freight by buying tickets. They're the people that nobody seems to think about. Hockey fans are probably the most loyal of any of the professional sports, and to see them get hurt like this is terrible."

Kaiton is hard-pressed himself to take sides for the owners or players in this dispute, but

he doesn't blame the fans for siding with the owners. Players in the NHL make an average salary of \$1.8 million per year; owners would like to see the figure closer to \$1.3 million.

Kaiton predicts a long fight, one that could ultimately end with some sort of salary cap. He even sees the potential for a year-long lockout, and says if it takes a year to fix the system the right way, it might be the best thing. Then again, he says, some hockey markets - including the Hurricanes' - might not be able to afford that.

"The owners are looking for cost certainty," he said. "I don't think it's too much to ask for the owners to be able to make money and also be able to keep ticket prices down. How do you get that to happen when the horse is already out of the barn? I don't know. It will take a total revamping of the system."

In Kaiton's "perfect world," he pictures a system where players would be compensated based on performance - with new contracts worked out every year or two and pay moving up or down commensurate with on-ice performance. No more qualifying offers and automatic 10 percent increases. Teams might have two or three designated "franchise players" who are treated differently and perhaps awarded longer-term deals. He'd also like to see team bonuses paid based on team performance. And while they're at it, teams should consider paying bonuses to each employee within an organization based on how well the team does - similar to compensation systems set up in businesses and elsewhere in the marketplace.

"I'd rather be working," he said. "I don't enjoy my time off even in the summer, when the summer is longer than normal (when the Hurricanes miss the playoffs). This is killing me. It's forced time off. It's not even a vacation. So I'm trying to do some enjoyable things. But as every day goes by I think, 'What's happening to the game?' I love this game and I hate to see what's happening. I don't like thinking about the potential damage this could cause."

"I work in the business," he said. "I'm a link to the fans. I really hope it will get resolved in such a way that the game is healthy. I get depressed when these things happen. The game suffers. The game is bigger than everybody."



Cape Fear FireAntz & Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club in association with AAA Carolinas
Present:

Cape Fear FireAntz vs. Jacksonville Barracudas

7:35pm at Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, N.C.

Space is limited to the first 50 individuals to RSVP with paid admission at the October CHBC Meeting or mail to:

**The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club
P. O. Box 20776
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619**

***** Please RSVP as soon as possible, but no later than 10/24/04**

Rented Vans will leave at 3:30 pm on Saturday the 30th of October from RBC Center East Bus lot. Vans will leave the Crown Coliseum 30 minutes after the conclusion of game and return to the RBC Center.

***Package 1 Cost: \$21.00**

Offer includes: a ticket to the game and round trip fare via mini-van, game refreshments, and game-night raffle chance

I would like _____ tickets with package 1 at a cost of \$21.00 each: _____

I can volunteer to drive one of the mini-vans to Fayetteville.*
*Drivers must have a valid NC driver's license.

***Package 2 Cost: \$10.00**

Offer includes: a ticket to the game and game refreshments, and game-night raffle chance. Participants in package two must provide their own transportation.

I would like _____ tickets with package 2 at a cost of \$10 each: _____

Name(s) of individuals: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

*Prices above are based on good-faith estimates of total costs. Any expense shortages will be covered by the Booster Club and any overages, while not anticipated, will be deposited into the CHBC ACTION Fund for charitable use.

"Participant assumes all risks of personal and property injury plus all other hazards related to participation in this CHBC event, including but not limited to, travel to and from the event, activities during the event itself and any other related activities. Further, Participant releases the CHBC and its officers, directors and agents from any liability, personal or otherwise, which arises from the event, including, but not limited to travel to and from the event, along with activities which occur at the event itself, or any other related activities. If Participant is a minor, Participant's parent or legal guardian acknowledges and accepts the terms of this "Assumption of Risk and Disclaimer of Liability" on behalf of the Participant by either purchasing or allowing Participant to purchase the ticket to this event "

CHBC Event Calendar:

Saturday, October 30th – 3:30pm
Trip to see the Fayetteville FireAntz

Saturday, December 4th – 11am
Booster Club Build-A-Bear Party to
benefit UNC Children's Hospital
(more details inside!)

Next Booster Club Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, Nov 16th
7 p.m.

Blinco's Sports Restaurant

Located at 5009 Falls of Neuse Rd
Raleigh North Carolina 27609
<http://www.blincoSPORTSbar.com>
Guest Speaker Adam Gold

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

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

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