

# HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 8, No. 4

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

SPRING 2005

## Junior Hurricanes Make History in Quebec



*After defeating New Hampshire, 3-2, the Junior Canes moved on to the Final Four of the winner's bracket.*

<u>February 11</u>	
Hurricanes	3
Papineau	2
<u>February 15</u>	
Hurricanes	2
Repentigny	1
<u>February 18</u>	
Hurricanes	3
New Hampshire	2
<u>February 19</u>	
Hurricanes	6
Prince Edward Is.	2
<u>February 19</u>	
Hurricanes	2
Connecticut	6



*Junior Canes win fourth straight with victory over Prince Edward Island, sending them to the finals.*

Erase any doubt the Carolinas are not a viable hockey market. The Junior Carolina Hurricanes put on an impressive showing at the 46th Quebec International Pee-weet Hockey Tournament with a 7-1-1 record, defeating significant competition from across the globe.

The tournament puts together about 2,300 young hockey players from 16 countries. Some big names have played in past tournaments including Brad Park, Guy Lafleur, Marcel Dionne, Gilbert Perrault, Mark Howe, Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Sylvain Côté and Eric Lindros.

The Junior Hurricanes consisted of 11- to 13-year old all-star players from the Carolinas who had limited practice time together going into this tournament. The tournament started on Feb. 10 and ended Feb. 20. Squads from all over the world including the U. S., Canada, Austria, Germany, and England were well represented.

This year's squad made it to the Tournament Final, defeating Papineau, Repentigny, the New Hampshire Bauer Swarm, and the Prince Edward Island Rockets before facing defeat in the final game to the Connecticut Whalers. A record of 4-1 in tournament play raised the bar for the future.

"This really shows how far hockey has come in the Carolinas in a short amount of time," said Hurricanes Fan Development/Promotions Manager Doug Warf, who served as Assistant Coach and Assistant General Manager for the team. "Four years ago it was a big deal for this team to score a goal in this tournament, let alone win a single game. This year's team was capable of winning the tournament, and that is our goal from now on."

*For more on this story, skate over to [www.carolinahurricanes.com](http://www.carolinahurricanes.com)*

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**Newsletter deadline:**

Wednesday, June 1st  
For the Summer 2005 Issue

## President's Message / John Gallagher

What a long, strange trip it has been! This will be my final President's Message... for now. You never say never because you never know what life can place in front of you.

It is not my intention to waste your time or mine with a tearful farewell address or brag about a legacy of some sort because anything accomplished in this booster club is a collective accomplishment. I truly believe that and so should you. Without all of you as members or a great hockey team to support, there is no booster club.



*'The Prez' with a Mario Lemieux-signed stick, a parting gift of thanks.*

This has been and will continue to be a great ride for me. There are many people to thank and I am sure to leave some out so please forgive me for failing to mention you specifically. If you are reading this, you are included in that select group of outstanding individuals that have enhanced and enriched my life.

It can be said that nothing ever worth doing is easy. Were there times I wanted to pull my hair

out? Sure! Did everything always turn out as I expected? Absolutely not! Did the Hurricanes win every game? It is truly the effort that counts! Were lapel pins ever ordered on time? No comment! Did I have fun? You betcha!

So why am I giving all this up? The birth of my son and third child will be here by the time most of you read this. My responsibilities at home will make it impossible for me to do a good job as your President. It would be an injustice to the Carolina Hurricanes and all of you if I were to seek re-election to the board. I will not disappear. I fully intend to continue writing articles for our newsletter, which arguably is the best booster club newsletter in the NHL! I also need time to work on my street hockey skills as the Hurricanes' own Doug Warf schooled me to a level where I can never criticize another player for screening their own goaltender!

Our club mission is a pretty simple one even though it can be interpreted broadly: "Support the sport of ice hockey in North Carolina and particularly to promote interest in the Carolina Hurricanes through activities and publications."

As an outgoing president, I have only one piece of advice for the incoming board of directors: "**Keep it simple, have fun, and LET'S GO CANES!**" Far too often, clubs lose sight of their identities and begin to argue about the mundane and things that have nothing to do with being a hockey fan.

I will be gladly passing on all the club property accumulated these past two years, but I will keep all the friendships and relationships. Thanks again, everyone!

As your President, I am truly proud of this organization and what we have accomplished over the last two years with and without hockey! From the bottom of my heart, I THANK YOU!

**STAY SHARP!**

For the last time, that's hockey to me...

## Spring Training

Funny title? Not really, because I find nothing amusing about the fact that Major League Baseball has started spring training while the NHL has officially cancelled the 2004-05 season in its entirety. For NHL fans and for hockey fans in general this is about as low as it can get. I hope. Commissioner Gary Bettman's announcement that the league was formally canceling the current season actually led to the most active period of negotiations that we've seen in this labor Ice Age, but with every passing meeting it seems more and more evident that the 2005-06 season remains in jeopardy.

With more discussions held and perhaps more scheduled, the league and the Players Association appear to be starting from square one rather than building on the ground given by both sides when it appeared there was an actual chance to save the season. Therefore, we can forget the league caved on its demand for a linkage between revenues and player salaries. We can also forget that the Union caved on the concept of a salary cap. Everything is off the table, but at least the two parties are still meeting. Here are my thoughts on a couple of hot button topics that have been discussed by hockey fans faced with the NHL's version of a two-year sentence to a Siberian work camp.

### 2005 Entry Draft

Remember the 2004 NHL Entry Draft that we hosted in Raleigh? Yeah, well that's pretty much ancient history, isn't it? The 2005 Draft was scheduled to be held in Ottawa this summer, but the NHL office has indicated that they have no intention of trying to hold the draft without a new CBA in place. Thus, the draft was cancelled.

Obviously, the Draft's approach put pressure on the negotiations, as both sides would have liked to have held the entry draft as scheduled.

In order for that to have happened, however, the framework of a new agreement would have needed to be in place by the end of May to allow teams sufficient time to prepare for the Draft. Obviously that didn't happen.

The Hockey News suggested recently that the NHL simply forgo this year's draft and then shift to a 19-year-old eligibility requirement for 2006 and beyond. It's a great idea. The current system of 18-year-old candidates requires too large a degree of speculation for my tastes. Giving draft eligible players another year in their development programs would

allow for better projections by NHL scouts and would benefit European and Canadian Junior Hockey programs by keeping their more polished and popular players in their systems longer. Seems like a win/win deal to me ... so it's probably out of the question.

### Contraction or False Labor Pains?

It seems that everywhere that NHL fans gather to discuss the mess that has become their league, the idea of contracting a number of teams to improve the on-ice product gets a lot of support.

Frankly the idea that the NHL would be better with 20 teams than it is with 30 has some merit since a 20-team league would give each team a deeper pool of talent. The problem with contraction in hockey is the same problem that baseball experienced – the value of the potentially contracted franchises. If we use the recently completed sale of the Mighty Ducks as a basis of evaluating the current market value for an NHL franchise, the league would be looking at a cost of approximately \$500-\$750 million dollars to contract 10 franchises. With the league currently sitting on a lockout fund of only \$300 million, the very concept of coming up with that kind of cash is just unthinkable. So the next time you hear some fan whining about how the league needs to contract a few teams, just ask them if they've got a couple hundred million dollars lying around to finance their idea.

### "NHL for Sale?"

To top off the strange events of recent months, we learn in February that the NHL received a proposal from two different parties to buy the ENTIRE league and operate it as 30 independent divisions of a single corporation. The opening offer was reportedly \$3.5 billion, and reports at the time indicated that the suitors were not only serious, but that they had been discussing such a proposal with league officials for more than a year. Is this just a red herring designed to send a message to the NHLPA that the league has other options? Maybe, but other professional sports leagues have operated under this type of setup in the past. Sources indicate that the fiscally healthy franchises have no interest in this offer whatsoever, so maybe I'm including this tidbit just because it amuses me. At this point, I think that anything hockey related that causes amusement should be cause for celebration.

### Replacement players? Why not?

If the labor negotiations continue to bring no results, it would be time to take drastic measures to give the diehard fans of this game what they want. We just want to see some hockey!

All across the minor leagues, attendance is significantly up. Why is that? The fans just want to see professional hockey. They need to see the goals, the fights, the penalties, and all the elements of a great hockey game. There is a significant number of these diehard fans that would show up to NHL games without the million dollar superstars.

"I think the NHL being out is going to strengthen minor league hockey, because it's going to bring more people to our games," said Fayetteville FireAntz player Steve Roberts as quoted in the Fayetteville Observer.

The league can ill-afford not to start the 2005-2006 season on time. The NHL needs the continuity and such a measure would only need to be a moderate success to achieve overall victory, which would be to bring all the players back.

The average NHL player will likely not sit on the sidelines long if the league continued business as usual. Some players would cross the NHLPA union line and the AHL may have enough talent to field the rosters necessary to start training camp.

The National Football League used replacement players in 1987 and Major League Baseball followed suit during Spring Training in 1995. In both instances, the decision to use replacement players helped move things along enough to motivate the players and owners into getting their collective bargaining agreements done.

The major difference between the NHL and other professional leagues is that the European markets have provided alternative employ for NHL players. This allows the NHLPA to continue the stalemate because players can take a job somewhere other than the NHL, leaving the owners with no leverage to get the deal done. The cancelled 2004-2005 season is a testament to the player's and owner's resolve.

Without a done deal to start the 2005-2006 season, what alternative does the NHL owners have?

- John Gallagher, CHBC President

### Replacement players A very bad move

While I agree that starting the 2005-06 season on time with replacement players sounds good, I think there are two reasons it's a bad move.

First, if you think that the negotiations between the NHL and the NHLPA have been a debacle up to this point, I submit that you haven't seen anything like the mess that these two parties will inject into the Federal, State and Provincial Court systems of both the U. S. and Canada if the league is serious about going ahead with replacement players this fall. Unlike the National Football League, where all the franchises are owned and operated in the states, and Major League Baseball, where all but one franchise are U. S.-based, the NHL not only has a serious base in Canada, one could argue that it's flagship franchises are located in there.

The NHL operates under the labor laws of the U. S., but Canadian Provincial laws still could apply for the six franchises located north of the border. These laws vary, but in the worst case (Quebec) they simply do not allow replacement workers to be used in this kind of labor dispute. In the end the NHL will probably prevail in the US courts, but the costs of doing so are huge – in lost time, legal fees and damage to the NHL's already low credibility.

Secondly, let's look at that credibility problem. If the NHL decides to forge ahead with replacements then the league is likely to be composed of the following: young talent currently playing in the AHL, older veteran players who don't mind crossing a picket line to extend their careers, a handful of "name" players of like mind, and whomever else they can rustle up to fill out rosters.

In simple terms the league will likely put a product on the ice that is a step or two above the current AHL level of play. The NHL's core fan base will probably turn out to see that product, but only if ticket prices reflect the decrease in talent. The rest of the fan base is more likely to yawn and do whatever they did this past winter while the league was mired in negotiations. The more highly talented European players will all but certainly find reasons to remain in Europe, and established stars will probably lie back to see what happens.

How the league plans to recover its financial footing while all this is going on, I have no idea. To me, replacements will simply extend the misery. Get a deal done already.

- Jeff Harrod, CHBC Member

## Hurricanes prospects faring well in minors

*Canes' Draft Picks Report*  
by Edith Creasy

Although there will be no 2004-05 NHL season, there is still a lot of exciting hockey going on - and this report only covers a tiny part of it.

(All stats and standings are given as of the end of March 4, 2005.)

**Andrew Ladd**, our top 2004 draft pick, is a left winger for the Calgary Hitmen in the Central Division of the WHL. Although Ladd will probably not reach the point total (75) that he had last year, he is still putting up good numbers - 44 points (19 goals, 25 assists), +19, and 159 penalty minutes in 59 games. After the February 25th game against their archrival the Red Deer Rebels (won by the Hitmen 5-2), the *Calgary Herald* awarded him the first star with the comment: "Looking like a pro already with that tantalizing mix of soft hands and a hard head. He produces three points and sparks the Hitmen charge."

**Brett Carson**, our fourth-round pick in 2004, is a defenseman for the Hitmen. He missed several stretches of games in 2005 due to concussions, but is currently on the ice. Carson has 25 points (8 goals, 17 assists), +13, and 59 penalty minutes in 55 games. After the February 23rd game, the *Calgary Herald* awarded him the third star with the comment: "The Hitmen would love to see the big, talented guy play like this every game - soaking up loads of ice time, assertive, making things happens, standing up for his teammates." Praise, but also recognition that the 19-year-old defenseman has some maturing to do.

### Lowell Lock Monsters

The Lowell Lock Monsters are in third place in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference with a record of 33-18-1-5. If they can keep playing like they did in the February 27 game against Norfolk (and, yes there were some fights, but no bench-clearing brawl), they could win the division. They are only 8 points out of first place, have several games in hand, and play division-leading Manchester (against whom their record is 6-1-0-2) three more times. Of course, they also play second-place Hartford four more times and Worcester, who is three points behind Lowell in a tie for fourth, once (which is good, because Worcester seems to have Lowell's number).

Some interesting stats that I picked up from the Web broadcasts of Lowell games:

- As of February 6, their record was 19-1-0-1 when leading after 2nd period. They had only won 1 game when they scored less than three goals.
- As of January 20, their record was 7-2-0-1 when they trailed after one period (Lowell had only six wins all of last year when behind at the end of the first period).
- On January 14, Lowell scored their seventh shutout in 35 games, which was a team record - and Cam Ward got the win.
- Their first shutout loss of the season did not come until a 3-0 loss to Portland on February 4.

Eric Staal and Colin Forbes continue to rotate with Chuck Kobasew as the team points leader, and all three are leaders in the plus/minus standings.

**Eric Staal** had a 12-game point-scoring streak (franchise record) that ended with the team's first shutout loss of the season on February 4. Staal is tied for the AHL lead with five shorthanded goals, is tied for ninth in the league with 59 points, and is fourth in the league with +30. And boy is he a joy to watch move the puck down the ice.

**Colin Forbes** is tied for 15th in the league with 54 points and tied for first in the league (with Chuck Kobasew) with +32. He also has six power-play goals.

**Mike Zigomanis** has five power-play goals (entire team only has 44), two shorthanded goals, and is fourth on the team with 43 pts.

**Chad Larose** is in only his second professional year. Last year he played 41 games in the ECHL and 36 games with Lowell. This season he has +8 and 31 pts (15g, 16a) in 45 games with Lowell - including two hat tricks. He is also tied for the team lead with eight power-play goals.

**Cam Ward**, the Canes first-round pick in the 2002 draft, has a record of 20-10-3-5. Ward is third in the AHL for GAA (1.95) and first for save percentage (.938). He is tied for 11th in total wins, although he is tied for 19th in number of games played.

**Ryan Bayda** has 29 pts (10g, 19a), three power-play goals, and one shorthanded goal.

**Danny Richmond** has 12 pts (3g, 9a), +6, and 77 penalty minutes in 43 games.

**Allan Rourke** has 14 pts (6g, 8a), +6, 50 penalty minutes, and two shorthanded goals in 38 games.

**Bruno St Jacques** has 13 pts and 42 penalty minutes in 50 games. He is tied for tenth in the league with +20.

### What's on the Horizon?

If you need a hockey fix about the time an NHL season would end, check out the NCAA Frozen Four (the Final Four for hockey). The 2005 championship will be played at Ohio State and televised by ESPN2. The semifinal games are on Thursday, April 7, and the championship game is at 7:00 pm on Saturday, April 9.

### Trivia from "AHL Quick Hits" e-mails

Jeff Ulmer of Hershey has scored a goal in seven straight games, matching the longest such streak in the AHL since **Matt Cullen** scored in eight straight for Cincinnati in 1997-98. (Can't wait to see Matt score like that for the Canes.)

### Did You Know.....

Danny Richmond's father played for the New York Rangers, Detroit Red Wings, New Jersey Devils, and Los Angeles Kings during an NHL career that spanned 1983-1989.

**To sign up for AHL e-mail news**, go to <http://www.theahl.com> and click on the ad for the AHL Insider.

**To listen to Lowell Lock Monsters games**, go to <http://www.lockmonsters.com> and click on the "Listen Live Monsters Webcast" graphic on the left side of the page.

## ECHL/Everblades Report

*by Steve Meyers*

Deb and I took our second ECHL hockey trip February 11-14. On the 11<sup>th</sup> we drove to Charlotte for a game between the Charlotte Checkers and the Gwinnett Gladiators. Charlotte jumped out to a 2-goal lead with less than four minutes gone in the 1<sup>st</sup> period. The Gladiators game back with a goal at 6:09 of the first. The Checkers reestablished their two-goal lead by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> period. In the second period the teams scored a goal apiece.

Just when it looked like the Checkers had the game under control the Gladiators scored a pair of goals 21 seconds apart tying the game at 11:43 of the third period. But Charlotte was not to be denied and scored the winning goal with 6:03 to go in the third period. Watch for Dusty Jamieson. He had a hat trick and is expected to move up to the AHL soon.

The Checkers are lobbying for a new stadium. And boy do they need it. Of the six ECHL arenas we have visited it finishes 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a crowd of 5,000. The hockey was exciting but the crowd acted

like they were at a funeral. And this from a team that is leading its division.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> we drove to the Northeast corner of Atlanta where the Gwinnett Gladiators play. That night they were hosting the Florida Everblades, so of course we wore the Hurricane colors and supported the Blades. There was a crowd of 7,000 in a stadium that looked like a miniature RBC center – the nicest of the arenas that we have visited (and much more excitement than the previous night). The one surprise was the lack of jerseys. In all of the other parks many fans had the jersey of the local team (or since many of the teams are close together the opposing team). I expected to see many Thrasher Jerseys since the Gladiators are a farm team of Atlanta, but saw few.

What a game. Close all the way. The Everblades trailed in the third period 2-1. The goalie was pulled and with 33 seconds to go in the third period the Blades tied the game. The overtime period was scoreless so the game went to a shootout. After five shots apiece the game was still tied. It then went to a sudden death shootout, which the Blades won, on the next set of shots.

Sunday morning we left Atlanta for an afternoon game in Greenville. The Grrrowl hosted the Louisiana IceGators. The crowd was smaller at 3,000 than the other ECHL games we have attended. I suspect a lot has to do with a non division opponent. The east division has four teams in South Carolina and the other two, Charlotte and Augusta, on the border. You tend to see lots of people traveling to see their team on the road. We did see several IceGators jerseys so those Louisianans must like their hockey.

We could not believe our luck at the 3<sup>rd</sup> outstanding hockey game in three days. Greenville scored at 1:02 of the first period and 2:02 of the second to take the lead. At this point they were outplaying the Gators. Then the Gators took over with goals at 4:16, 5:00 and 12:11 minutes in the second period. The Grrrowl continued their pattern of scoring early in the period with a goal at 2:49 in the third. It may not appear from the score, but the goalies were outstanding. Marsters of Louisiana faced 40 shots while Brodeur of Greenville faced 44. Tied at the end of three periods and no goals in the OT, so we again go to a shoot out. Much to the delight of the home town fans the Grrrowl scored on it first three shots while Brodeur stopped the first three from the Gators, giving the Grrrowl the extra point.

*Got a minor league hockey story to tell? Write about it for the newsletter. Send copy to Bill Horner at [bhorner3@sanfordherald.com](mailto:bhorner3@sanfordherald.com)*

## Board elections set for April meeting

Elections will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> by secret ballot following the CHBC membership meeting. If an eligible member cannot attend the April meeting, they may request an absentee ballot from Vice President Patrick Drollinger. This ballot must be returned by certified mail to Patrick via the CHBC PO Box before the election meeting. A short platform (limited to 3 minutes) will be done by each of the candidates during the April meeting.

The following is a brief description of the Offices open for nominations. A more detailed version is available at [www.hurricanesboosters.org/chbcinfo/bylaws.html](http://www.hurricanesboosters.org/chbcinfo/bylaws.html).

**President:** Presides at all meetings as well as board of directors meetings, main liaison between the club and the Hurricanes, responsible for final editing on club newsletter and is responsible for preparation of the annual budget.

**Vice President:** Assumes duties of President in their absence or if that position is vacated by current president, becomes election chairperson and is responsible for election committee, checks ID's of all members attending meeting, responsible for preparation of the annual budget, takes minutes of meetings in absence of the Secretary.

**Recording Secretary:** Keeps careful and accurate report of minutes at regular and board of directors meetings, keeps treasurer's report of balance in the minutes, keeps records of members attending all meetings.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Keeps and records all incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**Treasurer:** Receives and is responsible for all monies belonging to the club, keeping accurate records. Signs checks and pays bills present and authorized by the board of directors. Reports treasury status at all meetings. Helps prepare the annual budget.

**At-Large Member:** (1 year duration): Meets once a month, must attend all regular meetings and all board of director meetings, works club booth at the arena.

*- Lisa Wall, member since September 1998*

### The following candidates were nominated at the February and March meetings:

**President:**  
Edith Creasy

**Vice President:**  
Brian Williamson

**Recording Secretary:**  
Open

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Debra Meyers

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Meyers

**At Large Members:**  
Myra Wheeler  
Terry Byrnes  
Annette Hutchins  
Michelle Morris

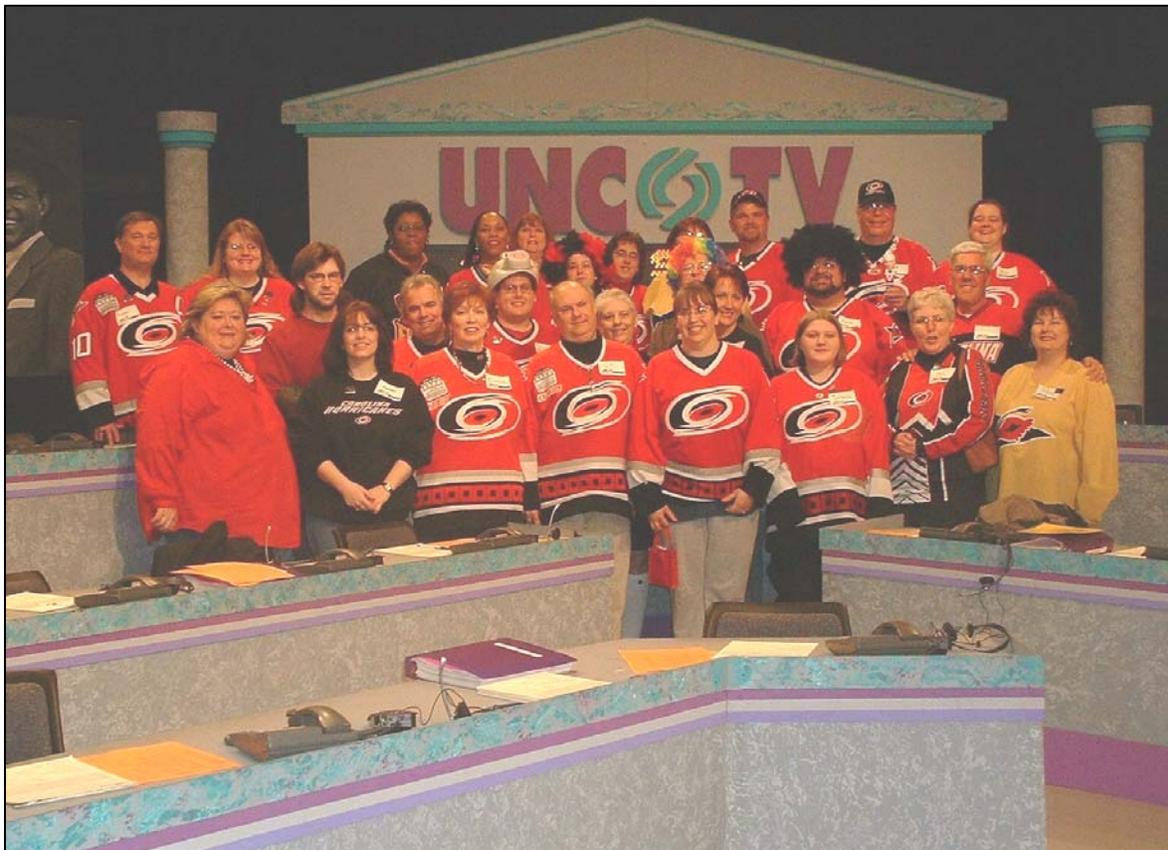
### NHL cancels 2005 Draft

The National Hockey League announced March 24 that the 2005 NHL Entry Draft events have been cancelled. The events had been scheduled for the weekend of June 25-26 at Corel Centre in Ottawa.

"In the absence of a Collective Bargaining Agreement, we are not able to conduct an Entry Draft in the traditional sense on the dates scheduled," said Bill Daly, NHL Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer. "We apologize to the fans who had planned to attend this great event or participate in Draft parties both at their local NHL arenas and elsewhere." No determination has been made as to when Ottawa will host an NHL Entry Draft, but the league hopes to bring a draft to Ottawa as soon as possible.

"We're sorry that our faithful hockey community will not be able to share their enthusiasm this year, but we have shown our commitment to the NHL that the Ottawa Senators are looking forward to bringing the Entry Draft to the National Capital Region as soon as possible," said Roy Mlakar, president and chief executive officer of the Ottawa Senators and Corel Centre.

## The UNC-TV Telethon: a Booster Club tradition continues!



*Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club members come together to help raise funds for UNC Public Television, a club tradition since 1998.*

The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club volunteered its time a few Saturdays ago to answer phones and take pledges for the University of North Carolina Public Television system. This is the eighth year the Booster Club participated in the annual volunteer event with over 30 members participating.

"We filled the studio up!" exclaimed Vice President Patrick Drollinger, who gave two presentations about the Carolina Hurricanes and Booster Club activities during the live broadcast.

The Boosters shared the spotlight with special guest Jo Anne Castle, the pianist from the Lawrence Welk Show. Ms. Castle kept the pledges coming in that night by showcasing her fantastic piano playing.

"Many grew up watching her on TV," said long-time Booster Club member Lisa Wall. "She was equally as nice in person."

It was a very successful and productive evening, with the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club members helping UNC-TV raise more than \$1 million in pledges during Festival 2005. UNC-TV Festival 2005 continued through March 26. For more information about UNC-TV or to make a pledge, please visit the UNC TV website at [www.unctv.org](http://www.unctv.org).

- Lisa Wall