

HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 9, No. 5

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

March 2006

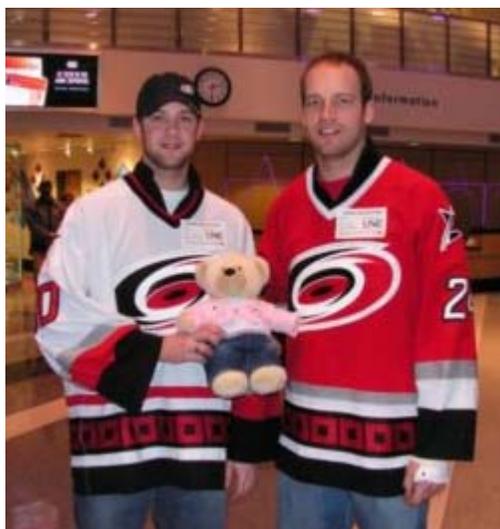
Second Annual Build-A-Bear Event a Success!

For the second year in a row, the Hurricanes Booster Club successfully built over 176 stuffed bears to NC Children's Hospitals in Chapel Hill. In fact, there were enough left over to bring some joy to the children's ward at Rex Hospital. The event raised over \$4,500 surpassing last year's total.

Last year, the Booster Club had plenty of time on their hands to coordinate community projects thanks to the lockout. With the Canes having their most successful season in franchise history, getting a group together to repeat last year's success was no easy task.

The tremendous efforts of many CHBC members would prevail. Members Ericka and Ariana Tinney made outstanding efforts in taking many donations from employees at Rex Healthcare. It was the generous donations by Rex Healthcare employees that brought in more than half the funds needed to build the bears.

Like last year, Hurricanes forward Kevyn Adams and his daughter contributed by building two bears that would be used in a silent auction and raffle to raise money for CHBC Build-A-Bear project in 2006. Member Bob Hagen won the silent auction and



Hurricanes goaltender Cam Ward and defenseman Andrew Hutchinson take a break from delivering bears and playing video games with the kids.

generously donated the bear back to the club so that it could be donated to a child in the hospital.

Several members of the Carolina Hurricanes family including Hurricanes players and staff were on hand to assist the boosters in building and delivering the fuzzy bundles of joy to the kids in the children's ward at NC Children's hospitals. Most notable were Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward and defenseman Andrew Hutchinson. Both players seemed a little apprehensive at first when they did not know what was expected of them, but then felt right at home when they discovered the hospital had video games. The two Hurricanes players spent time playing with the kids and bringing tears and smiles to everyone else around them.

Members Kate Stewart and Michelle Morris spent several hours typing in names and information for all the birth certificates for each bear.

The Hurricanes Booster Club would like to thank all that came out to assist with this project, especially anyone we may have forgotten to name here. Projects such as these do not work without having the generous folks like you coming out to support us with your time, talent, and treasure. We hope to see everyone out again when we do this project again next year.

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Next CHBC Meeting – Thursday, March 23rd at 7pm

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Newsletter deadline:

April 1st for the

April 2006 Issue

President's Message / Brian Williamson

Well the playoff push has begun, the Hurricanes have picked up Mark Recchi from the Pittsburgh Penguins at the trade deadline. Mr. Recchi comes to us ready to help the Hurricanes chase the Cup and bring it to the Carolinas. He is a six-time All-Star and is in his 17th season, he also waived his no-trade clause to come to Carolina. This is a very good sign that players want to come to the best team in the league. In return for Mark the Hurricanes sent Kolanos, Nordgren and a second-round pick in 2007 entry draft to Pittsburgh.

As most of you now know the Hurricanes have lost Erik Cole for the remainder of the regular season from a boarding incident coming from the Pittsburgh game on March 4th. Thankfully, Erik is expected to make a full recovery and will be back on the ice hopefully to join us in a very late spring/ early summer game at the RBC Center. The hit cost the offending player 3 games and around \$10,000 in missed salary. I will not go into how I personally feel about the incident, but needless to say the NHL should have made a better statement than a slap on the wrist for this type of infraction.

On a better note, we had George Brown from the fan relations department come and speak with us at our general meeting this past month. He was very informative and I think everyone enjoyed hearing about some of the things that go on behind the scenes with Stormy. Thank you again George for coming and your always welcome.

The next event we have coming up will be the **UNC Telethon on March 25th** starting at **10:30 am** and ending at **3:30**. This leads into our game that night against the Capitals. Our next general meeting will be **March 23rd** at the RBC Center and the speaker will be **Mr. Jim Rutherford, Hurricanes President and General Manager**.

As I write this the Hurricanes have a 3-point lead over the rest of the NHL and have only one loss due to a shoot out since the Olympic Break. Eric Staal was once again named NHL player of the week, an honor he has received three times this season.

Thank you,
Brian Williamson



Scoring help: Canes acquire gritty winger Mark Recchi to help fill the void left by Erik Cole's injury. Recchi recorded a hat trick on February 4th in a 7-5 loss to the Hurricanes.

Announcing the Cheap Seats All Star Teams

One seemingly forgotten casualty of the 2006 Winter Olympic break in the NHL was the 2006 All Star teams from each Conference. I didn't see a single hockey media outlet even make an attempt at naming their own version of an All Star roster for this season, and this column aims to correct that wrong. There is a full-fledged NHL season boiling all around us, and that means we deserve to name All Stars.

Eastern Conference Starters

Forwards – **Jaromir Jagr** (NYR), **Eric Staal** (Carolina), **Daniel Alfredsson** (Ottawa).

Jagr has led the NHL in goals for much of the 2005-06 season and has clearly returned to his All World form of previous seasons after several years of wandering. In my opinion Staal has been the best and most consistently dangerous center in the East this season, and he has avoided the injuries that have slowed many competitors for this spot. Alfredsson leads the most dangerous offensive attack in hockey and does everything at a very high level.

Defense – **Tomas Kaberle** (Tor), **Wade Redden** (Ott)

I prefer to reward defensemen who have an impact in all phases of the game rather than just reward the guys who score points. Tomas Kaberle has matured into a terrifically well rounded defenseman who eats minutes, makes great first pass and is reliable on the power play. Redden likewise does everything at an All Star level.

Goalie – **Henrik Lundqvist** (NYR)

While he's an NHL rookie, Lundqvist has been simply fantastic for the Rangers this season. His goals against average of 2.08 is good enough, but his .927 save percentage is off the hook.

Eastern Conference Reserves

Forwards – **Alex Ovechkin** (Wsh), **Dany Heatley** (Ott), **Marc Savard** (Atl), **Marian Hossa** (Atl), **Olli Jokinen** (Fla), **Peter Forsberg** (Phi), **Simon Gagne** (Phi), **Cory Stillman** (Car), **Brian Gionta** (NJD)

A decent number of the usual suspects in this bunch, but it is nice to see young players like Gionta and Ovechkin break through so convincingly. Savard and Stillman are under-appreciated guys who have simply played at an All Star level all season and thus deserve the nod.

Defense – **Brian McCabe** (Tor), **Zdeno Chara** (Ott), **Danny Boyle** (TBL), **Michal Rozsival** (NYR) OK, McCabe and Chara are obvious, but you have to look deeper to see how valuable Rozsival has been to a resurgent Rangers defense and how reliable Boyle has been for the Lightning.

Goalies – **Dominik Hasek** (Ott), **Ryan Miller** (Buf)



NY Rangers winger Jaromir Jagr returns to all-star form in 2005-06.

Hasek only missed the starting gig by the smallest of margins, while Miller might have earned it if not for time off with a broken thumb.

Western Conference Starters

Forwards – **Joe Thornton** (SJS), **Henrik Zetterberg** (Det), **Pavel Datsyuk** (Det)

The West really hasn't seen the number of high scoring forwards we've had in the East, so I went with the most consistently productive threesome.

Defense – **Nicklas Lidstrom** (Det), **Sergei Zubov** (Dal)

Oh how sublimely good these two veteran defensemen are in every phase of the game.

Goalie – **Tomas Vokoun** (Nsh)

Again, the most consistent producer gets the call.

Western Conference Reserves

Forwards – **Alex Tanguay** (Col), **Patrick Marleau** (SJS), **Markus Naslund** (Van), **Brian Rolston** (Min), **Jonathon Cheechoo** (SJS), **Shawn Horcoff** (Edm), **Joe Sakic** (Col), **Jason Arnott** (Dal), **Teemu Selanne** (Ana)

Defense – **Scott Niedermayer** (Ana), **Kimmo Timonen** (Nsh), **Lubomir Visnovsky** (LAK), **Philippe Boucher** (Dal)

Goalies – **Manny Fernandez** (Min), **Miikka Kiprusoff** (Cal)

Nice to see some emerging faces in the West as well. Zetterberg, Cheechoo, Horcoff, Boucher and Kiprusoff would be first time All Stars.

Now let's rent some ice time and let these two squads face off. The fans deserve an All Star celebration even in Olympic seasons.

Directions to UNC TV Studios:

From I-40 East (Chapel Hill/Greensboro):

- Take Exit 279B (Durham Freeway/Highway 147 North).
- Take the second exit (Alexander Drive).
- Turn left at the traffic light at the top of the exit ramp.
- Cross over the bridge and take the second right (approximately .5 mile).
- At this point, you should see signs for UNC-TV.**

[Note: If traveling I-40 East, you will see Exit 279A (To Alexander Drive/Durham Freeway South). Please do not take this exit as you will be on the opposite end of Alexander Drive from UNC-TV and increase your travel time.]

From I-40 West (Raleigh/RDU Airport)

1. Take Exit 279B (Durham Freeway/Highway 147 North).
2. Take the second exit (Alexander Drive).
3. Turn left at the traffic light at the top of the exit ramp.
4. Cross over the bridge and take the second right (approximately .5 mile).
5. At this point, you should see signs for UNC-TV.**

CHBC volunteer event for UNC TV

**Saturday
March 25th
10:30am-3:30pm**

Don't forget to wear your RED jersey!



HOCKEY CARDS 101: DO I BUY HOCKEY CARDS IN PACKS, BOXES, OR SINGLES?

If you buy your hockey memorabilia on a limited budget like me, you often have to be very selective in what you buy. There are just too many choices out there these days. One area I struggled with when I started collecting hockey cards was whether or not to buy cards in packs or boxes. There are certainly advantages and disadvantages of each.

BUYING CARD SINGLES

When buying cards in singles, the best places to go are card shows or the internet (i.e. Beckett.com, eBay). A couple of guidelines I follow when seeking a premium card like a rookie or jersey card:

1) **Have a Price Guide handy!** Most dealers are honest people and likely collectors too, but there are a few that mark up cards to make an extra buck. Be wary of stores and mall dealers. Sometimes dealers mark up so they can make a quick markdown to make you feel like you are getting a great deal. Never be afraid to ask for a lower price on a product. Becketts are usually reasonably priced at \$3.95 each or subscribe for \$24 annually. Be smart by knowing what a card is actually worth and knowing what you are willing to spend to get it.

2) **Collect what you like.** Time and space is limited and unless you want to become a hockey card dealer, pick up only those cards you truly want and don't pick up premium cards for investment purposes. In some cases, cards will retain and increase in value, but with so many products out there, it is unlikely you will make money from an investment in hockey cards.

3) **Stay away from the grab bags.** Some card show dealers offer grab bags which contain cards removed from packs and repackaged (usually in a brown bag) for resale. I have never had any luck when buying singles in this manner. Remember the dealer has already seen these cards so finding a gem in a grab bag is not likely to happen.

BUYING BY THE PACK

If you are truly an NHL fan first and like the mystery and surprise of randomness, but cannot afford to pay \$100+ for a box of packs, then buying by the pack is the right way to go.

Good local websites for Sports memorabilia and Card Shows:

www.insidepitch.com – Card shows normally in the Kerr Scott Building at the Fair Grounds.

www.ncproshows.com – hold athlete signings for local sports stars.

1) **Where to buy.** Again, card shops and the internet probably the best places to go to buy packs, but retail outlets such as Wal-Mart and Target have now started to stock limited quantities of hockey cards.

2) **Buy older packs.** Prices for a pack of cards can range anywhere from \$1.99 – over \$10 per pack depending on the card company and where you buy from. Packs from last season and season's prior can often be found cheaper than buying current year's cards. I personally enjoy buying older cards because players in today's NHL have often played for numerous teams.

3) **Lookee what I found** – there is no greater pleasure when buying a pack of cards than when you get lucky enough to pull an autographed or jersey card from a pack. Collectors that spend upwards of over \$100 for a box are lucky to get one jersey card per box.

BUYING HOCKEY CARDS BY THE BOX

For the hockey card buyer that loves to be surprised and get a ton of cards from all NHL teams, buying by the box is just for you. This is probably the most expensive method of buying hockey cards, but you do get bulk rate.

Check the odds. Although most boxes guarantee you will find at least one jersey, memorabilia, or autographed card in a box, it is important to check the fine print on any box you buy. Some may place the odds of finding such a card at 1:25 and there may only be 24 packs in the box. If unsure, ask the dealer or other collectors, but do beware that the bold print saying you could find that gem card could be misleading you.

Next month's article will be about autograph etiquette. GO CANES!

Boosters to Support Erik Cole's Fundraising Efforts for Oswego Library

The Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club will raffle an autographed Erik Cole replica jersey and a signed poster to support the Oswego public library. Tickets for the raffle will be \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 13 for \$10, or 30 for \$20. Tickets will be available at the CHBC booth during pre-game and 1^s and 2nd intermissions at all remaining home games and all home playoff games. There will be one winner drawn after the last home playoff game of the season.

Erik Cole's regular season-ending injury during the March 4th game at the Pittsburgh Penguins not only added a hurdle in the race for the President's Trophy, it also hurt the "Score for Oswego" campaign, Cole's charitable efforts to the Oswego public library in New York.

Erik generously promised to give \$1,000.00 per point this season to the Library's renovation and expansion project. Prior to his injury, Cole had scored a career-high 30 goals and 29 assists.

Most importantly, the Hurricanes Booster Club would like to wish Erik a speedy and complete recovery from the injury.

For more information concerning the Oswego Public Library call 341-5867 or go to www.oswegopubliclibrary.org



GET WELL SOON, ERIK!

Canes Behind in Southern Comfort Cup Race

The Southern Comfort Cup is the trophy awarded to the Southeast Division Booster Club that acquires the most points when playing other participating Southeast Division teams.

Current Southern Comfort Cup standings as of March 14th, 2006:

Florida	10-5-1	21 points	49 goals
Tampa Bay	8-4-3	19 points	49 goals
Carolina	8-5-2	18 points	52 goals
Washington	4-8-2	10 points	30 goals

Upcoming Games:

March 18th	Florida at Washington
March 20th	Tampa Bay at Florida
March 22nd	Washington at Florida
March 23rd	Washington at Tampa Bay
March 25th	Washington at Carolina
March 27th	Tampa Bay at Carolina
March 29th	Washington at Carolina

Fan Favorite Standings As of March 14th, 2006

- 1. Matt Cullen**
- 2. Rod Brind'Amour**
- 3. Eric Staal**

Vote today for your favorite Hurricanes player! \$1.00 per vote with all proceeds benefiting the Kids N' Community Foundation! Deadline for votes is March 31st. Stop by the CHBC booth at the next home game to cast your vote!

■ Your Turn

Your Hurricanes GM for a day. What move(s) do you make or not make at the trade deadline?

None. At this point, I think preserving the chemistry is more important than trying to add "a missing piece." This team has had great chemistry all year and is a terrific blend of veterans and young players with grit, team-first mentalities, skill, and positive attitudes. The Doug Weight trade was a pretty low-risk gamble, but I don't think we need to roll the dice further. Plus, we should get Josef Vasicek back in early April, and if he's healthy, he should be able to get in shape in time for the playoffs. Assuming we stay healthy, that will make Nordgren and Larose spare forwards and Babchuk a spare defenseman for the playoff run. And we definitely don't need to try to rush Jack Johnson along prematurely-- barring a rash of injuries, our blueline is strong. We have finally rebuilt our pipeline of young prospects somewhat, and we don't need to trade any of it away just to rent a veteran player for the playoffs. As GM for a day, I believe we have a foundation to be a contender for the next 3-5 years, and the worst thing we could do is panic and take a "now or never" approach toward 2006.

Mark Piper

I'd find the best netminder that is on the market. While Ward and Gerber have done well through the year, the playoffs always come down to the best goalie competition. We need a high save percentage and a great GAA. Getting our 5 or more goals cannot be expected in the playoffs.

Charlie Nyce

I was going to say none, but if [Erik] Cole is out for the year, I'm willing to wait on [Doug] Weight. If a package deal for him and, say, Nordgren or LaRose came along for a true power good-sized forward, I might say, "deal."

Ginny Paisie

I believe no trades are needed for the Hurricanes.

Stephen Emerson

I would go and get a goon, a brawler if you will. We lack that style of player like Jesse Boulerice brought to the team. Also some help on defense to give us enough power and muscle at that end of the ice. Otherwise we are set and looking good.

Brian Hudgins

Nothing. The current team seems tailor-made for the current post-lockout NHL style. If for any reason we DID make a trade, I would try to bring in a bruiser who could protect our guys.

Randolph Pritchard

If I were the GM for the day, I would pick up Jeremy Roenick.

Donna Scanlon

■ CanePoll

Who gets your vote as league MVP?

1. **Jaromir Jagr** – 50% of the votes
2. **Eric Staal** – 20% of the votes
3. **Mikka Kiprusoff, Daniel Alfredsson, Alexander Ovechkin** – 10% each

Who gets your vote as the Hurricanes MVP?

1. **Eric Staal** – 60% of the votes
2. **Rod Brind'amour** – 20% of the votes
3. **Erik Cole, Ray Whitney** – 10% each

Upcoming Events:

Next CHBC Meeting
Thursday, March 23rd
7:00pm

RBC Center

(Please sign in at the VIP entrance)

Special Guest Speaker:

Jim Rutherford

Hurricanes President and General Manager

Note: this is a member's only event!

UNC Telethon

Saturday, March 25th

10:30am – 3:30pm

To volunteer, Please email **Lisa Wall** at

lwall2@verizon.net

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