



# THE FLYER



VS



**SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024**  
CHALLENGE CUP



VS



**SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024**  
CHALLENGE CUP





# COOLEN'S COMMENTS

So the preseason is behind us now but the evaluation process continues. I think last weekend's performance demonstrated that we have had the chance to get guys settled down, get over the travel and start to have everyone get to know each other. The game against a very good University of Quebec-Trois-Rivieres team was very positive for us, in many ways. In fact I'd say that it was perhaps one of the best games we've played here in my time. Shane was dialled in and of course anytime you don't allow any goals it's a big plus. Brodie Kay jumped in there and I feel his time is coming. He's going to contribute and will start this weekend. It's perfect timing for him with his age and his ability and we look forward to seeing how he can develop with regular ice time. But I liked how much we created offensively and their goalie played really well. Our lines are starting to figure things out and we moved the puck well.

The contribution from our blueline was positive with a couple of goals and as a team we killed a lot of penalties. I like how all seven of the guys back there have shown that they can play. We are progressing the way I expected us to be although the injury to Martin Latal has been unfortunate and this weekend we are not going to try and rush him back. We are looking forward to adding him into the line up and I am hoping that this will be in time for our games next weekend, we'll see. I'm not unhappy with what I see and this weekend will certainly be a measuring stick of where we are at in competitive action.

First up is Glasgow and I've not really been able to see how they set up and have played this season due to the teams they met preseason and the lack of video so I know they have a lot of new players and a new coach. We just have to try and figure out their roster and put a plan together which is what we have been working on.

Belfast I've watched a bit but we will worry about them on Sunday after the Glasgow game. These early games are as much an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents as they are our own bench. This weekend I will have to decide which defencemen will be our scratch, our forward lines are set.

Looking to the season ahead, I never want to get too far ahead of myself and we will take things step by step but I'd really like to pick things up again where we left off last year with the run we put together from January. I'd like to be that team that competed against everyone in the league. When I look at one of my goals, I'd like to finish in the upper half of the league, I'm not saying that would be easy, far from it but to me that would be a pretty competitive season. Failing that we will naturally be looking to ensure a play off spot.

Last year we took a step forward and considering where we've been as a team in recent times that was a big positive which we will try and build on. I know you fans are behind us and excited to see what we can do so away we go!

**Tom**

# FLYERS EIHL PRESEASON HISTORY

Games that herald the return of hockey after the summer months take on a different perspective for fans/players/officials alike. All fans know that regardless of how well, or badly, preseason matches play out it is unlikely to determine the outcome of the long and winding road ahead for their favourites. It's mostly just good to be back rink side, bundled up a bit more than of lately and catching up with friends/family. For coaches it's the first indications of the fruition of months of work invested in building a roster. Now-a-days it is typical that EIHL teams have a turnover of players from season to season that could see upwards of 50% of the players being 'unknown quantities'. So, this is the first chance for the bench to survey how players react to their new surroundings and start to hone the systems that will hopefully bring success some eight months down the line. Players used to use the pre competitive games as a way to shake off the rust which often meant simply getting back into game shape. Not so much now as players craft their physical conditioning pretty much 12 months of the year but there is still nothing to replace getting laced up and to play the game in a more formal and familiar environment than any scrimmage with your team mates can ever offer. A term that has been often used time immemorial in football parlance is that these games are Friendly matches. It's not a phrase that I've seen used much, if all, in all my hockey watching days - Challenge Match, Exhibition Game, perhaps an odd tournament/cup thrown into the proceedings but never Friendly - many have argued that there isn't such a thing in hockey.

So, a necessary part of any season and in this article we take a look back over the preseason games played and opponents encountered since the Flyers inaugural EIHL season.

It is well documented about the timescale pressures for all concerned which the club faced ahead of their maiden 2011/12 season. From confirmation of the Flyers being accepted into the league there were about eight weeks for a club that had operated for six seasons in the amateur ranks of hockey to launch a professional team before the puck drop on 10th September.

Flyers managed to organise a couple of warm up games against their local rivals, the Dundee Stars, with the first of these at Kirkcaldy on September 3rd. The compressed time to prepare the team resulted in the Flyers skating that weekend without an as yet unnamed import goalie and centre who had yet to receive clearance to play. Garrett Zemlack and Mike Hamilton would be with the team the following weekend as would defenceman Matt Cohen who also missed out on the warm up games due to hurricane Irene which had caused him to be evacuated from his New York home. Blair Daly was in goal over the weekend with John Nicol as his back up along with local skaters Tommy Muir, Chris Wands, Kyle Horne, Willie Nicolson, Stephen Gunn, Iain Bowie, Josh Scoon, Steven McAlpine, Jamie Wilson, Andy Samuel, Marc Fowley. New imports Danny Stewart and Matt Siddall joined Todd Dutiaume and Aigars Brencis who was on a tryout for a contract. The Stars were dominant in their 6-1 win but the real winners were the fans who got their first taste of big-time hockey in six years. Player-coach Dutiaume scored the consolation goal and he was again on target the following night on Tayside when the team looked to have found its feet somewhat when they were able to skate out a 4-4 tie. In sharp contrast to the previous night the Flyers looked much more comfortable with the intensity of the game with goals from Brencis, Stewart and Siddall.

To kick off the 2012/13 season the four Scottish EIHL teams competed in the inaugural Scottish Autumn Cup which was staged on home ice at Fife Ice Arena. The idea was that this tournament would be hosted in turn by the competing clubs. The Flyers were entering their 75th season and were drawn to play in the second semi-final against the Edinburgh Capitals on Saturday 1st September. Flyers iced eight new faces, seven imports and local signing John Dolan joined from Dundee Stars. As expected with a largely unfamiliar group it took Flyers a while to get to grips with the match but as the game wore on the 'home' side started to click and they hit the Caps with a quickfire double. Edinburgh took the lead almost midway through the game when Zembergs deflected a shot past debutant Bryan Pitton and the Caps then dug in to protect their lead.

# FLYERS EIHL PRESEASON HISTORY

With 10 minutes of the game remaining another newcomer Kris Hogg equalised and 60 seconds later Dolan hit the winner to take the Flyers through to the Sunday final against Braehead Clan. It was a rip roaring Final played with an intensity that belied the early season nature of the match up. The other Pitton, Jason, had the Flyers two goals up inside five minutes but the Clan were in no mood to be steamrolled and they hit back through Farmer twice and McPherson to lead after 20 minutes. Dutiaume levelled before another of the new imports Casey Haines put the Flyers in front. Pitton added another two goals and Hogg completed the scoring after Danny Stewart and Ryan Watt had dropped the gloves. Flyers other debut imports on the weekend were Zack Carriveau and Jeff Caister who both picked up assists whilst Derek Keller looked assured on the blueline.



HAINES AND PITTON CELEBRATE - PIC CREDIT MARTIN WATTERSTON

The anticipated second year of the Autumn Cup didn't materialise the following season so the Flyers once again engaged with the Dundee Stars over two games. August 31st at Kirkcaldy the Flyers lined up with six of their eight new imports making their debuts. Derek Roehl and Matt Nickerson would not feature until the first competitive game of the season, some may remember that as the visit of Cardiff Devils.

Flyers overcame a two-goal deficit to take a 3-2 first period lead in a game that was competitive, exciting and noisy. New forwards Andy Contois, Matt Reber and Jordan Fulton all showed great promise with the first two netting along with Bobby Chaumont. Kevin Regan lost his first Flyers goal after just 44 seconds when Mike Wirll struck and a few minutes later John Dolan netted the visitors a second. The Stars completed their own comeback to win 4-3 with goals from Nikita Kashirsky and Nico Sacchetti despite the efforts on the bluelines of the other Flyers newcomers Justin DaCosta and Tim Hartung. The following night in Dundee was bitterly disappointing as the Stars were rampant in a 7-2 win with Reber opening the scoring and Stephen Gunn pulling the Flyers to within a goal in the middle period before Stars scored four straight. Stars had seven different scorers, Wirll, Sacchetti, Dowzak, McCluskey, Pollastrone, Connon and Rawlyk. Paul Thomson brought his Aalborg Pirates to Kirkcaldy for a two game Challenge weekend ahead of the opener in the 2014/15 season. It was the first time since the visit of Concordia Stingers in January 2008 that the Flyers had hosted a team from overseas and this was the second ever Danish side to visit Kirkcaldy after Tarnby visited in season 1979/80. The Flyers who had returned the vast majority of their roster unveiled three new import faces. Scott Fleming, Jamie Milam and Chris Auger all fitted in well but it was the returning Fulton then Reber with a double that had the Flyers ahead throughout the game before Chaumont hit an empty net insurance goal in a 4-2 win. The following night however the hosts couldn't sustain their effort and the visitors, who already had four warm up matches under their belts, were able to demonstrate their superior match sharpness as they won 8-3 to take the Bay Hotel silverware back home. Fleming, Fulton and Reber, before he was given a 5 plus game for tripping, had the goals for the home side. 2015/16 saw the Belfast Giants visit on 29th August before the Flyers made the trip over the Forth to meet the Capitals the next night. In what was a highly competitive encounter with the Giants there were plenty of new faces for the Flyers fans to cast an eye over as ten new imports debuted, an 11th Nicholas Rioux was still to arrive. Goalie David Brown, blueliners Phil Paquet and Matt Delahey were joined by forwards Justin Fox, Ryan Dingle, Michael Dorr, Jeff Lee, Patrick

# FLYERS EIHL PRESEASON HISTORY

Cullen, Shayne Stockton and CJ Caig. The latter two combined after just 57 seconds with Stockton netting before Caig doubled the lead within the opening four minutes. Giants recovered to lead 3-2 through Boxill, Wallser and Peacock before Dorr levelled the game. Jeff Lee looked as though he might have won the game but a late leveller from Chris Higgins ensured a share of the spoils with no OT period played to determine a winner.



**DORR, DINGLE, CULLEN, CAIG AND HAINES - PIC CREDIT JILLIAN MCFARLANE AND DEREK YOUNG**

The following night in the Capital the team dug deep as they broke open a 2-2 tie after two periods to win the game 6-4. Flyers had six different scorers, Caig, Fox, Dorr, Stewart, Dingle and Jamie Wilson and were able to give Craig Douglas the last 5 minutes in nets when Caps scored a couple of times. It was overseas opposition again in 2016/17 when German Third Division side EC Peiting visited for two games. Amazingly the Flyers once again had double figures in new imports although Rik Jackman missed these games. Shane Owen posted a shutout in his first outing, Mathew Sisca, Carlo Finucci Sebastien Thinel, Chase Schaber and Brendan Brooks all had debut goals in the 5-0 win in the first game. David Turon, Russ Moyer and James Isaacs also all debuted on the blueline. The following evening the Flyers had an equally comfortable 6-1 win with Sisca and Thinel grabbing doubles and Brooks and Schaber making it two goals in two games. Season 2017/18 started with what has been the most comprehensive build up to a season to date. In Total the Flyers played six preseason games including two games each against the German side Kassell Huskies and Herlev Eagles

from Denmark and finishing up with the Elite Cup Tournament staged at Murrayfield. The DEL 2 Huskies visited over the weekend of August 26th/27th and both games went to overtime. The Flyers gave eight new imports their first taste of action with Andy Iles in nets, Ian Young and Ricards Birzins on defence and forwards Evan Bloodoff, Charlie Mosey, Peter LeBlanc, Liam Heelis and Danick Gauthier. The Flyers were 2-0 down then 3-2 behind but battled hard to level the game through Schaber, then Stockton on his return from a nightmare injury season and a late Young goal before LeBlanc won it in the 3 on 3 overtime period. The following night the visitors gained some revenge as they took the victory again in overtime. A tight 60 minutes had the teams tied at 1-1 with a goal from Heelis before the German side won it with a short-handed goal in overtime. The following weekend the Flyers once again split the games against their visitors. On the Saturday night it was a solid 3-1 win for the Flyers with Ian Young netting a double giving, early indications of his offensive upside from the back end and Finucci also on target. The following night however the Danes comfortably took the win with Heelis getting the consolation in a 4-1 win for them. The final weekend before the season started promised two further games with some silverware up for grabs. In the opening semi-final the Flyers took on the Dundee Stars in the afternoon face off. Gauthier put the Flyers ahead and the Stars were left playing catch up the rest of the way as Fife skated to a relatively straight forward 6-2 win. Schaber, Finucci, Birzins and a double from Heelis completed the scoring with replies from Chris Lawrence and Johan Andersson. Meeting the Flyers in the Sunday evening final were the Braehead Clan who had beaten the host Capitals 4-2. It was a game that certainly would never have been considered worthy of the "Friendly" tag with a series of brawls and 200 penalty minutes. Both teams no doubt posturing for the season ahead. Brooks, Burt and Peacock had the Glasgow side well ahead before Young got Flyers consolation but the fuse had been lit for the season ahead between these two rivals. Season 2018/19 saw a collaboration with Manchester Storm as the Flyers welcomed five different overseas visitors to the Auld Barn. Manitoba Bison, the return of the Aalborg Pirates and the Odense Bulldogs from Denmark and DEL2 Eispiraten

# FLYERS EIHL PRESEASON HISTORY

Crimmitschau and German 3rd tier Tolzer Lowen. Nine new faces were scheduled for the roster that season including Brits Jordan Buesa and Bari McKenzie. To open up with against Manitoba in their 80th anniversary season only five of the seven new imports were on show with Scott Aarssen (visa issues) and Joe Basaraba (injury) both not eventually icing until the competitive action got underway. Those that did make their debuts were Rick Pinkston, Mike Cazzola, Evan Stoflet, Paul Crowder and Brett Bulmer. Crowder got the only goal in a 2-1 reversal against the Canadian University side.



**FLYERS LINE UP AHEAD OF MEETING AALBORG PIRATES - PIC CREDIT JILLIAN MCFARLANE AND DEREK YOUNG**

The Danish duo followed 48 hours later when Aalborg once again triumphed with a 4-1 win with Cazzola getting the Fife goal but the Odense Bulldogs were overcome 2-1 on the Sunday night thanks to goals from Crowder and Schaber. The following weekend there was an old-fashioned hockey shoot out as the home fans were delighted to see the Flyers register another one goal win in a 13 goal thriller against Crimmitschau. Finucci and Schaber both netted braces with Stoflet, Crowder and Gauthier also on target. To round things off the following night Tolzer Lowen skated away with the win in overtime after they came from behind twice to Gauthier and McKenzie goals to force the extra five minutes. Herlev Eagles, who returned for their second visit in three seasons, and newly promoted DEL2 side EV Landshut were the continental visitors ahead of the 2019/20 season. Making their debuts were imports Michal Gutwald, Jonas Emmerdahl, Kyle Just and James Livingston who were joined by Brits Sam Jones and local lad Scott Jamieson. Flyers were without the returning imports Paul Crowder and

Danick Gauthier as well as new signings Tim Crowder and Dylan Quaile who were all still working through their end of season commitments in the Australian League. The games against the Eagles both went to overtime, Fife came out on top in the first game when they won 4-3 with a brace from Schaber and goals from Cazzola and Just. The Eagles took the bonus hockey decision 24 hours later with a 5-4 result with the Flyers goals coming from McKenzie, Finucci, Jones and Livingston. The following weekend and still short of the Australian quartet Landshut were beaten with yet another game going to overtime. Schaber, Just and Jones getting the goals in the 3-2 win. The following night and the visitors took the honours with a 4-2 win which saw a first ever goal for Scott Jamieson and Finucci also on target for the hosts. 2021/22 season and the return from the pandemic shutdown meant that overseas opposition wasn't an option and so the local rivalry between the Flyers and Stars was given another early outing. It also meant that the Flyers had yet another compressed schedule to assemble a team after their confirmation of commitment to another season in the EIHL. The team that skated out saw the largest turnover of all of the EIHL seasons to date with 12 players making their debut preseason. It might have been a bakers dozen but Kristian Blumenschein arrived later the following week. Erik Naslund, Imants Lescovs were joined by Rihards Grigors on defence. Forwards James Anderson, Carson Stadnyk, Jacob Benson, Mike McNicholas, Greg Chase, Isak Stenlund Adelgran and Matt Carter were also joined by Brits Craig Peacock and Richard Krogh. After 570 hockeyless days the puck was dropped at Dundee on the Friday evening with the Stars winning 4-1. Stadnyk got the visitors goal and the following night at Kirkcaldy one goal from Anderson was all that was required for Flyers to get the win.



**ANDERSON'S WINNER AGAINST STARS - PIC CREDIT JILLIAN MCFARLANE AND DEREK YOUNG**

# FLYERS EIHL PRESEASON HISTORY

The following season it was a pair of games against Scottish rivals which both ended in the same scoreline, 5-3 defeats for the Flyers. The Glasgow Clan visited the Auld Barn and built up a 2-0 first period lead with goals from Laport and Roy. Just after the midway point Janne Lakkonen halved the arrears but within three minutes Jones had restored the Glasgow advantage. Ex-Flyer Waltz stretched this before Brayden Sherbinin and Dillon Lawrence brought the Flyers to within a goal before Toth sealed the win with nine minutes to play. Two nights later the Flyers visited the Stars on Tayside and once again they found themselves two goal in arrears by the first buzzer with another ex-Flyer Naslund along with Sanche on target. The deficit was turned around in the middle period as the visitors hit three without reply thanks to James Spence, Simon Fernholm and Shawn Cameron. The Stars hit three goals from Folk, Sanche and Daniels in a span of four minutes midway through the third to take the win. Last season the summer hockey recess was ended with a back to back meeting with the Stars. In the first game at Kirkcaldy the visitors hit two goals in two minutes midway through the first period through Walker and Phelan. Flyers did likewise in the second to tie the game with Johan Eriksson and Max Humitz finding the net. A goalless third meant the contest was settled in overtime with Elmer netting the winner. The following night at Dundee Shane Owen posted a shutout and goals from Johan Eriksson, Anthon Eriksson, Ben Hawerchuk and Fynn Page gave the Flyers a comfortable win. The following weekend the Flyers welcomed foreign opposition for the first time since 2019. Tilburg Trappers from the Netherlands were first up in a tightly contested game. Anthon Eriksson and Max Humitz had second period goals and Owen's shutout bid was broken with under 90 seconds to play with a 6 on 4 goal from Vogelaar. The visitors pulled their goalie again in a bid to tie the game but Reece Harsch hit the empty net. The following night the Flyers faithful welcomed back ex Flyers Chase Schaber and his Romanian side CSM Corona Brasov. Fife were only ahead once when they opened the scoring in the 2nd minute through Troy Lajeunesse before first period goals by Blackwater and the man himself Schaber who then stretched the lead further early in the middle period. Aleksii Makela responded but the Flyers were three goals adrift going into the third period with Sills and Kovacs adding to the visitors tally. In the final 7 minutes Collin Shirley scored a consolation. So, in case you haven't been counting, including the games over the last two weekends, here is the Flyers all-time record in EIHL era pre-season games:

**P 38   W17   D2   L 19   F 117   A 122**

Make of that what you will.



TILBURG TRAPPERS ACTION - PIC CREDIT JILLIAN MCFARLANE AND DEREK YOUNG







# GETTING TO KNOW #3

## Olivier LeBlanc

*Date of Birth - February 17th 1996*

*Age - 28*

*Place of Birth - Québec, Québec,  
Canada*

*Position - Defence*

*Shoots - Left*

*Height - 183cm/6'0"*

*Weight - 78 kg/172 lbs*

*Drafted - 2014 round 7 #197 overall by  
Columbus Blue Jackets*

*Honours:*

*ECHL Kelly Cup 2022/23, USports (AUS)*

*Champion 2017/18, 2018/19, USports*

*University Cup*

### **Professional Hockey Career**

*2020-21 - Belleville Senators (AHL)*

*2021-2023 - Cleveland Monsters (AHL),*

*Kalamazoo Wings (ECHL), Florida*

*Everblades (ECHL)*

*2023-24 - Angers (Ligue Magnus)*



# #3 WE ASKED...

**1. What other sports did you play growing up?**

Tennis and golf

**2. Who has been the biggest influence on your career so far?**

My parents and all my teammates and coaches along the years

**3. Who is the best player you have played with?**

Jonathan Huberdeau

**4. Who is the best player you have played against?**

Nathan Mackinnon

**5. What is the most memorable game you have played in?**

Usports Nationals Final 2018/19 with the University of New Brunswick

**6. What is your favourite/least favourite rink to play in?**

Favourite is Cleveland Rocket Mortgage/ least is Val d'or

**7. If you could make one rule change in hockey, what would it be and why?**

Change on an icing so you don't have to stay on when tired

**8. Which hockey team do you cheer for/which one do you root against?**

Colorado Avalanche and I don't root against any team in the NHL

**9. Most admired hockey player and why?**

Sidney Crosby because he has overcome so many injuries and is a great leader

**10. What would be your best piece of advice for youngsters starting in hockey?**

Have fun and work hard

**11. What do you consider to be the strongest part of your game and where are you trying to improve?**

Work ethic and working on my body positioning

**12. Pre-game routine?**

Eat and Nap

**13. Pre-game meal?**

Chicken and pasta

**14. Any gameday superstitions?**

No

**15. Favourite other sport(s) to play?**

Tennis and golf

**16. Favourite other sport(s) to watch?**

Tennis and golf

**17. Favourite athlete (non hockey)?**

Xander Schauffele

**18. Favourite sports team (non hockey)?**

Detroit Lions

**19. Which do you prefer books or movies?**

Movies

**20. Favourite TV show(s)?**

24 and Modern Family

**21. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Ribeye steak with garlic mashed potatoes and Caesar salad

**22. Favourite beverage (non alcoholic/alcoholic)?**

Water/ red wine

**23. If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?**

Roger Federer, Denzel Washington, Mark Wahlberg and Tony Finau

**24. Favourite singer/music/band?**

Zach Bryan

**25. What is your favourite vacation destination?**

Italy

**26. What was your favourite and least favourite subject in school?**

Gym was favourite and least was math

**27. What is your go to Karaoke song?**

Summer of 69

**28. If you could join any past or current music group which would it be and in what capacity? (guitar/vocals/drummer etc)**

Linkin Park - guitar player

**29. Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?**

Oli

**30. If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?**

Fly

**31. What three items would you take with you on a desert island?**

Water, an axe and a spark tool

**32. How many languages do you speak?**




Two - French and English

**33. If not a hockey player what occupation would you have?**

Sport psychologist

# MATCH

# REPORT

Saturday 31st August 2024			<b>2</b>		<b>0</b>	Challenge Match
<b>Period Scores</b> 1-0, 0-0, 1-0,						
<b>L i n e  U p s</b>	Shane Owen <small>Starter</small>	Noah Delmas	✓	Fynn Page	✗	Martin Látal <b>✗</b>
	Brython Preece <small>BackUp</small>	Madi Dikhanbek	✓	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau <b>✓</b>
		Tyler Heidt	✗	Michael Cichy	✓	Maxim Musorov <b>✓</b>
		Brodie Kay	✓	Johnny Curran	✓	Drake Pilon <b>✓</b>
		Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✓	Nikolai Shulga <b>✓</b>
		Patrick Kyte	✓	Artur Gatiyatov	✓	James Spence <b>✗</b>
		Olivier LeBlanc	✓			
Craig	<b>Refs</b>	Rodger		Connor	<small>lines men</small>	Ward

The Flyers, in their final preseason match, met the University of Quebec-Trois-Rivieres with the visiting Canadian University team having already won all three of their games against EHL opposition so far on their tour. The Flyers scratched Fynn Page, James Spence, Tyler Heidt and Martin Látal. The opening chance of the match fell to the visitors when Vincent Milot-Ouellet fired high over Owen's net from the slot after just 15 seconds. The Flyers responded with Lucas Chiodo going in tight on William Grimard in the visitors net who shut him down and on the same shift Chiodo was again denied by the UQTR goalie. Zachary Gravel forced a shoulder save from Owen in the 4th minute and shortly after Patrick Kyte was called for a high sticking infraction. The Flyers penalty kill was good with the only concern around the net being Gravel who tried to stuff the puck past Owen but the Fife goalie was strong. In the 7th minute a turnover in the Flyers defensive zone set up a chance for Félix Lafrance but Owen once again looked sharp. The Flyers responded with a 90 second shift in the UQTR defensive zone where they controlled the puck and patiently looked for an opening which ended with a shot from Daniel Krenželok straight into the logo of the goalie. Drake Pilon then forced a great save from Grimard as he shot high from the slot. The Flyers were back on the penalty kill as Johnny Curran was called for holding but again a great defensive effort saw the penalty killed with no shots on Owen. The opening goal of an entertaining and fast moving period came in the 16th minute when the Flyers again cycled the puck well in the visitors zone and Madi Dikhanbek skated around back of the goal before coming out front and firing high past Grimard. Owen produced a double save in the 17th minute to deny Kaylen Gauthier and William Dumoulin before the visitors again went on a power play with Phélix Martineau called for slashing. 30 seconds into the penalty kill the Flyers manpower was reduced further as Krenželok got the gate for boarding. Owen produced a fine shoulder save on the 5 on 3 from Milot-Ouellet and back at four skaters he again stopped Dumoulin right on the buzzer to preserve the slender lead.

## PERIOD 2

A minute into the second period and Martineau tried his luck from a tight angle but the goalie was in good position. In the 25th minute a 2 on 1 break for the visitors was broken up by a great poke check by Owen to stop Milot-Ouellet. Flyers went the other way and Chiodo skated through the UQTR defence but just lost the handle on the puck at the last second. Maxim Musorov a minute later showed some neat stickhandling but he also just had the puck roll off his stick at the vital moment. The visitors were starting to hem the Flyers in their own zone more and were certainly getting more rubber to the net and they found themselves on their 5th power play of the night in the 33rd minute as Martineau was called for roughing.

# MATCH

# REPORT

Another very good kill saw the Flyers return to full strength thanks to a post to post save to stone Lafrance. No sooner had the Flyers returned to full strength they were again back on the kill as Drake Pilon took a cross checking call. Owen made a nice glove save on Édouard Cournoyer as once again the Flyers killed the visitors man advantage. Chido saw a high rising shot catch Grimard around the mask and the goalie did a great job moments later to stop Pilon from close range. The visitors struck iron in the final minute of the period.

### PERIOD 3

There were chances for both teams inside the opening seconds of the third period as first Owen stopped Christophe Rondeau and then Grimard swallowed a point shot from Noah Delmas. Another penalty against the Flyers, this time Austin Farley in the 42nd minute for interference resulted in a comfortable kill for the home side. Lafrance skied one over the cross bar in the 45th minute when he would have expected to hit the target and the Flyers broke down the ice with Grimard making a toe save on Artur Gatiyatov and then a fine sprawling stop on Musorov. In the 49th minute Ludovic Soucy took the only infraction of the night for UQTR when he was called for elbows. The Flyers power play showed great patience and puck control without getting any grade A chances set up. With just under three minutes to play the visitors called their time out and pulled the goalie for the extra skater. They camped in the Flyers zone for a couple of shifts and Owen produced a great sprawling save to deny Anthony Turcotte before shutting down Mathis Cloutier. With 100 seconds remaining Krenželok picked up the puck deep in his own zone and floated the puck the length of the ice to hit the empty net insurance goal.

Flyers Stats					Patriotes Stats			
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Dikhanbek	Shulga	Gatiyatov	1				For
<b>37</b>	Krenželok			2				<b>39</b>
Shots				3				Shots
Against				4				Against
<b>39</b>				5				<b>37</b>
PiMS				6				PiMS
<b>14</b>				7				<b>2</b>
				8				
<b>MOM</b>				9				<b>MOM</b>
Dikhanbek				10				Grimard



UQTR  
MATCH NIGHT  
**ACTION**



JILLIAN MCFARLANE  
DEREK YOUNG



# UQTR MATCH NIGHT ACTION



JILLIAN MCFARLANE  
DEREK YOUNG





# THE HOCKEY SHOW

The show is open to  
everyone aged 14 and over

**24th September,  
7:15pm**

**Adam Smith Theatre,  
Beveridge Suite  
Kirkcaldy**

**Tickets £7.50  
Tickets on sale from  
OnFife.com from  
10am Saturday**

FIFE FLYERS HOCKEY SHOW IS BACK - AND IT IS COMING TO THE ADAM SMITH THEATRE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

WE'RE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE FIRST SHOW WILL BE IN THE BEVERIDGE SUITE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 7:15PM.

ALL OUR PREVIOUS SHOWS HAVE SOLD OUT AND WE NEEDED TO FIND A BIGGER ROOM, SO WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HOST IT AT THE TOWN'S LONG-ESTABLISHED THEATRE. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INSIDE SINCE ITS MAJOR REFURBISHMENT, THEN YOU ARE IN FOR A TREAT - IT LOOKS FAB!

TICKETS ARE PRICED AT £7.50 AND GO ON SALE AT THE THEATRE BOX OFFICE AND ONLINE AT ONFIFE.COM FROM 10:00AM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7. THE SHOW IS OPEN TO EVERYONE AGED 14 AND OVER. (CARD PAYMENTS WILL INCUR A 3% COMMISSION AS PER ALL SHOWS AT ONFIFE'S VENUES)

THE VENUE IS PERFECTLY LOCATED FOR ANYONE TRAVELLING BY TRAIN OR BUS, AND THERE IS A LIFT ACCESS TO THE SUITE WHICH IS ON THE UPPER FLOOR.

THE HOCKEY SHOW WILL AGAIN BE HOSTED BY ALI MCLAREN AND ALLAN CROW, EDITOR OF THE FIFE FREE PRESS, AND WILL FEATURE TOM COOLEN, HEAD COACH, AND A NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON STAGE CHATTING ABOUT THEIR CAREERS AND TELLING A FEW STORIES ABOUT THE CHARACTERS THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN DRESSING-ROOMS AROUND THE WORLD. WE CAN PROMISE A NIGHT OF GREAT STORIES AND LOTS OF HUMOUR - AND A CHANCE TO MEET THE GUYS WHO ARE ALL NEW TO THE TEAM AND THE TOWN.

IT PROMISES TO BE A FUN NIGHT IN A FANTASTIC NEW VENUE, SO BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND COME AND JOIN US!



# WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Recent Form Guide

As this is the first competitive game for Clan we don't have much to go on other than the outcome of their preseason schedule. The Clan come into the season after a summer of considerable change which will see the return of Corey Neilson as a head coach having last stood on the away bench in December 2022 when he was in charge of the Nottingham Panthers. The Clan roster has been completely overhauled with 17 new players arriving which is the most amongst all 10 teams in the league. Only five players have been returned from last season as the Glasgow club ended the season in 10th spot. In the Challenge Cup the Clan qualified in 3rd spot in the group and went to the semi-finals before being beaten by the Guildford Flames. One of those returning players is Clan's leading scorer in the league last season Gary Haden who returned just before last weekend and will need to be carefully watched as he has a liking for putting the puck into the Flyers net. The Clan's preseason was one of contrasting opponents with their first two outings being against NIHL opposition in the Solway Sharks with both games taking place in Dumfries and as most would expect the calibre of the EIHL roster saw a couple of comfortable wins. Last weekend the Clan were in Germany to take part in an invitational tournament featuring Finnish side Jokerit who play in the KHL, EC Red Bull Salzburg who have dominated the Austrian Hockey League (EBEL & ICEHL) and German side ESV Kaufbeuren who were hosting the weekend and play in DEL2. The Clan ran Salzburg very close as they held a 2-1 lead to eventually lose out on a final spot with a Red Bull OT winner. In the Bronze medal match the Clan Came back from a three goal deficit against their German hosts to win by the odd goal in 11. The Clan will open the season on the road both this weekend and next before their home opener against the Belfast Giants on Saturday 21st September.

## LAST CHALLENGE CUP VISIT FROM CLAN

Flyers Stats				Clan Stats			
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
A Eriksson	Osterberg	Lajeunesse	70	Goal 1	Lynch	Lachowicz	38
Pulkkinen			Shots Against	Goal 2			Shots Against
Humitz	Gilling	Makela	38	Goal 3			70
Humitz	Gilling	Desrocher	PIMS	Goal 4			PIMS
Pulkkinen	A Eriksson	Desrocher	6	Goal 5			18
			Goalies	Goal 6			Goalies
			Owen	Goal 7			Karjalainen
				Goal 8			
				Goal 9			
				Goal 10			

## OVERALL CHALLENGE CUP HOME RECORD AGAINST CLAN P 10 W 7 L 3 F 38 A 27

### Number Crunching

The Flyers won points in all four meetings with the Clan at The Auld Barn last season recording two regulation wins and two overtime losses.

It is the Flyers best run at home since the Clan were rebranded for season 2108/19.

In Challenge Cup meetings the Flyers have won three of the last four meetings with the Clan on home ice.

With 16 goals in all competitions against the Flyers Gary Haden is the joint all-time Clan scorer against Fife along with Scott Pitt.

The teams have recorded a one shutout each on home ice against each other in Challenge Cup action.

A note on last season's Challenge Cup encounter against the Clan in Kirkcaldy – the Flyers 70 shots on goal was a new record for an EIHL game having previously registered 50 as their best on three occasions.

The last time the Flyers opened a season with back to back home games was the 2018/19 season when they met this weekend's opponents – beating Clan 5-4 in a shootout and losing to the Giants 1-3 with both matches in the Challenge Cup.





# WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Recent Form Guide

The Giants will arrive in Fife having opened their season the night before in Dundee in Challenge Cup group action. The Giants roster has seen a total of 13 additions to last season's team and although that's a relatively high number of new faces for a Giants roster many of those who have joined in the summer will be familiar as returnees to Belfast. Adam Keefe's roster has the highest number of North American players. The Giants finished third in the league last season and were beaten finalists in the Play-off Final weekend at Nottingham. Having topped their group with a 100% record against the three Scottish teams they were upset in the quarter finals of last season's Challenge Cup by the Coventry Blaze. Looking at preseason results it appears as though the Giants have gelled quickly after winning all four of their games. They opened with a 5-1 win on home ice against the Cardiff Devils and then travelled to the Vindico Arena the following night, not to meet the Devils, but to meet the GB squad in a pre-Olympic Qualifier run out. The Giants, with Ben Lake and Jackson Whistle playing in opposition, handed their teammates and GB their second warm up defeat with a 4-1 scoreline. Last weekend the Giants, like the Flyers, hosted Canadian University sides. Carleton were defeated 8-2 on Friday whilst the University of Alberta Golden Bears kept things close for a while but eventually went down 6-3. So with the return of Kyle Osterberg to Fife Ice Arena adding additional interest the Giants come into the weekend with plenty of goals in their locker. The one negative on the season is the loss to injury of new blueliner Zak Galambos who is expected to be missing for the "foreseeable future".

## LAST CHALLENGE CUP VISIT FROM GIANTS

Saturday 30th September 2023				0		1		Challenge Cup													
<b>Flyers Stats</b>				<b>Clan Stats</b>																	
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	Goal 1	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Goal 7	Goal 8	Goal 9	Goal 10	Shots Against	PiMS	Goalies	
			16		Brown	O Cooper		33										16			Owen
			Shots Against					16										10			Whistle
			PiMS																		
			16																		
			Goalies																		
			Owen																		

## OVERALL CHALLENGE CUP HOME RECORD AGAINST GIANTS

P 14 W 2 D 1 L 11 F 25 A 48

### Number Crunching

The Flyers final meeting of last season with the Giants saw them snap a 13 game home ice losing streak against the Giants with their first win at Kirkcaldy since November 2019 against Belfast. Flyers will be looking to make it back to back wins against the Giants for only the 3rd time in the previous 84 meetings in all EIHL competitions.

Giants have faced the Flyers most often of all teams in the Challenge Cup with 29 meetings to date. The Flyers have never met the Manchester Storm or Coventry Blaze in the competition.

Five of the eight meetings between the teams last season were one goal games.

Scott Conway with 14 is one goal behind Colin Shields as all time top scorer for the Giants against Flyers.

A note on last season's Challenge Cup encounter against the Giants in Kirkcaldy - 16 shots on goal is the lowest total against the Giants in the last 28 home matches stretching back to 1st March 2016 when Flyers had 13 for the game



# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



The preseason for EIHL teams has been spread over four weekends with some team finishing up this weekend ahead of making their competitive bows in seven days' time. Tonight we recap how the preseason has gone for the other teams in the league.

## August 16 Cardiff Devils 1-4 Herlev Eagles

The Devils were without Riley Brandt, Brett Perlini and Kohen Olischefski but had added two-way players Bayley Harewood and 17 year old Joe Tomalin playing his first ever game at the EIHL level. The visitors opened the scoring 13 minutes into the first period, but the Devils tied it up on the powerplay late in the first period when Zach O'Brien and Joey Martin connected to set up Hunter Shinkaruk on the powerplay to make it 1-1 at 18:39. Herlev made it 2-1 on the powerplay just 18 seconds into the second period, which was the only goal of the period. The Devils out chanced the visitors but ran into a hot goalie. Point blank chances for Reid Duke, Joey Martin and Ryan Barrow just could not be converted and the Devils trailed going into the final 20 minutes of play. The final period started the same way the second period did with an early goal for Herlev to extend their lead to 3-1. Pre-season conditioning seemed to play a factor in the final 20 minutes as the Devils' pace slowed down and the Eagles added an empty net goal in the final minute to round out the scoring at 4-1.

## August 17 Cardiff Devils 6-2 Herlev Eagles

Only one lineup change for the Devils with Ben Bowns getting the start in goal replacing Mac Carruth who played on Friday night. The Devils came out with more pace than on Friday night and the Devils carried the momentum but despite a 5 on 3 powerplay could not score as the period ended blank. The Devils finally opened the scoring on a strange play that saw Mark Richardson dump the puck into the Herlev zone and it bounce off the plexiglass glass right in front of the net for Hunter Shinkaruk to tap it into the wide open cage. Herlev answered back with the tying goal moments later when Marius Kring tucked the puck past Bowns to make it 1-1 at 26:57. In the final minute of play in the second period, a clearing attempt by a Herlev defender was picked off along the boards by Shinkaruk and spun around and placed a perfect pass onto the stick of Reid Duke who hammered it past Zetterquist to give the Devils a 2-1 lead after 40 minutes of play. The final period was all Devils, as the home side scored 4 goals to put the game out of reach. 17 year old Joe Tomalin found Josh Batch streaking in and he fired it off the post and in to give the Devils a 3-1 lead at 45:58. Just under three minutes later, Duke picked off a pass intended for a Herlev defenceman and skated the length of the ice to beat Zetterquist for his second goal of the game at 48:23.

Then at 53:54, Mark Richardson was deep in his own zone but saw Josh MacDonald circling at the far Blue line and he fired a laser of a pass through two zones onto the stick of MacDonald who skated in to score on a breakaway and make it 5-1. Less than a minute later, the trio of Martin, Shinkaruk and O'Brien connected with O'Brien getting the final pass to score with a low shot past Zetterquist at 56:35, making it 6-1 and sending the near sold out home crowd into a frenzy. A late powerplay goal for Herlev at 56:35 pulled a goal back for them but that was it and the game ended with a 6-2 win for the Devils.





# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## August 23 Cardiff Devils 5-0 Great Britain

Great Britain were beaten 5-0 by Cardiff Devils in a warm-up match at the Vindico Arena ahead of the Olympic Qualifiers. GB took the opportunity to ice a selection of experienced and prospect players, but Kieran Brown missed the game through injury. Jackson Whistle got the start between the pipes for GB with Lucas Brine as back-up. The hosts went ahead through Hunter Shinkaruk's one-time shot from the slot (4:46). Zach O'Brien put a penalty shot wide for the Devils and Robert Dowd went close at the other end with a one-timer. Devils led by two at the first intermission thanks to a neat finish by Reid Duke on the breakaway (16:45). Josh Waller was denied by Mac Carruth on a short-handed breakaway and moments later, Josh MacDonald scored with a blast from left-point on the powerplay (27:42). Defenceman Andrew MacWilliam jumped into the play and fired a neat top-shelf finish past Whistle for Cardiff's fourth (30:18). GB responded with a good spell of pressure as Dowd was denied from close range and Ollie Betteridge hit the bar. GB had spells of powerplay pressure in period three with Ben O'Connor and Cade Neilson going close. Devils completed the scoring through Riley Brandt's snipe of a finish (55:59).

## August 24 Belfast Giants 5-1 Cardiff Devils

The Devils were missing Brett Perlini, Mark Richardson, Evan Mosey and Ben Bowns through GB commitments and also missed Joey Martin who picked up an injury the night before. Young prospects Joe Tomalin, Bayley Harewood and Jacob White-Sey were all in the line-up. Hunter Shinkaruk continued his pre-season scoring streak with the only goal of the first period. Shinkaruk was set up by a nice pass from Harewood and he beat Tom McCollum with a low snapshot to make it 1-0 at 14:49. The Giants had the edge on shots with Carruth stopping all 9 shots he faced compared to the 4 shots on the Giants goal. The Giants pressure eventually paid off with the tying goal set up by JJ Piccinich and batted in by Mac Stewart on his backhand at 34:31 to make it 1-1. The period ended with some fisticuffs between Tyler Busch and Ciaran Long who each sat 5 minutes for fighting. The Giants opened the third period with a powerplay and took the 2-1 lead through Bobo Carpenter set up by Mark Cooper at 41:18. Just over two minutes later, Belfast made it 3-1 when Jordan Kawaguchi's pass landed perfectly on the stick of Pierre-Olivier Morin for an easy back door tap in at 43:24. Two more quick goals, first from Ciaran Long at 52:06 then Elijah Barriga less than a minute later gave the Giants a 5-1 win.

## August 24 Nottingham Panthers 1-2 UQTR

Nottingham Panthers were beaten in an entertaining opening game of pre-season at the Motorpoint Arena. An excellent crowd of nearly 5,500 witnessed a great game as Panthers celebrated the 25th season in the arena. With Ollie Betteridge, Logan Neilson and Josh Tetlow on GB duty, two-way players Ollie Endicott, Tom Palmer and Ben Brown came into the line-up. Ryan Bednard started between the pipes with Luca Sheldon as back-up. Captain Sam Herr had the game's first chance but his shot was saved by Charles-Antoine Lavallée. At the other end, Bednard made two great close-range saves in succession, but was beaten by a neat powerplay goal through Felix Lafrance's one-timer from the left-circle (14:41). Panthers dominated much of the second period with Didrik Henbrant denied on the breakaway and Otto Nieminen also going close. Nottingham's pressure finally told and Matt Spencer set-up Tim Doherty to score the equaliser from the left-circle on the powerplay (32:44). Matt Alfaro had two chances on an early third-period powerplay and Reid Stefanson's shot from close-range was saved. Doherty and Henbrant were denied in quick succession, again when Panthers had a man advantage, while Herr's backhand went just wide. The visitors won the game late on as Kaylen Gauthier drove the net to score from close-range (57:27).





# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## **August 24 Manchester Storm 4-1 Sheffield Steelers**

An entertaining opening period saw both sides grow into the game and an excellent cross-zone pass from Balmas was converted by Tansey after nine minutes to give the visiting Steelers the advantage. The Storm were not deterred by this, and two minutes later, Esteves struck the crossbar with a good effort from the slot and the Storm pressure would eventually pay dividends when Hinam tapped home from the doorstep in the 13th minute. The middle twenty minutes were equally exciting, with ample opportunities for both sides. The Steelers spurned a huge opportunity in the 28th minute, as Ciampini fired a shot over the bar from the slot. This missed chance would prove costly, as moments later, an excellent play from Lee to retain possession found Milton, whose tic-tac-toe play with Griffiths was converted on the backhand. A trademark Ehrhardt knee-bending slap shot doubled the hosts' lead in the 46th minute, after a good forecheck from Crawley won possession against Tansey deep in the Steelers' defensive zone. A face-off won by the Storm in front of the Sheffield net was expertly turned into a goal by Esteves, who fired a quick wrister under the armpit of the netminder to ensure the first game under the tenure of Flanagan would end in victory.

## **August 24 Solway Sharks 1-8 Glasgow Clan**

The first meeting of back to back games with the Clan was marked by a significant milestone for the Solway Sharks, as a record-breaking 1,200 fans filled the Dumfries Ice Bowl on Saturday night. As expected, the differences between the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) and the National Ice Hockey League (NIHL) were evident. The Clan had eight different scorers with Ullly, Després, Pelech, McLellan Sideroff, Jameson, Hazeldine, Prkusic finding the net whilst the Sharks consolation came midway through the game through Dunbar.

## **August 25 Great Britain 1-4 Belfast Giants**

The Belfast Giants made it two wins from two to start their pre-season campaign as Joe Cassetti's double helped Adam Keefe's men to a 4-1 win over the Great Britain national team at the Vindico Arena in Cardiff. Winger Cassetti both opened and closed the scoring in Wales, with Mark Cooper and Pierre-Olivier Morin striking in between, as the Giants backed up Saturday's victory over the Cardiff Devils with another strong performance. A quick start for GB saw Mark Richardson flash an early shot wide from a great position, while the Giants saw their first effort fall to J.J. Piccinich but his sharp angle shot was batted away by the shoulder of Ben Bowns. The middle third of the opening period belonged to the Giants and they did just about everything except score. Bowns once again saved when Morin set up Jordan Kawaguchi on a two-on-one breakaway, with a hooking penalty on Robert Dowd giving chances to Cassetti and Gabe Bast that couldn't be put away. Both sides had chances towards the end of the period, though, Cooper having two breakaways blanked by Bowns, while Johnny Curran hit the post on a breakaway of his own and a delay of game penalty on Bast put the hosts on a powerplay. Belfast should have fallen behind on the holdover of Bast's penalty as Dowd fed Brett Perlini but the GB star missed the gaping net, and instead, the visitors pulled ahead on their powerplay as Perlini sat for tripping and Piccinich fed Cassetti for the one-time finish (0-1). Once again, the Giants would dominate the middle section of the second period and Ciaran Long couldn't connect with Carter Hamill on an odd-man rush before Piccinich nearly grabbed another assist when he picked out Bast, but the defenceman's shot was well saved by a resolute Bowns. The Giants would double their lead before the second intermission as Mack Stewart continued his excellent pre-season by driving the net and although his initial shot was saved, Cooper was following in to deposit the rebound at 31:19 (0-2). An early tripping call on Ben Lake - playing for GB - put the Giants back on the powerplay but this time they couldn't connect, and they were thankful that Jackson Whistle came up with a key save on Perlini when Morin was boxed for boarding. The centre then made up for his penalty with the Giants' third goal at 54:16 as Kawaguchi and Bobo Carpenter set up the centre, who wrapped around in front and beat Bowns in close (0-3). Whistle continued his strong night with two stops on Robert Lachowicz and Ben O'Connor, but his shutout would be ended with 2:52 left as Joshua Waller finally got the national side a consolation goal, sniping home from the slot (1-3), only for Cassetti to add a fourth with 50 seconds remaining as a lucky bounce handed him an empty net tap-in (1-4).



# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## August 25 Manchester Storm 5-6 UQTR

A terrific effort from a short-benched Manchester Storm saw them push an impressive University of Québec-Trois-Rivières (UQTR) all the way. The opening period pulsated from start to finish, with the visitors opening the scoring through Milot-Ouellet in the fifth minute. Storm came flying back into the game after a well executed powerplay, rounded off by a heavy slap shot from CJ Garcia. A delayed penalty afforded the hosts the chance to get an extra skater into the offensive zone, and a pinpoint pass from Ehrhardt found the on-rushing Esteves, who scored his second goal in as many nights in the 14th minute. A shocking turnover in front of the UQTR netminder landed on the stick of Lee, who immediately fired on goal; this attempt was deftly redirected by Milton to extend the Storm's advantage to two goals. A wrist shot through traffic from Rafanomezantsoa somehow evaded the melee in front of Weninger and nestled into the Storm net with seconds remaining in the first twenty. A big moment for UQTR was denied by an excellent stop from Weninger, who stood tall to maintain the slender one-goal advantage in the 24th minute. However, the game-leveler eventually came for UQTR, as a wonderful individual goal from Gravel squared things up after 27 minutes. Storm changed their netminder at the halfway mark and Oldale was immediately thrust into action, making multiple good stops in quick succession. The mounting pressure from UQTR eventually turned into a goal, as Dumoulin rushed into the attacking zone and fired a precise shot over the glove of Oldale. The visitors switched their goaltenders for the final period and in the 44th minute, a soft by Ehrhardt goal conceded by Lavallée levelled the score. A determined effort from Ouellet outlasted Oldale, who turned aside two shots, but a third from the UQTR forward could not be kept at bay, making it 5-4 in favour of UQTR. The university outfit quickly added a sixth through Martin for a two goal lead. The see-sawing encounter continued as Hinam made full use of the man advantage with a piece of individual brilliance to bring the Storm back within one goal, with just over six minutes remaining. A powerplay in the dying embers of the match for the Storm was unfortunately not converted, despite plenty of chances being created in front of the UQTR crease.

## August 25 Solway Sharks 1-7 Glasgow Clan

Glasgow were once again too strong for their hosts and opened the scoring in 70 seconds through Pelech. A McLellan counter and a double from Sideroff had them well ahead after just 15 minutes. Finlay and Uilly added two more goals in the second despite the Clan running into penalty trouble before the hosts broke the shutout with Gardner on target. Sideroff went on to complete his hat trick with the only goal of the final period.

## August 26 Sheffield Steelers 5-1 Nottingham Panthers

Sheffield Steelers rounded off the second weekend of pre-season action with a 5-1 win over Nottingham Panthers on Bank Holiday Monday. The game, played in IceSheffield, was both teams' second warm-up game ahead of the new season - both the Steelers and Panthers were beaten in their opening matches.

Marc-Olivier Vallerand opened the scoring after just 93 seconds after which it was a comfortable night for the hosts. Daniel Leavens scored twice either side of a Mark Simpson goal to have the Steelers four up inside 24 minutes. The returning Sam Herr got the Panthers on the board just over halfway through, although Patrick Watling put the hosts' fifth on the board five minutes from the end of the second. There were no goals in the final period.





# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## **August 29 Dundee Stars 1-4 UQTR**

The opening period saw the visitors quickly find their feet and begin to pin the Stars into their own end as they piled on some early pressure. In the fifth minute, the Patriotes stopped the Stars from clearing their own zone and Pierre-Olivier Roy managed to get the puck to Felix Lafrance at the back post for a tap-in. The Taysiders responded well and began to get forward more but the rest of the first period would be a physical, end-to-end battle. The Canadians doubled their lead in the 25th minute with a powerplay goal as Charles Beaudoin was picked out by Zachary Gravel as he crashed towards the Dundee net and turned the puck past Fiske. The Stars had a number of good chances to get off the mark but Patriotes goalie, Charles-Antoine Lavallee appeared unbeatable. Kyle Pouncy, Jake Elmer and Jonathan McBean all had opportunities to cut down the lead but after failing to capitalise, the Quebec-side extended the lead when Beaudoin gained possession on a turnover and broke down the ice to be denied by Fiske, although the onrushing Ludovic Soucy smacked home the rebound on 36 minutes. The third period saw the Stars slowly edge out more chances and after a video review Elmer's effort was determined not to fully cross the line. Domenic Alberga sprung out from the penalty box and was played in behind by Brett Gravelle's long pass and he buried it to reduce the lead to two. Marc LeFebvre pulled Fiske late on for the extra attacker but the Patriotes would seal the victory when Conor Frenette fired into the gaping goal.

## **August 30 Belfast Giants 8-2 Carleton University**

Carleton Ravens rookie Félix Bédard had a goal and an assist in his Ravens preseason debut but it wasn't enough as the Carleton Ravens fell 8-2 to the Belfast Giants. After arriving in Dublin early Friday morning, the young Ravens squad found themselves behind 3-0 after 20 minutes despite fantastic play from Tye Austin. The Giants goals coming from Osterberg, Morin and Cassetti. The Ravens would split the second period, coming away with a goal from Oliver Castleman but still behind by three after 40 minutes as Morin got his second of the match. Castleman took advantage of a beautiful backhand pass from Bédard who picked up a loose puck after Alex Johnston forced the turnover below the goal line. The Giants came out strong to start the third period, scoring almost immediately to open the third period when Morin completed his hat trick. Carleton would respond off the rush as Bédard would whack home a rebound over a sprawling Thomas McCollum to make it 5-2. The Ravens travel legs would become a factor the rest of the way as turnovers allowed the Giants to put the game out of reach with goals from Kawaguchi, Piccinich and another from Osterberg, extending the lead to 8-2 with just over three minutes to play. Tye Austin made 47 saves for the Ravens in the loss looking fantastic in the losing effort.

## **August 30 Coventry Blaze 10-2 MK Lightning**

Blaze entered the game without Brit Archie Hazeldine, for precautionary reasons, and Italian International Terrance Amorosa, who was set to fly into the UK the following. In the absence of the pair, Brit Billy Thorpe of the Peterborough Phantoms was drafted in to bolster the defence, and homegrown Zaine McKenzie switched position from forward to make up the numbers. In Kevin Moore and Zach Vinnell's first game behind the bench, the new-look Blaze side got off to a scintillating start, scoring four goals within the opening ten minutes. In his testimonial season, David Clements was first on the scoresheet finishing a pretty passing play from Zach Heintz and Jack Hopkins at 1.51. American Man of the Match Chase Gresock was next to beat former Blaze netminder Jordan Hedley in the Milton Keynes goal with a heavy shot unassisted at 3.21. Heintz and Hopkins again combined well at 4.40, setting up Estonian forward Morten Jurgens who finished neatly to make it 3-0. Blaze made it four at 6.37 when returnee's Kim Tallberg and Alessio Luciani combined to punish Milton Keynes short-handed. The visitors got on the board at 15.47 when long-time Coventry forward Ross Venus scored against his former side, racing to pick up a loose puck and beat American Cam Gray in the Blaze net. Blaze made it five just 19 seconds into the second period when Grayson Constable showcased his shot to fire past Hedley from the slot. Gresock was awarded a second goal of the night at 24.35 following a video review, and a Nick Seitz breakaway on 33.57 gave Coventry a 7-1 lead. Brit Will Bray replaced Gray in the Blaze net, and he pulled off an outstanding save to deny the Lightning on a breakaway before he was beaten on 37.50 by Milique Martelly to make it 7-2. Blaze refused to take their foot off the gas, and one of the highlights of the night came at 38.50 when the influential Gresock fed 16-year-old Brynley Capps whose snipe found the net for eight. Jurgens then bagged his second, two seconds before the middle period buzzer. A tenth for Coventry came on 46.28 as Gresock bagged his hat-trick and sixth point.



# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## August 30 Manchester Storm 4-1 Nottingham Panthers

Panthers started Ryan Bednard between the pipes with Luca Sheldon as back-up and they were without Josh Tetlow and Ollie Betteridge who were in Denmark with Great Britain. The start of the game saw limited clear-cut chances, but Didrik Henbrant and Hugo Roy went closest to scoring for the Panthers. Bednard made a good save to deny Loren Ulett short-handed, but Storm scored twice near the end of the period to lead 2-0 at the first intermission. Jake Durflinger's wrist-shot through traffic on the powerplay (17:35) was followed by a great finish from the left-circle by British youngster Noah Kaariainen (19:08). Otto Nieminen just failed to get a stick on a feed to the backdoor by Henbrant as Panthers looked for a way back into the game and Sam Herr was denied from close-range. Panthers made the perfect start to the third period as Henbrant fed Nieminen who fired a one-timer over the shoulder of Evan Weninger (40:24). The hosts regained their two-goal advantage when Tyler Hinam skated down the left and cut inside at speed to fire the puck past Bednard (47:14). Chase Harrison completed the scoring when he pounced first to a rebound from close-range (50:22).

## August 31 Cardiff Devils 2-5 Sheffield Steelers

The Devils had seven players and two coaches away with the National Team at the Olympic Qualifiers in Denmark, but were able to give some young up and coming talent a great opportunity to show what they can do at the EIHL level. Tyler de la Bertouche was backing up Mac Carruth in goal while Jacob White-Sey was on defence along with Sam Smith who was making his debut for his hometown club. Up front Bayley Harewood and Joe Tomalin were in the lineup, both of whom had played every game of pre-season so far. An early injury to Riley Brandt left Devils another man down. For the fifth game in a row, it was Hunter Shinkaruk who scored the first goal for the Devils, this time on the powerplay with a nice set up from Zach O'Brien and Gleason Fournier. Shinkaruk's shot was deflected by the Sheffield defender past Matt Greenfield in the Steelers' net to make it 1-0 at 12:45. The Steelers came back to tie the game just 1:03 into the second period when Patrick Watling set up Mikko Juusola on a two on one that Mac Carruth had no chance on to make it 1-1. The visitors took the lead seven minutes later when a broken defensive play saw Watling drop the puck to a wide open Colton Saucerman, who rifled the puck top shelf over the shoulder of Carruth to make it 2-1 for Sheffield. With just under five minutes to play in the period, Tyler Busch sent Bayley Harewood into the Sheffield zone, and he placed a perfect pass through the crease for Ryan Barrow to tap the puck in past Greenfield and make it 2-2, which is how the period ended. The final period was all Sheffield, as they scored three unanswered goals to seal the win. First it was an unassisted goal from Dominic Cormier just 1:48 into the period after a poor defensive giveaway that allowed him to walk in all alone on Carruth to make it 3-2. Less than 3 minutes later, Juusola scored with a great individual effort that saw him cut past the Cardiff defender and around Carruth to tuck the puck into the wide open net and make it 4-2 at 44:15. Daniel Leavens added a powerplay goal at 50:35 to round out the scoring.





# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## **August 31 Manchester Storm 4-3 OT Lausitzer Füchse**

The visitors took an early lead on the powerplay after 88 seconds when Zerter-Gossage rifled a shot over the glove of a helpless Oldale. However a wonderful cross-zone pass from Esteves found Morrow, whose hard slapshot defeated former Steelers netminder Morrone through the wickets for the leveller. The back-and-forth nature of the game was highlighted when Zerter-Gossage picked off a pass in his own defensive end, skated through three zones, and picked his shot over the blocker of Oldale in the 15th minute to ensure the visitors held a lead going into the first intermission. The Storm were able to draw level after weathering initial second period Lausitzer Füchse pressure, as Hughes' positioning enabled him to backhand the precise pass from Robert into the net in the 27th minute. A couple of good saves from Morrone thwarted the hosts before the pressure eventually paid off as Lee skated onto an excellent feed from Esteves, who, while sliding to his knees, managed to slide the puck over to the youngster, who finished with aplomb from the slot to give Manchester the lead. The final period started in a similar vein to the previous two, with both teams finishing their checks and battling for the puck all over the ice. A break of the puck from a face-off enabled Beaudry to step into a slapshot that whistled into the Storm net to knot things at three apiece in the 49th minute. Lausitzer Füchse were awarded a penalty shot in the 55th minute, but Scheidl was unable to convert the potential match-winning opportunity as his effort cleared the crossbar. The final five minutes of play saw both sides going all out for the winner but to no avail, as the game headed into overtime. The bonus hockey ended in emphatic fashion for the Storm, as wave after wave of attacking pressure in overtime saw Ehrhardt bury a rebound off the pads of Morrone after 73 seconds to continue Storm's impressive pre-season.

## **August 31 Guildford Flames 5-1 Gothiques d'Amiens**

Flames opened their campaign hosting French side Amiens and the home team broke open a 1-1 draw in the 3rd period with four unanswered goals in a little over three minutes to secure a 5-1 win. Daniel Catenacci opened the Flames account at 12:54 to give the hosts a lead at the break. Anatoli De Mali levelled for the visitors with the only goal of the middle set. Brett Welychka opened the flood gates at 45:41. Ryan Tait added another at 47:26. Another Welychka strike at 48:13 and a Daniel Tedesco follow up just 33 seconds after that completed the scoring. Eamon McAdam turned away 18 of 19 shots while Clement Fouquerel made 42 saves on 47 shots.

## **August 31 Red Bull Salzburg 3-2 OT Glasgow Clan**

EC Red Bull Salzburg edged out the Glasgow Clan 3-2 in the semifinals of the Warrior Cup, securing their place in the final of the preseason tournament in Kaufbeuren. Captain Thomas Raffl, who had just returned from injury, led the Red Bulls onto the ice, marking his first appearance of the preseason. The win2day ICE Hockey League champions took a 1-0 lead in the first period with a goal by Dennis Robertson, who deflected a shot from Thomas Raffl during a power play. However, Glasgow took control in the second period and went ahead 2-1 with goals from McLellan and Finlay. In the third period, Thomas Raffl forced the game into overtime, where Dennis Robertson sealed the victory with a long-range shot.





**Goalies**

- 50 Shane Owen
- 44 Brython Preece

**Defencemen**

- 5 Noah Delmas
- 71 Madi Dikhanbek
- 7 Tyler Heidt
- 9 Brodie Kay
- 88 Daniel Krenželok
- 19 Patrick Kyte
- 3 Olivier LeBlanc
- 4 Fynn Page

**Forwards**

- 86 Lucas Chiodo
- 78 Michael Cichy
- 41 Johnny Curran
- 91 Austin Farley
- 15 Artur Gatiyatov
- 62 Martin Látal
- 22 Phélix Martineau
- 29 Maxim Musorov
- 77 Drake Pilon
- 66 Nikolai Shulga
- 61 James Spence

Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Period Scores				
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO
<b>Flyers</b>				
<b>Visitors</b>				

Referee :

Linesman :

Referee :

Linesman :



Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Shots on Goal				
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO
<b>Flyers</b>				
<b>Visitors</b>				

- Goalies**
- 29 Landon Bow  
 44 Lucas Brine
- Defencemen**
- 4 Simon Després  
 73 Joseph Hazeldine  
 27 Reece Kelly  
 74 Darien Kielb  
 55 Chris McKay  
 40 Archie Salisbury  
 49 Steven Seigo  
 53 Kian Shevlin
- Forwards**
- 88 Kyle Carruth  
 10 Liam Finlay  
 57 Alex Forbes  
 23 Gary Haden  
 13 Mitchell Heard  
 12 Keaton Jameson  
 7 Robert Lachowicz  
 9 Tyson McLellan  
 94 Cade Neilson  
 28 Félix Paré  
 17 Michael Pelech  
 77 Nick Prkusic  
 71 Rylan Schwartz  
 95 Deven Sideroff  
 91 Cole Uilly

**Man of the Match Flyers:**

**Man of the Match Visitors:**



**Goalies**

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- 44 Brython Preece

**Defencemen**

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Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
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5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Period Scores				
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO
<b>Flyers</b>				
<b>Visitors</b>				

Referee :

Linesman :

Referee :

Linesman :



Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Shots on Goal				
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO
Flyers				
Visitors				

- Goalies**
- 33 Tom McCollum  
1 Jackson Whistle
- Defencemen**
- 42 Gabe Bast  
6 Jeff Baum 'A'  
21 Kell Beattie  
22 Zak Galambos  
3 Bo Hanson  
23 Mike Lee  
17 Rhodes Mitchell-King  
62 Cameron Pound  
77 Josh Roach
- Forwards**
- 90 Mason Alderson  
91 Elijah Barriga  
15 Robert Carpenter  
8 Joe Cassetti  
10 Scott Conway  
26 Mark Cooper 'C'  
14 Carter Hamill  
46 Finley Howells  
29 Jordan Kawaguchi  
9 Ben Lake 'A'  
89 Ciaran Long 'A'  
88 Grant Mismash  
20 Pierre-Olivier Morin  
79 Kyle Osterberg  
12 J.J. Piccinich  
86 Mack Stewart

**Man of the Match Flyers:**

**Man of the Match Visitors:**



# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## September 01 ESV Kaufbeuren 5-6 Glasgow Clan

Both teams, as beaten semi finalists the previous day, lined up to play for the Bronze medal in the Warrior Pro Invitational Tournament at the Energie Schwaben Arena. The Clan were 4-1 down at the end of the first period with a double from Blomqvist and goals from Nifosi and Koziol being answered by Ullly for Clan. The Scottish side rallied in the middle period and were only a goal behind going into the third period as a Kharboutli goal was countered by three Clan goals by Siego, Kielb and Heard. The comeback was completed in the third as the Clan took the win with two goals from Hazeldine and Finlay.

## September 01 Belfast Giants 6-3 University of Alberta

The Belfast Giants rounded off their pre-season preparations by making it four wins from four. Six different scorers found the net as first period goals from Mack Stewart, Elijah Barriga and Grant Mismash were backed up by strikes by Pierre-Olivier Morin, Mark Cooper and Jordan Kawaguchi in the third period and a 27-save performance by Tom McCollum to secure the win. The Giants got off to a disastrous start just 30 seconds into the game as the Golden Bears took the lead, Connor McClennon's pass to the crease tipped in by Alex Thacker and the visitors nearly doubled their lead when Sean Tschigerl couldn't connect on Tyler Prezioso's pass before Kyle Osterberg hit the post with the Giants' first real effort. Stewart tied the game at 7:33 as he smashed in the loose puck after Joe Casseti failed to properly connect with a shot. The Giants pulled two ahead before the first intermission as Jeff Baum produced a fine bit of skating to go behind the net and then feed the puck back in front for Barriga to tap in at 14:15 and then a cross-checking call on Mason Ward allowed Mismash to grab his first Giants goal with a top corner finish from the right circle on the powerplay. Belfast came out firing in the middle period with Cooper and Mismash going close but the middle section of the period belonged to McCollum with the netminder coming up with a huge double-save on Josh Prokop and then another nice save to deny Blake Gustafson. The Giants started the third on the powerplay and, although they couldn't connect, shortly after they would get their fourth as Morin sniped a loose puck into the top corner at 42:35 but Alberta were quickly back to two behind as a Casseti penalty allowed Justin Hall to tip the puck home at 43:46. McClennon had a big opportunity to make it a one-goal game when he skated in on McCollum but fanned on the shot, while at the other end the top line couldn't capitalise on a three-on-one breakaway as Palmer squeezed the pads to make the save. But in quick succession the game went from potentially being over to being back to one goal in it. Piccinich hit the crossbar at one end after some brilliant vision by Mismash and, mere seconds later, McClennon went up the other end and finished when one-on-one with McCollum to reduce the arrears. Just as soon as it was a one-goal game however, the Giants restored control as Casseti's driven pass to the crease was tipped in by Cooper to settle any nerves at 52:53 with Jakin Smallwood's diving tip the closest Alberta came to a late response and Kawaguchi added the gloss to the scoreline with the empty-netter with 1:11 remaining.

## September 01 Coventry Blaze 6-3 Moskitos Essen

With Archie Hazeldine and Terrance Amorosa still out of the line-up, Coach Kevin Moore invited club legend Russell Cowley to make a special guest appearance, marking a start to the 20th anniversary of Coventry's Grand Slam season. Billy Thorpe of the Peterborough Phantoms also played again with Canadian Mat Robson getting the start in net. Blaze got on the board early when Jackson Cressey was able to re-direct a floated shot from defenceman Alexander Kuqali into the net at 4.06. Chase Gresock continued his hot start to life in Coventry, scoring his fourth goal of the weekend and seventh point at 17.06. Blaze were quickly three-ahead when Nick Seitz found blue-liner Kuqali in free space and he made no mistake finishing past Justus Roth on 17.47. Coventry on the powerplay made it four with four seconds remaining of the first period, Swede Jakob Stridsberg getting on the scoresheet. Essen tightened things up in the second period and used a man-advantage to get on the board at 34.23. Offensive defenceman Edmunds Augstkalns the scorer, beating Brit Will Bray who had earlier replaced Robson. Blaze were forced to kill two more penalties in the remainder of the game, a total of five minors taken on the night. With 11.59 to go, the Mosquitoes cut the deficit to two, winning a puck battle behind the net before Captain Enrico Saccomani fired a quick shot past Bray to make it 4-2. Thorpe had the highlight of the night with 6.41 to go, capping his impressive weekend within an Elite League squad with a goal. Ralfe Rinke bagged a third for Essen at 55.23 and trying to close the gap further they pulled goalie Roth for the extra skater in the final minutes. Gresock took advantage, showing good speed to score his second of the night and fifth in two games to wrap up the scoring 6-3 at 57.41.



# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## September 01 Dundee Stars 0-1 SO UQTR

Dundee Stars were beaten on penalty shots by the University of Quebec Trois-Riviere Patriotes after 65 minutes of hard, battling and intense hockey as both teams pushed for a final victory to conclude their preseason. The Stars and the Patriotes battled hard right from the start but the game would remain scoreless after the opening 20 minutes. Dundee killed off the remainder of a penalty to start the middle session and tensions between the two teams started to flare as each side was pushing for the first goal. It all came to a head just before the second break as Brendan Harms was penalised for roughing during a coming together as he stood up for his teammates and moments later, Stars captain Drydn Dow was ejected from the game for his retaliation on Edouard Cournoyer after the Patriotes defenseman made a late hit on Dow. Stars stayed strong on their pro-longed penalty kill in the third as they shut down their opponents for the full five minutes of Dow's major penalty but there was a close call as one play went to a video review but the puck did not cross the goal line. However, the Stars penalty killing unit would not be given a rest as Xavier Pouliot was then boxed for two minutes on a slashing call and he would sit for a further two minutes as he voiced his disagreement with the call and picked up an abuse of an official penalty. The home side survived another long stint with a man down and both teams would also lose more players as a high hit on Dundee's Alex Tonge sparked a scrum. Dundee were the closest to breaking the deadlock in the third period as they tested Charles-Antoine Lavallee with a number of efforts. After no winner could be found in a very nervous five minutes of overtime, a shootout was required and both Lavallee and Jarrett Fiske in the Stars goal kept out all three of the first efforts, before Vincent Milot-Ouellet converted the Patriotes fourth effort. That then put all the pressure on Dundee's Keanu Yamamoto to convert the Stars fifth shot and he tucked the puck past Lavallee before William Dumolin then had the game on his stick and fired past Fiske to claim the victory for the Patriotes.

## September 01 Guildford Flames 4-3 OT Gothiques d'Amiens

Just 3 minutes into the game, Ethan Strang scored his first in Flames colours but it was the only goal of the set and the teams started the middle frame still on the 1-0 score. Antonin Plagnat levelled at 25:49. Catenacci put Flames in front again around the midway mark, but Plagnat's 2nd, this one surviving video review, set up the third period tied at a pair each. Flames took a lead through Brett Welychka early in the final stanza, but as they had done all night a late goal by Anatole De Mali equalized for Amiens to force overtime. A visitors too many men penalty put them down a man and just under 2 minutes from time Daniel Catenacci's second of the contest, just as the powerplay expired, secured a 4-3 Flames win.





# ROUND UP - PRESEASON



## September 01 Nottingham Panthers 7-2 Lausitzer Füchse

Ryan Bednard started between the pipes for Panthers with Rok Stojanovic as back-up in his first weekend back after returning to the club on a short-term contract. Panthers were without Ollie Betteridge and Josh Tetlow, both away with GB in Denmark, so Bradley Bowering and Tom Palmer were called into the line-up. The visitors took an early lead when Clarke Breitzkreuz scored through the five-hole after he cut inside from the right-wing (2:32). Panthers turned the game around with two goals in just under three minutes as Palmer and Jordan Kelsall set-up Logan Neilson to fire-in the equaliser from the slot (9:05). Kelsall won the face-off which led to Adam Berg sending a superb shot bar down past Daniel Filimonow on the powerplay (11:53). Otto Nieminen took advantage of giveaway in the Foxes defence and bundled the puck over the line at the near-post 18 seconds in the period two (20:18). But the visitors closed the gap to one when Dominik Grafenthin went top corner short-side (22:08). Stojanovic replaced Bednard just past the midway point of the second session and Panthers made it 4-2 when Berg used his strength to force the puck over the line from close-range (33:56). Sam Herr fed Kristoff Kontos to score on the powerplay from the left-circle (35:02) and Berg sent Reid Stefanson on a breakaway to fire-in Nottingham's sixth (38:20). Neilson scored his second of the night with a superb finish in the top-right hand corner (43:10). Panthers saw the game out with ease to secure victory and lift the GM the GM Memorial Trophy.

## September 01 Sheffield Steelers 7-2 Cardiff Devils

The Devils headed to Sheffield for the second game of the pre-season series and were missing seven players away with Team GB and another two that were lost to injury (Mac Carruth and Riley Brandt) the previous night in Cardiff. With neither of their starting goalies available, the Devils called upon Tyler de la Bertouche who is on a two-way agreement with the Devils and the Bristol Pitbulls to start in goal. The Devils also had four other two-way players in the line-up – Jacob White-Sey, Sam Smith, Bayley Harewood and Joe Tomalin, all playing a regular shift on the night. The teams traded goals in the first period, first the Steelers' Mark Simpson made it 1-0 at 3:45 then Andrew MacWilliam tied it up at 9:47, set up by Zach O'Brien making it 1-1. The period ended tied with the Devils having the better chances on goal. The second period saw the Steelers turn up the intensity and take a 3-2 lead after 40 minutes. Dominic Cormier and Mikko Juusola scored for the Steelers before Hunter Shinkaruk continued his pre-season scoring streak with a late goal at 38:23 to pull within one going into the final period. Four unanswered goals for the Steelers in the final period saw the home side skate away with the 7-2 victory.

Playing this weekend are:

- 7th - Nottingham Panthers vs. Cardiff Devils
- 7th - Coventry Blaze vs. Kyiv Capitals
- 8th - Cardiff Devils vs. Nottingham Panthers
- 8th - Coventry Blaze vs. Kyiv Capitals

# VISITING THE BARN

As teams make their first visits to the Auld Barn this season we will look back at the changes made to their rosters in the close season. As we host the Glasgow Clan again in a fortnight's time we will concentrate tonight on Sunday night's visitors the Belfast Giants.

Giants first piece of business in the close season was to announce on 30th April that Head Coach **Adam Keefe** had his contract extended. Over the past 13 years, as a player between 2011 and 2017, and Head Coach between 2017 and 2024, Adam Keefe has played a key role in the Giants' success, both on and off the ice. Since swapping his stick for a suit, Keefe has led the Giants to eight pieces of silverware – four Challenge Cups, three Elite League titles, and one Elite League Playoff title – in the space of seven seasons as Head Coach. Steve Thornton, Group Head of Commercial and Hockey at The Odyssey Trust, said: "We're excited that Adam will be returning as Head Coach for the 2024/25 season. There's no question that Adam optimises what it means to be a Giant, and his impact on the organisation has been substantial, both on and off the ice. Adam's passion and determination are off the charts, and I'm confident we will be competing for trophies with him leading the charge." During his time as a player, Adam Keefe won his first Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) title in his debut season for the Giants in 2011/12, before going on to be crowned EIHL Erhardt Conference champion in 2012/13, and again, Elite League champion in 2013/14. Commenting Adam Keefe said: "I'm very happy to be returning for another season with the Belfast Giants. Although the 2023/24 campaign has only just ended, we're already working hard behind the scenes to build a team that will challenge for all three trophies and bring success back to Belfast in the 2024/25 season."

The Giants first signing was made on May 2nd with the news of the return of a familiar face in forward **JJ Piccinich** from Stjernen Hockey. Prior to initially joining the Giants in the 2021/22 season, the New Jersey native iced for several teams in North America, including Boston University, London Knights, Orlando Solar Bears, Newfoundland Growlers, and Tulsa Oilers, between 2014 and 2020. During his first spell in Belfast, Piccinich notched an impressive 97 total points in 65 games. J.J.'s contribution on the ice saw him named as the 2021/22 Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) Player of the Year, registering the most assists, goals, and total points throughout

the season, helping the Giants to win their sixth EIHL league title and fourth Challenge Cup. Having departed the Giants at the conclusion of the 2021/22 season, Piccinich spent the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons with Stjernen in the Norwegian Eliteserien, where he notched 129 total points in just 93 games, guiding the Fredrikstad-based side to the playoffs in both campaigns.

There was another returnee announced on May 6th with GB Internationalist forward **Scott Conway** coming from HK Dukla Trenčin. Conway first joined the Belfast Giants ahead of the 2021/22 season, during which he scored an astonishing 101 total points in 69 games in all competitions, helping the Giants claim the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) and Challenge Cup titles. The following season, Conway's tally was even more impressive, notching 116 total points in 72 games in all competitions, going on to be named EIHL 'Forward of the Year' and playing an integral role in steering the Giants towards their first treble in history. After departing the Belfast Giants at the conclusion of the 2022/23 season, Conway signed with Slovakian side, HK Dukla Trenčín for the 2023/24 campaign. Conway's fine form continued overseas, as he recorded 42 total points in 47 games, helping the three-time Slovakian champions reach the Extraliga playoffs.

Getting the band back together continued with the announcement on May 9th that defenceman **Gabe Bast** would return to the SSE Arena from Red Deer Sr. Rustlers. Alberta-born Bast first joined the Belfast Giants ahead of the 2022/23 season, during which he recorded 74 total points in 72 games in all competitions, playing an integral role in the Giants' treble-winning campaign. Prior to his first stint in Belfast, Bast spent four-years at the University of North Dakota, where he made over 100 appearances for the Fighting Hawks. Bast then went on to join Kuopio-based side KalPa in the Finnish Liiga for the 2021/22 season, before making the move to Northern Ireland the following season. After departing the Giants at the conclusion of the 2022/23 season, Bast returned to his native Red Deer, where he spent the 2023/24 season with North Central Senior Hockey League side, the Red Deer Rustlers. In 13 regular season games, Bast contributed 16 points, helping the team to finish second in the South Division standings and to secure their place in the Division Finals. GB netminder netminder **Jackson Whistle**



# VISITING THE BARN

extended his contract on 14th May. First arriving in Belfast from Canadian side Kelowna Rockets in the 2016/17 season, Whistle has since played over 150 games in all competitions across five spells with the Giants. The 28-year-old has also previously iced for fellow Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) sides, Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers, accruing an additional 78 games to his tally. Son of inaugural Belfast Giants Head Coach, Dave Whistle, the dual-national – originally from British Columbia in Canada – is no stranger to Belfast or The SSE Arena, Belfast, having spent a portion of his childhood in Northern Ireland while his father led the Giants between 2000 and 2003. During the 2023/24 season, the Great Britain international recorded an impressive .926 save percentage across 21 EIHL regular season games, playing an integral role in helping the Giants reach the Playoff Finals Weekend at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham.

The following day another important extension was announced with Captain **Mark Cooper** returning. First arriving in Belfast for the 2021/22 season, the 31-year-old forward has registered over 180 appearances across three seasons for the Giants, cementing himself as one of the cornerstones of the team. Having played an integral role as alternate captain during his first two seasons in Belfast, Cooper was appointed captain ahead of the 2023/24 season, during which he led the club to its most successful Champions Hockey League campaign in history and the Elite League Playoff Final. Prior to joining the Giants in 2021, Cooper iced for teams across both Canada and the United States, including Bowling Green State University, Tuscon Roadrunners, Rapid City Rush, Kansas City Mavericks, and South Carolina Stingrays, playing over 450 games in the process.

**Ben Lake** was next to be announced as a returnee on 20th May. Calgary-born British dual-national Lake first arrived in Belfast for the 2019/20 season and has since tallied more than 250 appearances in all competitions across four seasons with the Giants. The experienced forward, who is best-known for his passion and work ethic on the ice, has spent the last three seasons as one of the club's alternate captains, establishing himself as a well-respected figure by fans and teammates alike. Previously, Lake has garnered experience with fellow Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) sides, Coventry Blaze and

Manchester Storm, icing more than 140 times in total. Prior to joining the EIHL, Lake spent four seasons playing NCAA hockey for Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, appearing more than 130 times for the Pioneers. Lake then got his first taste of professional hockey ahead of the 2015/16 season, signing for the Alaska Aces in the ECHL, where he spent two seasons before making the move to the EIHL at the conclusion of the 2016/17 campaign. Following his debut appearance with Great Britain in the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championships in 2018/19, Lake has since represented the international side across five tournaments in total. In 2023, Lake played a key role in Team GB's campaign during the IIHF Division 1 Group A World Championship, which saw the side take home the gold.

May 22nd saw another returnee on the blueline in the shape of **Jeff Baum**. Colleyville-born Baum initially joined the Giants for the 2021/22 season, and has since iced over 190 times in all competitions across three seasons in Belfast. During the 2023/24 season, the treble-winning Texan was appointed one of the club's alternate captains, an opportunity with which Baum excelled, helping lead the team to the Elite League Playoff Finals Weekend in Nottingham. Prior to turning professional ahead of the 2021/22 season, Baum spent four seasons playing NCAA hockey with both the American International College and Providence College, the latter for which he played with in the 2017 Friendship Four at The SSE Arena, Belfast, alongside fellow 2024/25 Belfast Giants re-signee, Scott Conway. A firm fan favourite, Baum claimed a number of accolades at the Belfast Giants 2023/24 awards night, picking up Defenceman of the Year, Player of the Year, Player's Player, and Belfast Giants MVP, rounding out a fine individual season.

Two days later defence partner **Josh Roach** was announced. From Saskatoon in Canada, Roach first joined the Giants ahead of the 2018/19 season, before going on to play with the Black Wings Linz in the Austrian ICE Hockey League and Kenaston Blizzards in the Saskatchewan Valley Hockey League. Roach then returned to Belfast midway through the 2022/23 season, contributing as a solid defenceman in the historic treble-winning campaign, registering two goals and 16 assists in 25 Elite Ice Hockey League appearances. Roach started last season

# VISITING THE BARN

on IR and returned to action in January 2024, notching an impressive 30 total points in 33 games in all competitions, helping the Giants to make the Playoff Finals Weekend at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham and feels like he has a little bit of unfinished business from last year.

The following day another contract extension was confirmed with yet another blueline returnee in **Cameron Pound**. Originally from Solihull, Pound, initially joined the Giants midway through the 2023/24 season, before which he spent three seasons playing for Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, icing more than 50 times for the Huskies, and helping them reach the USports playoffs during both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons. Before making the move to North America, Pound featured as part of Coventry Blaze's U16's roster, where he also represented the Midlands in the English Ice Hockey Association Conference on four occasions. Pound has also notched 20 appearances for Great Britain's U18 and U20 teams, taking part in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships four times. In his first season in Belfast, Pound made 41 appearances in all competitions for the Giants, recording eight total points, and scoring his first professional goal against the Manchester Storm. Pound's father, Ian, who went to the Chicago Blackhawks with the 221st pick in the 1985 National Ice Hockey League, is a veteran of the British ice hockey scene, having spent 12 seasons across various leagues, earning seven caps for Team GB in the process. Another homegrown player was confirmed as returning on 29th May. Forward **Ciaran Long** first arrived in Belfast for the 2019/20 season, Long has recorded over 250 appearances for the Giants across four seasons, contributing over 100 total points in the process. Ahead of the 2023/24 season, Long was named as one of the club's alternate captains after playing an integral role in the treble-winning 2022/23 campaign. Prior to joining the Giants, Long had three spells with fellow Elite League side Manchester Storm, icing over 130 times for the Altrincham-based club. In addition to his domestic accolades, Long has also represented Team GB's U18's, U20's, and senior men's teams, featuring as part of 2021 roster for the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships in Latvia.

To round out a busy month of signings forward **Elijah Barriga** was confirmed as a returnee. No stranger to the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) or The SSE Arena, Belfast, the California-born forward spent the 2022/23 season with fellow EIHL side, the Dundee Stars, during which he registered 65 total points in 62 games in all competitions. Making the move across the water to Belfast in May 2023, Barriga sustained a season-ending injury and was ruled out of the remainder of the 2023/24 season after just four appearances for the club. Adam Keefe, Head Coach of the Belfast Giants, said: "We're delighted that Elijah will be coming back to Belfast this season. Elijah's season finished prematurely last year, and it was such a shame to see his time with us cut short through injury. That said, Elijah's determination and mindset to get back to full strength is a testament to his character, and I don't doubt that he'll find success as a Giant come next season." Prior to turning professional in 2022, Barriga skated with the American International College in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division One. In four seasons with the Yellow Jackets, Barriga was a part of seven championship-winning sides, totalling 62 points in 107 appearances.

June opened with another extension of an unequivocal fan favourite. **Andrew Dickson** is among the longest tenured Giants in club history, with five Elite League championships, four Challenge Cups, and an Elite League Playoffs title to his name. Initially making his debut for the Giants during the 2009/10 campaign, the 2024/25 season will mark the Ballymoney native's 14th season in teal. Dickson began his career in the Irish Ice Hockey League with the Belfast City Bruins and Castlereagh Spartans between 2007 and 2010, before joining Gillingham-based Invicta Dynamos, posting a .912 save percentage across 19 games played in the 2010/11 season. Ahead of the 2011/12 season, Dickson took the step into professional ice hockey, joining the Belfast Giants on a permanent basis.

# VISITING THE BARN

Confirming on 5th June the make-up of the Giants bench there were extensions for Associate Coach **Jeff Mason** and Assistant Coaches **George Awada** and **Rob Stewart** for the 2024/25 season. Mason, who notched over 400 games for the Giants as a player between 2010 and 2018, spent three seasons behind the bench as Assistant Coach, before pursuing a new challenge as Head Coach of the Dundee Stars for the 2022/23 season. Last season, the 42-year-old Massachusetts native returned to Belfast, taking up the role of Associate Coach for the 2023/24 season. Treble-winning coaches, George Awada and Rob Stewart, with over 600 combined player appearances for the men in teal, the upcoming season will mark Awada's third and Stewart's 17th behind the Giants' bench.

The first new additions to the Giants roster were announced on June 7th with the signings of **Joe Cassetti** and **Zak Galambos**. 25-year-old Cassetti and 27-year-old Galambos both spent the 2023/24 season with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) side, Western Michigan University, making a combined 76 appearances for the Broncos. Both Cassetti and Galambos are no strangers to NCAA ice hockey, with forward Cassetti also skating for Merrimack College and Miami University between 2019 and 2023, and defenceman Galambos representing Minnesota State University and the American International College between 2018 and 2022. Before beginning his NCAA career, Cassetti, from Pleasanton in California, had three spells with the Waterloo Black Hawks, recording 138 appearances in all competitions for the Iowa-based side. Cassetti is also a product of the United States national team's youth system, representing both the U17 and U18 sides between 2015 and 2017. Hailing from Walnut Creek in California, Galambos began his senior career with Des Moines Buccaneers, before making the move to the NAHL, where he spent three seasons with the Janesville Jets and Johnstown Tomahawks. Galambos then went on to join the Omaha Lancers in the USHL and BCHL side, Wenatchee Wild, before his first stint in the NCAA with the Minnesota State Mavericks during the 2018/19 season.

The first confirmed departure came on June 8th with **Davey Phillips** leaving for Hull Pirates. Another new face was confirmed on 10th June with the signing of 34-year-old netminder **Tom McCollum**.

Hailing from Amherst, New York, McCollum spent the 2023/24 season with Eisbären Regensburg in the German DEL2, recording a .923 save percentage in 41 regular season games. McCollum first arrived in Europe ahead of the 2020/21 season, joining Austrian side HC Innsbruck, where he recorded 119 appearances across three seasons in the ICE Hockey League. McCollum was drafted 30th overall by National Hockey League (NHL) side, the Detroit Red Wings in the 2008 NHL Entry Draft, going on to make his debut for the Michigan-based side against the St. Louis Blues in March 2011. Throughout his career to date, McCollum has iced for a number of North American sides, including the Grand Rapids Griffins, Stockton Heat, Charlotte Checkers, Milwaukee Admirals, and Hartford Wolf Pack in the AHL, as well as ECHL clubs, Toledo Walleye, Adirondack Thunder, Maine Mariners, Florida Everblades, and Reading Royals. McCollum also iced for the United States at U18 and U20 levels, representing the latter at the 2009 World Junior Championships.

Another confirmed departure on June 11th with **Matt McLeod** leaving for EK Zell am See in the Alps HL.

The Giants next signing on June 12th needs very little introduction with 29-year-old forward **Kyle Osterberg** moving over the Irish Sea from the Flyers. From Minnesota, Osterberg spent the 2023/24 season with fellow Elite League side Fife Flyers, where he recorded 61 total points in 57 games in all competitions. Prior to making the move to Kirkcaldy, Osterberg spent six seasons icing for teams across Europe, including Sparta Sarpsborg, Karlskrona HK, DVTK Jegesmedvék, HKM Zvolen, and Eisbären Regensburg, notching over 220 total points in 235 games. Before turning professional, Osterberg spent four seasons playing with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) side, the University of Minnesota-Duluth, making 149 appearances for the Bulldogs, and being crowned an NCAA National Champion in 2016/17. Osterberg was also a part of Team USA's U17 and U18 men's rosters, taking part in the 2012 World Junior Championships in the Czech Republic.

On June 14th **Mark Garside** announced his retirement after 18 seasons in the EIHL, 13 of which he spent with the Giants

**Daniel Tedesco** was announced on June 15th as returning to the Guildford Flames after one season with the Giants.

# VISITING THE BARN

25-year-old forward **Grant Mismash** was the next new face announced on June 19. From Minnesota, Mismash arrives in Belfast having spent the 2023/24 season with Swedish side Österunds IK and Stjernen Hockey in Norway, recording a combined 46 total points in 45 games in all competitions. A product of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Mismash spent four seasons playing with the University of North Dakota between 2017 and 2021, making over 110 appearances for the Fighting Hawks. Before making the move to Europe, Mismash was signed to a rookie contract by National Hockey League (NHL) side the Nashville Predators in April 2021, during which he skated in 57 games for the Milwaukee Admirals, Nashville's AHL affiliate team, tallying six goals and 12 total points. The following year, Mismash joined the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning, and spent two seasons icing for affiliate sides, Syracuse Crunch and Orlando Solar Bears. The new additions kept coming and on June 21st the Giants announced the signing of 26-year-old defenceman **Bo Hanson**. From Boise, the Idaho native arrives in Belfast having spent the 2023/24 season with Aalborg Pirates, notching 34 total points in 65 appearances in all competitions, contributing towards a strong season for the Danish side in the Metal Ligaen. Hanson's roots lay in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), spending a collective five seasons with St. Lawrence University, the University of Denver, and Northern Michigan University, icing 150 times in total. Ahead of the 2021/22 season, Hanson made the move to the ECHL, where he spent two seasons with the Wheeling Nailers and Iowa Heartlanders, making 42 appearances in total.

Into mid-July and the Giants added to their roster announcing Northern Irish forwards **Mack Stewart** and **Carter Hamill** had signed two-way deals with the club. The Great Britain Under-20s pair, both from Belfast, have signed deals that will see them primarily represent the Milton Keynes Lightning in the NIHL next season but also be available to the Giants if needed. While Stewart has been on a two-way with the Giants for the last three seasons, the deal is significant for Hamill as it sees him return to the Giants organisation for the first time since departing in 2022 after making four appearances. Since then, the 19-year-old – whose brother Cameron plays for the Bristol

Pitbulls – has emerged as an offensive dynamo, first with Leeds Knights in the 2022/23 season and then last year with Milton Keynes. In 35 games last season, Hamill scored eight goals and 21 points before going on to add two goals and six points in six Play-Off games for the Lightning, and was then one of GB Under-20s' top players in Division 2A of the World Championships, grabbing three goals in five games. Stewart, 20, was also a member of that bronze medal winning side and was also a key contributor, grabbing a goal and eight points in the tournament after a season where he racked up 16 goals and 39 points in 51 games for the Lightning. The son of Giants assistant coach Rob, Stewart has already played in 53 games for Belfast, grabbing a goal and three points and he will hope to improve on that over the course of the season. While both will more than likely start the season with the Lightning, they will get a chance to impress head coach Adam Keefe in the Giants' training camp and pre-season games. A day later and more homegrown talent was announced as the club looked to the future and added more depth to their roster with the returns of two more young British stars in the form of **Mason Alderson** and **Kell Beattie** on two-way deals for the 2024/25 season. Both players agreed one-year extensions to the two-way deals they were on last season, which will more than likely see them play the majority of their hockey with the NIHL's Solway Sharks to help their development with ice time. Alderson, 22, is back for his second season in teal after joining the team last summer after five years in America and is seen as one of the brightest prospects in British hockey after starring for the Great Britain Under-20s. The London native did dress for seven games for Belfast last season – including two in the Champions League – but played most of the season with Solway, notching 12 goals and 21 points in 35 games, but will hope to get more of a shot in the Elite League this year. Likewise Beattie, who is entering his fourth season on a two-way deal with the Giants and is only the second Northern Irish player signed to the SSE Arena roster thus far. The 20-year-old defenceman from Belfast is also a Great Britain Under-20 international and has already made 28 appearances for the Giants since 2021 but, like Alderson, spent last season with Solway where he racked up two goals and 15 points in 46 games.

# VISITING THE BARN

Another pair of youngsters followed a few days later with the announcement of forward **Finley Howells** and defenceman **Rhodes Mitchell-King** on two-way contracts with Telford Tigers. Having represented Telford Tigers at U15, U18, and senior levels, 21-year-old Howells has iced for the club's National Ice Hockey League side more than 230 times, recording an impressive 238 total points between 2018 and 2024. Howells, from Telford town, also represented Great Britain at U20 level in the 2022 World Junior Ice Hockey Championship Division II tournament in Romania and Serbia, where he was named as one of the team's alternate captains and finished as the tournament's second highest points scorer with three goals and five assists. From Warwick, 21-year-old Mitchell-King rose through the ranks at Coventry Blaze, making a combined 84 appearances at U15, U18, and U20 levels, before making his Elite League debut for the Blaze during the 2022/23 season. Brother of Peterborough Phantoms' Austin Mitchell-King, Rhodes spent three seasons overseas in North America, culminating in 36 appearances for USPHL Premier Division side, Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings. Having appeared for Great Britain at the 2022 World Junior Ice Hockey Championship Division II tournament, Mitchell-King was named captain of the U20 side for the 2023 edition of the tournament in Lithuania and Iceland, during which he recorded three total points. The final piece of business done in July was the signing of 27-year-old forward **Jordan Kawaguchi**. From Abbotsford in British Columbia, Canada-born Kawaguchi joins the Giants following two seasons in the ECHL with the Idaho Steelheads, recording an impressive 83 total points in 87 appearances between 2022 and 2024. Before making the move to the Steelheads, Kawaguchi spent two seasons with the Texas Stars of the AHL, tallying 25 total points across 52 games. Kawaguchi's NCAA career spanned four seasons with the University of North Dakota, seeing him notch 126 total points in 136 games for the Fighting Hawks. In his penultimate season, Kawaguchi was named as one of the team's alternate captains, an accolade that he would go on to emulate the following year, as he was named captain for the 2020/21 season.

August 2nd and another new addition, 33-year-old forward **Pierre-Olivier Morin**. From Trois-Rivières in Québec, Morin arrives from Aalborg Pirates in the Metal Ligaen, having recorded over 180 total points in more than 250 appearances in all competitions across five seasons with the Danish side. Before making the move to Scandinavia, Morin spent five seasons with the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières between 2012 and 2017, posting 133 total points in 108 games. In his final two seasons for Les Patriotes, Morin was appointed as one of the team's alternate captains, an achievement that he would replicate at Aalborg during the 2021/22 season. For the 2022/23 season, Morin made the switch to the French Ligue Magnus, making over 50 appearances for Hockey Club Amiens Somme, before returning to the Pirates for the 2022/23 campaign.

27-year-old forward **Bobo Carpenter** was next to be announced on August 9th. From North Reading in Massachusetts, Carpenter arrives in Belfast off the back of three seasons in the ECHL with the Florida Everblades, during which he was named as one of the club's alternate captains for the 2023/24 season. In 107 games in all competitions, Carpenter posted an impressive 97 total points for the Everblades, with 69 of those coming in his final season for the Estero-based side. Before joining the Everblades, Carpenter spent four seasons in the AHL with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers and Milwaukee Admirals between 2018 and 2022, recording 20 total points in 60 appearances. Before turning professional, Carpenter played four seasons of NCAA ice hockey with Boston University, tallying 102 total points in 134 games for the Terriers between 2015 and 2019. Having claimed the Hockey East championship in his junior season, Carpenter went on to be named as one of the team's alternate captains in his penultimate season and captain in his final year at Boston. No stranger to playing at an elite level, Bobo is the son of former NHL forward, Bobby Carpenter, who was drafted third overall by the Washington Capitals in 1981 and went on to play 1,178 NHL games in a career spanning 18 years, winning the Stanley Cup with the New Jersey Devils in 1995.

# VISITING THE BARN

A couple of departures were confirmed next with **Travis Brown** heading for the Guildford Flames and **Miles Gendron** becoming a Greenville Swamp Rabbit this season.

The final addition announced on 29th August was that of 28-year-old defenceman **Mike Lee**. From Hamden in Connecticut, Lee arrives in Belfast following two seasons with HC Nove Zamky in the Slovakian Tipos Extraliga, where he recorded 64 total points in 94 appearances. Before making the move to Europe, Lee played four seasons of NCAA ice hockey with the University of Vermont and Sacred Heart University, making a combined 119 appearances between 2015 and 2020. Lee was also named Atlantic Hockey Defenceman of the Year during the 2019/20 season with Sacred Heart. Lee got his first taste of professional ice hockey in the 2020/21 season, joining Indy Fuel of the ECHL, where he notched 55 total points in 76 games. The following season, Lee iced for both the Kansas City Mavericks in the ECHL and the AHL's Hartford Wolf Pack, recording 16 total points in 25 games.



# VISITING THE BARN













# LEAGUE STATS

## SEASON 2024/25

Want a quick comparison of the rosters in this seasons EIHL?

The following table will give you a guide to the make up of each team's line-up.

										
<b>Roster (ex 2-ways)</b>										
Signed Players	22	21	22	20	18	22	21	21	21	21
Goalies	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
Defencemen	7	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6
Forwards	12	12	13	11	10	14	12	13	12	12
New Players	13	9	15	11	15	17	11	9	14	7
Player Extensions	9	12	7	9	6	5	10	13	7	14
New Players to EIHL	9	7	13	9	11	11	5	5	12	7
<b>Games Played</b>										
EIHL Games Played	1242	3489	746	1253	531	306	1118	1328	1099	1744
NHL Games Played	3	27	0	0	0	195	12	162	0	0
AHL Games Played	568	1367	241	41	68	888	444	185	515	386
KHL Games Played	0	124	0	0	75	97	0	82	0	0
SHL Games Played	0	0	0	0	52	92	0	0	2	0
LIIGA Games Played	18	0	0	0	0	191	0	29	315	416
DEL Games Played	10	185	9	0	0	496	0	0	0	0
<b>Roster Nationalities</b>										
GB Players	5	7	6	5	2	6	5	7	4	3
North American Players	17	14	12	13	9	16	14	14	13	12
European Players	0	0	4	2	3	0	2	0	4	6
Asia Players	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Player Stats</b>										
Players 25 yrs or Under	2	1	10	4	8	7	5	6	4	1
Players 26-30yrs	13	9	9	13	7	10	13	12	15	12
Players Over 30yrs	7	11	3	3	3	5	3	3	2	8
Average Age (yrs)	29.23	30.71	25.73	27.8	27.22	27.95	27.95	29.33	27.24	29.43
Average Height (cm)	183.5	183.66	185.55	183.9	181.22	184.77	182.67	182.29	185.76	184.29
Average Weight (kg)	81.91	83.71	85.59	86.05	81.66	91.09	84.76	84.81	87.24	85.95
Defence Right Shot	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	1
Defence Left Shot	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	5	3	5
Forward Right Shot	4	7	8	5	4	6	6	5	4	3
Forward Left Shot	8	5	5	6	6	8	6	8	8	9

ALL DATA CORRECT @ 3RD SEPTEMBER 2024 AND COURTESY OF ELITE PROSPECTS



# HANDI IN THE ATTIC



## ONE TO REMEMBER ONE TO FORGET MURRAYFIELD RACERS

My article today features two games from the late 1980's against Flyers' biggest rivals of that era, Murrayfield Racers. The two teams at times competed ferociously against each other for bragging rights as the East of Scotland's top team following Flyers' victory over Racers in the 1985 Wembley showpiece final. The less said about the following year the better as Murrayfield had the upper hand overall in the latter part of the 1980's and this superiority is demonstrated in the second of the featured games.

Better reading for Flyers fans was the Autumn Cup game on 03/10/87 at Kirkcaldy in a game that was previewed in the Sporting Post that I bought at the rink door on my way into the game. "Centre Ice" wrote "the stage is set for a cracking match" and he was certainly correct in this instance. Flyers had lost 6-10 at Murrayfield the previous Sunday, which meant that Flyers had to win by four goals or more to have a chance of qualifying for the Autumn Cup Final as Racers were hot favourites to beat Dundee Rockets in their last two group games, so the pressure was on Flyers.

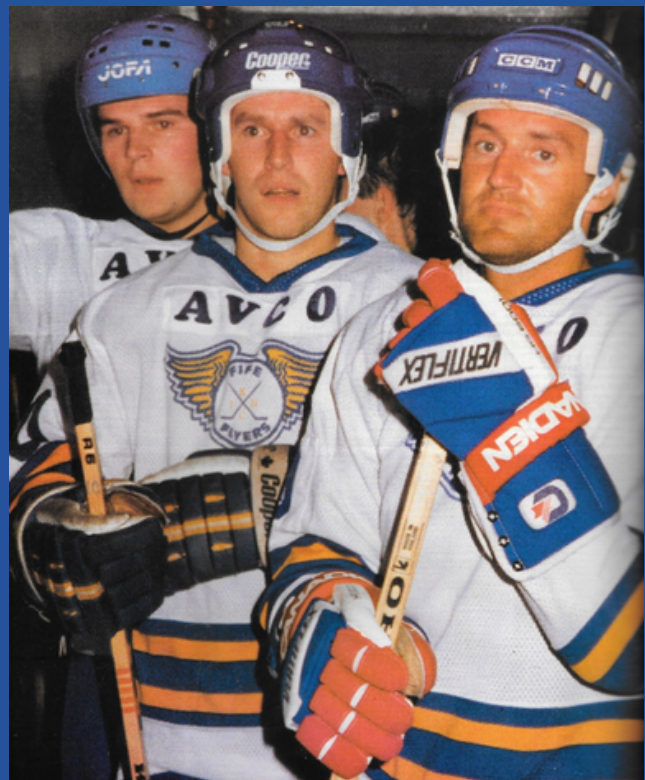
As was common at that time the rink was full to capacity and the atmosphere was electric. The home fans were quickly silenced as Flyers trailed Racers 0-5 before the end of the first 20 minutes, with long term nemesis Tony Hand netting four goals and his brother, future Flyer, Paul notching the other. Flyers' plight was not assisted by the dismissal of high scoring import Fred Perlini. Perlini had scored 17 goals in his first four games and was thrown out of the game with Racers' Scott Neil for what was reported as "stick fighting". Both combatants received a three match ban as a result of their actions.

As the second period began it was evident that Flyers had decided to try to at least to redeem some pride after that shocker of a first period and netted three times through

Al Sims, Steve Moria and Ronnie Wood (shown below centre, with brother Ally right and left Richard Black), but the defensive achilles heel allowed Racers to snatch two more leaving Flyers with a near impossible task of winning the third period by eight clear goals.

Flyers reduced the deficit at 40:55 with a goal from Iain Robertson and continued to pile the pressure on future Flyer Moray Hanson in the Racers net. And pressurise him they did as Flyers scored four in under five minutes with goals from Sims, Robertson and Moria. Paul Hand netted the eighth Racers goal eleven seconds after Moria had given Flyers their first lead of the night. Flyers netted a further three goals in the last ten minutes to win 11-8 on the night.

The noise in the building was tremendous as the massive home support urged Flyers on to their ultimately impossible target. It was not to be as the 11-8 win was not enough as Racers beat Dundee home and away to make the final, but that third period comeback attempt was one to cherish.



# ANDI IN THE ATTIC



A game I am still trying to wipe from my memory was the league encounter at Murrayfield on 26/11/89. Going into that game Flyers had a good record in competitive games against Racers that season. A 9-6 win at home (pictured below) and a 9-9 draw in the Autumn Cup was followed up by a narrow 8-7 league win for Flyers at Kirkcaldy on 28/10/89. In the next four weeks Flyers had taken full points from Peterborough twice, Whitley once and had drawn at Ayr, but had lost to Cardiff and twice to Durham.

Flyers took their usual large travelling support to Murrayfield, but the away fans were sorely disappointed. As I recall it was a horrific performance from Flyers and it could have been much worse as Racers appeared to ease off in the third period. Flyers' defensive woes were compounded by the absence of import defenceman Mike Rowe (above) who was suffering from flu.

It took Racers 5.46 for Craig Dickson to be beaten in the Flyers' net, Tony Hand scoring. Rick Fera equalised for Flyers just over a minute later and at 9.22 it was 3-2 to Racers as Luc Beausoleil netted Flyers' second on the powerplay. It went downhill from then on as Racers eased to a 7-2 first period lead with Dickson having a torrid time, only saving six of 13 shots on him.

Dickson was spared further humiliation and was replaced by youngster Colin Downie in nets. Downie actually fared pretty well initially and kept Racers out until 30.06, when the floodgates opened as Racers scored seven goals in 9 minutes 52 seconds. Flyers' ineptitude was shown by the lack of success in their five powerplays that period.

Flyers managed a third goal at 51.12, from Beausoleil but by that time Racers had taken their total to 16 including a short-handed counter a couple of minutes into the period. Flyers embarrassment was complete at 3-16, having been outshot 29-51. Both Racers' netminders Moray Hanson and Martin McKay would later ply their trade for Flyers. Remarkably Flyers were on the same league points as Racers following this game with 15 points, having played a game less than Murrayfield and sat 4th in the table.

There were few positives from this performance for Flyers other than Downie's efforts and the Flyers debut of Gordon Whyte, who went on to have a decent career with Flyers, Racers, Dundee, Dumfries and Blackburn.



ANDI RENSON

# HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

Darrian Wilson

During the last week we were asked by the Elite League to predict the league final standings. Naturally I had to opt for Flyers at the top of the pile, and why not eh? Anything is achievable when we all start off at the same point. I had positions 2 to 9 as "don't care" and Clan in tenth. Someone did say they wanted what I'm drinking and to let you into a secret it was probably Cuprinol Garden Shades overspray mixed with sweat and snotters as I had to close out the off season by building a fence to contain our new puppy (awwww). Just to make it a harder task I had to, by order of the house and garden manager, paint the fence lavender so spent the best part of a weekend choked with man flu (hence the snotters) staring at a tall fence that was progressively getting more purple as the weekend passed. To add insult to injury I hadn't been allowed to call our wee pup Smail as nobody else in the house got the Dug Smail reference. #guttled.

Being as I like topical ramblings I thought I'd go a wee bit of an Oasis theme this week with the shortest play list ever as we head into week one of eleventyfour of the Challenge Cup where we expect the first round to be completed by 2027, two weeks after Steelers crown themselves Champions by virtue of the most 50/50 ticket sales. Pretty sure that's in the round 2 qualifying rules just in case Steelers don't make it through on talent alone. Rumour also has it that an Oasis ticket from a scalper is still cheaper than a Dundee Stars away section pre-season match ticket. I wouldn't know and feel I've dodged two bullets.

Wonderbawl – Corey Neilson attended a fans forum down at Play-Off finals weekend, 2019 if memory serves me right, and was less that complimentary about the Scottish teams and of course the Scottish officials. His dislike of the fans in general was based on the keenness to shout and jeer every hit against their team. Talk about sticking your head in the lion's mouth! I strongly suspect nothing like those words will be uttered this season whilst he's happy to take the cash and coach from the midst of those uneducated masses in Scotland. When I heard his ramblings I realised that he didn't quite get the possible intimidation from the stands the additional off ice man brings. He'll certainly find it out in spadeloads now he has to spend time amongst us.

AHalf the world away – for the amount of additional travelling Giants will have to do in the Challenge Cup alone this season after the reformatting that leans towards little opportunity for a second team from our group to make the final cut. Fancy that eh?

Don't look back in anger – Scott Conway when last departing the league didn't mince his words about the officials on his way out. Possibly he had his short-sighted glasses on that day and didn't realise he'd be back in the league so soon. Still, I'm sure he stands by every word he threw out on social media. Like Corey it all smacked of a general dislike for aspects of the league but money talks and here he is again like a seagull after your chips.

Let there be love – one for the officials as they hit the ice this weekend after having lesser opportunities to shake the rust off their visors in preparation for the serious stuff.

Where did it all go wrong? – a tip of the helmet to Kyle Osterberg as he ploughs a new furrow with Giants after entertaining us last season.

Just in case there's anything contentious about the lyrics contained within any of the above songs I am old enough to have been able to refuse to buy tickets for their gigs first time round and still unfamiliar with much of their stuff.

So, Flyers in back to back action in the Challenge Cup to kick off the season proper and just when I thought I'd seen enough purple it's Corey's Lavender Laddies that get us kicked off like Jarrett Fiske's net. It is a very different Clan side from last season and anything above tenth spot will be an improvement for them. Belfast Giants have gone a bit familiar by bringing back a few faces from their previous winning side after last season's woes as well as adding a few handy players. Whether there is more expectation on Corey to do the business that there is on Adan Keefe will remain to be seen. The Giants organisation have been loyal to Keefer and Clan have a well used revolving door and aren't scared to use it.

Enjoy the weekend hockey fans and get behind your team.

Darrian

# Matchnight PRESENTATIONS

UQTR AUGUST 31ST 2024



**50/50 WINNER**



**UQTR MOM  
WILLIAM GRIMARD**



**CEREMONIAL PUCK DROP**



**FLYERS MOM  
MADI DIKHANBEK**



## WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

**This season is the 40th Anniversary of the Fife Flyers British Championship Wembley win. In a weekly feature we will recap, with thanks to the Fife Free Press for use of their reporting, the events of that historic occasion. Tonight we see the preview of the opening weekend along with the first games of the new season.**

Ice hockey devotees will tomorrow night have their first opportunity to assess the skills of Fife Flyers' much-heralded trio of Canadian imports. No extravagant claims are being made on behalf of new player-coach Ronnie Plumb and his compatriots Dave Stoyanovich and Dan Brown, in preference to letting them do the talking through their skates. Confidence within Kirkcaldy Ice Hockey Club that this is the start of a new era has been born not of perennial pre-season optimism, but of a quiet assurance that Flyers' lean years will shortly be over. The Canadian trio come to Kirkcaldy with impressive credentials, and tomorrow night's opposition, tourists Air Canada from Ottawa, will undoubtedly provide a stern examination of their abilities. Jack Dryburgh, general manager of Kirkcaldy Ice Rink, declared unreservedly this week, "Without a doubt, these are the best imported players to come to Britain since the war." Defenceman Plumb (34) and centre or left wing Stoyanovich (25) are the first former National Hockey League players to appear in Britain, while centre ice Brown (23) averaged a goal a game with the University of West Ontario over the last two seasons. Plumb has also played in America, West Germany and latterly Japan, where he was assistant national coach. The Canadians have spent this week training in Aviemore, where the entire Flyers' squad had a training camp last weekend. The team had their first outing against Murrayfield Racers in a friendly on Sunday, and, minus the imports who watched from the stands, went down 8-1. Plumb, Stoyanovich and Brown were deliberately withheld in order to make their Flyers' debuts in front of their own fans in Kirkcaldy tomorrow. And the message going out to the supporters is, "Come and see what they can do!" Jack Dryburgh commented: "The Canadians are very impressed with our facilities and the enthusiasm of the fans, and they can't wait to get on to the ice. "The attitude is good, and the atmosphere within the team is better than it has been for a long time. "We are not going to make any rash forecasts, but I would hope that supporters who have drifted away from the game will come to the Air Canada match and see what these lads are capable of." The tourists will certainly not be any push-overs, and indeed, Flyers may not have a harder game all season. The appearance of the three Canadians is likely to pull out a crowd of around 2500. However, under a new BIHA ruling, no spectators will be allowed to stand behind the goals for safety reasons. Face-off is at 7.15 p.m. and a souvenir programme will be on sale, with the Air Canada draw for two return air tickets to Canada being made during the second interval. Flyers begin their competitive season on Sunday night when they travel to meet Ayr Bruins in a Bluecol Cup tie.

### **15/09/1984 Fife Flyers v Air Canada - Challenge Match**

Canadian imports Ronnie Plumb, Dave Stoyanovich and Danny Brown made their eagerly awaited debuts in Fife Flyers' colours at the weekend — and the 2500 crowd at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink liked what they saw. Saturday's match against the touring Air Canada side from Ottawa may only have been an exhibition game, but there was sufficient evidence to suggest that Flyers' fans are in for an exciting year. The tourists were certainly no push-overs, and Flyers will not meet opposition of their calibre every Great skill by Brown too! week — making Saturday's narrow 3-2 victory a very impressive result indeed. finishing touch. The lack of goals on Saturday was due largely to the brilliance of the netminders rather than any failing by the offence of either side. Flyer's Andy Donald made several superb stops, and when young Craig Dickson was iced in the final period, Air Canada found it just as difficult to find a way past him. The large crowd gave both teams an enthusiastic welcome, and despite fine hockey in the first period, only one goal was scored. That came for Flyers in the 13th minute when Danny Brown was on hand to score from close range after netminder McKinnon had blocked a Brian Peat shot. Air Canada stepped up a gear at the start of the second period, and it took them just four minutes to get back on level terms when Laframbois shot the puck past Donald. Great skill by Brown took him past three men but he was unable to apply the finishing touch.



## WEMBLEY WIZARDS

### SEASON 1984/85

One minute from the buzzer however Ronnie Plumb restored the Flyers' lead with a long range effort which just sneaked in at the post. Mid-way through the final period a tremendous shot from the blue line by Neil Abel after a pass from Gordon Goodsir put Flyers 3-1 ahead. Air Canada pulled one back just three minutes later when Lamframbois set up Greer to beat Dickson but the young netminder performed heroics in the closing minutes to preserve Flyers' lead. There was an unfortunate incident near the end when Laframbois had to leave the ice after being accidentally struck in the face by a stick. The Canadian was taken to Victoria Hospital where he was found to have a broken bone above his left eyebrow. After spending two nights in hospital Laframbois flew home to Canada on Monday.



Fife Flyers' trio of Canadian imports — from left: Dave Stoyanovich, Dan Brown and Ronnie Plumb.

#### 16/09/1984 Ayr Bruins v Fife Flyers - Autumn Cup

Dave Stoyanovich scored five times as Fife Flyers began their competitive season with a resounding victory over Ayr Bruins in the Bluecol Cup on Sunday night. Both netminders had to be on their toes in the early stages, but Flyers made the breakthrough after nine minutes when Danny Brown pounced on a loose puck and skated around the Ayr defence before shooting home. The visitors' joy was to short-lived, however, with Bruins equalising in a goalmouth scramble less than a minute later.

It took Flyers only 38 seconds of the second period to regain the lead with Brown again the marksman, but Ayr player coach Bedard made it 2-2. Neil Abel restored Flyers' lead, and the Kirkcaldy fans were then brought to their feet as Dave Stoyanovich scored his first goal for his new club with a fine solo effort. Ayr pulled one back with a hotly disputed goal when Flyers claimed that netminder Andy Donald had prevented the puck crossing the line. Danny Brown completed his hat-trick to make it 5-3, and although Bruins again reduced the deficit, a memorable goal by Neil Abel gave Flyers a 6-4 lead at the end of the second period. The Kirkcaldy team's fitness and team-work shone through in the final period, with Stoyanovich causing Ayr all sorts of problems. The Canadian deflected an Abel shot past the Bruins' netminder, and scored his own third with an unstoppable slapshot into the bottom corner. Between these goals Flyers' captain Gordon Latto scored his first of the season in a breakaway move. With nine minutes remaining Flyers went ahead through Allan Anderson, before Ayr broke out of their own half to notch their only score of the last period. The night belonged to Stoyanovich, however, and he finished the match on a high note with two further goals in the final minute.

# FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Aug 24th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	H	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Aug 25th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	H	17:15	Lost	4-6
Saturday Aug 31st	UQTR	Pre Season	H	19:15	Won	2-0
Saturday Sep 7th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	H	19:15		
Sunday Sep 8th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	17:15		
Saturday Sep 14th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Sep 15th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	17:00		
Saturday Sep 21st	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Sep 22nd	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	H	17:15		
Saturday Sep 28th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	19:15		
Sunday Sep 29th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00		
Saturday Oct 5th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Oct 6th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	16:00		
Wednesday Oct 9th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	19:30		
Friday Oct 11th	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:30		
Friday Oct 18th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	19:30		
Saturday Oct 19th	Guildford Flames	League	H	19:15		
Saturday Oct 26th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00		
Sunday Oct 27th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	17:15		
Wednesday Oct 30th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	19:30		
Saturday Nov 2nd	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00		
Sunday Nov 3rd	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Nov 9th	Glasgow Clan	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Nov 10th	Dundee Stars	League	A	17:00		
Saturday Nov 16th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00		
Sunday Nov 17th	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Nov 23rd	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Nov 24th	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30		
Saturday Nov 30th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00		
Sunday Dec 1st	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Dec 7th	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Dec 8th	Guildford Flames	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Dec 14th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Dec 15th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Dec 21st	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Dec 22nd	Belfast Giants	League	A	16:00		
Thursday Dec 26th	Dundee Stars	League	H	18:30		

# FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Dec 28th	Dundee Stars	League	A	19:00		
Monday Dec 30th	Glasgow Clan	League	H	19:15		
Tuesday Dec 31st	Glasgow Clan	League	A	14:00		
Saturday Jan 4th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Jan 5th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00		
Saturday Jan 11th	Dundee Stars	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Jan 12th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	16:00		
Saturday Jan 18th	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Jan 19th	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15		
Friday Jan 24th	Glasgow Clan	League	A	19:30		
Saturday Jan 25th	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:15		
Saturday Feb 1st	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Feb 2nd	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30		
Saturday Feb 8th	Glasgow Clan	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Feb 9th	Dundee Stars	League	H	17:15		
Friday Feb 14th	Belfast Giants	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Feb 16th	Cardiff Devils	League	H	17:15		
Wednesday Feb 19th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	19:30		
Saturday Feb 22nd	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Feb 23rd	Glasgow Clan	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Mar 1st	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Mar 2nd	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Mar 8th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00		
Sunday Mar 9th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Mar 15th	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Mar 16th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	16:00		
Saturday Mar 22nd	Guildford Flames	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Mar 23rd	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30		
Saturday Mar 29th	Belfast Giants	League	A	19:00		
Sunday Mar 30th	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15		
Saturday Apr 5th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Apr 6th	Dundee Stars	League	A	17:00		





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