THE FLYER

DIGITAL GAMEDAY PROGRAMME

ISSUE NO 12

FIFE FLYERS VS SHEFFIELD STEELERS

ELITE LEAGUE

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

ELITE LEAGUE

COOLEN'S COMMENTS

Last Saturday to get a point was big, you want to get two points but I'll take one. It was a pretty balanced game throughout and we got some good performances from people. We did however make mistakes and our powerplay wasn't great and all together our special teams were great in the game. It was a game of ups and down and a lot of emotion in different ways from our team. I hope our fans saw that we battled all night and laid it on the line, we did everything we could and that's the kind of team we have to have here. We have to battle every night and if we don't we don't give ourselves a chance to win. On Sunday night we went into Dundee looking to play a good solid game and take of from there. We got down right off the bat on a 5 on 3 and they scored after we had had some chances. They scored again with a powerplay and then we had full control on our man advantage and we gave up a shorthanded goal up which was a tough first period to come back from.

I switched goalies to start the second period just to try and get something going, it wasn't a reflection on Janis, we didn't give him the support he needed and I wanted a spark a reaction from our team. We clawed ourselves back into the game but gave up another shortly afterwards. I'm always looking for positives and in a game such as the one in Dundee a coach is always looking to take something from the situation. We battled in the third and came out winning it so that's something that we can move forward with. However we weren't good enough at times, we know we need to get better even though we have still had our chances. I look at the whole picture over the last few weeks and although we have been short of personnel with guys switching up positions to fill the holes I still think we have put in some promising performance but we haven't picked up results and points.

This weekend we will give a debut to Massimo Carozza as we continue to try and improve our team. It's always tough when we go into Belfast but hopefully we can play a good defensive road game and give ourselves a chance on one of the toughest ice surfaces in Europe. We have found some success in Belfast going back to last year and a few weeks ago it was a tied game going into the third period. We return home to meet a very good Sheffield team, the EIHL Champions who have also done well this season in the Champions Hockey League. We will be looking to do all we can in front of our great fans to get the win. We've had a tough schedule with a lot of injuries but I hope we are starting to turn the corner and are getting healthier. All in all we are back at it with tough games, really tough games but we are going to be giving it our all.

Away we go.

Tom

MATCH REPORT

Saturday 9th November 2024			4		5	Elite League
Period Scores 1-1, 1-2, 1-1, 0-1						
Line Ups						
Shane Owen	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza ✗
Janis Voris	BackUp	Madi Dikhanbek	✓	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau ✓
		Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Maxim Musorov ✓
		Brodie Kay	✓	Johnny Curran	✗	Drake Pilon ✓
		Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✗	Nikolai Shulga ✓
		Patrick Kyte	✓	Fynn Page	✓	James Spence ✓
		Olivier LeBlanc	✓			
Dalton	**Refs**	Ferguson		Nelson	Lines men	Rodger

The Flyers and Clan met for the first time this season in league action with both clubs desperate to move up the standings. The Flyers were missing the injured Austin Farley and dressed Janis Voris as the backup. The Clan gave Landon Bow the night off with Lucas Brine getting the start in net and also scratched Gary Haden, Kyle Carruth and Joe Hazeldine.

The Flyers had the first shot of the match by Phélix Martineau which Brine turned away with his stick in the opening minute. Patrick Kyte got his stick on a shot to deflect it towards goal but it flew high over the crossbar in the 3rd minute. The Flyers continued to look the most threatening team and in the 4th minute Brodie Kay put the puck on net with Brine making the save and as the puck spun off to the side Martineau could only hit the outside of the goal frame. Brine made a great pad save in the 6th minute from a Lucas Chiodo shot from the right wing. Midway through the period the Clan had yet to seriously trouble Owen in the Flyers net as the home side kept the pressure on the visitors who also made some good shot blocks to protect their net minder. The opening goal deservedly went the way of the Flyers in the 10th minute when Madi Dikhanbek played a rink wide pass to Maxim Musorov who picked up the puck on the blue line and danced past his marker to pick the top corner stick side on Brine. In the 11th minute Owen covered up a shot as a Clan player went fishing for the puck with his stick which drew a rection from Drake Pilon who was called for roughing and the Clan went on the games first power play. A minute in and Tyson McLellan shot wide of the right hand post but then collected his own rebound off the back boards to go top shelf over Owen's shoulder to level the game. The Flyers went on their first power play in the 13th minute when Robert Lachowicz got the gate for hooking Dikhanbek. The Flyers controlled the puck around the perimeter without getting any clear chances on Brine as Glasgow completed the kill. McLellan threatened again for Glasgow in the 16th minute when he took the puck to the net but Owen made sure he covered everything up down low. The Flyers were on the power play again in the 17th minute after Matt Stief was called for interference following a pick play on Tyler Heidt. Clan started the kill with a 2 on 1 short handed chance but Felix Pare just failed to get his stick on the puck following the rush up ice. Nikolai Shulga went close following a nice three man passing move as Glasgow returned to full strength. In the dying seconds of the period Martineau and Chiodo carried the puck up the ice on an odd man break and the latter was agonizingly wide with his effort.

PERIOD 2

The Flyers got off to a perfect start in the second period when Patrick Kyte went down the right wing and his centering pass was on the stick of Ryan Foss who buried the puck past Brine with just 11 ticks on the clock. In the 22nd minute Noah Delmas drifted a shot just wide of the Clan goal. The visitors went close in the 24th minute when Tyson McLellan came in late on the play but with a lot of net to aim at he put the puck over the crossbar. Brine was next in action in the 25th minute when he did well to block a close in tip by Phelix Martineau who was parked on the edge of his crease. Owen was then happy to smother the puck after a spell of sustained Clan pressure when he snagged a shot

MATCH REPORT

from Keaton Jameson. Daniel Krenželok saw his snap shot gloved by Brine before Owen was called for a slashing penalty in the 28th minute. Fife were at that time without Olivier Leblanc and Brodie Kay was afforded some penalty killing time as the Flyers did a solid job to return to full strength unscathed. In the 30th minute Shulga and Musorov worked the puck to Kay who let one go from the slot that whistled just wide of the right hand upright. Owen held a shot from the blue line from Darien Kielb in the 33rd minute before Alex Forbes almost leveled when his shot from the high slot hit a body in front of Owen before glancing the post. The Clan did however draw level in the 34th minute when Owen made a great initial save but the puck squirted over to Finlay who found Cole Ully in front of an empty net. The Clan were called on a delayed penalty in the 35th minute during which the Flyers exerted some pressure around Brine's net. On the man advantage however the home side struggled to get anything set up and the only shot came when Chris McKay forced a pad save from Owen on a shorthanded bid. Owen made a huge save in the 38th minute when Deven Sideroff stole the puck from Martineau and skated in one on one with the Fife keeper who stood tall. Dikhanbek got the gate with 90 seconds remaining for slashing the stick and the Clan went ahead 16 seconds into their man advantage when Ully beat Owen glove side with a rising shot. With just a few seconds left in the period a wayward pass in the Clan zone ended up on the stick of Foss but Brine made the save to preserve the visitors lead.

PERIOD 3

The Flyers returned to the power play in the 43rd minute when Steven Seigo was guilty of a trip on Pilon. Brine made a great stick save as Pilon set up Heidt for a shot from distance. Glasgow returned to full strength and Mitchell Heard tried a wraparound on Owen who came out aggressively to challenge the shooter to make the save. In the 48th minute a swift transition of the puck by Michael Cichy and Chiodo saw the puck catch the post and minutes later Kyte was close in on Brine but the Glasgow goalie did well to shut him down. The Clan went straight down the ice and the Flyers survived pressure around their net with Owen scrambling before going the other way and Dikhanbek brought a fine pad save from Brine. The Flyers continued to create the better chances and in the 51st minute they were back on level terms when Chiodo from the circle found Martineau in the slot and his deflection went 5 hole on the Glasgow goalie. A minute later and Musorov fired in a shot from distance following nice interplay with his two fellow countrymen but Owen then had to be sharp a minute later to stop Nick Prkusic. The Clan regained the lead with a little over two minutes to play when Sideroff found space down the right wing and his shot found Owen's bottom far corner. The Flyers threw everything at the Clan in the final two minutes and with 50 seconds remaining they pulled Owen for an extra skater. The gamble paid off when Chiodo found Cichy with a cross crease pass and he buried the puck on a one timer past Brine to send the game into overtime.

The overtime period started with a shot on Brine by Leblanc. The Flyers came close in the 62nd minute when Chiodo set up Ryan Foss but Brine made a fine save before the Clan quickly broke the other way and the Flyers had a luck escape as the visitors couldn't cash in on a wide open net. Brine made a stop on Cichy before the Clan ended the contest when Sideroff found some open ice on the right side and his shot beat Owen on his near post.

Flyers Stats					Clan Stats			
Shots For	**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Goal**	**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	Shots For
For	Musorov	Dikhanbek	Heidt	1	McLellan	Ully	Heard	For
30	Foss	Kyte	Pilon	2	Ully	Finlay	Kelly	**37**
Shots	Martineau	Cichy	Chiodo	3	Ully	Seigo	McLellan	Shots
Against	Cichy	Chiodo	Heidt	4	Sideroff	Schwartz	Kielb	Against
37				5	Sideroff	Heard	Seigo	**30**
PiMS				6				PiMS
6				7				**8**
				8				
MOM				9				**MOM**
Martineau				10				Sideroff

CLAN MATCH NIGHT ACTION

JILLIAN MCFARLANE
DEREK YOUNG

GETTING TO KNOW #71

Madi Dikhanbek

Date of Birth – January 11th 2001

Age – 23

Blace of Birth - Satpaev City, Kazakhstan

Position – Defence

Shoots – Left

Height – 183cm/6'0"

Weight – 78 kg/172 lbs

Honours:
Continental Cup Champion 2024

Professional Hockey Career
2019-20 – HK Astana (Kazakhstan)
2020-2022 – Nomad Nur-Sultan, Snezhyne Barsy Nur-Sultan, MHK Barys Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan)
2022-24 – Nomad Astana (Kazakhstan)

#71 WE ASKED...

What other sports did you play growing up?
Football
Who has been the biggest influence on your career so far?
My family
Who is the best player you have played with?
David Sklenička
Who is the best player you have played against?
Victor Hedman, Erik Karlsson, Johnny Gaudreau, Brady Tkachuk
What is the most memorable game you have played in?
When Kazakhstan played Sweden at the last World Championships
What is your favourite/least favourite rink to play in?
Barys Arena in Astana is my favourite but I don't really have any places that I don't enjoy playing
If you could make one rule change in hockey, what would it be and why?
I'm happy with everything
Which hockey team do you cheer for/which one do you root against?
I follow Tampa Bay Lightning and of course now the Fife Flyers but I really don't have an overall favourite team
Most admired hockey player and why?
Victor Hedman who has a great of confidence to his game and he plays every game with practically no mistakes
What would be your best piece of advice for youngsters starting in hockey?
To listen to the coach and love the game of ice hockey
What do you consider to be the strongest part of your game and where are you trying to improve?
The strongest part of my game is my skating and I'm trying to improve everything
Pre-game routine?
Stretch or a walk, lunch, a nap, snack, listen to music
Pre-game meal?
Chicken with spaghetti
Any gameday superstitions?
If I played my last game very well then I try to repeat everything that I've done
Favourite other sport(s) to play?
Football and Tennis
Favourite other sport(s) to watch
Football and Tennis and sometimes Formula One
Favourite athlete (non hockey)?
Lionel Messi
Favourite sports team (non hockey)?
Football Club Barcelona
Which do you prefer books or movies?
Movies
Favourite TV show(s)?
Stand Up Comedy
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Beshbarmak – a main national dish of Kazakhstan. The term beshbarmak means "five fingers" because nomads traditionally eat this dish with their hands.Beshbarmak is usually made from finely chopped boiled meat, mixed with dough (typically egg noodles) and chyk, an onion sauce. It is typically served on large communal platters, shared between several people.
Favourite beverage (non alcoholic/alcoholic)?
Orange Juice
If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?
Lionel Messi, Gennady Golovkin, Michael Phelps, George Martin
Favourite singer/music/band?
Rihanna, Big Baby, Andy Panda, Queen
What is your favourite vacation destination?
Borovoe - (Burabay) is one of the most picturesque and amazing places in Kazakhstan. It is also called the natural "pearl" of Kazakhstan thanks to its gorgeous mountains, magnificent pine trees, crystal clear lakes, and rare in beauty and uniqueness landscapes.
What was your favourite and least favourite subject in school?
Favourite Geography and History and Least Favourite Chemistry and Physics
What is your go to Karaoke song?
I don't like Karaoke
If you could join any past or current music group which would it be and in what capacity? (guitar/vocals/drummer etc)
Lead vocalist of Queen – I'm a huge Freddie Mercury fan
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?
Madishka
If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?
Speed like Flash
What three items would you take with you on a desert island?
Pen knife, tent, sleeping bag
How many languages do you speak?
Russian and Kazakh
If not a hockey player what occupation would you have?
Would like to study and possibly teach history

MATCH REPORT

Sunday 10th November 2024	Dundee Stars	5	Fife Flyers	2	Elite League
Period Scores 3-0, 1-0, 1-2,					

Line Ups								
Janis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza	✗
Shane Owen	BackUp	Madi Dikhanbek	✓	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau	✓
		Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Maxim Musorov	✓
		Brodie Kay	✓	Johnny Curran	✗	Drake Pilon	✓
		Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✗	Nikolai Shulga	✓
		Patrick Kyte	✓	Fynn Page	✓	James Spence	✓
		Olivier LeBlanc	✓				

Refs					Lines men	
Craig		Brown		Gibson		Ward

The Flyers visited the Stars for the first time in league play this season looking to end their long run of defeats. The visitors were still without Austin Farley and started Janis Voris in net whilst the home side scratched Kameron Kielly, Xavier Pouliot and Brogan O'Brien.

Voris made the first save of the game in the 3rd minute when the Stars had an odd man rush and Alexander Tonge fired in a shot. A minute later and the Stars were pressing again when Domenic Alberga got his shot away from the circles and Voris again saved. In the 5th minute Voris was again in action when he denied Brendan Harms. The Flyers first real sight of goal came in the 6th minute when Richard Sabol made the save on a Phélix Martineau shot. Patrick Kyte was next to threaten the Stars goal but from close in Sabol took away the lower half of the net to make the save. The Stars went on the first power play of the game when the Flyers were called for too many men on the ice. Voris had to look sharp to make a save before Ben O'Connor was tripped by Martineau to give the home side a two man advantage. The Stars controlled the puck from the face off and Tonge was set up in the high slot to fire a shot top corner over the blocker of Owen. Remaining on the power play the Stars almost increased their lead through Cole MacDonald before Jake Elmer went very close but the Flyers survived to return to full strength. In the 12th minute Voris was again in action when he held on to a shot from Zachary Tsekos. The Stars went back on the power play in the 14th minute when the visitors were once again guilty of too many men and the Stars made them pay with Tsekos firing a shot pass to the edge of the crease where Harms got a deflection to send the puck five hole on Voris. Daniel Krenželok made Sabol work with a wrist shot from the high slot in the 16th minute but the Stars immediately went the other way and Brett Gravelle found space in the slot to take the pass and he gave Voris no chance with his shot. Krenželok had another effort on goal swallowed by Sabol and in the 18th minute Drake Pilon from the right wing saw his shot glance off the shoulder of the Stars goalie.

PERIOD 2

The Flyers started the second period with a goalie change as Shane Owen came in for relief of Voris and the Flyers goalie made his first save after 22 minutes when he covered up a backhand shot by Gravelle. The visitors had a glorious chance to reduce the deficit in the 24th minute when they broke 2 on 1 with Kyte drawing Sabol before feeding the puck to Ryan Foss who hit the side netting with the goal gaping. Another chance came the Flyers way in the 26th minute when Martineau accepted a stretch pass and went in uncontested on Sabol who stood his ground and was able to get a piece of the shot. Sabol was again in action in the 27th minute when he fought off a shot from Kyte.

MATCH REPORT

The Stars almost added another in the 28th minute when Elmer came down main street but Owen flashed the leather to stone him. The Flyers went on their first power play of the game in the 29th minute when Jonathan McBean was called for a hold on Michael Cichy.
The first chance fell to Cichy who went short side on Sabol and the puck glanced the metalwork. Martineau was next to threaten as the Flyers looked dangerous but as the penalty was expiring Noah Delmas fumbled the puck on the Stars blueline and Harms stole it off him and broke up the ice before planting his shot past Owen for a shorthanded tally. Pilon saw a shot in the 33rd minute drift wide and a minute later Cichy was denied by Sabol. In the 36th minute Cichy was called for a cross check and the Stars went back on the power play. The Flyers penalty kill was strong with Owen only having to make one save as they returned to full strength unscathed.

PERIOD 3

The Stars had the first chance of the final period when Elmer threw the puck on goal but the Flyers managed to clear. Lucas Chiodo and Cichy then combined and the latter brought a fine save from Sabol. The Flyers did however get on the board in the 44th minute when Cichy was in the slot to get a tip on the puck as Martineau put it on net. A minute later Owen made a big save to deny Tsekos who was on his doorstep and a few minutes later the Fife keeper again came up big when he stopped Elmer after a prolonged cycle by the Stars in the Flyers zone. In the 50th minute Maxim Musorov fired past he post before Sabol made a solid save from a Tyler Heidt shot from the blueline. The Flyers got another goal back in the 51st minute when Heidt got the puck through on goal and a lovely tip by Martineau saw the puck flash past Sabol. A minute later however the Stars regained their three goal advantage when Philippe Sanche gained the zone and fired past Owen on his glove side. The Stars were once again on the power play in the 53rd minute after a high sticking call on Brodie Kay. Owen stopped a big blast by Ben O'Connor and followed that up with a fine pad save on Elmer as the Flyers completed the kill. The Stars had the final chance of the game when Elmer was once again denied by a fine save by Owen.

Stars Stats					Flyers Stats			
Shots For	**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Goal**	**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	Shots For
For	Tonge	O'Connor	MacDonald	1	Cichy	Martineau	LeBlanc	For
55	Harms	Tsekos	Dow	2	Martineau	Heidt	LeBlanc	**24**
Shots	Gravelle	McBean	Yamamoto	3				Shots
Against	Harms			4				Against
24	Sanche	Alberga		5				**55**
PiMS				6				PiMS
2				7				**10**
				8				
MOM				9				**MOM**
Harms				10				Martineau

STARS MATCH NIGHT ACTION

DEREK BLACK

DOING THE NUMBERS

Flyers Stats 2024/25

Players	Pos	GP	Tot G	Tot A	Tot Pts	PP A	SH A	Ev A	PiMs	S	S %	GAA	SO	PS S	TOI	GC
Shane Owen	G	19	0	2	2	0	0	0	6	786	0.90	4.31	0	0	1128	81
Brython Preece	G	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yanis Voris	G	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	99	0.86	6.09	0	0	138	14
Cameron Kenny	G	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Players	Pos	GP	Tot G	Tot A	Tot Pts	PP G	PP A	PP Pts	SH G	SH A	SH Pts	Ev G	Ev A	Ev Pts	PiMS	SOG
Noah Delmas	D	21	0	4	4			0			0		4	4	6	19
Madi Dikhanbek	D	19	0	2	2			0			0		2	2	12	34
Tyler Heidt	D	20	1	8	9		2	2			0	1	6	7	20	37
Brodie Kay	D	19	0	0	0			0			0			0	2	12
Daniel Krenželok	D	20	3	3	6	1	3	4			0	2		2	34	82
Patrick Kyte	D	18	0	4	4		1	1			0		3	3	25	25
Olivier LeBlanc	D	15	0	6	6		1	1			0		5	5	8	12
Fynn Page	D	11	0	0	0			0			0			0		
	D	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
	D	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Lucas Chiodo	F	21	7	16	23	3	2	5			0	4	14	18	4	62
Michael Cichy	F	21	10	8	18	2		2			0	8	8	16	6	45
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	13	3	5	8	1		1			0	2	5	7	8	29
Artur Gatiyatov	F	12	0	1	1			0			0		1	1		18
Martin Látal	F	11	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	4	33
Phélix Martineau	F	21	13	8	21	2	3	5			0	11	5	16	12	83
Maxim Musorov	F	20	5	4	9		1	1			0	5	3	8	4	45
Drake Pilon	F	19	1	5	6		1	1			0	1	4	5	43	36
Nikolai Shulga	F	17	2	4	6	1	1	2			0	1	3	4	2	20
James Spence	F	10	1	0	1			0			0	1		1		6
Ryan Foss	F	9	2	3	5		2	2			0	2	1	3	4	16
Aiden Wilson	F	1	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Massimo Carozza	F	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Players in BLUE are everpresents																
Inc All Competitions														Team	12	
Figures as at 10/11/2024		Totals	50	90	138	10	20	30	0	0	0	40	68	108	210	636
			0 SO Goals													

Legend

GP - Games Played, **Tot G** - Total Goals Scored, **Tot A** - Total Assists, **Tot Pts** - Total Points, **PP G** - Power Play Goals Scored, **PP A** - Power Play Assists, **SH G** - Shorthanded Goals Scored, **SH A** - Shorthanded Assists, **EV G** - Even Strength Golas Scored, **EV A** - Even Strength Assists, **PiMS** - Penalty Minutes, **SOG** - Shots on Goal, **S** - Shots faced, **S %** - Save Percentage, **GAA** - Goals Against Average, **SO** - Shut Outs, **PS S** - Penalty Shots Saved , **TOI** - Time on Ice, **GC** - Goals Conceded

Penalty Shots Scored		Shorthanded Goals Scored	Game Winning Goals	Empty Net Goals For	Empty Net Goals Against
			1 - Musorov Krenželok Cichy		4

WEEK 10 - FLYERS STATS RECAP

On Saturday night……

Fife Flyers 4 Glasgow Clan 5 Overtime - Elite League

The Flyers have gone to overtime 12 times against the Clan in all EIHL competitions and their record now stands at 7 wins and 5 loses.

28:10 time on ice for Daniel Krenželok was the highest for a Flyers defenceman in a game so far this season. 27:25 was the most in regulation played by Madi Dikhanbek.

The Flyers had a lead in a game for the third straight game, their best sequence so far this season.

The two power play goals given up equals a season high for the Flyers.

On Sunday night……

Dundee Stars 5 Fife Flyers 2 – Elite League

The Flyers have conceded power play goals in each of their last 4 games which is a season high sequence for the season.

The Flyers have yet to win a game when they lose the second period of a game or are behind after the second period, they are 0 and 13 on the season in both situations.

Michael Cichy's goal was Flyers 1000th on the road (including shootouts) in all EIHL competitions.

Flyers conceded their 4th short handed goal of the season which ties them with Glasgow for most conceded across all competitions this season.

It's the Flyers 106th shorthanded goal conceded all time in all EIHL competitions and the 9th that Stars have scored against them in that time.

Philippe Sanche extended his all-time leading goals for a Stars player against Flyers to 14.

4 first period shots equalled a season low for the Flyers in a period.

The Flyers were for the first time this season were a plus in face offs in a game winning 29 and losing 24.

Lucas Chiodo had the active leading points streak end at five games – he still holds the best streak on the season at 6 games.

Daniel Krenželok set a new team leading time on ice with 30:51 played.

Season 2024-25 Flyers games Officiated by the Stripey's

2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	7	44 Sam Anderson	1	77 James Ions	1
3 Tom Pering		20 Pavel Halas	5	45 Vytas Lukosevicius	1		
9 Joe Sewell	1	23 Andrew Miller		46 Andrew Jarvie	1		
11 Matt Rose	1	25 Andrew Dalton	3	48 Oliver Truswell			
14 Chris Wells	3	42 Hollie Neenan		49 Daniel Ferguson	7		
16 Alan Craig	4	43 Graham Rodger	5	52 Stephen Matthews	1		

WEEKEND PREVIEW WEEK 11

Recent Form Guide

The Flyers travel for the second time in a fortnight to the SSE where thy will meet the Giants in their penultimate Group B Challenge Cup game. There is nothing at stake for the Flyers who of course have been eliminated and whilst the Giants are confirmed as winners of the qualification section they could also still go on to secure the top seeded place overall which would give them home ice advantage should they make it all the way to the final. Following the Flyers last visit the Giants hosted the Dundee Stars the next night and bagged another two Cup points in a single goal shut out. Last weekend the Giants had just a single game when they travelled to Sheffield in the league and despite taking the lead the Steelers would eventually come back to win 5-2. In midweek the Giants were in Cup action again playing their rearranged meeting in Glasgow where they downed the Clan 3-1. The Giants will again travel to Glasgow on Sunday after their meeting with the Flyers as they seek league points at the Braehead Arena.

LAST CHALLENGE CUP VISIT TO GIANTS

Saturday 2nd November 2024 — **5** — **3** — **Challenge Cup**

Blaze Stats					Flyers Stats			
Scorer	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Shots For**		**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Shots For**
Piccinich	Conway	Whistle	44	**Goal 1**	Martineau	Cichy	Chiodo	21
Bast	Morin	Kawaguchi	**Shots Against**	**Goal 2**	Spence	Heidt	Shulga	**Shots Against**
Cooper	Conway	Osterberg	21	**Goal 3**	Martineau	Foss	LeBlanc	44
Conway	Barriga	Roach	**PiMS**	**Goal 4**				**PiMS**
Barriga	Conway	Baum	25	**Goal 5**				10
				Goal 6				
			Goalie	**Goal 7**				**Goalie**
			Whistle	**Goal 8**				Voris
				Goal 9				
				Goal 10				

OVERALL CHALLENGE CUP AWAY RECORD AGAINST GIANTS

P 16 W 2 L 14 F 34 A 79

Number Crunching

The Flyers are looking for their first success against the Giants this season who are 3 an 0 against them and have outscored Fife 16-5.

Of all the teams that the Flyers have met on the road in Challenge Cup action the Giants hold the best winning percentage against them at 87.5

The Flyers have lost their last 6 games at the SSE in the Challenge Cup stretching back to 23rd September 2018 when they won 4-2.

The Giants lead all teams in shutouts having so far recorded four – the Flyers along with the Storm and Steelers have yet to record a shutout this season.

It is the meeting of the second highest scoring team with the Giants average of 4.05 goals per game so far this season in all EIHL competitions and the lowest scoring team with Flyers average at 2.33.

The Giants also have the second lowest goals against average at 2.42 whilst the Flyers are last with an average of 4.81 and are one of two teams whose average is over 4 goals per game.

The best shots per game average at 36.68 belongs to the Giants so far this season across all EIHL competitions and they have the second lowest shots against at 27.84. Only Manchester have a lower shots on goal average than the Flyers who sit last for shots against at an average of 42.19 per game.

WEEKEND PREVIEW WEEK 11

Recent Form Guide

This is the second meeting between the teams this season in league play with the Steelers taking the decision in a midweek encounter in Yorkshire at the end of October. The following weekend the Steelers started with a 5-3 win on home ice against the Manchester Storm in the Challenge Cup before heading to Wales on the Sunday where the Devils scored a similar sized victory over the Steelers again for Cup points. Last weekend saw the Steelers in league action on both nights starting with a rivalry game against the Nottingham Panthers in the Lace City which yielded two points in a 4-2 win. The next night at the Utilita Arena the Steelers came out on top as mentioned above against the visiting Belfast Giants. In midweek Sheffield kicked off their last 16 Champions Hockey League campaign on home ice against Eisbären Berlin who skated to a 5-3 win to take into the second leg in Germany next midweek. Before heading to Fife this weekend the Steelers will host the Coventry Blaze on Saturday night in Challenge Cup action.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT FROM STEELERS

Wednesday 3rd April 2024			2		4			Elite League
Flyers Stats					**Steelers Stats**			
Scorer	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Shots For**		**Scorer**	**Assist**	**Assist**	**Shots For**
Osterberg	Lajeunesse		29	**Goal 1**	Dowd	Vallerand	Juusola	34
Pilon	Lajeunesse		**Shots Against**	**Goal 2**	Shudra			**Shots Against**
			34	**Goal 3**	Allen			29
			PiMS	**Goal 4**	Harper	Neumann		**PiMS**
			8	**Goal 5**				10
				Goal 6				
			Goalie	**Goal 7**				**Goalie**
			Owen	**Goal 8**				Morrrone
				Goal 9				
				Goal 10				

OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST STEELERS

P 30 W 8 L 22 F 71 A 111

Number Crunching

The Steelers have won on their last two visits to Fife Ice Arena in all EIHL competitions.

Mikko Juusola has a three game goal streak going against the Flyers.

Off all active teams the Flyers have a home ice points percentage all-time in EIHL league play of 31.7 against the Steelers which is the least across all teams.

The Steelers are top scorers across all EIHL competitions this season with an average of 4.24 goals per game.

Steelers also lead all teams for shots given up at 26.53 per game.

Steelers have netted five empty net goals which leads all teams.

EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 10

A summary of all of the action from last weekend across the EIHL.

Wednesday 6th November

Dundee Stars 4 Cardiff Devils 6 Elite League

(1-1, 2-3, 1-2) SOG 34-48 PIMs 0-6 Att 1557

Cardiff Devils survived a Dundee Stars team that refused to go away, coming out with a 6-4 win at the Dundee Ice Arena on Wednesday night. Zach O'Brien scored and picked up two assists, putting him on top of the league's points standings. "We had a good start but kind of fell apart and got away from our game in the second period." said the Devils forward. "Dundee took advantage of that and it went down to the wire. It was a good game, well take the two points but we can play better." The Devils started strong in Dundee, maintaining consistent pressure in the Stars zone and keeping Stars' netminder Richard Sabol sharp early. This paid off for the visitors as Reid Duke opened the scoring 05:20 into the game. A shot from the point by Gleason Fournier found its way through traffic, Sabol made an initial save, however Duke was left alone in front of the net, picking up the rebound and tucking the puck home for his third goal in two games. It didn't take long for the Stars' to respond, evening the score just 16 seconds later at 05:36. Cole MacDonald kept the puck in the Devil's zone, and found Jake Elmer along with left wing who sniped the puck past Ben Bowns' glove-side to equalise. A high-scoring second began with two video reviews in the opening two minutes of the period. The first review came after 52 seconds, however it was determined the Stars' hadn't managed to beat Bowns from close range, and the score remained one apiece. A second review shortly followed at 21:10, after Cole Sanford managed to find the back of the net - an effort from Evan Mosey was initially saved by Sabol, however Sanford skated in had the puck bounce off his back skate to put the Devils into the lead again. Jake Elmer responded quickly, scoring his second of the game at 22:58 with an unbelievable solo effort. After picking the puck up in the neutral zone, the Canadian skated the puck over the blue line, navigating his way through the Cardiff defence and beating Bowns five hole to even the score. The visitors once again took the lead, with their third coming at 28:39 as Andrew MacWilliam took a shot from the right of Sabol, and after an initial save from the Stars' netminder Zach O'Brien was first to the puck and sniped into the roof of Sabol's net. "I thought our line was pretty good tonight. Sanny (Cole Sanford) and Oli (Kohen Olischefski) are two great players, very easy to play with. Sanny made a nice play on the entry for the goal, MacWilliam had a shot go off the pad and I saw the goalie slide over and tried to put it on the short side, and I was lucky enough that it went in" said O'Brien of his goal. Elmer once again evened the score, completing his hat trick at 32:19. An innocent looking shot from the point managed to trickle past Bowns, as the netminder couldn't get enough on it to keep it from rolling across the line. The final goal of the period came at 38:21, as Joey Martin found the back of the net to send the visitors into the second intermission ahead, putting home a rebound from a Ryan Barrow shot. Dundee ended the period on the powerplay but were unable to draw level again. Not taking advantage of that Riley Brandt slashing penalty that also ran into the start of period three came back to hurt the Stars. 1:52 into the third, Zach O'Brien's excellent pass found Kohen Olischefski to put the visitors 5-3 up. A neat reverse pass from Alex Tonge fed Philippe Sanche got a well-taken goal with 1:50 left to play to get the Stars back to within one late. Sabol was pulled and a timeout taken for the Stars with 1:06 to go, but just 12 seconds later Joey Martin found the empty net to notch his 600th point in the Elite League. "Everything's been great so far. I've had a lot of years in North America but I'm loving it so far here. It's a great group of guys, Cardiff is a great city so I'm really happy and looking forward to keeping going" added O'Brien on a successful night for him and his Devils team.

EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 10

Friday 8th November

Cardiff Devils 3 Guildford Flames 1 Elite League

(1-0, 2-0, 0-1) SOG 25-24PIMs 10-10 Att 3110

Cardiff Devils extended their lead at the top of the Elite League standings to give points with a 3-1 Friday night victory over Guildford Flames at a sold-out Vindico Arena. A back-and-forth first period was filled with chances for both teams, but each found Mac Carruth and Eamon McAdam in good form at each end respectively. The Devils took the lead with 2:44 left in the opening period - some excellent puck work between Evan Mosey and Riley Brandt set up Ben Davies for the game's opener. An eventful second period saw a feisty beginning with multiple penalties being given. Guildford's Jack Jacome received a double minor for high sticking while as Cardiff's Cole Sandford and Gleason Fournier picking up penalties of their own. The Devils once again managed to find the net in the final four minutes of a period - Tyler Busch being set through 1-on-1 by Cody Donaghey, and his shot deflected past McAdam off Mike Crocock's leg. With 1:56 remaining in the second, Brett Perlini found Donaghey for the Devils' third of the night which all-but killed off the game with a period to go. "It was a good night, I'm finally starting to get my legs back under me after a month out," said Donaghey after the game. "We know Guildford are a good team who battle hard every night. We stick to our systems and play our game, and everyone buys in so we believe we can compete with any team in our league." Jack Jacome scored his seventh goal in 13 games since joining the Flames when he pulled one back with 8:02 to play in the final period, but as time wound down the visitors seemed to be out of ideas to beat Mac Carruth a second time. The Devils head to the Skydome in Coventry on Sunday, some 10 days after beating the Devils in Cardiff. "Coventry came in here last time and played a really good game. They've added a lot of speed over the summer, so it'll be a good test for us" added Donaghey.

Glasgow Clan 2 Dundee Stars 1 Challenge Cup

(0-1, 0-0, 2-0) SOG 22-19 PIMs 12-4 Att 3407

Glasgow Clan ended their three-game loss streak with a home victory over Dundee Stars in the Challenge Cup. While the Starts were already eliminated from the competition prior to Friday night's game, Clan entered it hoping to increase their win percentage in the hope of playing the Elimination Game at home. 3,404 fans saw the come out on top at Braehead Arena. Jarrett Fiske was the busier of the two goalies in the opening period and pulled off several point-blank stops to prevent the hosts from taking the lead. His team in front of him repaid his service by taking the lead at 4:53 - Brett Gravelle with the powerplay marker to put Clan ahead. Clan were their own worst enemies in period two with a succession of minors, but came through the opening eight minutes still only a goal down. The home faithful would have to wait until the final period for a goal to cheer, however then got two. There was a large element of fortune about Clan's equaliser as Tyson McLellan's throw on net bounced off Ben O'Connor's skate and over the line to tie the game at 41:15. Domenico Alberga saw a breakaway chance saved by Lucas Brine as the Stars almost re-took the lead, but failure to take their chances came back to cost them late on. With 2:45 to play, Cole Ully let a shot go from the point which flew past Fiske and into the back of the Stars' net. Fiske was pulled with 1:17 to play as the Stars searched for an equaliser with the empty net, but without success and the Clan took the victory.

EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 10

Saturday 9th November

Guildford Flames 2 Coventry Blaze 1 Elite League
(0-0, 0-0, 2-1) SOG 38-31 PIMs 4-6 Att 1813
Guildford Flames moved level with Coventry in second, beating the Blaze 2-1 in an excellent game at the Spectrum on Saturday night. Fans at the spectrum had to wait a long time to see an opening goal between the teams who headed into the game in third and second respectively. The Blaze had the best chances in the opening period, a Brett Ferguson drop pass in his own zone backfiring but Jake Kupsky bailing his captain out to keep the game level. Indeed, Kupsky was the difference between the sides in the opening period as the visitors were unlucky not to be ahead. If Coventry were stronger in the first, Guildford were certainly busier in the second. Amorosa got in a mix-up with Robson, but thankfully for the visitors the netminder was able to get a glove on the puck before the on-rushing Flames forward. Robson made an excellent right-pad save off Jacome in the final minute of the second period to keep things scoreless through 40 minutes. Ultimately it took a goaltending error to lead to the game's first goal. Robson mishandled the puck behind the net and put the puck on the stick of Daniel Tedesco, and the Flames forward fed captain Ferguson in front to slot into the unguarded net 3:20 into period three. Kupsky made a decent save off an Archie Hazeldine shot but Jackson Cressy saw the rebound fall straight to him at the side of the net to tie things up at 48:43. The shock of being back level didn't trouble the Flames - Josh Waller broke 1-on-0 and finished high into Robson's top corner to put the hosts back ahead just 24 seconds later. "I don't think anything changed between periods, but we were confident in ourselves," said Flames Kyle Locke. "A 0-0 game going into the third period, it's fun at that point, you're playing with more on the line and guys like to show up. Credit to Coventry, they did a great job but we were able to get the two goals to secure the win." Robson was pulled within the final 90 seconds as the Blaze pressed for an equalizer, but it was the final 15 seconds that almost saw an equalizer. Chaotic scenes in front of Kupsky's net saw Alessio Luciani hit a post just before the buzzer as the Flames held on for the one-goal win.

Manchester Storm 2 Belfast Giants 7 Elite League
(1-2, 1-4, 0-1) SOG 35-32 PIMs 2-10 Att 2342
Belfast Giants started their weekend trip to the north of England in the best possible way, beating Manchester Storm 7-2 in Altrincham in front of an excellent crowd of 2,342. Pierre-Olivier Morin's pass all the way across the slot found the on-rushing Jordan Kawaguchi for a one-time finish to put the Giants ahead with 11:40 played. That lead was doubled on another odd-man rush, but this time of Mark Cooper opted to shoot instead of pass to Kyle Osterberg, and beat Evan Weninger at 12:49. Storm hit back 13 seconds later thanks to neat passing from Tyler Hinam and Chase Harrison setting up Craig Martin for a high finish past Jackson Whistle. Cooper's drop pass allowed new signing Karl Boudrais to score on his debut with a shot that beat Weninger through traffic 104 seconds into period two to put the Giants back to ahead. Storm hit back again, though, this time through Grant Hebert at 27:23 to keep it a one-goal game. A five-minute spell before the end of the second ultimately won the Giants the game. Josh Roach put the visitors back two ahead at 30:14, followed by Gabe Bast beating Weninger low glove-side at 33:53. Elijiah Barriga put home a rebound off the back boards at 35:09 to give the Giants a 6-2 lead through 40 minutes. Barriga scored again with 30 seconds remaining to round off the game, beating Alex Oldale who was given the final period in Storm's net.

Nottingham Panthers 2 Sheffield Steelers 4 Elite League
(0-1, 1-1, 1-2) SOG 21-29 PIMs 6-8 Att 6778
Sheffield Steelers continued their win streak over Nottingham Panthers with a 4-2 win in an excellent game at a sold-out Motorpoint Arena. The Panthers had the game's first big chance, Kristoff Kontos getting an excellent chance in front from a pass from behind the net from Didrik Henbrant – Matt Greenfield coming up with the big save Greenfield. Sheffield opened the scoring with 2:36 left in the first period – Ryan Bednard saved Brien Diffley's shot, but dropped the puck straight on the stick of Finlay Ulrick to put the Steelers ahead. Nottingham were back level early in period two. Good work from Jordan Kelsall to win the puck back

EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 10

saw him feed Ollie Betteridge who scored a contender for goal of the week with a snipe into the top corner of Greenfield's net at 22:38. The hosts were the better side for the next 10 minutes or so but found it hard to create any Grade A chances in front of Greenfield. Not capitlalising on their momentum came back to bite as the Steelers hit the other way, a great drive to the net by Dominic Cormier opened up space for Marc-Olivier Vallerand to fire home with 3:07 left in period two. Bednard had, earlier in the period, made two excellent stops from close range to keep the score tied. Tim Doherty levelled the game 8:37 into period three with a wonderful 1-on-0 finish to raise the noise levels in the Motorpoint Arena. However, again the Steelers responded to go back into the lead - an excellent shot from Sasha Guimond beating Bednard at 49:44. There was late drama with two penalties on the Steelers in the closing stages, putting the Panthers 5-on-3 for some 45 seconds inside the final three minutes. Danny Stewart called a timeout but opted to keep Bednard in the net, however his side couldn't find that final pass to create a shot on target and a game-tying opportunity. Some excellent penalty killing from Vallerand helped the Steelers kill time, and with Bednard out it fell to Mitchell Balmas to settle things with an empty-netter with 64 seconds remaining.

Sunday 10th November

Sheffield Steelers 5 Belfast Giants 2 Elite League
(1-2, 2-0, 2-0,) SOG 18-35 PIMs 30-11 Att 8052
Sheffield Steelers came back from two goals down to beat Belfast Giants 5-2 on Sunday evening, taking them second in the Elite League standings. It was the perfect start for the Giants who went ahead inside 90 seconds to silence the Utilita Arena. Elijiah Barriga broke clean through on Matt Greenfield and beat him high blocker side to open the scoring at 1:25. A mistimed hit from Kevin Tansey resulted in him being ejected for Boarding five minutes later, setting up the visitors for a five-minute advantage. Barriga found that same top corner of Greenfield's net at 11:22 to double the visitors' lead, but the Steelers did survive the rest of the time without conceding. A nothing play got the home side back into things. Daniel Leavens dropped a pass off to Patrick Watling whose innocuous shot slipped through Tom McCollum's glove and into the net at 16:26. Mitchell Balmas hit the post of McCollum's net before the opening period was out. McCollum did well to deny Marc-Olivier Vallerand after good set up play involving Robert Dowd and Mikko Juusola. Juusola then almost converted coast-to-coast but saw his shot saved, however the Steelers' pressure did eventually see them equalise – Sasha Guimond shooting from the point past an excellent Daniel Ciampini screen to tie the game at 32:03. Watling then put the Steelers ahead at 38:28 as McCollum over-compensated on blocker side of his net, leaving the glove side high open for Watling to snipe into. Belfast started the final period strong, but without creating a whole lot in front of Greenfield despite almost continuous puck possession for the opening five or so minutes of the period. With 10 minutes to play, new Steelers signing Veeti Vainio let a shot fly from the point that sailed into McCollum's net with Vallerand screening in front. Just over five minutes later, Robert Dowd added a fifth for the hosts to relax the crowd somewhat.

Coventry Blaze 0 Cardiff Devils 3 Elite League
(0-0, 0-1, 0-2,) SOG 32-43 PIMs 8-12 Att 1975
Mac Carruth logged a 27-shot shutout and Zach O'Brien scored two goals as Cardiff Devils came away from Coventry with a 3-0 win over the Blaze. Entering the game as the teams placed third and first respectively, it was an exciting opening period that ended without goals at the Skydome. The Devils came closest with a shot hitting the post of Mat Robson's net. 2:27 into period two, with Terrance Amorosa in the box, the Devils thought they'd taken the lead - however, the goal was reviewed to see if it has entered the net via a kicking motion and ruled out after the officials had checked the video. The deadlock was eventually broken 11 seconds before the end of the middle session. Zach O'Brien neatly slotted home from Cole Sanford's pass to put the Devils ahead after the blaze had failed to clear their zone. Reid Duke beautifully took an Evan Mosey pass and beat Robson on the breakaway 2:47 into period three to put the Devils up by a pair. Any hopes the hosts had of a comeback were all-but extinguished by O'Brien's second of the game, cutting into the slot from below the goal line to beat Robson in front.

Goalies

30	Cameron Kenny
50	Shane Owen
44	Jānis Voris

Defencemen

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

Forwards

23	Massimo Carozza
86	Lucas Chiodo 'A'
78	Michael Cichy 'A'
41	Johnny Curran 'A'
91	Austin Farley
27	Ryan Foss
22	Phélix Martineau
29	Maxim Musorov
77	Drake Pilon 'A'
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
Flyers				
Visitors				

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				

Man of the Match Flyers:

Man of the Match Visitors:

Goalies	
31	Daniel Crowe
30	Marco De Filippo
1	Matthew Greenfield
Defencemen	
43	Samuel Cooper
58	Dominic Cormier
65	Brien Diffley
44	Sacha Guimond
5	Joona Huttula
23	Colton Saucerman
6	Kevin Tansey
Forwards	
92	Mitchell Balmas
72	Ivan Björkly Nordström
12	Daniel Ciampini
75	Robert Dowd
53	Joel Janatuinen
63	Mikko Juusola
13	Daniel Leavens
42	Angelo Miceli
29	Nathan Ripley
27	Cole Shudra
24	Mark Simpson
17	Finlay Ulrick
88	Marc-Olivier Vallerand
14	Patrick Watling
74	Brandon Whistle

VISITING THE BARN

As teams make their first visits to the Auld Barn this season we continue to look back at the changes made to their rosters in the close season. Perhaps surprisingly for a team that had swept all before last season the Steelers roster this year is about a 50/50 split between new players and returnees. Sheffield's first move came before the end of last season when **Robert Dowd** extended his 16-year relationship with the Steelers after signing a new two year contract. Dowd spent five years in the Steelers programme prior to leaving for the Belfast Giants and Troja Ljungby (Sweden) before returning some eleven seasons ago. Dowd has dressed in over 800 games with the Steelers. Last term was quite the season for the 35 year old who, as well as being made Steelers captain in September, was announced as the GB National side's captain. Head coach Aaron Fox said "Getting Dowdy done long term was a priority and is obviously a great start to next year's team. He's made such an impact as our captain this year. Nobody competes harder night in and night out and he plays with such passion and emotion that is contagious to our group. Dowdy is still putting up elite level goal numbers as well, which I expect to continue." Dowd said "It's nice to be staying at home, I don't think there was any doubt that both sides wanted this deal to happen, but when it is signed there is a certain relief. It's no secret that I'm a lifer here, I love the club, my team mates, the fans and this building. I want to bring my Grandkids here one day and look in the rafters at the Championship banners we have all won together. If I can do that I will be a happy man." Shortly after the Playoff Weekend celebrations in Nottingham the Steelers announced the departures of forward Brett Neumann to EHC Winterthur and defenceman Niklas Nevalainen. They also moved quickly to confirm the re-signing of **Kevin Tansey** for two more seasons. Tansey returns to the club with the assistance of Sheffield Hallam University, where Tansey will take studies alongside his playing role with the Steelers. It was Kevin Tansey who scored the final goal of the 2024 Grand Slam season in the play off final, his 12th in his 67 games. Speaking of his return Kevin said "I love playing here and there is nowhere else I would rather be. I want to defend the triple with this group, with this team. We have a great group led by great coaches and to be honest this was a no brainer for me to return to a place where I felt so wanted and so comfortable." Head coach Aaron Fox was of course delighted with his first re-signing of the summer adding "This was an absolute no brainer for us. Winning teams have guys that are willing to embrace the identity and culture your trying to implement into your group. Kevin has been that guy. He's been a perfect fit and has done an unreal job of buying into what this organisation is all about. Kevin has been a rock in our D core and plays such a strong and physical defensive game. He skates well and is also very dynamic in transition and can play a power forward role on our powerplay." Into mid-May and the club announced the re-signing of homegrown forward **Finlay Ulrick** on a two-way deal with the Sheffield Steeldogs. Ulrick is no stranger to the Steelers having played 8 league and play-off games last season (0+2) and to the Steeldogs, having played against them for Hull, in a year when he amassed 31 goals and 86 points in 58 games. Aaron Fox said "It's great to get Fin back on a new two-way deal where we can use him in both clubs. If we had first option last year he probably plays 40 games for us. Fin did a great job when he was with us and fit in great with our group. It's an important signing because last season Finlay established himself as a go to player in our league scoring more than a point per game. This two-way deal will give him the opportunity to improve and continue his progression so he can make the transition in time to come up to the Steelers and professional game" That progression isn't lost on Ulrick "this is a good move for me, the right move. Training with both the Steelers and Dogs can only help me in my progression, whilst trying to contribute as much as I can with the Dogs and also keeping my foot in the door with Aaron and the Steelers as my aim in a full time professional contract with them in the future." Another two way followed with homegrown forward **Nathan Ripley**, on a two-way with the Sheffield Steeldogs, from the Coventry Blaze. Ripley is no stranger to Ice Sheffield having come up through the academy before leaving to spend two years with the Ontario Hockey Academy between 2017-19. Nathan then played 73 games for the Steeldogs between 2019-2021 before joining the Coventry Blaze two years ago, playing 106 games at the Elite League level. Fox said "We feel with him spending time in Coventry at the Elite league level and not playing a ton of minutes having the option to utilise him between both clubs is a great development option for him. I'm looking forward to having him with us". For Ripley, it's a dream move heading back to Sheffield "I was excited when Foxy approached me about a 2-way with the Dogs and Steelers" he said. "The Dogs gave me my first break and I've been a Steelers fan ever since I was a youngster. Once a dog always a dog. It was a no-brainer really and an opportunity I couldn't turn down. I can't wait for

VISITING THE BARN

the upcoming season and training with the Steelers is a dream come true. It's an honour to represent both teams and continue my journey in the sport I love". Homegrown goalie **Curtis Warbuton** from Solway Sharks was next to sign again on a two-way with Steeldogs. After a year away, 6'2 goalie Warburton is coming back home to Sheffield. The 22 year old played 24 games for the Solway Sharks last season in the NIHL having previously spent time with the Steelers on a two way agreement with both Hull Stingrays and the Steeldogs between 2020 and 2023. It's good to be back home" said Curtis "This is the place where I started playing hockey and I'm excited to further my development in Sheffield. The aim of course is to be a Steeler but to do that I know my performances for the Dogs have to be of the highest quality. I'm already focussed on next season and working hard in the gym so I am ready to help bring success to Sheffield.". On June 3rd the Steelers reunited their top pair defencemen when Head coach Aaron Fox was delighted to confirm that **Dominic Cormier** would be back in a Steelers uniform next season. "We already had Kevin Tansey signed so now having Dom back means our top pair will be back together on the blueline". Cormier joined the Steelers in November and played 50 league, Cup and Play-Off games during the Grand Slam year. "Dominic coming back was a no brainer" said Fox "He came in and played a top pair role with Kevin and they were dominant all year. He's an elite skater that can create offense jumping in the play and was so good on our retrievals. Dom's speed also allows him to have great gap control and defend well against the league's top end players night in and out." When asked why he was returning to Sheffield, Cormier replied "Why not? I loved my time there right from day one, there is a family feel with the fans and also inside the locker room with the guys. We also have three titles to defend, I want to be a part of that, I don't want to be looking from afar to see how some other guys are doing. I want to be right in the middle of the battle". Another Sheffield youngster returned home with the news that **Ben Norton** had signed a two way contract with the Steelers and Steeldogs. Norton left Sheffield back in 2018 and headed to the United States (Northwood Prep School) where he remained (with Northwood School and Columbia Infantry) until joining Bristol Pitbulls for the NIHL season. In the meantime Norton played for both GB U18's and U20's in the World Championships. "When I was 4 years old, my mum took me to a Steelers' game and that's when I fell in love with hockey" said Norton. "I was 14 when I moved abroad to hockey school. This is my first time back in Sheffield since I moved away and I'm so excited to be playing for the team I grew up watching." On June 8th another returnee "Back to defend our titles" said **Mark Simpson**. Simpson played 51 games for the club in the Grand Slam campaign scoring 13 goals and 32 points. "It was a simple no brainer for me" said Simpson "I loved the city, loved the club, my team mates and of course the fans. The chance to come back and defend our three title as well as the chance to play in the Champions League, I wasn't walking away from that. It was my first time winning at the pro level, it was such an incredible experience after such a year of highs and lows. The bond that group had is something none of us will forget. We bought in from day one and I expect the group we have next year to do the same. I'm sure there will be a core group returning who will just want to keep on winning. The CHL was an exciting addition to a second year as Simpson explained "We all want to play at the highest level, test ourselves individually and as a team. The CHL gives us that opportunity and I can't wait to get started, I think we will surprise a few people for sure". Goalie Anthony Morrone departed before another youngster was penned. The "Shudra" name will always be synonymous with Sheffield hockey. Rocket Ron, the original Steelers superstar, his eldest son, **Cole Shudra**, the 2024 Grand Slam Steeler and now **Tate Shudra** (19) joined the ranks of Sheffield's most famous hockey family when he signed a two-way contract with the Steelers and Steeldogs. The return of **Colton Saucerman** for a second season with the Grand Slam Champions was confirmed mid-June. Saucerman played 57 league, cup and play off games for the Steelers last year scoring 7 goals and 41 points. Announcing the deal, head coach Aaron Fox said "Colton had an outstanding year for us offensively last year and was instrumental in our PP being 1st in the league. He also was +22 and we could match him up against anyone in the league. Colton is a great competitor and is willing to stick up for his teammates when needed. I also think it was clear to see what a huge core player he was to our group, I'm delighted to welcome him back to our group and look forward to working with him for another season" .

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Another returnee **Mikko Juusola** said "It was the easiest decision to come back, I didn't have to think twice" I didn't have to think at all, I just spoke with Foxy and then my agent and told them to get it done, it was very simple and I am very happy to be coming back" Juusola continued. "Winning games is always fun and we just kept winning, first games and then trophies. That first win against Guildford in the Cup Final was incredible, to do it at home in front of our crazy fans was maybe the most special moment. Saying that the Final Four play offs was cool, having nine other teams wanting you to lose and all their fans against you was fun, our fans are the best and I think they prefer it that way, I certainly do. I like it." On playing in the Champions Hockey League Mikko said "an added bonus in coming back, to play against these huge clubs. I can't wait to see how we get on, I think we will surprise a few people". The man that scored in the play-off final **Daniel Ciampini** was next to return to the club for a third season. "In all honesty it was the easiest hockey decision I have ever made" said Ciampini "it was a straightforward conversation with Aaron and deal agreed pretty much instantly. The question in my head was, why wouldn't I want to come back and once Aaron explained his plan to bring a big core group of the guys back to defend thew titles we had won I was on board. The hockey environment Aaron has built here is outstanding but also from a family point of view myself and Christina consider Sheffield as our second home now and we both appreciate the support we have had from everyone in the City over the last two years." July commenced with the announcement of Zach Vinnell retiring and on July 8th the Elite League's number one goalie, **Matt Greenfield** was back with the Steelers for another year. Greenfield not only led all Elite League goalie stats in both the league and Challenge Cup, but he was also named the league's MVP last season after backstopping the Steelers to a Grand Slam. Greenfield played in 47 of the Steelers 54 league games, winning 38 and posting a goals against average of just 1.92 with a saves average of 92.96%. Head coach Aaron Fox was of course thrilled to bring home the league's most valuable player "There's no question this was one of, if not the most important business we did all summer. Getting Greener back checks a box that leaves zero doubt we will give ourselves a chance every time we put his name down on the lineup card. With other options out there for him, Greener decided he wanted to run it back which also had a play in a couple other players who weren't signed yet to also decide to run it back." Greenfield confirmed that he looked at other option before returning "it would have been wrong not to see what was out there" he said "after we had such a big year there were some interesting opportunities, but then when we saw that the core group was returning, I decided that Sheffield was the place for me. It's such a tight and special group, it was from the start of last year and continued to the end. Groups like that don't come around that often. So, a chance to defend our titles coupled with the chance to play in the Champions League and test ourselves at the highest level was something I didn't want to pass up on." One of the most important cogs in the Steelers wheel then agreed to return and defend the Grand Slam. **Brien Diffley**, the man who scored the all important first goal in the Cup Final. Diffley signed from the Odense Bulldogs in Denmark last summer and made an instant impact on the team scoring 5 goals and 23 points in an impressive 68 games for the club. Head Coach Aaron Fox said "Happy to get Diff back for another season. He's an elite skating two way Defensemen that makes the game look easy. Diff has got elite closing ability, plays with a tight gap, and has one of the best sticks we have had here. Offensively he's great on his puck retrievals and in transition he can effortlessly join the rush. He's a very unselfish player that will do whatever is needed for him to help the team have success. Having him and Sauce (Colton Saucerman) both back gives us that option to start the year with a pair we know can play against any line in the league". Another Grand Slammer Returned mid July and it was a 5th Steelers season in Orange for forward **Brandon Whistle**. Whistle joined the Steelers back in 2018 and then left for a year in Telford, the Covid non season and a year with Leeds Knights that also coupled with a return to Steelers colours. For those last two seasons Brandon has become an integral part of the Steelers team, seeing the 26 year old play on both special teams and making the men's Nation Side ahead of the World Championships. Brandon Whistle has played 197 League, Cup and Play Off games for the Steelers in his time with the club. Head Coach Aaron Fox said "Brandon had another really impactful season for us even though he dealt with injury issues for most of the season that he was playing through. I know he's worked hard all summer so I'm hoping to have him 100% to start the season. He's a guy that was a top 4 penalty kill forward for us and when we played him up the lineup he played very well. Whistle commented "I'm very comfortable in Sheffield both on and off the ice, the team I'm coming back to join achieved something very special and the

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chance to try and defend those trophies is a big pull. I'm also looking forward to the Champions League, that will be really tough but as a player you want to test yourself against the best, I think that then goes on for the whole team, we were a special group last year and we want that test ourselves collectively against some incredible opposition."There was another extension when **Patrick Watling** who scored 27 goals and 76 points in just 68 games last year committed again for another season. "With the team we had last year and what we all achieved it was a no brainer to return to the Steelers. Of course with the year we had there are always other options, but with so many of last year's team returning, the chance to win again and add to that the opportunity to play in the CHL and the decision was not a hard one" said Watling. "When you arrive at a new club there is always some uncertainty, how you will settle and how things will pan out, knowing I was coming back to a great organisation and City made the decision easier. Winning is fun and we all want to win again, also we want to test ourselves in the CHL against the best that is out there. I'm excited to return and walk back into the arena and see everyone again including the incredible fans." Head coach Aaron Fox said "Watling came in and was an impact player for us last year. He has the ability to change the game on his own.Plays with high pace and compete and is extremely hard to handle on the rush. Patrick was a big part of our power-play being 1st in the league and a player that I still think has more in the tank with being able to focus just on hockey". On July 2nd The Elite Leagues leading point scorer, **Mitchell Balmas** was confirmed as returning to the Steelers on a one year contract that will also see the sharpshooter further his education with Sheffield Hallam University. Balmas scored 38 goals and 90 points in just 70 games in his first season with the club, helping the Steelers secure the 2024 Grand Slam. Head coach Aaron Fox couldn't have been happier saying "Anytime you're able to bring back the top scorer in the league you know it's an impact signing for the club. Balms is coming back on a university deal with Sheffield Hallam which was instrumental in keeping him in orange. He is an elite offensive player that can do it all.Mitch is a very unselfish player that makes the right play and sees the game at another level. I think what sets him apart is his high character on and off the ice and the respect he gets from his teammates". **Ivan Björkly-Nordström** joined on a two-year, two-way agreement between the Steelers and the Steeldogs. Ivan had a most productive season in Peterborough last year scoring 23 league goals and 49 points in just 48 games. He followed that up with an impressive 6 goals and 13 points in the 8 playoff games that secured the Phantoms with their play-off crown. 25th July saw the club confirm the return of fan favourite **Marco Vallerand**. It will be Vallerand's 5th season with the club, a player who was part of the teams 2020 Challenge Cup success and last season's Grand Slam. Vallerand tied Mitchell Balmas with 32 goals in all competitions last season, his overall record in the Elite League is also outstanding, notching 138 goals and 287 points in 243 games (for Sheffield and the Coventry Blaze). Announcing his return, head coach Aaron Fox said "Valley coming back gives us an automatic 25 to 35 goal scoring threat. Marco has been an elite two-way player for us that has played his best Hockey when it matters most. He's also a guy who led the league in power play goals. Valley has had a good summer getting healthy and will come in in good shape ready to go". On August 1st Aaron Fox added his first new import signing of the summer with the addition of forward **Angelo Miceli**. Miceli has played the last seven seasons in Bolzano, a town he now calls home. Angelo has won a championship, played in the CHL and also for the Italian National team, now however, it's time for a change. "It's time for a change" he said "I think both Bolzano and I realised that after 7 years, we have enjoyed great times together, great experiences and the City has become my home. I have spoken with Aaron for a few summers now but always went back to Bolzano because it was comfortable, because it was the easy thing to do. This summer we both decided that the time had come, and I don't think I have ever been so motivated for a season ahead. It will be only my second club in Europe, and it is an exciting challenge. I played with Daniel Ciampini in Bolzano, I took reference from him and after 10 minutes on the phone I was ready to sign. Head Coach Aaron Fox said "Angelo is a high energy forward that can play all 3 forward positions. He has played in both powerplay and penalty kill situations in Bolzano and has put up really solid numbers in the ICEHL during his time there. Angelo is patient on the puck and will get to the hard areas and skates well. I love his skill set and he will bring high character and experience to the group".

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August 14th was a big day for the summer recruitment with FIVE new players added to the roster. Experienced Finnish defenseman **Joona Huttula** joined the Steelers following two seasons in Czechia with HC Energie Karlovy Vary. Prior to that Joona had spent his professional career in Finland predominantly with Karpat where he played 120 of his 172 Liiga games. The Steelers Finnish connection also played a part in the move with speedy forward Mikko Juusola adding his weight in persuading Huttula to sign "Mikko and I are best friends, we train together in the summer and he has been onto me to join, telling me everything about the team, the club, the City and most of all the fans. So I had a really good conversation with Aaron and liked what he said, it got me excited and I guess that's how the deal was done." Asked about his playing style Joona replied "I would like to think I am good all around, no real weakness. People will tell you my strength is my skating, I take care of my defensive duties but I do like to join the rush. I have a long stride and it helps me get up and down the ice. I think the coaches, my team mates and the fans will see that I give my all, everything I have, I love to compete" The second signing of the day was skilled Finnish forward **Joel Janatuinen**. The 29 year old left winger played 183 Liiga games after spending four seasons in the NCAA with the University of North Dakota between 2015 and 2019. "Joel is coming off a stretch where he wasn't healthy for an extended period of time and over the last 6 months has got himself healthy and in great shape" said Fox. "The potential with him at his age and what he's done when healthy in Liiga is what's really exciting. I think he will be a dynamic winger that will add depth scoring, he plays an extremely solid two way game. I'm very excited to get him in and try him in a couple different lineup spots to see how is game translates at our level". Signing number three of the day completed the Steelers defence with the addition of 33 year old blue liner **Sacha Guimond** who arrived in Sheffield on the back of consecutive championships in the French league with Rouen. Prior to that, Sacha had spells in Bratislava (ICEHL), Innsbruck (EBEL) Olimpija Ljubljana (EBEL) and Banska Bystrica (Slovakia). "Winning back to back championships gives you a great feeling, and once you win you want to continue winning" he said. "I guess that is a huge reason for wanting to come to Sheffield. I had the chance to move to a few teams in the league but I didn't really know a lot about the Elite league. I did though know about Sheffield Steelers, that they always have a good team and a chance to win. I've been in Europe for 7 or 8 years now, this will be a new experience and a new challenge, we all need those in life, and I am excited to come over to England and get started. The league is getting better every year and when I look at the standard of players in the league and especially our team you just want to put the skates on and start". Fox has recruited six import defensemen for this year's Steelers side, the first time he has done that since he joined the club in 2019. The Steelers import net minder duo was completed with the addition of Italian International **Marco De-Filippo**. De-Filippo has 24 Italian caps to date and has spent seven of the last eight seasons in Cortina and the past year with the impressive Asiago side in the ICEHL. "I like our goalie situation" said Aaron Fox "It's an impressive group of imports and young two-way Brits playing for their positions. "Marco is a goalie who has played extremely well in the Alps league and got the majority of starts in IceHL last year. His numbers in Alps are elite and extremely consistent year by year. I feel he will come in ready to compete for starts and prove to be an important piece." The fifth signing of the day was **Daniel Leavens** who also completed the final import signing ahead of the new season. "Daniel is a power forward that has put up over a point per game in all 3 leagues he's played at in Europe" said Fox. "He will be Another versatile player that can play multiple positions and also will play a heavy game if that's what's needed. Daniel has been outstanding on the PP and definitely is a guy who is a top 6 player that I expect to run some good numbers". Asked why he wanted to join the Steelers, his answer was simple "I want to win, I haven't won professionally and I want that to change. I've been a part of some great teams, especially in the last couple of years and we have had really good regular seasons and then crashed out of the first round of the play offs. I want to go better this coming season with the Steelers". Leavens also credits Daniel Ciampini in assisting the move to the UK "We've played together and then I seemed to follow a year after him in Europe playing for the same team in both Norway and Austria. All last year I kept seeing his Instagram thinking that looks a great place to play. We spoke and he confirmed all that I had thought, then when you realise that the majority of the same team are going back you realise that the guys are well treated by the club, coaches and owners and that's a big thing." Those new additions also confirmed there would be no returns for Josh Nicholls, Scott Allen, Angus Laing, Patrick Harper and Sam Jones.

LEAGUE STATS

SEASON 2024/25

Total Games Played	**19**	**20**	**17**	**22**	**21**	**20**	**21**	**18**	**17**	**17**
Challenge Cup Games	10	8	7	12	10	10	10	9	9	9
League Games	9	12	10	10	11	10	11	9	8	8
Biggest Win	7-0 v Flyers	6-1 v Stars	6-0 v Clan	7-0 v Flyers	4-1 v Stars	8-5 v Flyers	6-0 v Blaze	7-3 v Clan	5-1 v Flyers v Giants	6-1 v Stars
Biggest Loss	1-5 v Panthers	3-5 v Blaze	0-6 v Flames	1-6 v Devils v Steelers	0-7 v Giants v Stars	0-6 v Blaze	2-6 v Devils	2-7 v Giants	2-5 v Stars	3-5 v Devils
Longest Win Streak	6	4	6	2	1	4	3	2	4	6
Longest Loss Streak	2	2	4	6	12	4	4	3	3	2
Current Streak	1 Loss	4 Wins	2 Losses	1 Win	12 Losses	2 Wins	1 Win	3 Losses	1 Loss	2 Wins
Fastest Goal	00:58	00:50	06:08	01:08	02:44	00:08	00:21	00:29	02:12	00:14
Shut Out For	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Shut Out Against	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	1	0	0
Empty Net Goals For	3	3	4	1	0	3	3	1	1	5
Empty Net Goals Against	3	3	0	3	4	7	1	1	2	0
Penalty Shots Scored	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Penalty Shots Conceded	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total Goals Scored scored by Forwards	**69**	**69**	**46**	**52**	**46**	**49**	**46**	**55**	**51**	**58**
Powerplay	16	13	14	9	9	12	9	13	15	9
Even Strength	51	54	28	41	37	35	35	41	36	46
Shorthanded	2	2	4	2	0	2	2	1	0	3
Total Goals Scored scored by Defencemen	**8**	**5**	**7**	**9**	**4**	**6**	**11**	**3**	**0**	**11**
Powerplay	2	0	1	2	1	3	2	2	0	3
Even Strength	6	5	4	7	3	1	8	1	0	8
Shorthanded	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Forwards	**40**	**44**	**45**	**71**	**89**	**62**	**54**	**65**	**39**	**38**
Penalty Kill	12	10	12	7	14	18	14	15	6	8
Even Strength	26	33	30	62	73	42	40	47	30	30
Shorthanded	2	1	3	2	2	2	0	3	3	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Defencemen	**6**	**2**	**3**	**9**	**10**	**8**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**6**
Penalty Kill	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	2	2	1
Even Strength	5	0	2	9	5	4	5	6	4	4
Shorthanded	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Goals Scored Period 1	25	16	7	23	15	14	10	23	20	20
Goals Scored Period 2	22	31	17	20	17	19	19	22	17	22
Goals Scored Period 3	28	27	29	18	17	21	28	12	13	27
Goals Scored OT/SO	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	2	3	3
TOTAL Goals Scored	**77**	**74**	**54**	**64**	**49**	**55**	**57**	**59**	**53**	**72**
Goals Scored Per Game	**4.05**	**3.70**	**3.18**	**2.91**	**2.33**	**2.75**	**2.71**	**3.28**	**3.12**	**4.24**
Goals Conceded Period 1	14	13	19	19	30	17	22	19	6	15
Goals Conceded Period 2	14	15	11	31	35	15	24	29	23	13
Goals Conceded Period 3	17	17	16	29	33	38	15	25	16	15
Goals Conceded OT/SO	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	1
TOTAL Goals Conceded	**46**	**46**	**49**	**80**	**101**	**71**	**63**	**74**	**46**	**44**
Goals Against Per Game	**2.42**	**2.30**	**2.88**	**3.64**	**4.81**	**3.55**	**3.00**	**4.11**	**2.71**	**2.59**
Shots For P1	253	214	162	224	230	239	219	169	179	184
Shots For P2	234	270	181	241	211	218	229	183	180	206
Shots For P3	205	210	177	231	190	246	186	180	152	173
Shots For OT	5	0	10	8	5	0	7	4	11	9
TOTAL Shots For	**697**	**694**	**530**	**704**	**636**	**703**	**641**	**536**	**522**	**572**
Shots for Per Game	**36.68**	**34.70**	**31.18**	**32.00**	**30.29**	**35.15**	**30.52**	**29.78**	**30.71**	**33.65**
Shots Against P1	165	208	212	239	284	208	201	227	152	161
Shots Against P2	166	204	179	268	311	204	215	240	225	145
Shots Against P3	190	179	182	221	279	207	173	205	173	134
Shots Against OT	8	2	5	10	12	3	2	3	8	11
TOTAL Shots Against	**529**	**593**	**578**	**738**	**886**	**622**	**591**	**675**	**558**	**451**
Shots Against Per Game	**27.84**	**29.65**	**34.00**	**33.55**	**42.19**	**31.10**	**28.14**	**37.50**	**32.82**	**26.53**

League & Cup games played as at 11/11/2024

ANDI IN THE ATTIC

TWO NUMBER SEVENS: PENNYCOOK AND BUTORAC

I continue my series of articles where I look back on players who have worn particular jersey numbers during their Flyers career in the last 40 or so seasons. The two featured in this one predominantly wore number 7, a forward and a defenceman from the Heineken era.

First up is Jimmy Pennycook, who joined Flyers part way through 1984/85 and was a key player in Flyers' Wembley success that season. A Dundonian, Jimmy, aged 12 attended a hockey school run by Marshall Key, whose Dundee Tigers jersey I once saw on display in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Jimmy quickly developed his hockey skills and won the Northern League Rookie of the Year award in 1973/74 playing with Dundee Rockets.

He played with Rockets up until the 76/77 season scoring 27+13 that season, earning himself a GB call-up and played in the World Championships in Denmark in March 1977. He signed for Murrayfield Racers for the 1977/78 season after Rockets were "mothballed", netting a hat trick in his debut v Ayr and finished joint 5th top scorer alongside Flyers' Gordon Latto, his GB room-mate, with 33+37 in 24 games.

He continued playing at a high level with Racers, gaining "All Star" recognition by being named to the "A" Team at the end of 78/79 and to the "B" Team the following year. Jimmy played at Murrayfield before returning to Dundee for the first season of the British League and contributed to Rockets' two fine seasons in 82/83 and 83/84 when they were all conquering, winning 46 and drawing three of 58 games in the league over these two seasons . Rockets qualified for the European Cup and lost heavily to Rodovre Skotje of Denmark 5-21 on aggregate. Jimmy recorded two assists in the home leg and one in the away tie.

The year that he joined Flyers he played on a part time basis due to the shift patterns that he worked in the offshore oil industry. He made his Flyers debut on 27/10/84 in an Autumn Cup tie against Murrayfield in front of a reported 3200 spectators at Kirkcaldy. To say that he got off to a flying start as a Flyers could be considered an understatement as he struck a hat trick in the 9-6 win and he followed that up the following weekend with another treble as the Flyers won 14-7 at home against the Whitley Warriors.

In his first Flyers season, he scored 29+21 in 24 games including a goal in the Wembley final against Racers.

ANDI IN THE ATTIC

Over the next three seasons, he scored 53+68 in 76 games, before returning "home" to Tayside Tigers in 1988/89. He had spells at Solihull. Telford, Bracknell and Murrayfield once again before re-joining Flyers at Christmas 1992 and made his second Flyers debut on Boxing Day against Racers. He couldn't get his old number 7 jersey though as import Bob Giffin had worn that number from earlier in the season. During this spell with Flyers, Pennycook scored just once, a short-handed goal at Nottingham on 20/02/93 and he played his last Flyers game at home against Nottingham on 18/04/93, when only 1210 turned up to see Flyers lose their sixth play-off game out of six, and tallied one last assist. Following this season, Jimmy had playing stops at Dumfries, Teesside, Trafford and Blackburn, where he also did some coaching. Jimmy Pennycook was an effective hard working player whose time at Fife is best remembered for his first four seasons here.

The other number seven is remembered with considerably less affection by long standing Flyers fans. Justin Butorac was a Canadian defenceman who joined the team heading for relegation in 1990/91 and was the third import defenceman that year following the dismissals of Lubos Oslizlo and Tim Coghlin. Butorac had been drafted by Buffalo Sabres 122nd overall in the 1981 NHL draft, and had played some AHL hockey following his junior years. Former Flyer Fred Perlini was reported as saying that Butorac would be one of the best imports to play in the UK when he signed him to play for Deeside Dragons when he coached there. He evidently wasn't that great as he was released after one game. Butorac made his Flyers debut on 26/01/91 in a 7-9 home defeat to Nottingham, registering two assists. By the time he scored his first Flyers goal against Durham on 02/03/91, Flyers had only won two of the eight games he played in and it was plain to see that Butorac was not the answer to Flyers' defensive woes. In total he played 15 league and play-off games for Flyers, scoring 2+11 and accumulated 76 minutes in penalties. His goal scoring prowess was far lower than what was expected from an import defenceman in that high scoring era and his penalty minutes were third highest on the team despite playing so few games. It didn't quite match his 318 minutes in 60 games when at Oshawa in his junior days though.

His last game for Flyers was a 10-10 draw against Romford on 20/04/91 with Flyers already doomed to relegation. He missed the following night's game at Telford, having packed his bags for home. Butorac appeared in the UK for Trafford Metros the following season and had 240 penalty minutes in 30 games and re-surfaced at Paisley for a handful of games in 93/94. Unfortunately he is remembered as one of a number of poor recruiting decisions by Flyers in 90/91, a season that culminated in the loss of Flyers' Premier Division status.

ANDI RENSON

RULES CORNER

Next up and finally before we explore each of the infractions which give rise to penalties who need to cover all things associated with Officials covered by Rule 30 to Rule 40. In the first of two parts we will look at Rules 30 to 34. Again the full text of the IIHF rule is provided along with any annotations as per the EIHL Casebook.

RULE 30 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

30.1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

The IIHF shall appoint the On-ice Officials (Referees, Linespersons, Standby's) and the Off-Ice Officials (Officiating Coaches, Video Review Consultant, Official Scorekeeper, Game Timekeeper, etc.) for each game.

RULE 31 REFEREES

31.1 ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

All Referees shall be dressed in black pants, IIHF Officials' jerseys, an IIHF approved black helmet with visor, protective equipment and approved whistles.

31.2 DISPUTES

The Referees shall have general supervision of the game and shall have full control of all off-ice Game Officials and Players during the game, including stoppages; and in case of any dispute, their decision shall be final. As there is a human factor involved in blowing the whistle to stop play, the Referee may deem the play to be stopped slightly prior to the whistle actually being blown. The fact that the puck may come loose or cross the Goal Line prior to the sound of the whistle has no bearing if the Referee has ruled that the play had been stopped prior to this happening. In the event of any dispute regarding time or the expiration of penalties, the matter shall be referred to the Referee for adjustment and their decision shall be final. They may use the Video Review Consultant to assist in rendering the final decision.

31.3 FACE-OFFS

One of the Referees shall "face-off" the puck to start each period during regular time. Linespersons are responsible for all other "face-offs".

31.4 GENERAL DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Referees to impose such penalties as are prescribed by the rules for infractions thereof and they shall give the "final on-ice decision" in matters of disputed goals. The Referees may consult with the Linespersons before making their decision. The Referees shall not halt the game for any infractions of the rules concerning Rule 83 – Off-side, or any violation of Rule 81 – Icing. Determining infractions of these rules is the duty of the Linespersons unless, by virtue of some unforeseen issue, the Linesperson is prevented from doing so in which case the duties of the Linesperson shall be assumed by a Referee until play is stopped.

31.5 GOALS

The Referees shall have announced over the Public Address System information regarding the legality of an apparent goal. If applicable, the Official Scorekeeper, with the assistance of the Video Review Consultant, will confirm the "goal scorer" and any Players deserving of an "assist". The Referees shall have announced the reason for not allowing a goal every time the goal signal light is turned on in the course of play over the Public Address System. This shall be done at the first stoppage of play regardless of any standard signal given by the Referees when the goal signal light was put on in error (if the red goal light is mandatory and in place). The Referees shall report the name or number of the "goal scorer" and also report any Player deserving an "assist" for that goal. If applicable, the Referees shall report the "goal scorer" only and the Official Scorekeeper, with the assistance of the Statistic staff will confirm the "goal scorer" and any Player deserving an "assist". The name of the "goal scorer" and any Player entitled to an "assist" will be announced over the Public Address System. In the event the Referee disallows a goal for any violation of the rules, they shall report the reason for the disallowance to the Official Scorekeeper who shall have the Referee's decision announced correctly over the Public Address System.

RULES CORNER

31.6 OFF-ICE OFFICIALS
The Referees shall, before starting the game, see that the appointed Off-Ice Officials are in their respective places and ensure that the timing and signalling equipment are in order.

31.7 PENALTIES
The infraction of the rules for which each penalty has been imposed will be announced correctly, as reported by the Referee, over the Public Address System. Where Players of both Teams are penalized on the same play, the penalty to the visiting Player will be announced first.

31.8 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS
It shall be the duty of the Referees to see to it that all Players are properly dressed, and that the approved regulation equipment (including the approved on-ice branded exposure program) is in use at all times during the game.

31.9 REPORTING
The Referee shall report to the Proper Authorities promptly and in detail the circumstances surrounding the following:
(I) The assessment of Misconduct Penalties for Abuse of Officials;
(II) The assessment of Game Misconduct Penalties;
(III) Any time a Player or team personnel are involved in an altercation with a spectator;
(IV) Any unusual occurrence that takes place on or off the ice, before, during or after the game.
(V) The assessment of Major Penalties.

31.10 START AND END OF GAME AND PERIODS
The Referees or the Official Timekeeper shall order the Teams on the ice at the appointed time for the beginning of a game and at the commencement of each period. If for any reason, there is more than a fifteen (15) minute delay in the commencement of the game or any undue delay in resuming play after the IIHF approved intermission length between periods (refer to IIHF Event Codes), the Referees shall state in their report to the Proper Authorities the cause of the delay and the Team or Teams which were at fault. The Referees shall remain on the ice at the conclusion of each period until all Players have proceeded to their Dressing Rooms. Team Entry and Departure from the Ice Surface is described in Rule 86.5.

31.11 UNABLE TO CONTINUE
Should a Referee accidentally leave the ice or receive an injury which incapacitates them from fulfilling their duties while play is in progress, the game shall be automatically stopped. In IIHF Championships, "standby" Game Officials are assigned for the individual games. In the event of an injury to a Game Official, the designated "standby" Game Official will be used.

RULE 32 LINESPERSONS

32.1 ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT
All Linespersons shall be dressed in black pants, IIHF Officials' jerseys, an IIHF-approved black helmet with visor, protective equipment and approved whistles.

32.2 FACE-OFFS
The Linesperson shall "face-off" the puck at all times except at the start of each period during regular time.

32.3 GENERAL DUTIES
The Linesperson are generally responsible for calling violations of "Off-side" and "Icing". They may stop play for a variety of other situations as noted in Rules 32.4 and 33.5 below.

32.4 REPORTING TO REFEREE
The Linesperson shall give the Referees their interpretation of any incident that may have taken place during the game. The Linesperson may stop play and report what he witnessed to the Referees when:

RULES CORNER

(I) There are "too many Players on the ice" Rule 74 – Too many Players on the ice.
(II) Articles are thrown on the ice from the Players' Bench or Penalty Box Rule 75 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
(III) When Team Personnel interfere with a Game OfficialRule 39 – Abuse of Officials.
(IV) When a Player who has lost or broken their stick receives one illegally Rule 10 – Sticks.
(V) When any identifiable Player on the Player's or Penalty Box, by means of their stick or their body, interferes with the movements of the puck or an opponent Rule 56 – Interference.
The Linesperson shall report upon completion of play, any circumstances pertaining to:
(I) Major Penalties Rule 20 – Major Penalties.
(II) Misconduct PenaltiesRule 22 – Misconduct Penalties.
(III) Game Misconduct Penalties Rule 23 – Game Misconduct Penalties.
(IV) Abuse of Officials Rule 39 – Abuse of Officials.
(V) Physical Abuse of Officials Rule 40 – Physical Abuse of Officials.
(VI) Unsportsmanlike ConductRule 75 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
(VII) Dangerous Actions Rule 21 – Dangerous Actions.
Should a Linesperson witness an infraction (above) committed by an attacking Player (undetected by the Referees) prior to the attacking Team scoring a goal, the Linesperson shall report what they witnessed to the Referees, the goal shall be disallowed, and theappropriate penalty assessed. The Linesperson shall stop play immediately and report to the Referees when:
(I) When it is apparent that an injury has resulted from a "high-stick" that has gone undetected by the Referees and requires the assessment of a Double-minor Penalty. Rule 60 – High-sticking.

32.5 STOPPING PLAY
The Linesperson shall stop play:
(I) When premature substitution of the Goalkeeper has occurred Rule 71 – Premature Substitution.
(II) When they deem that a Player has sustained a serious injury, and this has gone undetected by either of the Referees Rule 8 – Injured Players.
(III) For encroachment into the "face-off" areaRule 76 – Face-offs.
(IV) When the puck has been directed with a hand to a Teammate in any zone other than the Defending Zone and this has gone undetected by either of the Referees Rule 79 – Hand Pass.
(V) When the puck has been batted with the hand by either center in an attempt to win the "face-off" in any zone Rule 76 – Face-offs.
(VI) When the puck is struck by a stick above the normal height of the shoulders, and this has gone undetected by either of the Referees Rule 80 – High-sticking the Puck.
(VII) When either Team "ices" the puck Rule 81 – Icing.
(VIII) When there have been interference by/with spectators Rule 24 – Penalty Shot.
(IX) For any infraction of the rules concerning "Off-side" play at the Blue Line Rule 83 – Off-side.
(X) When the puck is "out of bounds" or unplayable Rule 85 – Puck Out of Bounds.
(XI) When a goal has been scored that has not been observed by the Referees Rule 78 – Goals.
(XII) When the puck is interfered with by an ineligible Player/person Rule 5 – Team, Rule 74 – Too many Players on the Ice,Rule 78 – Goals, Rule 84 – Overtime Operations.
(XIII) The calling of a "Penalty Shot" under Rule 53 – Throwing Equipment.

32.6 UNABLE TO CONTINUE
Should a Linesperson accidentally leave the ice or receive an injury which incapacitates them from fulfilling their duties while play is in progress, the game shall be automatically stopped. In IIHF Championships, "standby" Game Officials are assigned for the individual games. In the event of an injury to a Game Official, the designated "standby" Game Official will be used.

RULES CORNER

RULE 33 OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER

33.1 GENERAL DUTIES

Before the start of the game, the Official Scorekeeper shall obtain from the Team Manager or Coach of both Teams a list of all eligible Players of each Team, which information shall be made known to the opposing Coach before the start of play. The Coach must submit the "line-up / roster sheet" to the Official Scorekeeper at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the game. The Official Scorekeeper shall secure the names of the Captain and Alternate Captains from the Team Manager or Coach at the time the line-ups are collected and will indicate those nominated by placing the letter "C" or "A" opposite their names on the Official Game Sheet. The Official Scorekeeper shall keep a record of the goals scored, the "goal scorers", and Players to whom "assists" have been credited and shall indicate those Players on the lists who have actually taken part in the game. The detailed statistics and remarks shall be completed according to the IIHF Result Management Codes & Regulations. At the conclusion of the game, the Official Scorekeeper shall complete and sign the Official Game Sheet form and forward this to the IIHF office. The Official Scorekeeper shall prepare the Official Game Sheet for signature by the Referees and forward it to the IIHF office.

33.2 GOALS AND ASSISTS

The Referees shall report the name or number of the "goal scorer" and also report any Player deserving an "assist" for that goal. In designated IIHF Championships, the Referees shall report the "goal scorer" only and the Official Scorekeeper, with the assistance of the Statistic staff will confirm the "goal scorer" and any Player deserving an "assist". No requests for changes in any award of points shall be considered unless they are made at or before the conclusion of actual play in the game by the Team Captain, or immediately following the game by a Team representative. Upon completion of the game, the Official Scorekeeper shall complete and sign the Official Game Sheet and prepare it for signature by the Referees. The Official Game Sheet is considered completed and shall be sent to the IIHF Office. In the event the Video Review Consultant reviews a play, and a goal is awarded even though play went for any period of time, the Official Scorekeeper records the goal and any assists at the time the goal was scored. If they are unsure, they must check with the Video Review Consultant. The Timekeeper must also be informed in order to adjust the clock and the penalty clocks accordingly. A goal is awarded to the last Player on the scoring Team to touch the puck prior to the puck entering the net. An "assist" is awarded to the Player or Players (maximum two) who touches the puck prior to the "goal scorer", provided no defender plays or "possesses the puck" in between. Assists can be given to deserving Players on a goal that has been awarded by the Referee if the Referee or Official Scorekeeper deems that assists would have been given on the eventual goal anyway. When goals are scored in the final minute of a period where tenths of seconds are shown on the clock, the time of the goal shall be rounded up to the nearest second for the official records.

33.3 LINE-UPS

It is the policy of the IIHF that the Coach of both Teams provide the Official Scorekeeper with a list of eligible Players and designated Captain and Alternates, within five (5) minutes of the completion of the warm-up (twenty (20) minutes prior to "face-off"). These twenty (20) minutes gives the Official Scorekeeper time to obtain the completed line-up, return it to both Team Coaches and provide a copy of both line-ups to the Referees. The Official Scorekeeper should have an off-ice crew member assist them in order to save time and complete these duties. The Official Scorekeeper must report to the Proper Authorities if either Coach fails to cooperate within these recommended guide lines.

33.4 LOCATION

The Official Scorekeeper shall be placed on the Official Scorekeepers Box opposite the Players' Benches and should have a good view of the ice surface from this position. The Official Scorekeeper has access to a television monitor and shall have a communication device to communicate with the Video Review Consultant.

33.5 PENALTIES

The Official Scorekeeper must help the Penalty Timekeeper with the numbers of the Players on the ice, in the event a Goalkeeper is assessed a penalty, or a Player is ejected from a game.

They must also keep an eye on the Players' Benches during an altercation and record the numbers of any Players who leave their respective Players' or Penalty Boxes and in the order that they so leave.

RULE 34 GAME TIMEKEEPER

34.1 GENERAL DUTIES

The Game Timekeeper shall record the time of starting and finishing of each period in the game. During the game, the Game Timekeeper will start the clock with the drop of the puck and stop the clock upon hearing the On-ice Officials' whistle or the scoring of a goal.

The Game Timekeeper shall cause to be announced over the Public Address System:

(I) in the 1st and 2nd each period that there is (1) one minute remaining to be played in the period;

(II) in the 3rd period that there are two (2) minutes remaining to be played in the period.

Manual stopwatches should be available to determine the correct playing time in the event the timing system fails.

34.2 INTERMISSIONS

For the purpose of keeping spectators informed as to the time remaining during intermissions, the Game Timekeeper will use the electronic clock to record the length of intermissions. The clock will start for the intermission immediately at the conclusion of the period. Intermissions are 15 minutes in length, unless otherwise defined. If there are unusual delays for any reason, (e.g., altercation, arena installations, ice, or ice resurfacing problems) it is important to use discretion in starting the clock. To notify the teams that it is time to return to the ice surface at the beginning of each period, the official game timekeeper will sound a buzzer in the dressing room area to inform the teams using the following systems at each ice hall:

a) Three (3) minutes remaining on the game clock - One (1) blast of the alarm by the official game timekeeper indicating that in one minute the teams will be called to the ice surface.

b) Two (2) minutes remaining on the game clock - Two (2) blasts of the alarm by the official game timekeeper calling for the home team to immediately leave their dressing room and return to the ice surface. The away team immediately follows the last player of the home team to the ice surface.

The Host has the option to propose amendments to this timing to ensure that the players are on the ice to start the period at the correct time.

34.3 OVERTIME OPERATIONS

In the event of Overtime, the Game Timekeeper shall reset the clock to the playing time for the Overtime period according to Rule 84. The Overtime period will commence promptly following the shovelling of the entire ice surface.

34.4 SIGNAL DEVICES

If the arena is not equipped with an automatic signalling device or, if such device fails to function, the Game Timekeeper shall signal the end of each period by blowing a whistle.

34.5 START OF PERIODS

The Game Timekeeper shall signal the Referees and the competing Teams for the start of the game and each succeeding period and the Referees shall start the play promptly.

34.6 TELEVISION AND HOST BROADCASTER (POWER BREAK)

Rule 87 – Time-outs

RULES CORNER

34.7 VERIFICATION OF TIME

Any loss of time on the game or penalty clocks due to a false "face-off" must be replaced as appropriate. The Video Review Consultant may be consulted to ensure the time is accurately replaced. In the event of any dispute regarding time, the matter shall be referred to the Referees for adjudication and their decision shall be final. They may use the Video Review Consultant to assist in rendering their final decision. Rule 37.6 – Video Review.
The Game Timekeeper shall assist to verify game time using an additional timing device (IIHF approved stopwatch). In the event the clock fails to operate when play resumes, the On-ice Officials may elect to stop play provided there is no imminent scoring opportunity or wait until the next legitimate stoppage of play. In cooperation with the Game Timekeeper and the Video Review Consultant, the clock is to be re-set to the appropriate time. In the event a Video Review shows a goal was scored prior to the play being stopped, the Video Review Consultant will inform the Game Timekeeper and the Official Scorekeeper of the time of goal and the amount of playing time left to be reset on the Game Clock.

EIHL Annotations - RULE 30 – APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS
(1) The EIHL will engage suitably trained and qualified referees and linesmen (match officials) for all games
(2) Referees are required to submit all reports and notifications by e-mail to the EIHL Office by the latest 9:00 am on the day following the game.
(3) The referees assigned to a game must be provided with a secured parking space where available.
(4) Assigned referees are required to arrive at the ice arena at least ninety (90) minutes prior to the opening face-off.
(5) Assigned referees cannot be rejected by clubs.
(6) The EIHL clubs must provide the Referees with the following items prior, during and after the game:
- Location preferably away from both teams.
- Private Locker room including Shower stall, toilet, sink...
- 4 Towels for showering
- Water, juices, refreshments
- Post game meal - the same provided to the teams
- Tape, equipment services
- If necessary, support by Team Doctor/Physiotherapist

31.9 Reports
The Referee shall report to EIHL Hockey Operations / EIHL DOPS promptly and in detail the circumstances surrounding the following:
The assessment of Misconduct Penalties for Abuse of Officials;
The assessment of Major Penalties
The assessment of Game Misconduct Penalties;
Any time a Player, Goalkeeper or non-playing Team Personnel are involved in an altercation with a spectator;
Any unusual occurrence that takes place on or off the ice, before, during or after the game.

HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

Darrian Wilson

Last Saturday saw Flyers play host to Glasgow Clan and really come withing a hairs breadth of winning, and losing in regulation if it was not for Michael Cichy's fortuitously timed goal that tied the game with Shane Owen looking on from the bench. Overtime was a bit sketchy and we learned from the penalty shots that we need to try harder in overtime as we played the shoot out lottery without a ticket. Given the money thrown at Clan this season I am expecting them to do better than they currently are. Dundee Stars got the jump on Flyers last Sunday and that left Flyers looking at a single point from their efforts last weekend. Flyer's pride was not the only casualty from last weekend with Adam Berg and Gary Haden leaving Panthers and Clan respectively, hot on the tail of Martin Latal who left Flyers prior to last weekend.

Massimo Carozza was due to arrive in Fife this week and whilst initially I thought it was one of Costa's festive coffees being brought to the party my confusion turned to delight as the former Nottingham Panther joins with a prior history of nearly a point per game in the league. Though it is likely to take him a week or two to get up to match speed I hope he will be a part of the answer to Flyers current woes. To be a Flyers fan you have to have a sense of humour and one thing we do best is have a wee laugh at ourselves whilst not taking it all too seriously, conversely there are those moments, trigger points even, that slam the door in the face of mirth. Whilst it is understandable we are where we are given that we have suffered a glut of import injuries the absence of player succession from within an outstanding local programme since round about 2018 plays a huge part. When we knew the likes of Thomas Muir, Chris Wands, Steven Gunn, Jamie Wilson and Josh Scoon were heading out the team there really should have been a plan in place to replace them, or succession planning as it's more usually called. There's been a series of hired in players to fill gaps up to now though thankfully we are seeing Brodie Kay have a huge impact within the team with solid performance after solid performance. James Spence has logged some ice time too, though maybe not enough to bring him on as much as we'd like. This evening's visitors, the Sheffield Steelers, though no strangers to throwing money at a problem to fix it have a good set up with the Steeldogs and previously recruited for their academy set up. The value of being able to link up with a local team playing at a decent level pays dividends for them, a luxury not afforded to Flyers due to our geographical location and the limitations of development in the SNL.

As one of the bigger teams they are also a bigger attraction to British trained players who can see a career beyond playing a whole season with the aim of fighting for a play-off place, they can see teams with bigger ambitions and a larger cheque book. With the heritage behind the Flyers name there should be no question that every night we should be looking to pull down the shorts of any team and give them a spanking, make them think twice about coming into the Auld Barn. Without that depth on the bench we give the boys a heck of a challenge and it is unreasonable to barrack the guys that are out there night in night out doing their best whilst living with a legacy not of their making.

Creating a legacy is exactly what Aaron Fox is doing at Sheffield. Considering Aaron was being hounded out by a portion of overly entitled Steelers fans before the end of his first season in charge he has been trusted to build a team that swept the league last season and marches on at pace this season domestically and in the CHL. Steelers management recognised the requirement at hand even if some of their fans were only interested in immediate gratification, and their trust in Aaron is now bearing fruit and their fans bask in the orange glow. Steelers fans should be a happy bunch as they have qualified for the next round of the Challenge Cup whilst if you take their points average in the league so far, once they play their games in hand, they should be in top spot again. Aaron Fox has pulled together another cracking team, which he too is still massaging to get right, and their future is in their hands. Teams like Flyers would be daft not to look at how that success has come about and put as many of the good practices as possible into play, we may not have the abundance of cash or the same amount of fans to stooze but within there is a scalable structure that with the right money and time invested will pay dividends. It is one thing to laugh at a team when they falter or get jealous when they are successful, it is quite another thing to look past the façade and pick out the lessons learned.

It may take a few weeks yet to see Flyers fully turned round but let's not lose all hope yet. It is okay to be frustrated by where we are whilst also understanding the reasons why we are there.

Happy hockey weekend to all.

Darrian

Matchnight

PRESENTATIONS

GLASGOW CLAN NOVEMBER 9TH 2024

CLAN MOM
DEVEN SIDEROFF

FLYERS MOM
PHELIX MARTINEAU

SHIRT OFF THE
BACK WINNER

50/50 WINNER

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.

It's Flyers v Durham Fife Flyers will meet Durham Wasps in the final of the Bluecol Cup at Streatham Ice Rink on December 1. Durham defeated Solihull Barons 10-6 in the second leg of their semi-final on Tuesday night to qualify for the final on a 16-12 aggregate. Tuesday's result has set up an intriguing final next Saturday, Flyers and Wasps having already met twice this season with honours even at one victory apiece. "I am pleased to be playing Durham because we know what we will be up against," commented Flyers' player-coach Ronnie Plumb yesterday. "We both won on our own ice, so it should be quite a final." However, before turning their thoughts to the Bluecol final, Plumb and his men face two vital Heineken Premier League matches this weekend. Cleveland Bombers visit Kirkcaldy Ice Rink tomorrow night, while Flyers travel to meet second placed Murrayfield Racers on Sunday. Plumb rejects any suggestion that Flyers might be tempted to 'save themselves' for the big one against Durham. "Winning these two games is the best preparation we can get for the final," he explained. P "They will help keep us in skating shape, and with a whole week before Streatham, there is no need for players to save themselves. "| would be surprised if we did not win the Cleveland game because we have home advantage, but the Murrayfield match will be a tough one. "Both our games against Racers in the Bluecol Cup were very close, and it should be another tight match," he added. Gordon Goodsir missed Wednesday's Bluecol Cup match in Dundee with a twisted knee, but he is expected to be fit for the weekend. Plumb regarded Saturday's 7-7 draw at Nottingham as a point saved rather than lost, bearing in mind the fact that it took a goal in the dying seconds to square the match. "We were a bit sluggish on the slow ice and did not play very well," he said. "The Nottingham netminder had a good game, but we kept hitting him with our shots." Meanwhile, Flyers' winger Chic Cottrell was due to see a specialist in Edinburgh yesterday following the training accident a fortnight ago which left his cheekbone broken in four places. Cottrell (30) had the stitches out last week, and was hoping for further encouraging news about the injury which at one time threatened his career. Although he will be out of action until the New Year, the Kirkcaldy stalwart will be in Flyers' official party for the Bluecol Cup final.

24/11/1984 Fife Flyers v Cleveland Bombers Premier League

Jimmy Pennycook completes his hat-trick against Cleveland Bombers, with Danny Brown and Dave Stoyanovich in close attendance.

WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Flyers unbeaten home record was never in any danger on Saturday night as they swept aside the challenge of Cleveland Bombers. It was as one-sided a match as seen at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink this season as the English side were totally out-classed. There was an early injury scare for Flyers when Dave Stoyanovich went off the ice after catching a stick in the face, but he quickly resumed. However, Gordon Latto was not so fortunate, failing to take any further part in the match after being helped off towards the end of the first period. Flyers led 3-0 at the first buzzer, Danny Brown giving them a sixth minute lead when he flicked home the rebound of a Ronnie Plumb effort, and Jimmy Pennycook scoring from close range in the 10th and 18th minutes. Pennycook completed his hat-trick early in the second period, and Dave Stoyanovich got his first of the night after playing a brilliant one-two with Brown. Stoyanovich returned the compliment for Brown to make it 6-0 in the 12th minute of the period before Ronnie Plumb got into the act with a measured shot from the blueline. Craig Dickson in the home net was beaten for the first time six minutes from the buzzer when McDonough forced the puck home after a desperate scramble but Brown collected his third goal of the night 30 seconds from the interval. Bombers conceded two goals in the first 50 seconds of the final period with Brown and Stoyanovich on target and Pennycook netted his own fourth two minutes later. Although Earle pulled one back for Cleveland Dave Stoyanovich added two more for Flyers in the last seven minutes to complete the scoring.

25/11/1984 Murrayfield Racers v Fife Flyers Premier League

Murrayfield Racers maintained their 100 per cent record and knocked Fife Flyers off the top spot of the Heineken League with two goals in the final two minutes on Sunday night. Ex-Flyer Jim Lynch was the man who did the damage coming out of the penalty box to net the winner just 45 seconds from time. The near capacity crowd – which included some 1200 travelling supporters from Fife – saw Racers lea four times in the first period with goals buy Lynch (2) Tony Hand and Jimmy Jack.

However each time they were pegged back by Flyers with Neil Abel, Gordon Goodsir and Dave Stoyanovich (2) on target. The visitors then established a 6-4 lead at the first buzzer with quick-fire goals by Ronnie Plumb and Andy Linton. In a very tight second period both netminders were on top of their form but a defensive lapse by Dougie Latto allowed Murrayfield's Canadian Larry Gaudet to reduce the deficit to one just minutes from the buzzer. Tow minutes from time Flyers were still leading 6-5 with both teams shorthanded but Tony Hand took advantage of another defensive mistake to level the scores. Then with only seconds left on the clock Hand provided the pass for Lynch to complete his hattrick.

HEINEKEN PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Murrayfield	7	7	0	0	78	37	14
Fife Flyers	**9**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**79**	**44**	**13**
Durham	6	5	1	0	44	32	10
Cleveland	9	4	4	1	67	66	9
Streatham	7	4	3	0	48	36	8
Dundee	9	3	5	1	68	65	7
Ayr	9	3	6	0	65	89	6
Nottingham	8	2	5	1	34	51	5
Whitley Bay	8	2	6	0	54	79	4
Southampton	4	0	4	0	14	52	0

KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB

Fife Redwings enjoyed a productive visit to North Ayrshire Wild U12 last weekend.
They eased to a 7-0 victory. which was a great result. The players demonstrated a superb attitude, and the overall play was excellent.
Kaiden Coles topped the scoring with a hat-trick, while netminder Matty McGroarty was the MVP. On this occasion, he played out of the net for a change!
He really stepped up as a player and put in so much effort, but every one of them worked the team worked their socks off.

Fife Flames were also victorious at home to Lanarkshire Lightning, claiming an impressive 4-1 victory. Aaron Guild made some excellent saves on his way to picking up the MVP award, while Caiden Forbes led the scoring with a couple of goals.
The Flames remain undefeated, and the character they demonstrated will stand them in good stead for the rest of the season.

At senior level, **Kirkcaldy Kestrels** booked their place in the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup after completing a 10-3 aggregate victory over North Ayrshire Wild.
The Kestrels led 4-1 after the first leg but were given an early shock as Wild nabbed a goal in the opening period at Fife Ice Arena.
However, goals by Joe Somerville, Finley King and Scott Jamieson in the middle session gave Steve Wishart's side an iron grip on the tie.
Conor Duncan and Chris Wands added further goals on either side of Jamieson's second of the night in the final session to make it 6-1 on the night.
Wild netted a late consolation, but the Kestrels saw out the remaining time with a minimum of fuss.
They face either Edinburgh Capitals or Paisley Pirates in the next round. The Capitals lead 5-2 after the first leg.
The Kestrels are scheduled to face the Capitals in the Scottish National League on Saturday (6.30 pm).

TABLES & FIXTURES

SEASON 2024/25

ELITE LEAGUE

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %
Cardiff Devils	12	20	10	0	2	0	42	21	0.83
Sheffield Steelers	8	14	6	1	1	0	37	18	0.88
Coventry Blaze	10	13	6	0	3	1	35	25	0.65
Guildford Flames	10	13	6	0	3	1	34	27	0.65
Belfast Giants	9	11	5	0	3	1	34	28	0.61
Dundee Stars	10	10	3	2	5	0	33	41	0.5
Nottingham Panthers	9	8	3	1	5	0	25	23	0.44
Manchester Storm	9	6	3	0	6	0	31	42	0.33
Glasgow Clan	10	4	1	1	8	0	21	42	0.2
Fife Flyers	11	4	1	0	8	2	28	53	0.18

As at 11th November 2024

CHALLENGE CUP GROUP B

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %
Q - Belfast Giants	10	18	7	2	1	0	43	19	0.9
Y - Glasgow Clan	10	13	6	0	3	1	34	29	0.65
Dundee Stars	12	9	3	1	7	1	38	41	0.38
Fife Flyers	10	5	2	0	7	1	22	48	0.25

As at 11th November 2024

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
CC	Wed	13-Nov-2024	Glasgow Clan	Belfast Giants	19:30
50	Fri	15-Nov-2024	Manchester Storm	Dundee Stars	19:30
CC50	Sat	16-Nov-2024	Belfast Giants	Fife Flyers	19:00
51	Sat	16-Nov-2024	Dundee Stars	Guildford Flames	19:00
52	Sat	16-Nov-2024	Glasgow Clan	Nottingham Panthers	19:00
CC51	Sat	16-Nov-2024	Sheffield Steelers	Coventry Blaze	19:00
53	Sun	17-Nov-2024	Belfast Giants	Glasgow Clan	16:00
54	Sun	17-Nov-2024	Fife Flyers	Sheffield Steelers	17:15
55	Sun	17-Nov-2024	Coventry Blaze	Nottingham Panthers	17:30
56	Sun	17-Nov-2024	Guildford Flames	Manchester Storm	18:00

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	Won	4-3
Sunday Sep 8th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	2-4
Saturday Sep 14th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15	Lost	5-6
Sunday Sep 15th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	17:00	Lost SO	2-3
Saturday Sep 21st	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:00	Lost	1-5
Sunday Sep 22nd	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	5-8
Saturday Sep 28th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	19:15	Won	4-1
Sunday Sep 29th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00	Lost	1-4
Saturday Oct 5th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15	Won	3-2
Sunday Oct 6th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	16:00	Lost	1-5
Wednesday Oct 9th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	19:30	Lost	0-7
Friday Oct 11th	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:30	Lost	2-5
Friday Oct 18th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	19:30	Lost	0-7
Saturday Oct 19th	Guildford Flames	League	H	19:15	Lost	4-7
Saturday Oct 26th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	0-3
Sunday Oct 27th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	2-7
Wednesday Oct 30th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	A	19:30	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 2nd	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	3-5
Sunday Nov 3rd	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15	Lost SO	3-4
Saturday Nov 9th	Glasgow Clan	League	H	19:15	Lost OT	4-5
Sunday Nov 10th	Dundee Stars	League	A	17:00	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 16th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00		
Sunday Nov 17th	Sheffield Steeleers	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 Steeleers	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 Steeleers	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 Steeleers	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 Steeleers	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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