

HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 8, No. 5

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

Summer 2005

CBA resolved; boosters celebrate with Jorge Alves

July 13th is a day hockey fans will remember for a long time. The dispute between the owners and players over the collective bargaining agreement was announced resolved on this evening and the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club happened to have a meeting scheduled. Coincidence? I think not!

Jorge Alves, former NC State Hockey Club goalie and Southern Professional Hockey League player, was the honored guest as media from the *Raleigh News & Observer* and *Durham Herald-Sun* looked on. Jorge talked to the club about the basics of goaltender gear from the pads to the mask. The guinea pig for Jorge's demonstration was yours truly, John Gallagher. The shards of dignity were tossed away for a long thirty minutes that brought me new respect for the goaltender position.

The first items displayed showed a brief history lesson on goalie equipment with items from the 1930s. Jorge had a pair of skates and stick from that time period. The stick was all wood and with no curve, very different from the sticks made of graphite we sometimes see in today's NHL.



John Gallagher, left, takes direction from SPHL Goaltender Jorge Alves at the July CHBC Meeting

Goaltenders are a superstitious lot and Mr. Alves is certainly no exception. Jorge made sure I put every piece of equipment left side first. We started with the long johns, t-shirt, socks and cup. Next, it was the goalie pants and skates (conveniently not put on for the demonstration so I could remain standing). Then I put on the leg pads, neck protector, chest protector, jersey, mask, gloves and blocker. The equipment, as a whole, weighs about 15-20 pounds when dry.

Some of the pricier pieces of goaltender equipment included the goalie pants (\$200-\$300), the chest protector (\$400), mask without the paint job (\$900-\$2,000). Total cost of goalie equipment ranges from \$3,000 - \$4,000. Attempting to stop a Styrofoam puck in front of my peers on the night when

the CBA agreement was settled: PRICELESS! Many thanks to Jorge Alves for providing the experience and expertise. It is a sure bet the CHBC will likely get out to see Jorge in action in the Southern Professional Hockey League this year.

---John Gallagher, CHBC Member

What's inside

2	President's Message / Edith Creasy	5	CHBC at NC State Games
3	Amateur Hockey Visits Boosters!	6	Boosters Visit Celebrity Golf Tourney
4	Face-Off: NHL Rule Changes	7	Cheapseats / Jeff Harrod

Hockey Day in Carolina: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sunday, August 14th

Officers & Directors

Edith Creasy

President
edith@hurricanesboosters.org

Brian Williamson

Vice President
bwilliamson3@nc.rr.com

Steve Meyers

Treasurer
steveanddeb@nac.net

Pete Peters

Recording Secretary
pete@bpdsonline.com

Debra Meyers

Corresponding Secretary
steveanddeb@nac.net

At-Large Board Members

Terry Byrne

tlcbyrne@aol.com

Annette Hutchens

ahutchens@earthlink.net

Michelle Morris

mlmorris70@earthlink.net

Myra Wheeler

mew12058@aol.com

Committee Chairmen

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

Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

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

Send newsletter submissions to:
bhorner3@sanfordherald.com

Newsletter deadline:

September 1st for the
September 2005 Issue

President's Message

CHBC President Edith Creasy

As I start my term as President of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club, I look back on a painful season, a roller coaster of a season (especially in February) - but also a season during which my love of hockey grew. And I look forward with great anticipation, now that the CBA has been signed, to the 2005-06 season.

Because of our cancelled season, I attended AHL (Lock Monsters), SPHL (FireAntz), and WHL (Calgary Hitmen) games and met Booster Club members that I would probably never have met if I had 'Canes games to watch. At all levels of hockey I found fans that are as passionate about their teams as I am about the Hurricanes, and players that are fun to watch, including WHL players that won't be old enough for the NHL Draft for a year or two yet! I discovered that NC State has a hockey team. By getting involved with the NC State Games this June, I learned that we also have some pretty good local women hockey players - including Emily Cole of the NC Trailblazers. I hope that each of you found ways to maintain your love of hockey while our 'Canes were off the ice.

With the new CBA, the NHL and the NHLPA have formed a partnership that will hopefully bring peace, financial stability, and fan growth to the best game in the world. The 'Canes will make changes - some new faces coming (we should finally get to meet Martin Gerber, Frantisek Kaberle, and maybe Matt Cullen) and maybe some well-known faces leaving. There will be new rules to get used to, some of which we will like, some of which we won't (I am personally not a fan of the shootout), and some of which we might hardly notice.

The Hurricanes are also forging a new partnership with their fans, of which the Booster Club is an important part. As we go through the year, the Booster Club and the 'Canes will be working together to offer new and exciting ways to get to know the 'Canes players, coaches, and staff, and to get our local communities involved with them.

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

The first preseason game is Friday, September 16, at the RBC Center against the Washington Capitals. Let's get the word out to our friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, whomever we meet - NHL hockey, the greatest game in the world, is back!

GO 'CANES!!

Edith

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hockey Day in Carolina

**Come out to Coolsports from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday,
August 14, and celebrate hockey in the Carolinas!**

Amateur hockey visits the CHBC

by Edith Creasy
CHBC President

The speakers at the June 15, 2005 meeting of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club each provided insight into the local world of amateur hockey.

Robin Farkas, who recruited the speakers, writes Carolina Hockey Magazine. His introduction of the speakers stressed the importance of supporting the players at all ages and levels of experience - from mites through bantam travel teams to college teams. It's on teams like those that we'll raise future NHL players.

Mark McElligott is Goaltending and Assistant Coach for the NC State Men's Club Hockey team. Did you know that State has had a men's

hockey team since 1978? It's not a widely-known fact, in part because it is a club sport, not a school sport. The difference at the club level is almost \$1000 per player per season. Hockey players at State must pay that much to play the game. Coaches do not get paid anything to coach - they are all volunteers.

Mark is proud of the caliber of players they have and the reputation that the NC State program is getting. They are currently ranked third in the Southeast. Some of their players have transferred to NC State from NCAA Division II or III schools. State is also finding recruits locally - they expect one of next year's goaltenders to be from the East Coast Eagles.

Mike Verbic, the next speaker that evening, is

Director of the Upper House of RYHA and the USA Hockey Coaching Director for North and South Carolina. USA Hockey is divided into eleven districts, of which the Southeast is the fastest growing. It is assumed that a hockey coach knows how to play hockey. Mike teaches them how to coach - the skills that help them bring out the best in a player.

Raleigh Youth Hockey Association (RYHA) was started 18 years ago. Its programs range from Learn-to-Play to house leagues to Tier II Travel teams. The house leagues include teams for all ages. The classifications, from youngest to oldest, are: mini mite (youngsters about age 4-6, like the ones we

enjoy between periods at the RBC Center), mite, squirt, peewee, bantam, and midget (age 15-18).

USA Hockey has a national development camp in Ann Arbor, MI for 17- and 18-year-olds. They spend their days attending high school and training to be better hockey players. They also learn a second sport - boxing. That's right, boxing. No, it's not so they can be better fighters on the ice (although for some it comes in handy). It teaches them how to fall safely (fall, not dive) when checked hard and how to ward off hits, whether from someone's glove or a high-flying puck. If you missed Phil Kessel, one of their players at last winter's World Junior Championships, be sure to look for him at the 2006 NHL Draft. He's a future NHL star.

The next speaker was Colin

Muldoon, Director of Hockey and Head Hockey Coach at Impact Athletics. He was on the ice against Bates Battaglia and Kevyn Adams in college and played

in the USHL. He said 70 percent of goals are made off rebounds. That explains why getting big bodies that are willing to hang around the front of the net and fight for the puck is so important to a team.

One skill that he emphasized was that good players always show a good target to teammates. Face the puck-carrier as much as possible and have your stick ready to receive a pass if one comes your way.

Pat Allen, the last speaker of the evening, is Director of the East Coast Eagles Youth Hockey Club. The club has teams from mite through midget that compete at the Tier II A/AA level. The club's teams compete against teams in three East Coast leagues, but they

are not in a league themselves. Pat and his staff try to schedule games such that their teams achieve at least a .500 record. They think that is a good way to keep players from getting discouraged (you cannot reach .500 with long losing streaks), especially at younger ages.

Andrew Barron, one of the East Coast Eagles hockey coaches, also runs the pro shop at The Factory Ice House in Wake Forest. Recently the CCM representative stated to him that there are currently 450,000 hockey players in the U.S. and 570,000 in Canada. Hockey lives! And the NHL will be back on the ice soon!



Mark McElligott, assistant coach for the NCSU Men's Hockey Club

Local amateur hockey websites:

www.ncstatehockey.org
www.usahockey.com
www.impactathleticsnc.com
www.eceagles.com
www.ryha.org

Free copies of Carolina Hockey Magazine are available at any local ice rink

Play game as it was intended!

OK. I get the point. Scoring in the pre-lockout NHL was at a near historic low point. There were altogether too many tie games featuring little or no creativity and even less end-to-end action. I get it already. I'm well aware of the good intentions of the league office as they attempt to bring a little zip back to the game with some rules changes, and of the necessity of some sort of action.

I don't know how you all spent your time off from real-time NHL action, but I took the odd chance to watch some NCAA games on Fox Sportsnet and to take a look back at some old NHL games on ESPN Classic. Not only did these games serve to ease my hockey jones, but I realized what exactly was the problem with the game as played in the modern NHL. Obstruction.

I know that you're thinking that I'm a bit dim in pointing out the obvious, but I'm being serious here. The powers that be in NCAA hockey didn't like what they saw happening to their product either, but rather than mess around with goalie equipment, the dimensions of the rink and other tweaks, those guys decided to simply enforce the existing rules regarding obstruction. No more water skiing behind a skater, no more body checks on wingers without the puck, no more clutching and grabbing. Call everything. The first month or so was predictable, as early season games often featured as much time on either the kill or the power play as even strength, but by Tournament time there was actual flow back in college hockey. Scoring didn't really go up, but the game was suddenly watch-able again. I loved the Frozen Four this year.

Now look back at those old NHL games, and not just the ones from the go-go 80s either. Sure, one of the first things you notice is standup goalies in smallish brown pads (and the lack of advertising on the dasher boards), but as you watch something else start to unfold. There was nobody clogging up the flow of the game by holding a wing in the neutral zone. There was nobody holding a check along the boards in the corner for 20 seconds just to keep their check from beating them back into the play. Defensive strategy seemingly didn't include a trap of any kind, but clearly didn't include out and out holding either. Forget the idea that there's something wrong with the game. The game isn't the problem. It's the way that we've allowed the game to be played and coached that's the problem. Fix that and the little tweaks can finally stop.

- Jeff Harrod, CHBC Member

Change is long overdue

Saying the NHL is at rock bottom would be an overstatement. It does not get any worse for the league after losing a season. To get the casual fan back and get them to forget about the labor dispute that erased the 2004-05 season, rule changes are an immediate answer. Prior to this, the NHL attempted to enforce obstruction and that did very little to increase the scoring or add any excitement.

The first and most welcome change in my opinion is the addition of the overtime shootout during the REGULAR SEASON and I can't stress that enough. I do not want to see a playoff series or the Stanley Cup decided based on a shootout. A shootout brings the fans on their feet at the end of the overtime period and showcases the best shooters from each team. Is there a better way to showcase an NHL talent than a one-on-one against the goalie? I think not. Showcasing the players has to be one of the main objectives in the new NHL and the only other real showcase the NHL has is the Stanley Cup playoffs, which takes 82 games to get to and at \$45 a pop, it just seems unfair to the fan to leave him or her hanging with a draw. Why not add a little spice to the game while we wait?

Further to the showcase point is the proposals geared towards the NHL goaltender. Reducing the width of the goalie pads from 12 to 11 inches and having stricter standards on other goalie gear will have a minimal impact. Most goaltenders move like a slinky and can probably more than make up for a couple of less inches in the equipment.

Making the nets bigger would make a statement that the NHL is more serious about increased scoring. Giving the 'tender more area to cover will give the skaters more margin to knock the puck in the net. As evolution continues to make hockey players bigger and stronger, starting with the net makes sense.

Removing the center redline will hopefully lead to more fast breaks and the tag-up offsides may work well in an environment with the hurry-up face-off.

A few tweaks in the rules is certainly nothing new as the game has evolved significantly over the past 20 years. The game itself is certainly exciting enough without all these changes, but the NHL needs bait in a hurry to entice the casual fan back into the fold and rebuild its fan base after losing a season. There is no time like the present to improve the product.

- John Gallagher, CHBC Member

Booster Club volunteers lend a hand at 2005 NC State Games

The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club started the summer by getting involved in the NC State Games as a way to show support for participation in hockey throughout North Carolina.

Since there was no NHL season this year to keep momentum going for the game in our area, it became even more important to see the sport thriving at the youth level. Because of the lockout, this was the first opportunity for many of booster club members to get involved in person with the minor league and youth hockey in the state.

Between the in-line hockey weekend at the Apex Dream Sports Center and the 3 ice hockey weekends in Garner at the Garner Ice House and in Cary at the Cary Ice House, the CHBC had 15 volunteers. They were **John Gallagher, Patrick Drollinger, Pete Peters, Edith Creasy, Myra Wheeler, Annette Hutchens, Michelle Morris, Debra Meyers, Steve**

Meyers, Emily Stephenson, Lynnae Pagels, Brian Williamson, Terry Byrne, Kris King and Wayne Stephenson. The CHBC volunteered all 4

weekends for the hockey events, June 4th and 5th, 11th and 12th, 18th and 19th, and 25th and 26th.

I enjoyed working with the kids at the in-line hockey tournament. I was amazed at the skill level shown in such young players. I also thought it was great that there were so many female players playing in all positions on these teams, including several goalies.

From talking to all the CHBC volunteers, this was a worthwhile event for the club to be involved in. We definitely think this is something the club would like to look into next year as a way to spread the interest in the great sport of hockey across the Triangle.

- **Myra Wheeler,**
CHBC Board Member



CHBC President Edith Creasy assists with the medal ceremony at the 2005 NC State games at Dream Sports Center in Apex

CBA Q&A: player salaries

What is the length of the new CBA? The CBA is six years in duration (through the 2010-11 season) with the NHLPA having the option to re-open the agreement after Year Four (after the 2008-09 season). The NHLPA also has the option of extending the CBA for an additional year at the end of the term.

What will be the players' share of League-wide revenues? The players' share will be 54% to the extent League revenues in any year are below \$2.2 billion; 55% when League revenues are between \$2.2 billion and \$2.4 billion; 56% when League revenues are between \$2.4 billion and \$2.7 billion, and 57% when League revenues in any year exceed \$2.7 billion.

What will be the range of Club payrolls? The payroll range in Year One (2005-06) of the CBA will be \$21.5 million (U.S.) at the lower limit and \$39 million (U.S.) at the upper limit. A Club's payroll will include all salaries, signing bonuses and performance bonuses paid to players.

Is there a maximum an individual player may earn? Yes. No player may be eligible to contract for or receive in excess of 20% of the Club's upper limit in total annual compensation (NHL salary plus signing, roster, reporting and all performance bonuses). In 2005-06, no player will be permitted to contract for total compensation in excess of \$7.8 million in any year of his contract.

What is the new minimum NHL player salary? The minimum NHL player salary in 2005-06 and 2006-07 will be \$450,000; \$475,000 in 2007-08 and 2008-09; \$500,000 in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and \$525,000 in 2011-12 (to the extent the CBA is extended by the Union).

Boosters find hockey celebrities and more at Myrtle Beach golf tournament

by Annette Hutchens
CHBC Board Member

Neither rain nor hail nor wicked thunderstorms could keep these hockey fans from meeting two great hockey legends! Although we were sidetracked a bit in Fayetteville due to the weather, it cleared in time and we were blessed with a glorious, cloudless spring day for our day at the **Monday After the Masters (MAM)**, an annual, celebrity, pro-am, charity golf tournament sponsored by the band, **Hootie And The Blowfish**, in Myrtle Beach.

While dodging wildly thrown golf clubs, (thrown intentionally in a golf club throwing contest, I might add) and ducking to avoid drives gone horribly awry, we met sports greats such as former Chicago Bears quarterback **Jim McMahon** and **Joe Jacoby** along with a few of golf's current masters **John Daly** and **Ryan Grant**. There were also a few actors trying their hands at the game. We met Jason Isaacs, the villain from Mel Gibson's film, *The Patriot*; Michael O'Keefe, the Caddy from the classic comedy, *Caddyshack*, and **D.B. Sweeney**, from *The Cutting Edge*, who sends his regards to his 'pal' Bret Hedican. We also met the members of the band

Hootie And The Blowfish at which point we discovered that drummers, much like goalies, are their own breed of human. Jim Sonefeld wanted up close and personal photos of his golf teammates so he laid facedown on the green and took pictures of the golfers' feet and golf balls with his disposable camera...you had to be there.

But...the real reason for our little jaunt to Myrtle Beach came in the form of one **Grant Fuhr**; former netminder for the Edmonton Oilers (circa Wayne Gretzky) and the St. Louis Blues and five-time winner of the Stanley Cup. He is among the first African American goaltenders in the NHL and the very first to be inducted in the Hall Of Fame (2003).

Mr. Fuhr was wonderfully kind and generous, posing for photos and signing pretty much anything we put in front of him. Even his entourage noted our approach with a smile, declaring, "Here come the hockey people". In short, he was the coolest.

We can now say that after meeting Philadelphia Flyers' forward **Jeremy Roenick**, he rocks! After his golf team was relieved of having to complete the previous hole by a lucky eagle, which was loudly celebrated by Mr. Roenick, (we heard him coming five minutes before he got there) he stood for almost ten minutes for conversation, autographs and photos.

He loved the matted photos we brought for his signature, especially the one of his celebration of the goal that ended the series between the Flyers and the Maple Leafs in the 2004 Stanley Cup Playoffs, clearly stating that it was, and I quote, "...my favorite picture ever".

Both Grant Fuhr and Jeremy Roenick graciously took time to sign memorabilia for the CHBC and send their regards, thanking us for our hard work and dedication to the sport and our many causes.



Michelle Morris, left, with Hall-of-Famer Grant Fuhr, Myra Wheeler and Annette Hutchens



Michelle with Flyers' star Jeremy Roenick

NHL, NHLPA settle labor dispute; healing begins

Done deal?

The NHL and the NHL Players Association have agreed to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement. You know what? I was starting to think that I might never actually type those words. As of this writing, 301 long, tedious days have passed since the expiration of the old labor agreement, but it has seemed like a lot more in many ways. If you'll recall I was one of the few commentators that was even close to optimistic that the two parties could hammer out an agreement in sufficient time to avoid a work stoppage back in 2004. I missed the boat by a mere 10 months or so. I guess I better return that crystal ball.

What does this mean for the Canes?

OK. Now what about the Carolina Hurricanes? How will the new economic system impact the roster and the plans of the club as we go forward with a season this fall? Man. That's really just hard to say right now. With the players accepting a salary rollback of 24% and the new qualifying levels for unrestricted free agents still not known, it is unclear how many of the players on the Hurricanes' last active roster will be in Raleigh for the opening of training camp sometime this September. In all likelihood, there will be a large pool of unrestricted free agents once the dust settles and that this pool will include some high end talent, but specifics are few and far between.

Right now it appears that the Hurricanes will not take the option of buying out any players who are still under contract to the team. That means that six locker spaces will be used for returning players Rod Brind'Amour, Bret Hedican, Eric Staal, Nic Wallin and Aaron Ward. Two more will go to newcomers Frank Kaberle and Martin Gerber, and that youngster Cam Ward will still be in the fold. From there it's anybody's guess.

What about the fans?

Obviously there is work to be done to rebuild trust with the fan bases in every NHL city, and that the non-traditional market teams like Carolina will have even more work in front of them. While the Canes have announced that ticket prices will basically stay at pre-lockout levels, those season ticket holders who chose to leave their funds on account will reap the benefit of some really deep discounts for the upcoming season.

"We want to make sure the people that have supported us day in, day out get the best deal possible," ticket representative Kyle Prairie said at the July 13th Booster Club Meeting.

The diehard hockey fans were going to return to the game no matter what, but it's still nice to see faith rewarded every so often. From there, it will be all about the product on the ice.

The NHL will also announce some rules changes in conjunction with the CBA specifics that the league hopes will open up scoring and flow in the games and thus help to make the game more exciting. That will help, but only time heals the kinds of wounds left behind when a league melts down like the NHL did over the last 301 days.

It took Cal Ripken chasing down the consecutive games record and a home run record chase to breathe life back into Major League Baseball when labor strife cost them a World Series. There is simply no telling what will serve as the catalyst for recovery by the NHL. Will it be more scoring? Will it be the presence of an impact player like draft-eligible Sidney Crosby? Will it be lower ticket prices down the road? Will it be the free agent feeding frenzy likely to be triggered by the new salary cap? We just don't know.

I love this game!

Personally I'd like to think that the simple allure of the game itself, played in the best league in the world by the best players in the world, would be enough to bring the fans back over time. That's what has been missing in much of the media coverage of the NHL's work stoppage. The game of hockey, even defensive minded hockey, is the real draw. Yeah, the star players catch our attention. The local team wins our support. The Stanley Cup Playoffs are the best post season in pro sports. All that is true, but at the end of the day the great game of hockey played at an elite level is what it's all about.

GO CANES!

One subtle irony of the resolution – each National Hockey League team’s entire schedule of 82 games gets wiped out by a labor agreement, and the lockout gets settled 301 days later at the 82nd negotiations meeting – will be overlooked by many observers.

The other irony – that there’ll be a salary cap after all – won’t.

There will be hockey this season. The NHL and the National Hockey League Players’ Association, known (for now, anyway) as the players’ union, announced Wednesday that they’ve reached an agreement “in principle” on the terms of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. Details of the long-awaited agreement, which was said to be imminent the last week or two, won’t be made public until the CBA is formally ratified by both the NHL’s Board of Governors (the team owners) and the NHLPA (the players). That’ll likely take a week. Once the new CBA is finally scrutinized and focus returns to the real business of hockey – teams being assembled, schedules made and training camps started – the stark reality that we wasted a season (the collective “we” meaning the players AND the fans) will settle upon us.

It didn’t have to happen this way. But it did, and now that a 2005-2006 season is imminent, where does that leave the game and its fans? With some burning questions. Among them:

How serious will the roster shake-ups be?

With ratification done, the next step is for teams to be preparing for a season to begin in early October. In the meantime, a weighted draft lottery, held to determine draft order (there was no season, so no “worst” or “best” team) took place July 21 and hockey’s annual entry draft on July 30 in Ottawa.

But the real fun will be watching teams take shape. Three teams (Washington, Boston and the New York Islanders) have only four players under contract, and others (particularly Detroit) are already perilously close to the projected cap – and the Red Wings have only 16 players signed. Clearly, the work remaining to be done by the league’s general managers to put together rosters between now and the start of training camps in September is huge.

Expect frenzy. Some of the game’s biggest names (Peter Forsberg, Mike Modano and Nikolai Khabibulin) are unrestricted free agents. But the list of restricted free agents – mostly younger players who are due qualifying offers from their clubs – is even more impressive. That means that under the right circumstances, teams with low existing average player salaries (notably Boston and borderline playoff teams like Edmonton, Buffalo, Chicago and Nashville) could become legitimate Stanley Cup contenders with a just a few key signings.

And in practically every market, there’ll be so many new players that the players themselves could need name tags well past Thanksgiving.

Close to home, the Carolina Hurricanes have only seven players (Rod Brind’Amour, Bret Hedican, Aaron Ward, Frantisek Kaberle, Martin Gerber, Eric Staal and Niclas Wallin) under contract, with nearly \$12 million committed in payroll, plus soon-to-be-rookie goalie Cam Ward. Three of the team’s best offensive talents (Jeff O’Neill, Erik Cole and Justin Williams) are restricted free agents, and assuming that the Canes won’t reach the salary cap (the team’s average payroll has been around \$34 million the last few years), the roster will probably be filled at an average of around \$1 million per player. So even though the Canes need talent (speculation is that O’Neill won’t be re-signed), don’t look for much firepower to be added unless, by some quirk, owner Peter Karmanos decides to open his checkbook like never before.

What will the game look like?

It should be more exciting and, with a cap creating some semblance of parity, more competitive.

One of the benefits of the lockout was that there was plenty of time to examine the plodding pace the game sometimes exhibits. Sources say the league is examining as many as 13 rule changes that would increase scoring chances and “change the culture” of the game, making it more entertaining. Among them: reducing the size of goaltending equipment, enlarging the goals, moving to no-touch icing, eliminating the center line (to open up passing opportunities), allowing zero tolerance for interference away from the puck and – after months of debate – eliminating ties by adding shootouts.

Will the fans come back?

Yes. But how often? That remains to be seen. The most interesting commentary on the state of fandom during the lockout came from Hall of Famer Ken Dryden, a former Montreal Canadiens goalie, Toronto Maple Leafs president and one of the keenest observers the game has ever known. The reaction to the lost season by fans in Canada, he said, showed that perhaps hockey wasn’t that nation’s obsession. Maybe, he speculated, it was just “a habit” instead.

Rule changes will increase scoring and scoring chances and should therefore increase the interest level of borderline fans and more readily attract new ones. Parity levels the playing field and will weaken the stronghold that rich teams like Detroit and Colorado and Philadelphia have on the league. But in smaller, softer markets like Carolina, whether that’s enough to ensure fiscal success is an even bigger question.



Hockey Day in Carolina

Celebrating Hockey in the Carolinas

WHEN: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, August 14th

WHERE: Coolsports and Surrounding Parking Lot
3031-101 Capital Blvd
Raleigh, NC 27604
919-877-0500
www.coolsports.com

WHY: Because Hockey is Back!!!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- * Coolsports Annual Hockey Sale
- * 4 vs. 4 Street Hockey Tourney (Subject to Availability)
- * Meet Stormy the Carolina Hurricanes Mascot
- * Food and Beverages
- * Edy's ice cream for sale
- * Demo the Latest in Video Hockey Games Courtesy of EB Games
- * Much, Much, More...

**Join in the fun!
Let's Go CANES!**



If you have hockey equipment or old jerseys and socks, bring them along to help fill the Carolina Hockey Toyota Sienna van provided by Leith Automotive. All donated items will be given to the Raleigh Youth Hockey Association to use for their scholarship fund.

There will be tables set up for local hockey groups, including the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club - that's us! We will be holding a bake sale and raffling off a 2002-03 team-signed hockey stick. All proceeds will go toward the Build-a-Bear project.

NHL Rule Changes / Edith Creasy, CHBC President

What will the new NHL be like?

The NHL has changed from the last time that we saw NHL players on the ice. There isn't enough space here to go into the financial aspects of the new CBA. However, here's some highlights of what we can expect on the ice this coming season:

Training Camp

For the 2005-06 season, training camp will be a maximum of 23 days for veteran players and 30 days for all other players. (In future seasons, the limits will be 20 days and 27 days.) So, look for training camp to start around Labor Day.

Participation in the Olympics

NHL players will participate in the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy. Because there will be no NHL games for about two weeks during the Olympics, there will be no NHL All-Star Game in 2006.

Shootout

The shootout, which was used in the AHL last season, has been included in the NHL rule changes. Fans that have been frustrated with ties will no longer be frustrated. With the shootout, no game will end in a tie.

How will it work? If a game is tied at the end of regulation, one five-minute four-on-four overtime period will be played. If, at the end of the overtime period, the game is still tied, three players from each team will take alternating penalty shots against the opposing goaltender. If the score is still tied after all six players have shot, then the shootout will go to sudden death.

Changes to the rink

The goal lines will be moved two feet closer to the end boards, and the size of the neutral zone will be reduced from 54 feet to 50 feet. Those two changes add four feet to each of the offensive zones, which the League hopes will encourage more offensive play, especially on power plays.

Two-line passes

Center ice will continue to have a red line on it. However, for purposes of two-line passes, the red line will be ignored. Thus, passes from behind the defensive blue line to the attacking blue line will be considered legal.

Icing

For years, teams that iced the puck have been

penalized by a face-off in their defensive zone. Many times, despite the penalty, teams would ice the puck to make a line change. With the new NHL rules, a team that ices the puck cannot make a line change before the ensuing face-off. So, we might see fewer icing penalties.

Instigator rule

A player who instigates a fight in the final five minutes of a game will receive a game misconduct and an automatic one-game suspension. The player's coach will be fined \$10,000. For each additional incident, the length of the suspension and the amount of the coach's fine would double.

Trade deadline

The day that as fans we often dread, the trade deadline, will be moved from the 26th day to the 40th day immediately preceding the final day of the regular season.

Key dates

July 31
Deadline for Qualifying Offers

August 1
RFA/UFA Period Begins

August 5
Deadline for Election of Group 5 Free Agency

August 12
NHL/NHLPA to Schedule Arbitration Cases

August 15
Qualifying Offers Expire Automatically

August 22
First Day of Salary Arbitration Hearings

September 1
Last Day for Salary Arbitration Hearings

September 4
Last Day for Second Buy-Out Period (only for Clubs with Salary Arbitration Cases; Latest Day for Clubs Receiving Salary Arbitration Awards on September 2 to Exercise Second Buy-Out Option)

December 1
Signing Deadline for Group 2 Free Agents



Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club, Inc.

www.hurricanesboosters.org

2005 – Membership Application – 2006

Membership for the 2005-06 Season runs from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Please mail completed application to: CHBC, P.O. Box 20776, Raleigh, NC 27619

Name: _____	Birth Date: _____
Address: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone (H): _____	E-mail: _____
Employer: _____	Phone (W): _____
Referred by: _____	Season Ticketholder: <input type="checkbox"/> Section: _____ Row: _____ Seats: _____

Name: _____	Birth Date: _____
Employer: _____	Phone (W): _____
E-mail: _____	

Name: _____	Birth Date: _____
-------------	-------------------

Name: _____	Birth Date: _____
-------------	-------------------

Name: _____	Birth Date: _____
-------------	-------------------

Membership Benefits Include:

- 5% discount at "The Eye" for Hurricanes merchandise
- Monthly meetings with guest speakers, such as Hurricanes players, coaches, and the local media
- CHBC Storm Shelters (away-game parties), All-Star Party, and other Booster Club special events
- Trivia contests and raffles with prizes including Hurricanes and Booster Club merchandise
- Membership card
- Booster Club lapel pin (because of lockout will be same as 2004-05 pin)*

*If you were a member in 2004-05 and do NOT want another pin, please check here .

All members are subject to the Club's bylaws. The bylaws are available at the Club's Web site: www.hurricanesboosters.org. You have ten (10) days from the Club's receipt of your application to request a refund of your membership dues.

Signature: X _____

Memberships: (Check one)	
Adult (18 years +)-----	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family (2 adults + their children under 18 yrs.)-----	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Youth (5 - 18 years old)-----	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior (65 years +)-----	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Associate (living outside of NC, SC or VA)-----	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>

Office Use ONLY:	
Membership #: _____	Check #: _____
Member #: _____	Cash: _____
Member #: _____	Date Rec'd: _____
Member #: _____	Rec'd by: _____
Member #: _____	Sent: _____

Upcoming Events:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hockey Day in Carolina

Come out to Coolsports from
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday,
August 14, and celebrate
hockey in the Carolinas!

(More information on page 9)

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

CrossroadsPlaza; 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.carolinahurricanes.com

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

