

HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 10, No. 1

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

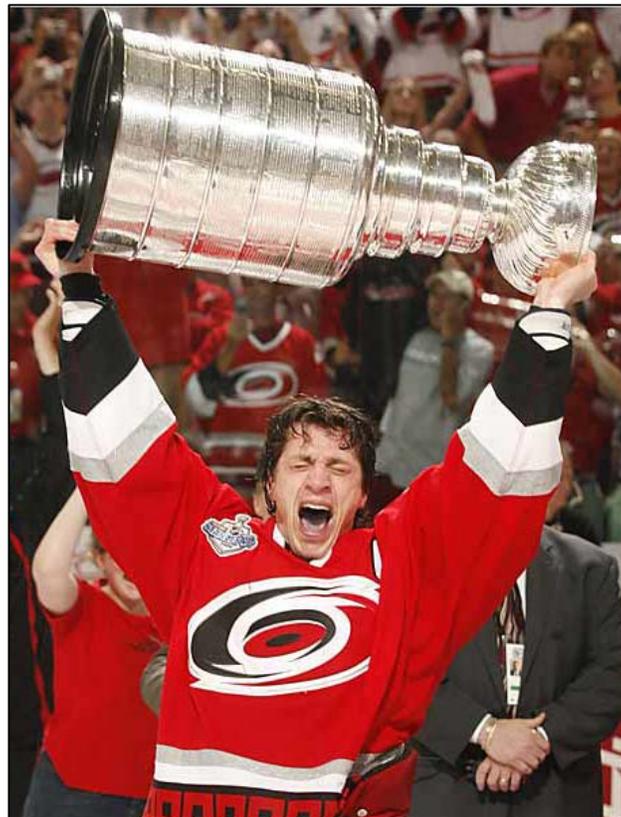
September 2006

Hurricanes win the Stanley Cup!

The Carolina Hurricanes have won the 2006 Stanley Cup Championship. It's still a tough concept to grasp, but a welcome one. When the Cup was won, my mind raced to the moments over time during the last eight years of my life in supporting this team.

My favorite part of the Stanley Cup Finals was the tailgates. I was with friends for the whole ride. There was the oversized VIC card, the media coverage, and fruity drinks that I will never forget. To Billifer, Donna, Pat, Lynnae, Cheryl, Lisa, Erich, Ethan, and English Michelle – you guys are the best and can't wait until section 330 "widerightmies" invade the 2006-07 home opener. There were the friendly rivalries with opposing team fans. I heard about the fights, but I witnessed a lot of good sportsmanship in the RBC parking lots where I was. It is about the company you keep and Caniacs are second to none.

Some tough moments came about when we were down 2-0 to the Montreal Canadiens. Perhaps it wasn't our time, but then the Canes came roaring back. We lost Games 5 and 6 of the Stanley Cup Finals, but had to go through that to experience the pandemonium of



*No captain ever gave more...
Rod Brind'Amour hoists the Stanley Cup!*

emotion in Game 7.

I also enjoyed the influx of new fans. When you're winning, it is a franchise's greatest reward. I saw many new faces that I have never seen in our arena. As a person that attended games in each season the Hurricanes existed and seeing the near-empty arenas, it is very good to see my team come full circle. Hurricanes ticket reps will be making many personal sacrifices this off-season doing everything possible to fill orders for fans new and old.

My involvement with the Hurricanes Booster Club has always been about the fan experience. My dream was to have full capacity crowds at every game and with the Stanley Cup in tow, I welcome all those many will deem as the "band wagonners" along for the ride

as we defend the Stanley Cup next season. We want you to stick around for the good and the bad. Hockey is truly one of the best spectator sports and the Triangle should have a good one for a very long time.

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Brian Williamson

President
president@hurricanesboosters.org

Annette Hutchens

Vice President
ahutchens@earthlink.net

Steve Meyers

Treasurer
steveanddeb@nac.net

Leigh Leclair

Recording Secretary

Debra Meyers

Corresponding Secretary
steveanddeb@nac.net

At-Large Board Members

Dawn Coe

Suzanne Hagen

Michelle Morris
mlmorris70@earthlink.net

Kate Stewart**Committee Chairmen**

Newsletter: Bill Horner
Garden: Loreice Jernigan
Sunshine: Lisa Wall
Website: Kris King

Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

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

Send newsletter submissions to:
bhorner3@sanfordherald.com

Newsletter deadline:

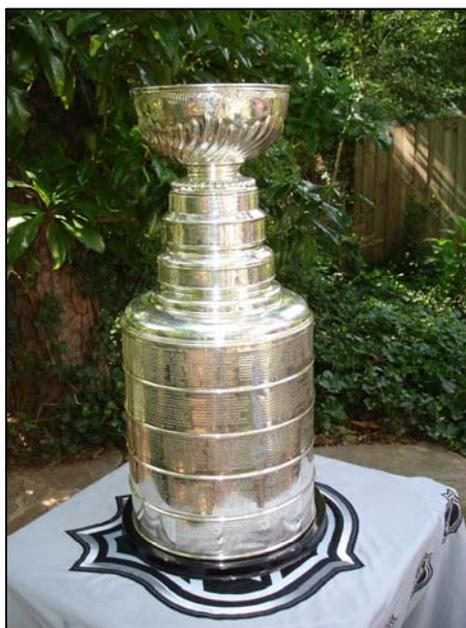
September 30 for the
Oct 2006 Issue

Carolina Hurricanes: now among the elite

Hello Members,

The Canes Win the Cup!!!! Our Hurricanes are the tops in the NHL! Congratulations out to the whole organization, the team, and to the fans for a wonderful end to the season. Like many of you, I am looking forward to seeing that huge 2006 Stanley Cup banner displayed inside the RBC center come opening night and many years to come. No matter what ANYONE says the Carolina Hurricanes are Stanley Cup Champions!

I was able to make it to game 7 via standing room only in the upper level. Section 333 has become my section during the playoffs. That was truly the most exciting evening of my life watching the Hurricanes bring Stanley home. I don't



care how this makes me look, but yes I did cry a bit when the horn finally sounded. This year the team has made me cry more than once with the Ron Francis night and now this. I think my cell phone rang most of the night after the game from friends and family calling to talk about the series and the outcome. I hope everyone that was there was able to stop for a moment and just take it all in.

We are witnesses to history seeing the first professional sports world championship to be won in North Carolina. The funniest part of my night was when a police officer inside the arena just came up and hugged me after the final horn. Never seen the guy before, but I was worried I might be in trouble so I am sure I had a dumb look on my face. That's what makes it so special. A dream realized so everyone can cheer for this team. Fans are being made every day in the Triangle. Flags are up and Carolina Hurricanes' shirts are everywhere. I will have a smile on my face for months after this.

So much has happened in the past two weeks it is hard to write everything down. With the appearances and parades plus the TV interviews with the players. Congratulations go out to Rod Brind'Amour on winning the Selke Trophy for best defensive forward of the year, and in my mind coach of the year honors to Peter Laviolette (note to the NHL: figure our your voting system coach was robbed!) Congrats also to Cam Ward for winning the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP!

Now the organization has switched gears a bit and they are planning for next year's defense of the cup. We will have a few new faces and some older ones we will lose, but that is part of the game and I am sure the front office will do all they can to keep this team on top.

See you all opening night! Be loud! Be proud!!

The Prez,
Brian Williamson

We are the Champions

Stanley Cup champions.

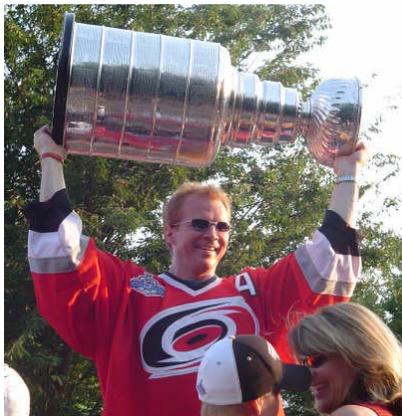
Gulp. It's hard for me to even type that phrase without getting all emotional, but the reality remains: the Carolina Hurricanes are your 2006 Stanley Cup Champions.

I know many of you Booster Clubbers are long-timers like me, and that you're as gob-smacked as I am to even contemplate such a thing. It's been a long, long road the greatness for the Hurricanes franchise, beginning with two lame duck seasons in Greensboro suffering the jabs of seemingly every NHL beat writer and columnist for what looked like meager support. Of course, long-time Canes fans know that those years were the foundation of a rabid core of Raleigh-based fans who endured all the jibes and the traffic and the I-85 construction zones to see honest to goodness NHL hockey right here in North Carolina's piedmont.

In reality though, it was another much maligned personnel decision that was the first building block of what became the 2006 Cup Champs. In the summer of 1994, after evaluating the personnel of the Hartford Whalers upon becoming their new general manager, Jim Rutherford gave an offer sheet to the agent of restricted free agent Glen Wesley. The offer was accepted and eventually a deal was struck between the Whalers and the Bruins that sent Wesley to Hartford and what seemed like a staggering three first round draft picks to Boston. Those three first rounder picks seemed an even more staggering cost when Boston used one of those picks in 1997 to draft Russian speedster Sergei Samsonov who promptly teamed with Joe Thornton (another 1997 first round pick) to give Boston what looked like a most formidable pair of young forwards. Wesley had recorded a bunch of points in his seven very successful seasons with the Bruins, and spent a good deal of his time as the defense partner of Hall-of-Famer Ray Bourque.

When he managed only 24 and then 32 points in his first two full seasons as a Whaler, the critics howled. But Rutherford stood by his man Wesley and the big redhead from Red Deer gave the Whalers and then the Carolina Hurricanes a defensive cornerstone. Wesley was a low-key first pairing defenseman but he was reliable and effective in providing exactly the kind of defensive leadership that Rutherford envisioned when he paid such a steep price to obtain Wesley in the first place.

When Carolina Captain Rod Brind'Amour finally got through waiving around the Cup during the Canes' post



Glen Wesley at the RBC Center parade.

Game 7 celebration on June 19, the first Hurricane teammate he looked for was Glen Wesley.

In the stands I had surprised myself as I watched the ceremony up to that point. I expected to be emotional as I watched the Cup being raised in Raleigh. This is my hometown and a moment like that is exactly the kind of thing that normally reduces me to a quivering mess. But not so much as a lump had formed in my throat until the moment Glen Wesley grabbed Lord Stanley's mug

and lifted it above his head with childlike joy. That's when I lost it.

Wesley had become not only a

cornerstone of the Hurricanes' defense corps; he had become a cornerstone of the community he adopted as his home in Cary. He chose this community...my community...to call home and raise his family. He threw himself into church activities and community causes as if it was his hometown too. As he raised the Cup, Wesley left the list of active NHL players who had recorded the most career playoff games without winning the hardware, and he left it with a shout to the heavens. Amen brother ... amen.

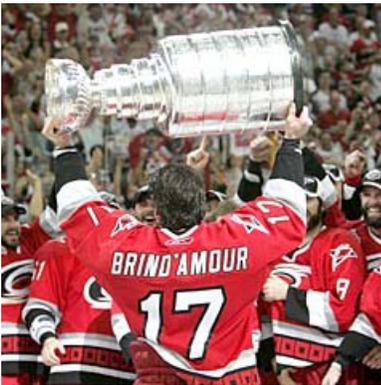
Summertime Blues

As I write this column, we've seen a the free agency period of 2006 and the Hurricanes have lost some of the 2005-06 Championship lineup to other teams. It seems almost savage that it happens so quickly, but in the age of both free agency and a salary cap this kind of attrition is normal and expected. As Canes fans we can't complain too much, as it was salary cap considerations that brought several key pieces of the Championship team to Raleigh in the first place. So Godspeed to Matt Cullen, Doug Weight, Martin Gerber, Aaron Ward, and whoever else eventually joins them in leaving the organization.

Brind'Amour Wins Selke

The NHL's post-season awards show is something I typically skip. The gala is generally held just a couple of days after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup playoffs and finding out who won what in the papers is usually good enough. Not to mention that hockey players don't read Teleprompters too well. This year was different. Rod Brind'Amour was a finalist for the Selke Trophy, which honors the best defensive forward in the league, and there's no way I was missing that. Brind'Amour eventually won the award, and a long overdue honor it was. Congrats.

What was the best part of your Stanley Cup experience?



Wow, to narrow it down to one from:

- Cam Ward's heroics coming off of the bench,
- Going up to Montreal after losing 2 in a row against at home and then winning 4 straight to take the series
- Eric Staal's last second goal against the Devils
- Glen Wesley's incredible save against Buffalo that ultimately won the game
- Sending the Sabres and their classless, obnoxious fans packing and letting them hear about it in the parking lots afterwards
- Watching the Captain hoist the cup with tears in his eyes.

So MANY choices! However, if I had to narrow it to one, I would say seeing Erik Cole's completely unexpected heroic return to the team for the last two games of the finals would have to stand out for me. The incredible risk and sacrifice he made just being out on the ice embodied what a true team effort

this was.

I mostly hung out with my friends Chris, Chris and CT during the playoffs. We did a lot of tailgating (maybe a bit TOO much...) and generally had a blast.

How did it make me feel?

Let's see: euphoric, ecstatic, joyous, perhaps a little insane with a touch of disbelief, hoarse, redeemed in the face of all those doubters about our area and the organization, and genuinely happy for all the great members of the team, the coaches, the staff, Chuck K., John Forslund, Tripper, and the whole community.

Randolph Pritchard

Attending all the playoff games was thrilling, but the cap of the experience was the excitement of my daughter Rebecca rushing out to the mini "Eye" outside our Section 305 seats after Justin Williams' clinching empty-netter in Game 7 versus Edmonton. She wanted that Stanley Cup Champion t-shirt! First in line, they made her wait to buy the shirt until the final horn sounded. Rushing back into the arena as the on ice celebrations were under way, Rebecca gave a quick pose as one of the first Caniacs to have this Stanley Cup Champion prize!

Stephen Thompson

I accompanied Ginny for the first two rounds (which we could afford) then daughter Carolyn came home from school in Toronto to take in a few games of Rounds 3 & 4. The highlight had to be taking in Game 7 in the tent outside the RBC Center, high-fiving and hugging complete strangers in ear-shattering bliss after Williams' empty netter! Absolute heaven!

Joe Paisie

After seeing all games in Rounds 1 & 2, our budget permitted only a couple of games in the others. But since I taught a Swedish boy whose family is close friends with the Wallins, they sold me their two for the Memorial Day weekend.

My BEST memory has to be watching Game 7 in the tent outside the RBC. Rowdy and wild, we had to proportionally rival the noise inside when Williams scored the empty netter. Hugs from strangers, high fiving everyone within slapping distance...definitely a "where were you when..." moment!

Ginny Paisie

My Stanley Cup experience was incredible. The emotional highs and lows... While I never gave up on our Canes, they sure made it hard for you not to have heart-clutching hockey. Game 7, wow, what can I say? My old and new friends in Section 337 had to remind each other to breathe. When the rally towels weren't being waved, some were chewing holes into them with nervous expectations of the Stanley Cup being awarded to our team. When Justin Williams scored the final goal, we knew it was ours! I'll admit it, I cried like a baby. I still get goose bumps when I relive those moments. A dream that not only came true for our team, but also for their fans! Beautiful!

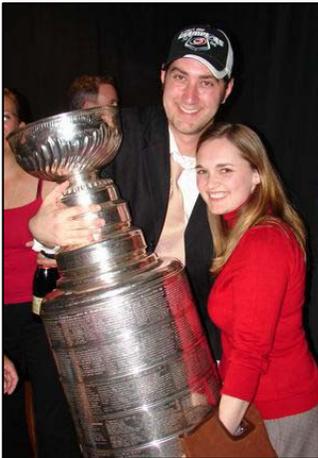
Sharon Davis

Sundheim, Hanlin relish Canes, great season

The Carolina Hurricanes' media relations staff – consisting of Mike Sundheim and Kyle Hanlin – was recently nominated for the National Hockey League's Dick Dillman Award, which goes annually to the league's best PR/media department. Five NHL teams were nominated for the honor, but Sundheim's department represented the only nominee from the Eastern Conference. Minnesota won the honor, but Sundheim & Co. represented the franchise well. Sundheim was interviewed by CHBC Newsletter Editor Bill Horner. Sundheim's blog can be seen on the official Carolina Hurricanes website, www.carolinahurricanes.com

First things first...have you begun to catch up on your sleep yet?

Not really. My body finally gave out on me out in Vancouver at the draft and I came down with the inevitable sickness that still hasn't quite left me. But that hasn't forced the smile off my face.



Mike and Leah Sundheim

The Hurricanes were good all season long. At what point, as you traveled with the team, did you start thinking that this team had a chance to go deep in the playoffs?

We thought that we were going to be good pretty early, even in training camp really. But for me it first seemed legitimate that we had something special after the Philadelphia game at home at the end of October. To be able to come back from two goals down twice against a powerhouse-type team that traditionally gave us fits...that showed the resiliency of this team. Great teams find different ways to win, and this team was finding ways that we had never really seen around these parts.

How did the run up to, and into, the finals for you this season compare to your experiences in 2002?

It was way more intense, partially because of the expectations after the regular season we put together. From my perspective we had a much greater volume of coverage locally than we had ever seen before in the early rounds. And then we drew Montreal in round one, which brings along an impressive entourage of media. Between the expectations that we had for ourselves, and the expectations of the local and national media after a record regular season, the volume was turned up across the board in comparison to 2002.

This had to be a challenging season for you, not just because of the team's performance, but because of coming off the lockout year, having so many new players, having so many team members take part in the Olympics and then dealing with the additions of Doug Weight and Mark Recchi. What did you do to keep yourself paced and focused during the year?

It was definitely a challenge for Kyle and I to get the media guide done this past summer, with a ton of new players and a compressed summer. But for the most part, once the season started we got into the same grooves and same routines we always follow. When the team had success, and then made key acquisitions, national media attention became far greater during the regular season than in past years, but that is a good thing.

From a "PR" standpoint, and dealing with media both here and in other cities...what unique challenges did you face during the four rounds of the playoffs? What was toughest for you?

The biggest thing is maintaining balance between the wants and needs of the media and the demands on the players' time and energy. You want to be a media-friendly team, and I believe we really are. But you also can't have guys sitting there with the media for 45 minutes every day. In the Finals, you have to be pretty aggressive with cutting things off eventually, because the locker room is literally packed with media and if you don't pull people off someone like Cam Ward, he'd be there all day.

You have a job to do off the ice, but obviously the Finals had to be an emotional experience for

you. What was it like for you after Game 5, knowing the Stanley Cup was already in the building and the team could have been literally minutes away from hoisting it?

It was tough. I was sitting in the locker room with a couple of the scratched players and when Pisani's shot went in, and it wasn't a happy scene. I tried to just take a second to get my frustration out before walking out into the room to do my job. It's definitely pretty heartbreaking to walk right past the guys with the bags full of championship hats and t-shirts and know you could have been putting them on had things gone a little differently.

Talk about the trip to Edmonton and back between Game 5 and Game 7. What was it like?

It was tough because everyone was tired, and we didn't want to have to make that trip. But the guys were focused the whole time, and didn't show their frustration outwardly at all. When we lost Game 6 we knew a lot of folks were writing us off, but I had a good feeling when we made that flight back the next day. By the time we landed and saw all the Caniacs at RDU, the guys seemed more excited than disappointed. After all, we were about to host Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals in our own building, and it just doesn't get much better than that.

With two small-market teams in the Finals, there was talk that this was the Cup Final that "nobody watched." Yet the media spotlight was clearly on Raleigh. What was the general perception of outside media about this market, and how did you see it change during the playoffs?

It's hard to gauge. Everyone is obviously very nice to your face, even though I am sure from NBC's perspective they'd rather see the Rangers there. At the same time, they were drawing amazing ratings in an area of the country that probably would not be watching if the Rangers were there. For the most part though, I think media

have come to really like Raleigh and this area. The ones who give it a chance always have fun here, and I have had a number of them, especially Canadian media, talk to me about how nice it is here and how they can easily picture their family settling here.

“

One thing I can definitely say about that moment is that when you see that emotion, you really understand that professional hockey is not just all about the money, as some pro sports are sometimes accused of being. Those men fought tooth and nail to live out a life-long dream and lift the Stanley Cup, and that was what it was all about.

”

- Mike Sundheim

Don't answer this if you don't want to...but who were the BEST and WORST media "personalities" you had to deal with during the Finals?

I tell you what, there are a lot of good people out there in the media. It's hard to point out one or two people because you get to know so many during a playoff run, but I really like the Hockey Night in Canada Crew a lot. Harry Neale is a super guy and I got to know Elliot Friedman when he was still with The Score four years ago, and he is great to deal with. We knew in the back of their minds those guys were probably all pulling for the Oilers, but you would never know it from dealing with them. There are a few bad apples out there, and one major guy that I know our security had issues with a

few times, but in general I really enjoyed working with almost all the media that were here for the Finals.

You normally take a few minutes each game to get away from press row and venture down near the ice to watch the play during home games. Outside that, do you see much hockey - or are you too busy during games working?

Actually, I see a fair amount. During the playoffs, with the increased television demands, I usually stayed on the arena level during the game, and I would either watch from a corner or watch from the locker room, depending on my superstition for that particular series. I have to keep an eye on the game, because if one of our guys gets hurt, I know I will have to issue some sort of report as soon as possible.

So...what was it like to lift the Stanley Cup on home ice after Game 7?

It was in incredible feeling. The playoffs are a long, long haul for everyone involved. I had a two-month stomach ache. To be there for that moment and to grab hold of that trophy on the ice is truly amazing. I know Kyle and I were both thrilled that the team made us a part of their post-game celebration. We were trying to grab guys for interviews and everything, but the NHL's PR folks had told us to enjoy the moment too, so we were celebrating, hugging guys and everything. It was truly awesome.

You know the players pretty well...for whom were you most pleased after the win in Game 7?

I know it sounds cliché when we talk about what a great group of guys we have, but it's just true. There were so many guys I was thrilled for. Certainly when you see a guy like Glen Wesley, who had fought so hard for so long in his career for that moment, it's hard not to feel emotional. But we had a lot of guys who have played for a long time and come close without ever reaching the top. Rod Brind'Amour. Bret Hedican. Doug Weight. Ray Whitney. Kevyn Adams. Great, great people who deserved a championship. I love that quote about how when you win the Cup, you walk together forever, and I really believe that is true. This great bunch of individuals will be a part of each other as long as they live.

What are your plans when it comes time for your "day with the Cup"?

Kyle and I will share a day in September. We are both Chapel Hill graduates, so we will probably swing by there during the day to take some pictures and see some old professors and share it with our UNC family. We'll have a big party starting in the late afternoon at my house, and I am guessing when it is all said and done somewhere between 150 and 200 friends and family will somehow squeeze into my house and yard in Durham for that. After the party we may visit a few of our old hangouts to share it with some more old friends.

Finally...will you get a Stanley Cup ring?

I believe so. I do know that my name and Kyle's name are both going to be engraved on the Stanley Cup along with the rest of the hockey staff and players. It doesn't get much more special than that.

Hurricanes Win the Stanley Cup

Continued from page 1

Seeing Glen Wesley, Rod Brind'Amour, Doug Weight, and Bret Hedican hoist the trophy after so many seasons without was such an inspiration for hard work and dedication. The 2005-06 Carolina Hurricanes were talented and truly were contenders the whole year, but at the end of the day the respect and rewards had to be earned. That's the beauty of what was accomplished this year. You only get out of it what you put into it. I never would have thought that Rod Brind'Amour would be just as great a captain as my all-time favorite player, Ron Francis. Brind'Amour is a true leader and now champion for hockey in the Triangle. Thank God for Rod! Seeing young Eric Staal and Cam Ward become overnight superstars was like watching one of my kids learn to walk. When I say "team", I don't just mean the players. There are the ambassadors to hockey in the Triangle that I look up to and try to emulate their positive qualities. I'm not just talking about Chuck Kaiton and John Forslund, but also the lesser known personalities that may not get the TV time, but work hard to ensure the fans have a great experience win or lose. One person that comes to mind is Mike Sundheim, who did an outstanding job on his blog this year. Another person is Karen Prince, who always made sure the night's line-up card was in my e-mail inbox before game time. There were all the ticket reps and Kids N Community representatives that helped me get pumped for every game! I'd be remiss not to mention Doug Warf and the Storm Squad because nobody moves around an arena faster!

My heart goes out to those in Hartford that supported this franchise for many years and never had the opportunities like those of us in Raleigh that saw this team in the Stanley Cup Finals twice in four seasons. Supporting the Hurricanes has not always been easy, but for now, I am truly enjoying this experience. Being the defending Stanley Cup Champions will be a great way to start a season in 2006-07!

---John Gallagher, CHBC Member

CanePoll	
Will the Canes repeat as Stanley Cup champs in 2007?	
YES	10
NO	0

Upcoming Events

Next CHBC Meeting

Thursday, September 21st

7:00 pm RBC Center Varsity Room

Guest Speaker: Paul Strand,
Carolina Hurricanes Youth and Amateur
Hockey Coordinator

CHBC Ben & Jerry's Benefit

Wednesday, September 20th

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Ben & Jerry's North Hills Mall
4217 Six Folks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-781-4677

A portion of the proceeds to benefit the
Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club ACTION Fund

Web Sites for Canes Fans: www.hurricanesboosters.org , www.carolinahurricanes.com

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