



THE FLYER



VS



SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2024
ELITE LEAGUE

Fife Flyers Ice Hockey Club confirmed on Friday that the club had parted ways with Head Coach Tom Coolen by mutual consent. We'd like to place on record our thanks and best wishes to Coach Coolen for the future.

Johnny Curran has been appointed interim Head Coach. Johnny, who suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament earlier in the season has been working alongside Tom Coolen in an Assistant Coach position since October.

Whilst Johnny's injury means that he is not able to join the team on the ice, Todd Dutiaume has agreed to lead training sessions to implement Johnny's vision in practice.





We can also confirm that we are actively looking to bolster our coaching team.

To you, the fans, we thank you for your continued patience and support during this tumultuous time. We ask that you give interim coach Curran time to adjust to his new role within the club and to be loud and proud for the players on the ice.

***THE DIRECTORS, PLAYERS AND
STAFF AT THE FIFE FLYERS
WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR
LOYAL FANS FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT AND WISH
EVERYONE
A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS***



MATCH REPORT

Saturday 14th December 2024			6		0	Elite League	
Period Scores 1-0, 2-0, 3-0							
Line up	Janis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza ✓
	Cameron Kenny	BackUp	Fynn Page	✗	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau ✓
			Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Jordan Stallard ✓
			Brodie Kay	✗	Johnny Curran	✗	Drake Pilon ✓
			Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✗	James Spence ✗
			Patrick Kyte	✓	Aiden Wilson	✓	Ben Brown ✗
			Olivier LeBlanc	✓			
Pering		Refs	Jarvie		Staniforth	Lines men	Beresford

The Flyers visited the Nottingham Panthers for the second time this season on what was to be a poignant evening with the game being preceded by the ceremony to retire Adam Johnson's #47 jersey. The visitors were down to the bare bones icing just 13 skaters with Austin Farley missing out through injury, he was joined on the sidelines by Brodie Kay, The other scratches were two way players Fynn Page, James Spence and Ben Brown with Shane Owen also given the night off with Jānis Voris starting in net. The home side scratched Tim Doherty and Matt Alfaro and gave a debut to youngster Thomas Palmer from the Peterborough Phantoms and also had Cooper Zech back in their line up after going out with an injury after just two games of the season.

The Panthers made the perfect start with an early goal inside the opening minute when Otto Nieminen was first to a puck that was dumped in off the back boards and he slid the puck across the crease before Janis Voris couldn't react and Jordan Kelsall had a tap into the empty net. Voris was in action again in the 2nd minute when he made a save on Sam Herr and moments later he denied Mitchell Fossier with his blocker. Ryan Bednard in the Panthers goal saw his first action in the 3rd minute when the puck almost banked in off a Panthers skate but he stuck out a pad to make a save at the post. The Flyers were looking lively in the Panthers end of the ice and in the 4th minute Bednard got his stick on the puck as Phélix Martineau took it to the net and the puck just wouldn't quite fall for Tyler Heidt who would have had an open net. The Panthers quickly went the other way and Voris made a couple of saves in an all action opening to the game. In the 8th minute Jordan Stallard stole the puck behind the net and Bednard snuffed out his attempted wraparound and followed that up by denying Ryan Foss on the rebound. Didrik Henbrant burst through the middle of the ice from the Flyers blueline in the 9th minute but Voris shut him down. Heidt with a shot from the top of the circles in the 10th minute glanced the puck off the outside of the post but the Panthers in transition created another chance as Fossier got in behind the visitors defence but was again denied by Voris who was standing tall. Moments later the Flyers keeper produced a clear contender for save of the week if not the month/season when he went across his goal and got a pad to a Reid Stefanson shot after a cross crease feed. Daniel Krenželok stepped in from the half boards in the 15th minute and his shot was blocked which created a scramble around the Panthers net. In the 17th minute Massimo Carozza on a 2 on 1 took the shot that Bednard saved but Kristoff Kontos was called for a slash on the play to send the Flyers to the power play. Martineau was first to test Bednard who spilled the puck and the Panthers keeper then shutdown Foss who spun and shot at the far post. A sweeping move by the Flyers saw Carozza feed the puck across the slot to Michael Cichy whose one timer was gloved by a sprawling Bednard as the Panthers completed the kill. In the final 30 seconds Fossier broke down the left wing and cut in on goal but Voris got his toe to the puck to clear the danger.

PERIOD 2

The Panthers had the first shot of the second period as Hugo Roy fired on net and Voris fought it off with his shoulder. In the 22nd minute Foss created some space in the neutral zone and carried into the Panthers zone but his shot was easily dealt with by Bednard. In the 24th minute a mishit shot by Jaakko

MATCH REPORT

Niskala fell perfectly for Fossier in the slot but Voris with a quick glove snagged the puck. A minute later a great leg extension by the visiting keeper stopped Stefanson as Martineau was called for a slash on the play. The Panthers took advantage on the power play to double their lead when Herr switched the puck over to Kontos who beat Voris just inside the post with a low shot from the high slot. The Panthers added another in the 27th minute after a controlled cycle in the Flyers zone with Henbrant feeding the puck over to Stefanson and he picked the top corner on Voris. In the 30th minute Carozza broke into the Panthers zone but he fired high over Bednard's crossbar. A minute later the Panthers goalie had to look lively as he made two saves from close in efforts by Lucas Chiodo. Patrick Kyte was called for a rough after Bednard had stopped his back hand effort. Almost halfway through the Panthers man advantage Logan Neilson was called for a rough around the Flyers net and the teams skated 4 on 4. Voris had to make a smart pad save on Henbrant as his blistering pace saw him burn down the ice. The Flyers returned to full strength for a short power play but Panthers completed the kill. Panthers were back on the power play in the 35th minute when Heidt was called for tripping. Voris made a couple of routine saves as the Flyers completed another kill. In the 37th minute Voris made a huge glove save on Kontos and then covered the puck up with a snow angel. The Flyers were again called for a penalty with a minute of the period remaining as Aiden Wilson got the gate for tripping Henbrant. With just 6 seconds remaining Henbrant saw his first time shot from the slot swallowed by Voris who was in good position.

PERIOD 3

The Flyers completed their penalty kill to start the third. In the 43rd minute Stallard shot from the circles and Bednard made the save with his arm. A minute later Wilson was in good position but his first time shot in the slot was blocked by a Panthers leg. Krenželok ragged the puck in the Panthers zone and Bednard couldn't hold his shot but the puck was cleared. Ollie Betteridge almost added to the home tally in the 46th minute when he was in front of the net and picked up a loose puck but his shot hit the outside of the post. The Flyers went on the power play in the 48th minute when Josh Tetlow was given an unsportsmanlike misconduct. Martineau forced a big pad save and Bednard then denied Chiodo with Kyte just flashing a shot past the post as the Panthers returned to full strength. Within a couple of minutes the home side scored twice with very similar shots beating Voris. Firstly Kontos from a Fossier set up went roof on the Fife keeper and Henbrant did likewise as he came in off the left wing and shot high over the blocker. In the 53rd minute a 3 on 2 break by the Flyers saw Martineau's shot blocked and then Bednard stopped Cichy as he covered up the puck. Voris made another stellar save in the 54th minute on Nieminen but the puck was recycled and eventually landed at the stick of Betteridge who shot high into the net. A minute later and the Panthers missed the net on an odd man rush with just Voris to beat. The Panthers were on the power play again in the 56th minute when Martineau slashed the glove of Nielson. Kontos was looking for his hat trick and the Fife keeper denied him then Fossier as the Flyers completed another kill. In the final minute Chiodo and Cichy combined with the latter scooping the puck over the bar from close range as Bednard preserved his shutout.

Panthers Stats					Flyers Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Kelsall	Nieminen	Niskala	1				For	
48	Kontos	Herr	Zech	2				25	
Shots	Stefanson	Henbrant	Niskala	3				Shots	
Against	Kontos	Fossier	Henbrant	4				Against	
25	Henbrant	Niskala		5				48	
PiMS	Betteridge	Nieminen	Kelsall	6				PiMS	
6				7				10	
				8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Henbrant				10				Voris	

PANTHERS

MATCH NIGHT ACTION



NOTTINGHAM
PANTHERS





GETTING TO KNOW #61

JAMES SPENCE

Date of Birth - June 28th 2002

Age - 22

Place of Birth - Glenrothes, Fife

Position - Forward

Shoots - Left

Height - 180cm/5'11"

Weight - 81kg/179lbs

*Professional Hockey Career
2021-22 to date Fife Flyers (EIHL)*



#61 WE ASKED...

What other sports did you play growing up?

When I was younger I also played a lot of golf and roller hockey throughout the summer

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

Definitely my mum and dad allowing me to travel and play hockey all over the world

Who is the best player you have played with?

The best player I have played with is Roni Hirvonen who is captain for team Finland and who plays for the Toronto Maple Leafs

Who is the best player you have played against?

Back when I was in Canada I played against Mason McTavish . I played against him for 2 whole seasons before he joined the OHL and later the NHL.

What is the most memorable game you have played in?

The most memorable game I have played was when I was attending Ontario Hockey Academy and when I scored my first goal in the first game with the whole school watching.

What is your favourite/least favourite rink to play in?

Least - most definitely Kilmarnock or Guildford

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

No icing

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

I've always enjoyed watching the New York Rangers growing up

Most admired hockey player and why?

Connor McDavid, of the Oilers, he makes the game look effortless

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

Things might not always go your way, but win or lose always enjoy the memories that you will cherish for a lifetime.

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

Strongest part of my game is my hockey IQ, but I definitely need to improve on my speed

Pre-game routine?

I don't really have a pre game routine, but on game days I like to be active prior coming to the rink/bus.

Pre-game meal?

Steak and rice

Any gameday superstitions?

No

Favourite other sport(s) to play?

Golf, I enjoy getting out and being active with friends

Favourite other sport(s) to watch?

I like watching football, I enjoy the atmosphere among the games.

Favourite athlete (non hockey)?

Connor McGregor

Favourite sports team (non hockey)?

Celtic

Which do you prefer books or movies?

Movies

Favourite TV show(s)?

Still Game

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

Spaghetti Carbonara

Favourite beverage (non alcoholic/alcoholic)?

Oasis/any flavour

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

Connor McGregor, Donald Trump, Putin and Joe Biden

Favourite singer/music/band?

Nickelback

What is your favourite vacation destination?

Tenerife

What was your favourite and least favourite subject in school?

I hated English in school as it wasn't my strongest subject but I enjoyed history as that involved learning about the past and present

What is your go to Karaoke song?

Gangsters Paradise

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

Nickleback and guitar

Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?

Spencey, Jamesy, Wee James

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

The ability to transport as I hate the long bus journeys especially to Guildford

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

Toaster, bread and butter





How many languages do you speak?

English

If not a hockey player what occupation would you have?

Politician

MATCH REPORT

Sunday 15th December 2024				1		7	Elite League	
Period Scores 0-3, 1-2, 0-2,								
Line up	Shane Owen	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza	✓
	Jānis Voris	BackUp	Fynn Page	✗	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau	✓
			Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Jordan Stallard	✓
			Brodie Kay	✗	Johnny Curran	✗	Drake Pilon	✓
			Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✗	Ben Brown	✓
			Patrick Kyte	✓	Aiden Wilson	✓	James Spence	✗
			Olivier LeBlanc	✓				
Brown			Refs	Rodger		Rodger	Lines men	Thorpe

The Flyers and Blaze met for the second time this season. The home side were still without the injured Austin Farley and Brodie Kay with Fynn Page and James Spence also scratched. Ben Brown was added to the lineup. The visitors were at full strength with only youngster Brynley Capps a scratch.

The Flyers tendency in recent matches to give up an early goal continued and the visitors were ahead after 54 seconds after a Flyers giveaway was picked up by the Blaze and they went down the left wing with Chase Gresock beating Shane Owen from the circles with a shot on the short side. The Blaze continued to look lively in attack and Owen had to make a big pad save in the 5th minute to deny Brandon Alderson. Mat Robson in the visitors goal got his first touch of the puck in the 6th minute when he stopped Lucas Chiodo on an individual rush as he poked checked the puck off of the Flyers man. In the 8th minute Robson had to deal with a big slapshot by Daniel Krenželok. Owen then gloved an effort from Archie Hazeldine lurking at the backdoor in the 11th minute. The Flyers transitioned down the ice and Robson came up with a big shoulder save to stop Chiodo who went down the left wing before releasing his shot from the circles. The home side had an odd man rush in the 12th minute but the puck was bobbled and they failed to get a shot on net to test Robson. The Blaze went the other way and Owen was called for a trip on Alessio Luciani as he drove across the crease. Owen came up big with a save from a Nick Seitz tip at the lip of his crease as the Flyers completed the kill. Moments after returning to full strength however the Flyers conceded a second goal and it was Gresock again with a tidy finish as he picked the bottom corner of Owen's net on the glove side. The Blaze almost scored again on the very next shift as Owen had to make a save with a Blaze forward coming straight down the slot with Noah Delmas being called for hooking on the play to send the visitors back on the power play. Phélix Martineau had a shorthanded bid but Robson closed his pads as the Flyers forward tried to go five hole and the Flyers completed another kill as Owen dealt with a long range shot by Jakob Stridsberg. Once again after returning to full strength the Flyers immediately gave up another goal as the Blaze kept the puck in the zone and Alexander Kuqali fired into the net through a crowd of players.

PERIOD 2

The Flyers had the first shot of the middle period with Tyler Heidt testing Robson's glove with a shot after 30 seconds. The Blaze however added another moments later with another goal in the opening minute of the period and it was Gresock who again picked a corner of the net, this time high glove to complete his hat trick. In the 24th minute David Clements was called for a slash putting the Flyers on their first powerplay of the game. The home side got the puck settled down in the Blaze zone and worked it around between Martineau and Chiodo who played the pass across the slot for Michael Cichy to wire a first timer into the net with Robson having no chance.

MATCH REPORT

A minute later and Massimo Carozza was stopped by a quick pad save by Robson before Krenželok went down the right wing and was tripped by Luciana as the Flyers returned to the man advantage. Ryan Foss was robbed by Robson who blocked his tip on the edge of the crease before Jackson Cressey got a step on Cichy on a breakaway and the Flyers player was forced to trip him. The teams played 4 on 4 for a minute before the Blaze had a short power play with Owen making a big save on Gresock and Alderson seeing his shot hit the post as the Flyers returned to full strength. In the 31st minute Delmas carried the puck end to end and Kuqali was forced to trip him in the Blaze zone. On the powerplay Cichy almost got another but his one timer this time caught the outside of the post and from exactly the same position moments later Heidt struck the crossbar with Robson beaten. The Blaze returned to full strength and were immediately on the powerplay again as Jordan Stallard was called for interference. The Blaze made their advantage count this time as Owen made a great pad save but the puck fell for Seitz in the slot who had no difficulty hitting the wide open net. The Flyers went on a powerplay in the 36th minute when Cressey got the gate for a hook on Chiodo and late on in the penalty Cichy saw Robson get a piece of his one timer to turn the puck past the post.

PERIOD 3

The Blaze started the third period with yet another goal inside the opening minute. Alderson parked in front of the net managed to get something on the puck to deflect it past Owen. In the 44th minute Robson did well to get his blocker to a shot at the back door by Cichy. The visitors added the final goal of the game in the 47th minute after winning a board battle behind the net and the puck came out front to a wide open Grayson Constable who walked the puck around Owen and into the net. Krenželok who was being used now as a forward cut inside in the 49th minute and his shot was blocked away by Robson. In the 51st minute Owen swallowed a blast from Stridsberg who had plenty of time and space in the high slot. In the 51st minute Patrick Kyte was called for shooting the puck over the glass with the Flyers completing another penalty kill. Foss was ejected from the game in the 54th minute on a five minute spearing major. At that time the Blaze replaced Robson in net with Will Bray. The Blaze had a number of chances to add to their tally but Owen made a pad save on Luciani, a shoulder save on Hazeldine and a blocker save to deny Jack Hopkins as the Flyers returned to full strength for the final 90 seconds of the game which produced further nothing of note.

Flyers Stats					Blaze Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Cichy	Martineau	Chiodo	1	Gresock	Regush		For	
25				2	Gresock	Regush	Clements	45	
Shots				3	Kuqali	Tallberg	Heintz	Shots	
Against				4	Gresock	Alderson	Amorosa	Against	
45				5	Seitz	Gresock	Regush	25	
PiMS				6	Alderson	Seitz	Gresock	PiMS	
35				7	Constable	Hopkins	Seitz	8	
				8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Brown				10				Gresock	

BLAZE MATCH NIGHT ACTION



JILLIAN MCFARLANE &
DEREK YOUNG



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	26	0	2	2	0	0	0	8	1065	0.89	4.47	0	0	1544	115
Brython Preece	G	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caiden MacColl	G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jānis Voris	G	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	226	0.88	5.14	0	0	315	27
Cameron Kenny	G	20	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	31	1	9	10	1	4	5			0		5	5	10	30
Madi Dikhanbek	D	27	0	2	2			0			0		2	2	12	42
Tyler Heidt	D	30	3	8	11	1	2	3			0	2	6	8	26	57
Brodie Kay	D	27	0	0	0			0			0			0	2	18
Daniel Krenželok	D	30	3	5	8	1	3	4			0	2	2	4	36	109
Patrick Kyte	D	28	0	4	4		1	1			0		3	3	39	38
Olivier LeBlanc	D	25	0	8	8		1	1			0		7	7	14	22
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	31	11	23	34	4	7	11			0	7	16	23	8	85
Michael Cichy	F	30	14	11	25	5	2	7			0	9	9	18	8	62
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	16	3	6	9	1		1			0	2	6	8	8	36
Artur Gatiyatov	F	12	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	0	18
Martin Látal	F	11	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	4	33
Phélix Martineau	F	31	17	15	32	5	6	11			0	12	9	21	20	122
Maxim Musorov	F	22	5	4	9		1	1			0	5	3	8	6	46
Drake Pilon	F	29	3	7	10		2	2			0	3	5	8	51	51
Nikolai Shulga	F	22	2	6	8	1	2	3			0	1	4	5	2	22
James Spence	F	10	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	0	6
Ryan Foss	F	19	4	5	9	1	4	5			0	3	1	4	35	32
Aiden Wilson	F	7	0	0	0			0			0			0	4	2
Massimo Carozza	F	10	1	2	3		1	1			0	1	1	2	0	20
Jordan Stallard	F	8	1	1	2			0			0	1	1	2	2	9
Ben Brown	F	3	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	6
Inc All Competitions																Team 14
Totals			71	126	195	20	39	59	0	0	0	51	85	136	305	888
0 SO Goals																

Players in BLUE
are everresents

Figures as at
15/12/2024

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 Goals 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 Chiodo Martineau	1 - Pilon	7

WEEK 15 – FLYERS STATS RECAP

On Saturday night.....

Nottingham Panthers 6 Fife Flyers 0 - Elite League

The Flyers are now winless in their last four meetings with the Panthers which is their longest winless streak against Nottingham since the 2019/20 season.

It was the second consecutive game being shutout for the Flyers – the last time this happened was season 2022/23 (twice) – it is only the 5th time in the Flyers entire history that this has occurred.

It was the Panthers 3rd shut out at home in league play against the Flyers and their 6th in all games against the Flyers in EIHL competitions.

Daniel Krenželok with 32:50 recorded the most time on ice for any Flyers player this season, he previously held the team high TOI with just under 2 minutes less played.

The Nottingham Panthers scored their fastest goal of the season so far to open the scoring. The Panthers win was their biggest of the season so far.

Daniel Krenželok became the second Flyers player to register 100 plus shots on the season.

On Sunday night.....

Fife Flyers 1 Coventry Blaze 7 - Elite League


The Flyers broke their goal drought with exactly 167 minutes between their last goal and Michael Cichy's in the second period – they had played 8 full periods without finding the net.

167 minutes is an all-time record for a Flyers scoreless drought, the previous being 155 minutes and 31 seconds.

This was the biggest win recorded by the Blaze on their trips to Kirkcaldy in the EIHL era.

The Flyers killed 5 of the 6 Blaze powerplays which equals their most kills in a game this season.

The Blaze have now had a player score a hat trick in back to back games against the Flyers this season – it was their 7th in all EIHL competitions against the Flyers.

Season 2024-25 Flyers games Officiated by the Strikey's									
	2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	9	44 Sam Anderson	2	77 James Ions	1	
	3 Tom Pering	1	20 Pavel Halas	7	45 Vytas Lukosevicius	1	24 Rene Jensen	1	
	9 Joe Sewell	2	23 Andrew Miller		46 Andrew Jarvie	2			
	11 Matt Rose	2	25 Andrew Dalton	3	48 Oliver Truswell				
	14 Chris Wells	3	42 Hollie Neenan		49 Daniel Ferguson	9			
	16 Alan Craig	7	43 Graham Rodger	9	52 Stephen Matthews	2			



WEEKEND PREVIEW




WEEK 16



Recent Form Guide

The Giants have had a number of injuries to deal with in the opening months of the season which at some points saw them ice only 13 skaters. It now appears though they are getting healthier again with a number of returnees in recent weeks leaving long term injury victim Joe Cassetti as the only continued absentee. The weekend after the Flyers and Giants last met the Belfast side embarked on a run of five road games in the league which started with a 3-2 overtime loss in Nottingham against the Panthers. The following weekend on Friday night the Giants were downed 5-2 in Glasgow before they got back on track the next night with a 5-2 win in Dundee. It was another double header away from the SSE Arena to start December as two points were collected in Cardiff following a 4-3 overtime win. The next night in Coventry the Blaze were easily brushed aside as the Giants had six different players find the net in a 6-1 win. In their 10 games on the road in the league the Giants have surrendered points in four of them.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO GIANTS

Sunday 24th March 2024				4				3				Elite League			
															
Flyers Stats				Giants Stats											
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		
Lajeunesse	Osterberg		38		Goal 1	Lake	Roach	Tedesco	37						
Lajeunesse	Pouteau	Wehrs	Shots Against		Goal 2	Lake	Roach	Tedesco	Shots Against						
Pavlovs	Emmerdahl	Lajeunesse	37		Goal 3	Tedesco	Roach	Goodwin	38						
Pulkkinen	Lajeunesse	Wehrs	PiMS		Goal 4				PiMS						
			4		Goal 5				10						
					Goal 6										
			Goalie		Goal 7				Goalie						
			Owen		Goal 8				Beskorowany						
					Goal 9										
					Goal 10										

OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST GIANTS

P 30 W 9 L 21 F 77 A 105

Number Crunching

The Giants have won on their last two visits to Fife Ice Arena which were both in this seasons Challenge Cup.

Last season in league play the Flyers secured points in each of the three meetings on home ice against the Giants.

The Giants lead the way in shot statistics so far this season, in all competitions they have the highest average for shots on goal per game of 37.81 and the lowest against of 27.74

The Giants biggest win so far this season is their 7-0 midweek success at Kirkcaldy in the Challenge Cup.

The Flyers are 9 for 14 on the penalty kill against the Giants so far this season and 2 for 8 on the power play.

The Flyers have had 92 shots on the Giants net in their four meetings so far with Belfast totalling 183 on the Flyers net

Including all shot attempts the Flyers have had 129 shots to Giants 275 shots.



WEEKEND PREVIEW




WEEK 16



Recent Form Guide

On home ice since the Giants last met the Flyers in mid-November they have played five games and have been perfect. The night after their overtime loss to Fife the Giants met the Glasgow Clan and ran out comfortable 5-1 winners. The following Friday the Guildford Flames were visitors and were blanked 2-0. The Giants did not play at home again until December 11th when in a midweek tilt against the visiting Dundee Stars the ran up a 7-1 win with seven different scorers. In midweek the Coventry Blaze were at the SSE Arena and the Giants came away with a 4-1 win to extend their current winning streak to 6 games which equals their best on the season so far. The Giants are 6 and 1 on home ice so far in league play this season with Coventry the only team to so far take points from them.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO GIANTS

Saturday 24th February 2024			7	4		Elite League		
<u>Giants Stats</u>			Shots For 36 Shots Against 14 PIMS 13 Goalie Beskorowany		<u>Flyers Stats</u>			Shots For 14 Shots Against 36 PIMS 13 Goalie Salama
Scorer	Assist	Assist			Scorer	Assist	Assist	
Brown	Pound	Sato		Goal 1	Pulkkinen			
Tedesco				Goal 2	Eriksson	Pulkkinen		
Sato	Roach	MacIntyre		Goal 3	Pavlovs	Chiodo		
Sato	Speers	Friend		Goal 4	Giles	Chiodo	Pavlovs	
Tedesco	Goodwin	Lake		Goal 5				
Goodwin	Roach	Tedesco		Goal 6				
Sato	MacIntyre	Cullen		Goal 7				
				Goal 8				
			Goal 9					
			Goal 10					

OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST GIANTS

P 28 W 3 L 25 F 58 A 141

Number Crunching

The Flyers will be looking to make it back to back wins on Giants ice – something that they have only achieved once before in 2018.

Phélix Martineau has goals for the Flyers in their two visits to the SSE Arena this season.

The Giants have had six shutouts in all EIHL competitions this season which leads all teams.

3.97 goals per game for the Giants this season is second only to the Sheffield Steelers who have the most at 4.

Giants 2.19 goals conceded per game is the best of all teams across all competitions this season.

One of the two goals scored by Kyle Osterberg on the season so far came in the first meeting with the Flyers.

Mark Cooper is the all time leading scorer for the Giants against the Flyers with 16 goals. Danick Gauthier with 9 goals is the Flyers top scorer between the teams with Lucas Chiodo holding the active lead with five goals.



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 15



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

Wednesday 11th December

Belfast Giants 7 Dundee Stars 1 Elite League

(5-1, 0-0, 2-0) SOG 37-20 PIMs 10-10 Att 5899

Belfast Giants put four goals past Dundee Stars inside nine minutes before eventually running out 7-1 winners at the SSE Arena. It was an electric start for the Giants with four goals coming inside the first nine minutes, putting them in full control in front of a big midweek crowd. "It's really good and really important to start well. Obviously when you have the start like we did, we kind of got into the flow of things and were able to play our game and bring our pace to them and getting the first goal always puts you on track to have a good 60 minutes," said forward Kyle Osterberg. "I think the message every single game is to start on time and push the pace early and try to take teams out of it, make them discouraged and make them not want to be here and want to play as much so tonight was really big and it helped out getting off to a great start." Elijah Barriga, the ex-Dundee Star, opened the scoring at 1:33. Bobo Carpenter fired the puck into the crease, and Barriga nipped in front of the defender and fired past Richard Sabol, to give the Giants the lead. It didn't take long until Gabe Bast grabbed a second for the Giants. Bast initially had his shot saved, with the puck flying up in the air off Sabol. Everyone lost track of the puck, and when it hit the ice, Bast was first to react and slam in the rebound at 6:15. 102 seconds later, the Giants got a third through Mark Cooper. The goal came on powerplay as Cooper danced around Sabol and finished well at 7:56 on the stretch. A needless tripping minor taken by Cole MacDonald led to the Giants making it four just 46 seconds later. Good passing between Jordan Kawaguchi and Bobo Carpenter set up Pierre-Olivier Morin for the one-timer in the slot to take the lead to four. Marc LeFebvre called a timeout thereafter to calm his side down. The Stars managed to pull one back at 11:38 through Jake Elmer. Elmer took possession on Belfast's blueline and buried the puck through Whistle's five hole to make it 4-1. The visitors then went on powerplay, giving them a chance to get back into the game. However, it was the Giants who capitalized when JJ Piccinich stole the puck in the defensive zone and finished well on the breakaway to score the shorthanded goal to cap off a dominant first period. Period two ended without goals and was somewhat less busy than the six-goal 20 minutes that had preceded it. Both teams saw a powerplay go by without scoring as the Giants carried their 5-1 lead into the break. Cameron Pound converted a Kyle Osterberg pass into the slot from below the goal line to put the Giants 6-1 ahead with 7:29 played in period three. Ben Lake scored his first goal in 11 games with the Giants' seventh of the night with a nice individual effort inside the final four minutes to round out the scoring. The Giant gave Andrew Dixon the final 3:58 of the game in net as the home fans counted down an excellent victory. The Giants' win moved them into third in the league, ahead of a huge game against second-placed Sheffield on Sunday. "It's a really big game, but every game is a big game for us. We want to get two points every single game, but it's going to be a good measuring stick for us. We've had some good battles with Sheffield but now we're finally at home against them so it'll be a good test, and with a good crowd and energy on our side we're going to try and come out like we did tonight and take over the game as quick as possible" added Osterberg.

Sheffield Steelers 9 Guildford Flames 0 Elite League

(3-0, 1-0, 5-0) SOG 32-28 PIMs 4-6 Att 6254

Sheffield Steelers scored after just 49 seconds and never looked back with an emphatic victory over Guildford Flames at the Utilita Arena. It took under a minute for the Steelers to go ahead. With 49 seconds gone, Joonas Huttula tipped past Jake Kupsy on a pass from Patrick Watling to open the scoring. With 4:20 played, a neat reverse pass behind the net from Daniel Leavens set up Brandon Whistle to squeeze the puck past Kupsy short side. The Flames had a powerplay chance to get themselves back into the game, but a bouncing puck on the blue line got Charli Curti into trouble, and allowed Whistle to race through and score shorthanded to make it 3-0 at 9:19. Guildford saw a Sam Talbot shot come back off the post and bounce clear as nothing seemed to go their way in the opening 20 minutes. The Steelers quickly added to their lead in period two with Mitchell Balmas finishing a feed across the slot from Mikko Juusola 89 seconds into the second. Having appeared to have stemmed the tide with just one goal against in period two, the Flames had an outside chance of getting back into things in the third. That vanished 26 seconds into the period when Kevin Tansey tipped Balmas' shot past Kupsy, while five and a half minutes later the same provider set up



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 15



Sacha Guimond for a one-timer from the point. Cole Shudra got in on things off a loose puck at 46:42, while Ivan Bjorkly Nordstrom scored his first professional goal when he reacted fastest to a Maxim Golod pass in front. Whistle made it a hat trick with 23 seconds to play as the Steelers celebrated an excellent night on home ice.

Coventry Blaze 3 Cardiff Devils 4 Challenge Cup

(1-0, 0-2, 2-2) SOG 28-44 PIMs 4-2 Att 1559

Cardiff Devils got the win they needed to stay alive in the Challenge Cup, but had to do it the hard way as they came back from a goal down in the final period to run out 4-3 winners. Brett Perlini assisted on all four Devils goals, directly setting up the last three. "It was a big one for us tonight. We knew coming into this game that it was a 'do or die' situation for us in the Cup and we played pretty desperate," said the GB forward. "We went down a few times but we fought back and I really liked our game tonight." It was a nervy opening period with both teams knowing what was at stake. The Devils controlled the majority of the opening 20 minutes, but somewhat against the run of play found themselves behind - Brandon Alderson firing home against his former team at 13:43 to give the Blaze the lead through 20 minutes. The Devils were level 5:42 into period two when Cody Donaghey's one-timer from the point was tipped past Mat Robson by Reid Duke in front. Just over 10 minutes later, Perlini threw the puck into the slot from down low to Evan Mosey who picked his moment to wrist home at 35:55. 2-1 Devils after two periods at the Skydome. The Blaze could not have asked for a better start to the third. Chase Gresock levelled just 18 seconds into the period with an incredible Michigan goal! Then, a little over eight minutes later, the home side were ahead when Jackson Gressy drove the net and poked the puck over the line after Ben Bowns couldn't keep it out with his left pad. On the very next shift, however, the Blaze turned the puck over in their own zone allowing Perlini to find Tyler Busch for a snipe past Robson to level things again. With 9:09 to play, Reid Duke was given too much space in the offensive zone and picked his spot past Robson to put the Devils back in front. Coventry came close to tying things again but some last-ditch Devils defending kept them out. Robson went to the bench for the final 42 seconds, but a late block on a Terrance Amorosa shot ended the home side's hopes of equalising and the Devils held on for a vital two points. "I thought we were all on the same page tonight. It makes the game easy when you have that support there, you're always a play ahead. We got pucks to the net and it went in for us tonight," added Perlini on the win. The Devils will take on Nottingham just before Christmas in a game they need to win to progress to the next round of the Cup - a result that will eliminate the Blaze if they do so. "Obviously it's one game at a time, but we have to approach that game the same way we played tonight: work hard, stick to our systems and I think we'll have a good chance," concluded Perlini.

Friday 13th December

Manchester Storm 3 Nottingham Panthers 4 Overtime Elite League

(0-0, 1-2, 2-1, 0-1) SOG 28-28 PIMs 8-8 Att 1780

Nottingham Panthers extended their recent good form to 13 points from a possible 14 with an overtime victory on Friday night in Manchester. The Storm tied the game inside the final five minutes to earn a point, their third in two games at home. After a scoreless opening period that was dominated by penalties, the Panthers took control of the game in the second period. Logan Neilson forced a turnover in the Storm zone and worked the puck to Sam Herr who fired high from the slot into Evan Weninger's net at 23:40. 70 seconds later, Hugo Roy shot from a tight angle past Weninger to double the visitors' lead. Storm were back within one before the break, however, when Jake Durflinger tipped CJ Garcia's blue line shot past Ryan Bednard at 34:57 to halve the deficit. 5:50 into the third, the puck rolled free to Chase Harrison in the slot to fire into the net and tie the game at two each. Storm could only stay level for just over five minutes though, with Didrik Henbrant being left open on the wing to skate in and beat Weninger to give the Panthers the lead back with 8:34 to play. With less than five minutes remaining on regulation, Neilson attempted to clear the puck up the middle of the ice but instead put it straight to the stick of Zach Sullivan who's wrist shot beat Bednard low through traffic to tie the game again at 55:32. Both teams took a point with the scores tied through 60 minutes, but it took just 13 seconds to decide who'd get the extra one - Kristoff Kontos backhanded home in the slot to win it for the Panthers in overtime.



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 15



Saturday 14th December

Cardiff Devils 3 Manchester Storm 4 Shootout Elite League

(3-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-0, 0-1) SOG 51-31 PIMs 10-6 Att 3100

Manchester Storm came back from 3-1 down in the final period and then beat league leaders Cardiff Devils in a shootout to pick up their third point of the weekend. A sell-out crowd at the Vindico Arena saw the Devils fly out of the blocks. The hosts were immediately on a powerplay after Ryan Hughes received a 2-minute minor for tripping, but the puck stayed out. The opening goal came just shy of the five-minute mark through Josh MacDonald finishing on a rebound after a give-and-go with Hunter Shinkaruk. Storm hung around in the game, however, with Evan Weninger keeping them just one behind until Gianluca Estevez put the puck home from close range after Taz Burman had stopped Jake Durflinger's initial shot. Andrew MacWilliam put the Devils back ahead with 1:46 left in the opening period after Weninger had initially denied the Devils on a two-on-one rush. Reid Duke made it 3-1 with 38 seconds remaining to put the Devils in control. "I was pretty upset about the third goal that slipped out of my glove, and that could have been a turning point or you can forget about it and get going again," said Weninger. "It was good in the intermission to come in and reset and go back out again, make some saves in the second that got my confidence back which I was able to ride for the rest of the game. "We had to clean up some things between periods, getting caught trying to make passes we shouldn't have. We maybe expected a bit of a sluggish start but we played better in the second period." An early holding call on Jarrod Gourley offered Alexis D'Aoust the opportunity to find Manchester's second goal of the night, which he found just eight seconds into the powerplay to bring the game back to 3-2 at 25:56. A back-and-forth period saw Storm take more control of the game than previously, as they maintained more puck control and created opportunities that Burman did well to keep out. Storm were dangerous in the third period, but the Devils had several chances to put the result beyond doubt which they didn't take. Inside the final two minutes, MacWilliam lost his helmet but put it back on and continued his shift instead of leaving the ice immediately and was assessed a penalty for doing so. Playing with the empty net, Storm took just 10 seconds to set up Craig Martin at the far post to tie the game on the resulting powerplay. "To get that one at the end there, that was massive, that brings you up! I've been on the other side of those where you have a goal go against you in the final minute but to pull the goalie and then get that one was huge for our team. We rode that momentum going into overtime." Both sides took a deserved point with the game going to overtime, and how neither took the extra one in the bonus period is anyone's guess. No less than five odd-man rushes pulled both Burman and Weninger into excellent stops to send the game to a shootout. Joe Morrow's snipe put the Storm ahead in round four, and when Cole Sanford missed it was Storm who took the well-deserved win.

Coventry Blaze 7 Dundee Stars 1 Elite League

(1-1, 4-0, 2-0,) SOG 37-32 PIMs 6-4 Att 1842

Coventry Blaze ran out comfortable winners over Dundee Stars on Saturday night, with a four-goal middle period doing the damage. Dundee were the quicker starters in period one at the Skydome, and should have made more of their early pressure on the Blaze net including an early powerplay. Having not taken advantage of their chances, the visitors then watched on as David Clements, playing his 500th EIHL game, threw a shot on net that was tipped past Richard Sabol by Alessio Luciani at 8:20. "It's very strange, on Friday in practice I got told I need to get more pucks to the net, so we worked on that after practice with assistant coach Zach Vinnell," revealed Clements. "I managed to see some sticks and found the lane, and it was nice to get an assist that early in the game." Having been somewhat hard done by to be a goal down through the opening 10 minutes, the Stars were deservedly level at 12:44 with Cole MacDonald beating Mat Robson high. Level after the first period, it took the Blaze just 87 seconds to go back ahead in the second. A broken play saw the puck passed from Grayson Constable to Luciani in front to make it 2-1. Just over three minutes later, Nick Seitz put the Blaze 3-1 ahead when he faked to pass and instead shot past Sabol. It got better for the hosts when Chase Gresock finished from a Michael Regush pass at 30:33 to extend the lead to 4-1, while Zach Heinz finished on a rebound from a Kim Tallberg shot with 100 seconds left in the period. Two goals inside the final five minutes of the period settled a 7-1 win for the home side - Kim Tallberg making it 6-1 before Terrance Amorora's shot was tipped in front, likely by Nick Seitz, to round off the scoring with 2:05 to play. "We played three really tough teams over the last week, and we have beaten them before, but I don't think we were up to our standard against Sheffield and Belfast compared to what we have been all year.



ELIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 15



To get another win in the league puts us in good stead before Christmas," continued Clements, who will visit Fife on Sunday with his Blaze side. "We'll be back on the bus around 6.30am going up to Fife so it's all about getting fluids and rest before going again tomorrow."

Sheffield Steelers 1 Glasgow Clan 2 Elite League

(0-1, 1-1, 0-0) SOG 40-38 PIMs 2-8 Att 7683

Glasgow Clan shocked the 7,683-strong crowd at the Utilita Arena with a well-earned 2-1 win over Sheffield Steelers. An early breakaway from Patrick Watling brought Landon Bow into a good early save as the Steelers started fast at home again. A little against the run of play. Cole Ullly and Liam Finlay combined to set up Tyson McLellan to finish over Matt Greenfield's glove and put the Clan ahead with 7:06 played. Lucas Brine entered the net with Bow appearing injured just over ten minutes into the period, and the guys in front of him responded with the better of the latter half of the period, keeping the Steelers back in their own zone for large phases. After a back and forth start to the second period, Clan doubled their lead. A looping backhand shot from Simon Despres beat Greenfield to make it 2-0 at 29:03. Just over four minutes later the Steelers hit back - Daniel Leavans used the pass option of Brandon Whistle as a distraction and fired over Brine's glove hand to make it a one-goal game again at 33:07 - cue thousands of bears being thrown onto the ice, quite a sight! The Steelers had some sustained pressure in the final stages of the period, but Clan did well to collapse around Brine to keep the shooting lanes busy. In the third, the Steelers were the more threatening team but didn't look as dangerous as they had done during Wednesday's 9-0 thrashing of Guildford Flames. Brine was forced into a couple of decent glove saves, but he saw almost every show put on him. At the other end, Greenfield denied Ullly putting the Clan back two ahead as the game entered the final five minutes. Greenfield was pulled with a minute to go but to no avail, and the Clan held on for an excellent win - and then survived another two seconds that was reset on the clock to celebrate their victory again.

Sunday 15th December

Dundee Stars 2 Cardiff Devils 5 Elite League

(2-4, 0-0, 0-1,) SOG 45-31 PIMs 12-8 Att 1653

Cardiff Devils responded to Saturday night's home defeat by Manchester with a 5-2 road win in Dundee, leaving the Stars with no wins from three games in Week 15. "I thought we played pretty well, we're short a couple bodies so we had short shifts but everyone bought into the system and that's where we find most of our success," said Devils forward Josh MacDonald. "When we're playing the system and everyone's buying in we're having a lot of success. You can't really take your foot off, you have to play every night, there's no getting comfortable saying we're in a playoff spot. The big one's the league, you have to play hard every night whether you're at home or on the road so just have to dig deep and find a way to win" Dundee got on the board early in a high scoring opening period, as Zach Tsekos made it 1-0 at 02:51. Spencer Naas picked up the puck behind the Cardiff net, and sent a pass to Tsekos in the high slot who fired it past Ben Bowns. The Devils responded straight away, equalising just 17 seconds later at 03:08 after Josh MacDonald tipped Evan Mosey's shot from the point past Jarrett Fiske. An extended corner battle in the Dundee zone allowed Kohen Olischefski to find himself alone in front of the Stars net at 05:16, with the Canadian beating Fiske with a slap shot to give the Devils their first lead of the night. Philippe Sanche levelled the score at 07:12, receiving a pass from Drydn Dow and beating Bowns with a wrist shot down low to make it 2-2. The visitors once again re-gained the lead at 15:56, as Gleason Fournier skated the puck deep into the offensive zone and sent the puck to Brett Perlini, who beat Fiske with a slap shot from the slot. Josh MacDonald converted on the first Devil power play of the evening, scoring his second goal of the period at 18:35 with a wrist shot from the blue line through traffic that found the back of the net and made it 4-2. A scoreless second period saw solid chances on each ends of the ice, as the two teams came close to finding the back of the net. Evan Mosey and Tyler Busch both hit the post of the Dundee net, while the Stars had a few high danger chances that nearly ended up in the Cardiff goal. Despite this, Jarrett Fiske and Ben Bowns stood tall, and the scoreline remained 4-2 heading into the third period. Having survived some early penalties the Stars were still within two heading into the final minute. Fiske was pulled with 52 seconds to go, but just 11 seconds later Riley Brant found the empty net to round off the win for the Devils.



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 15



Glasgow Clan A Guildford Flames A Elite League

Elite League Game 95 was postponed on Sunday night in Glasgow due to serious issues with the ice at Braehead Arena. As the game had only reached the conclusion of the first period, the full game will need to be replayed at a future date. No points will be awarded from the postponed game, and all statistics will be removed from league records.

Belfast Giants 3 Sheffield Steelers 0 Elite League

(2-0, 0-0, 1-0,) SOG 43-36 PIMs 12-14 Att 6339

Belfast Giants avenged two road defeats in Sheffield earlier this season with a three-goal, shutout win over the Steelers in front of 6,339 fans at the SSE Arena. "We're close in the standings with Sheffield and we know down the stretch that we're going to be a team that's gonna be up there in the standings, so I think this game means a lot for the guys... and also to claw back those two games earlier on in the year, to get one back at home now, is huge" said Scott Conway. The atmosphere at the SSE was electric as the Giants returned home for the first time in several weeks. The hosts were on the front foot from the off and deserved to open the scoring. Pierre-Olivier Morin drove forward and hit a shot which was well saved by Matthew Greenfield, however, he couldn't do anything to deny Bobo Carpenter firing in the rebound to put the Giants a goal up at 10:50. A deserved second goal came on the powerplay as Patrick Watling was penalised for interference. Gabe Bast's shot rebounded into the slot, Mark Cooper picked it up and managed to pick out Conway, who slammed the puck into the net to double the Giants' lead at 19:48. The Steelers were outshot 19-5 in the opening period. "I think the guys were buzzing from the drop of the puck tonight. I think we didn't give them too much and I think we had a lot of chances and if we play like that we're a force to be reckoned with and I think that was one of our better games of the year," added Conway. Sheffield began to come into the game as they put pressure on Belfast throughout the second period, forcing Tom McCollum into a number of great saves. The Giants were put under pressure on powerplay, but the Steelers couldn't capitalise as they score remained 2-0 going into the third period. The all-important next goal came with just under 15 minutes to go through Jordan Kawaguchi, putting the Giants three ahead. That's how the score stayed to put the Giants second, and see the Steelers fall to fourth.





Goalies

- 30 Cameron Kenny
50 Shane Owen
36 Jānis Voris

Defencemen

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

Forwards

- 93 Ben Brown
23 Massimo Carozza
86 Lucas Chiodo 'A'
78 Michael Cichy 'A'
94 Kieran Craig
41 Johnny Curran 'A'
91 Austin Farley
27 Ryan Foss
22 Phélix Martineau
61 James Spence
43 Jordan Stallard
24 Aiden Wilson

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				

Goalies

33 Tom McCollum
1 Jackson Whistle

Defencemen

42 Gabe Bast
6 Jeff Baum 'A'
21 Kell Beattie
71 Karl Boudrias
22 Zak Galambos
3 Bo Hanson
23 Mike Lee
17 Rhodes Mitchell-King
62 Cameron Pound
77 Josh Roach

Forwards

90 Mason Alderson
91 Elijah Barriga
15 Robert Carpenter
10 Scott Conway
26 Mark Cooper 'C'
14 Carter Hamill
46 Finley Howells
29 Jordan Kawaguchi
9 Ben Lake 'A'
89 Ciaran Long 'A'
88 Grant Mismash
20 Pierre-Olivier Morin
79 Kyle Osterberg
12 J.J. Piccinich
86 Mack Stewart

Man of the Match Flyers:

Man of the Match Visitors:

VISITING THE BARN

GIANTS IN LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR...

18
Games played

11
Wins

4
Losses

1
Overtime wins

2
Overtime losses

0.722
Win %

26
Points

70
Goals scored

44
Goals against

3.89
Goals For average

2.44
Goals Against average

6189
Average attendance

656
Shots on goal for

507
Shots on goal against



		Position	Gp	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG	SHG	+/-	SOG	S	FOW	FOL	BS	TOI/Game	
91	USA	Elijah Barriga	LW	18	12	11	23	4	3	0	16	46	70	13	7	7	16:24
10	GBR	Scott Conway	FW	18	9	12	21	12	3	0	15	48	78	204	173	2	19:42
12	USA	JJ Piccinich	FW	18	6	11	17	8	2	1	17	57	77	0	0	5	20:00
77	CAN	Josh Roach	D	18	1	15	16	10	0	0	10	36	57	2	0	15	21:25
26	CAN	Mark Cooper	FW	18	9	4	13	31	5	0	-1	64	82	4	2	15	20:11
15	USA	Bobo Carpenter	FW	12	6	7	13	8	0	0	4	35	48	30	36	3	13:46
20	CAN	Pierre-Olivier Morin	FW	17	4	8	12	35	2	0	3	46	70	144	110	7	16:23
29	CAN	Jordan Kawaguchi	FW	15	5	6	11	4	0	0	2	41	54	0	2	6	18:43
42	CAN	Gabe Bast	D	18	3	7	10	42	0	0	2	47	80	0	0	23	21:42
3	USA	Bo Hanson	D	18	1	8	9	15	0	0	6	38	55	0	1	12	20:43
9	CAN	Ben Lake	FW	17	3	4	7	8	0	0	-2	29	41	200	142	5	18:38
88	USA	Grant Mismash	FW	17	2	5	7	10	1	0	1	43	71	3	3	2	16:24
62	GBR	Cameron Pound	D	18	2	5	7	9	0	0	6	20	30	0	0	3	10:15
23	USA	Mike Lee	D	6	1	6	7	0	0	0	3	12	26	0	0	2	22:17
79	USA	Kyle Osterberg	FW	16	0	7	7	8	0	0	6	25	34	0	2	5	16:40
71	CAN	Karl Boudrais	D	11	3	3	6	10	0	0	9	12	24	0	0	3	15:44
6	USA	Jeff Baum	D	18	1	3	4	2	0	0	13	25	35	0	1	19	18:35
89	GBR	Ciaran Long	LW	15	2	1	3	10	0	0	4	19	35	26	22	5	11:14
22	USA	Zak Galambos	D	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	12	20	0	0	7	14:55
21	GBR	Kell Beattie	D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00:00
86	GBR	Mack Stewart	LW	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	04:14



		Gp	W	L	SO	SA	GA	MIN	GAA	SVS%	PIM	
35	GBR	Andrew Dickson	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	100	0
33	USA	Tom McCollum	12	7	5	2	335	26	725	2.15	92.24	0
1	GBR	Jackson Whistle	6	5	1	0	166	15	358	2.51	90.96	0

VISITING THE BARN

ON THEIR ROSTER

Throughout the season we will pick out a story on a player(s) on the opposition bench as well as summarise their career to date.

In this edition we feature **Mark Cooper**

Mark Evan Cooper is a native of Toronto where he attended Birchmount Park High School in the former suburb of Scarborough. Born in May 1992 Mark his late teenage years playing two seasons with the St. Michaels Buzzers of the Ontario Junior Hockey League. Cooper broke the 50-point plateau with the Buzzers in both seasons, ranking in the top three on St. Michaels in points both years. In 95 games played for St. Michaels, Cooper registered 111 points, including 49 career goals, and 62 assists. During this time he led his team in playoff scoring, recording four goals and 10 assists in 11 playoff games. In his first season as a Buzzer he played alongside another current EIHL player as the Sheffield Steelers Daniel Ciampini top scored that season. Also on the team was Connor Brown who is of course one of the son's of the former Flyer's player Danny Brown from the Wembley winning season of 1984/85. Connor who is now in his 10th season in the NHL is now with the Edmonton Oilers.

Mark then embarked upon a four NCAA stint with Bowling Green State University who play in The Slater Family Ice Arena which is a 5,000-seat hockey arena on the campus of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. His career with the Falcons is summarised as follows:

2012-13 (Freshman): Played in 38 games for the Orange and Brown ... Was named co-rookie of the year with fellow freshman Dajon Mingo ... Ranked third on the team with nine goals ... Added seven assists for 16 points on the year ... Ranked third on the team with three power play goals ... Ranked second on the team with two game-winning goals ... Blocked 14 shots and committed nine penalties for 18 PIMs ... Scored the first goal of his career against Union (10/12/12) ... Scored a goal against OSU (10/27/12) in a 3-3 tie (SOW) ... Scored a goal in back-to-back games against Alaska, including the game winner in game one (12/7/12) ... Recorded an assist against No. 5 Notre Dame in a 4-2 Falcon win (1/15/13) ... Recorded a goal against No. 6 Miami (1/26/13) ... Scored two goals and added two assists, both career highs in the Falcons' 7-3 win over LSSU (2/2/13).

2013-14 (Sophomore): One of only five players on the year that played in all 39 games for the Falcons ... Honoured as co-most improved player of the year with fellow sophomore classmate Tommy Burke ... Named as a 2013-14 WCHA Scholar-Athlete recipient ... Named WCHA Offensive Player of the week twice, most by a Falcon for the year ... Finished third on the team with career-best 24 points scored, marking one of six players to reach the 20-point plateau on the year ... Ranked first on the team in goals, scoring a career-best 14 goals on the season ... Finished tied for seventh on the team with a career-best 10 assists ... Ranked second on the team with 103 shots on goal, posting a .136 shot percentage ... Ranked second on the team with five power-play goals ... Ranked second on the team with three game-winning goals ... Finished third on the team with a career-best plus-12 on-ice rating ... Only Falcon to record a three-goal hat trick ... Recorded his first point of the season with an assist in a 3-3 tie on the road against No. 16 Union (10/11/13) ... Recorded his first goal of the season on the road against No. 16 Union (10/12/13) ... Recorded a game-winning goal at home in the Falcons' 7-0 win over Colgate (10/19/13) ... Recorded a three-goal hat trick, including a game-winning goal in overtime, at home against Minnesota State (11/22/13) ... Tallied a power-play goal at the BGSU Ice Arena against Alabama-Huntsville (12/7/13) ... Registered a power-play goal on the road in a 4-4 tie against Michigan Tech (12/14/13) ... Tallied a goal and a plus-3 on-ice rating on the road in a 7-0 win over Alabama-Huntsville (1/3/14) ... Tallied two assists and a plus-2 on-ice rating at home against Lake Superior (1/24/14) ... Netted a power-play goal and the game-winning goal in the Falcons 6-2 win at home against Lake Superior (1/25/14) ... Recorded a goal and a plus-1 on-ice rating in a playoff-series clinching 5-3 win over Bemidji State at home (3/7/14).

2014-15 (Junior): WCHA All-Academic Team ... Played in all 39 games with six goals and 13 assists ... Scored two power play goals and had 17 blocks ... Added three assists on the power play ... Had three multi-point games including two assists in the team's 4-1 win over Northern Michigan to earn a sweep of the Wildcats in the WCHA Tournament First Round ... Scored two goals in a 7-2 win over Alabama Huntsville ... Had a goal, the game-winner, and an assist in a 3-2 win at Alaska ... Had six points over the final five games of the season, including three points in the team's three postseason contests ... Scored with 84 seconds remaining in regulation to force overtime in game one of the WCHA Tournament First Round against Northern Michigan, a contest the Falcons would go on to win late in

VISITING THE BARN

the first extra session ... Blocked a season-best four shots in a 2-2 tie against Robert Morris in the first outdoor game in program history.



2015-16 (Senior): Assistant captain ... Third team All-WCHA and WCHA All-Academic ... Team's leading goal scorer with 16 goals and leading point producer with 32 points ... Tied for third on the Falcons at +11 ... Led the team with four game-winning goals and three unassisted scores ... Also had four first goals, two power play goals and a short-handed score ... Took the most face-offs on the team and had a 50.6 face-off percentage ... Tied for fourth on the team with nine points on the power play and tied for a team-high with eight shots on goal short-handed ... Ranked among the top 10 in the WCHA in goals per game, short-handed goals and game-winning goals ... Finished his career as the active leader with 91 points, including seven postseason points ... Twice scored two goals in a game during the season and had seven multi-point games, including a three-assist performance in a 5-0 win at Alabama Huntsville ... Scored both goals in a 2-2 tie against Minnesota State on Dec. 5 ... Also had two goals in a 3-1 win at Minnesota State on Feb. 6 ... Had two goals and two assists in four playoff games ... Scored short-handed in a 4-1 win at Alaska on Feb. 20 ... Team went 12-0-2 when he scored a goal.

Having Majored in finance during the last four years Mark stepped into the professional game when he signed an amateur try-out contract with the AHL's Chicago Wolves in March 2016. 23 year old, 6-foot-2, 190-pound forward finished with 45 goals and 46 assists in 158 appearances for the Falcons. He made his debut against in opposition to future Flyers Brett Bulmer's Iowa Wild on 26th March as the Wolves registered a 2-1 road win and his second and final game for Chicago followed four days later as Rockford IceHogs visited and shut out the Wolves on their home ice with the only goal of the game. For the 2017/18 season Mark was signed by the Arizona Coyotes AHL affiliate Tucson Roadrunners for their inaugural season at Tucson Convention Center. Featuring a roster set to be laden with highly rated Coyotes' prospects, the Roadrunners made moves to fill in some gaps and add depth. He would go on to play 10 games that season in the AHL registering a couple of assists as he also spent time with the Roadrunner's ECHL affiliate the Rapid City Rush. It was to be a productive season for the Rush for Cooper who finished the season second in team scoring with 16 goals and 26 assists for 42 points and he was back stopped by future Flyers netminder Adam Morrison. The following season Kansas City Mavericks of the ECHL was home for Mark where he briefly played with Dan Correale who would leave and join the Flyers that season. The Mavericks are the ECHL affiliate of the National Hockey League's Calgary Flames and the American Hockey League's Stockton Heat and the following season Cooper, 26, returned for his second season following a team-leading 47-point

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campaign (23g-24a) that earned him team MVP honours in his first season. Cooper departed Kansas City after two seasons when he was traded in August 2019 to the South Carolina Stingrays for the ECHL rights of forward Tad Kozun and defenseman Kevin McKernan. In total he tallied 84 points on 36 goals and 48 assists in 98 games and had been a point-per-game player in his second season when he also spent time back up in the AHL with the San Antonio Rampage who signed him in January 2019 to a professional try-out contract (PTO) and was loaned until April when he was released from his PTO after making 25 appearances recording two goals and five assists.

His next port of call was with the South Carolina Stingrays, the ECHL affiliate of the NHL's Washington Capitals and AHL's Hershey Bears. He spent two seasons with them during the Covid pandemic returning for his second year after posting 46 points in 55 games in the 2019/20 season on 17 goals and 29 assists. His goal total was third-most on the team while his assist and point totals were fifth-best among Stingray skaters. In addition to his time with South Carolina Cooper also earned a call-up opportunity with the AHL's Charlotte Checkers under former Stingrays head coach Ryan Warsofsky. In eight games, Cooper posted four points with two goals and two assists. His final season in South Carolina saw him score 12 goals and add 16 assists as the Stingrays made the post season where he notched 3G+6A playing alongside current EIHL players Cole Uilly, Jake Kupsky and Jordan Klimek.



















Season 2021/22 saw Mark joined the Belfast Giants to start up relationship that has now entered a fourth season. The news in August of a return to the SSE also revealed a milestone in Mark's life.

Cooper had a busy summer, between trying his hand behind the scenes with the financial team at the SSE Arena and jetting off to Greece and Italy, as well as a quick trip back to his native Canada. But the biggest moment of the Belfast Giants captain's off-season came when he proposed to girlfriend Catriona and, fortunately, he now has a wedding to prepare for in the summer of 2026. "It was a long time coming — thankfully she said yes! It was a good summer. Went by fast. But it was good not to have to uproot our lives twice and stick around here with the people we love. Now I'm excited to be back at the arena and I like what I've seen from our group so far." Wedding planning can wait, then, or at least for the time being. In the shorter term, Cooper has the task of trying to lead the Giants back to success in the Elite League after a rare season without silverware last time out. For Cooper, it's also a chance to exorcise his own personal demons after missing 25 games due to injury, and he's eager to make up for lost time. "We lost the same amount of games last year as the treble year, so you can't just look at it as a failed season," points out the 32-year-old, who still notched 13 goals and 31 points in 47 outings. "We have to take our lessons from throughout the year and one big one is you can't let losses pile up, you have to bounce back. For me, personally, one thing is just taking every day as a blessing and not take it for granted. Last year, what I love to do was taken away for three months and that was tough. I just try to enjoy the moment and be the best I can be every day." He was given a massive vote of confidence by head coach Adam Keefe, too, by retaining the captaincy he first took on last season, a reflection on the leadership role he holds within the locker room at the SSE Arena. He admits he's a much better skipper than this time last year. "Last year I was a bit too worried about the external things going on and wins and losses," concedes the winger. Part of the reason I was named captain is because of how I am as a person and a player. Focusing on my game and then hopefully bringing the boys along is how I want to lead. Hopefully this year I can be healthy and be with the boys through the thick of it. I've lifted trophies here before but I really want one as a leader. Hopefully come March and April there'll be some gravy at the end!" Heading into this season Cooper had made 145 appearances in teal with 63 goals and 83 assists which had him as a point a game player in the league demonstrating a great deal of consistency from the 32 year old.













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MARK COOPER FACTS			
Date of Birth	May 26, 1992	Position	RW
Age	32	Height	188 cm / 6'2"
Place of Birth	Toronto, ON, CAN	Weight	86 kg / 190 lbs
Nation	Canada	Shoots	R
Youth Team	-	Contract	24/25

S ▲	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	TP	PIM	+/-	POST	GP	G	A	TP	PIM	+/-
2010-11	 St. Michael's Buzzers	OJHL	50	23	29	52	28	-	Playoffs	3	3	0	3	0	-
2011-12	 St. Michael's Buzzers	OJHL	45	26	33	59	32	-	Playoffs	11	4	10	14	4	-
2012-13	 Bowling Green State Univ.	NCAA	38	9	7	16	18	-4							
2013-14	 Bowling Green State Univ.	NCAA	38	14	10	24	8	13							
2014-15	 Bowling Green State Univ. "A"	NCAA	39	6	13	19	24	0							
2015-16	 Bowling Green State Univ. "A"	NCAA	42	16	16	32	35	11							
	 Chicago Wolves	AHL	2	0	0	0	0	0							
2016-17	 Tucson Roadrunners	AHL	10	0	2	2	4	-3							
	 Rapid City Rush	ECHL	54	16	26	42	30	-6							
2017-18	 Kansas City Mavericks	ECHL	68	23	24	47	60	-16							
2018-19	 Kansas City Mavericks	ECHL	30	13	24	37	11	3	Playoffs	7	4	4	8	2	-1
	 San Antonio Rampage Loan	AHL	25	2	5	7	13	-7							
2019-20	 South Carolina Stingrays "A"	ECHL	55	17	29	46	33	3							
	 Charlotte Checkers Loan	AHL	8	2	2	4	0	4							
2020-21	 South Carolina Stingrays "A"	ECHL	46	12	16	28	15	-5	Playoffs	13	3	6	9	8	4
2021-22	 Belfast Giants "A"	EIHL	53	28	34	62	25	27	Playoffs	4	3	1	4	0	2
2022-23	 Belfast Giants "A"	EIHL	50	21	33	54	46	33	Playoffs	4	2	2	4	2	2
2023-24	 Belfast Giants "C"	EIHL	30	9	7	16	10	4	Playoffs	4	0	1	1	4	-1

LEAGUE STATS

SEASON 2024/25

										
Total Games Played	30	30	28	33	31	30	30	28	27	29
Challenge Cup Games	12	9	10	12	12	12	10	10	9	10
League Games	18	21	18	21	19	18	20	18	18	19
Biggest Win	7-0 v Flyers	6-0 v Storm	9-2 v Flyers	7-0 v Flyers	4-1 v Stars	8-5 v Flyers	6-0 v Blaze	7-3 v Clan	6-0 v Flyers	9-0 v Flames
Biggest Loss	1-5 v Panthers	3-5 v Blaze	0-6 v Flames	1-7 v Giants v Blaze	2-9 v Blaze	0-6 v Blaze	0-9 v Steelers	0-6 v Devils	2-5 v Stars	3-6 v Devils
Longest Win Streak	6	4	6	2	1	5	3	2	4	6
Longest Loss Streak	2	2	4	7	12	4	4	6	3	4
Current Streak	5 Wins	1 Win	2 Wins	7 Losses	4 Losses	5 Wins	1 Loss	1 Win	3 Wins	2 Losses
Fastest Goal	00:58	00:50	00:18	01:08	02:08	00:08	00:21	00:29	00:56	00:14
Shut Out For	6	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Shut Out Against	0	0	2	2	5	2	2	2	0	1
Empty Net Goals For	3	4	5	1	1	5	4	3	2	6
Empty Net Goals Against	3	4	0	5	7	8	1	2	2	2
Penalty Shots Scored	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Penalty Shots Conceded	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total Goals Scored scored by Forwards	101	102	91	72	64	75	68	75	86	92
Powerplay	24	19	28	13	17	15	15	21	23	16
Even Strength	74	81	59	57	47	54	50	52	61	72
Shorthanded	3	2	4	2	0	6	3	2	2	4
Total Goals Scored scored by Defencemen	18	11	12	14	7	10	13	9	1	21
Powerplay	2	1	1	4	3	3	4	2	0	6
Even Strength	16	10	9	10	4	5	8	7	1	15
Shorthanded	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Forwards	57	68	71	114	132	84	75	104	59	71
Penalty Kill	16	15	20	18	24	23	17	27	12	16
Even Strength	39	52	47	92	106	58	55	72	43	55
Shorthanded	2	1	4	4	2	3	3	5	4	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Defencemen	10	4	12	15	17	12	11	13	10	10
Penalty Kill	2	2	4	0	4	3	3	2	3	2
Even Strength	8	2	8	15	11	7	8	11	7	7
Shorthanded	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Goals Scored Period 1	40	28	24	34	22	22	18	29	31	32
Goals Scored Period 2	34	44	34	28	25	27	26	30	29	35
Goals Scored Period 3	42	41	44	24	23	36	36	21	24	46
Goals Scored OT/SO	3	0	3	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
TOTAL Goals Scored	119	113	105	89	71	86	81	83	89	116
Goals Scored Per Game	3.97	3.77	3.75	2.70	2.29	2.87	2.70	2.96	3.30	4.00
Goals Conceded Period 1	22	24	29	39	47	23	28	31	14	28
Goals Conceded Period 2	21	19	26	45	49	28	31	48	28	25
Goals Conceded Period 3	21	27	26	44	52	45	29	40	26	26
Goals Conceded OT/SO	3	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2
TOTAL Goals Conceded	67	73	84	130	151	97	90	121	70	81
Goals Against Per Game	2.23	2.43	3.00	3.94	4.87	3.23	3.00	4.32	2.59	2.79
Shots For P1	397	347	288	338	320	354	321	272	289	321
Shots For P2	373	283	317	362	302	343	319	274	292	344
Shots For P3	334	332	297	341	260	260	268	293	248	318
Shots For OT	9	3	15	12	6	0	13	8	15	11
TOTAL Shots For	1113	965	917	1053	888	957	921	847	844	994
Shots for Per Game	37.10	32.17	32.75	31.91	28.65	31.90	30.70	30.25	31.26	34.28
Shots Against P1	244	303	356	375	433	304	293	346	285	313
Shots Against P2	289	319	307	391	452	311	320	343	299	274
Shots Against P3	288	292	303	339	394	305	284	308	300	244
Shots Against OT	11	10	11	14	12	3	3	7	14	12
TOTAL Shots Against	832	924	977	1119	1291	923	900	1004	898	843
Shots Against Per Game	27.73	30.80	34.89	33.91	41.65	30.77	30.00	35.86	33.26	29.07

League & Cup games played as at 16/12/2024

ANDI IN THE ATTIC



WE DON'T PLAY YOU ANYMORE: DUMFRIES VIKINGS

When Dumfries Ice Bowl opened in August 1992 it was welcomed, as it meant there would be a potential new home for a Scottish hockey team. Initially only challenge matches took place at the new rink in the South of Scotland and the first ever game featured Fife Falcons, who lost 4-13 to Ayr's under-19 side in front of 600 spectators.

Senior hockey started at Dumfries in 1993/94, when Dumfries Vikings took their bow in British League Division 1 in the Northern section of that league alongside fellow new boys Paisley Pirates. Flyers were in the Premier Division and the only competition that both Flyers and Vikings competed in was the Scottish Cup, but the teams were kept apart in the draw.

It was in the following season's Scottish Cup semi-final that Flyers and Vikings first locked horns. The Scottish Cup weekend was held over 11-12/03/95 at Kirkcaldy. Flyers met Vikings in the second semi, with the winners meeting Paisley in the final after Pirates surprisingly beat Edinburgh Racers in the first semi. Vikings featured several players with Flyers connections, Captain Gordon Whyte, Paul Wood, Martin Grubb, Ian Plews, Neil Smith and the two Simpsons, Iain and Ian!!

Unfortunately the game was as good as over after 2.15 as Flyers got off to a great start as Mark Morrison netted after 10 seconds and Doug Smail made it 2-0 just 22 seconds later. A third from Laurie Boschman made it 3-0 after 135 seconds, leaving Vikings deflated, but Grubb managed to pull one back after 4.26. Flyers appeared to be taking Vikings too lightly after their great start and they got a wake-up call at 3.53 of the second period when Vas Vasilenko got Dumfries back into the game to make it 3-2. Whatever was said on Flyers' bench obviously had the desired effect as Flyers peppered Vikings' net with 21 shots in the second period, netting six times in 13 minutes. Smail completed his hat-trick, Morrison got his second, Andy Samuel popped one in and Steven Lynch scored two to finish the second period with Flyers leading 9-2.



The fight went out of Vikings in the third period as Flyers outshot them 22-4 and added a further five goals from Morrison and Lynch for their hat-tricks, Boschman's second and solos from Doug Marsden and Milan Figala to finish the game 14-2. Flyers had outshot Vikings 59-19, emphasising the gulf between the clubs. The final was a similar story as Flyers thrashed Paisley 11-2 to take the trophy.

ANDI IN THE ATTIC



A rebranding at the beginning of 1995/96 meant the borderers were now called Dumfries Border Vikings, in an effort to attract support from the surrounding area as well as from Dumfries itself. Flyers didn't play Vikings that season, the last of the British League.

1996/97 found Flyers and Vikings up against each other in league play for the first time in the newly formed Northern Premier League. The other teams in the new NPL set-up were Paisley, Whitley, Murrayfield Royals and Castlereagh Knights from Northern Ireland. Flyers had the upper hand against Vikings in all six league meetings by winning 13-6 in their first ever visit to Dumfries, 9-5 and 8-4 in subsequent NPL trips to Dumfries and big wins 10-2, 6-1 and 15-2 in the Kirkcaldy match-ups. Two wins out of two were achieved by Flyers against Vikings in the Scottish League competition, played over the festive period. Flyers ended up convincing winners of that tournament and the last competition to be competed for was the NPL Play-offs and Flyers were paired with Vikings in the group stages. A 4-1 win for Flyers on 01/03/97 put Flyers in a healthy position and the final game between the two clubs was on 08/03/97 at Kirkcaldy.

Messrs Whyte and Grubb were the only former Flyers' holdovers from the first ever game between the clubs. They were joined in the Vikings' squad by former Flyers goalie John "Bernie" McCrone and the visitors had a good first period despite going down to an early Steven King goal and netted two goals in less than two minutes past Flyers' stand-in goalie Sean Goodsir to lead 2-1 after 20 minutes.



Vikings scored first in the second period before Frank Morris scored a short-handed goal to bring Flyers back into the game. Second goals from Morris, King and one each from Lee Mercer and Wayne Maxwell gave Flyers a 6-3 lead, but Grubb got a fourth Vikings goal before the end of the second. Flyers eventually proved too strong for Vikings though, taking the third period 9-1 for a 15-5 win. Steven King top scored for Flyers with 5+5 and Flyers outshot Vikings 65-24, McCrone facing 47 shots in his 46 minutes on ice. Unfortunately financial difficulties led to Vikings folding at the end of 1996/97 and it was be 1998/99 before Flyers had a rival from South West Scotland in the shape of Solway Sharks.

ANDI
RENSON



RULES CORNER



The next sections of the rulebook deal with what are collectively called Stick Infractions and Other Infractions and are covered by rules 58 to 75. In the first part of three we will cover rules 58 to 66. Again the full text of the IIHF rule is provided along with any annotations as per the EIHL Casebook.

STICK INFRACTIONS

RULE 58 BUTT-ENDING

58.1 BUTT-ENDING

The action whereby a Player uses the shaft of the stick, above the upper hand, to check an opposing Player in any manner or jabs or attempts to jab an opposing Player with this part of the stick, whether contact is made or not.

58.2 DOUBLE-MINOR PENALTY

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a Double-minor Penalty to any Player who attempts to “butt-end” an opponent.

58.3 MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, shall assess a Major Penalty and an automatic Game Misconduct Penalty to a Player who “butt-ends” an opponent.

58.4 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.

RULE 59 CROSS-CHECKING

59.1 CROSS-CHECKING

The act of using the shaft of the stick between the two hands to forcefully check an opponent.

59.2 MINOR PENALTY

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a Minor Penalty, based on the degree of force and violence, to a Player guilty of “cross-checking” an opponent.

59.3 MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, may assess a Major Penalty and an automatic Game Misconduct Penalty if, in their judgment, the Player recklessly endangers their opponent by a “cross-checking” and the player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a Minor Penalty. Such assessment of reckless endangerment shall be based on the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

59.4 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.

RULE 60 HIGH-STICKING

60.1 HIGH-STICKING

A “high stick” is one which is carried above the height of the opponent’s shoulders. Players must be in control and responsible for their stick. However, a Player is permitted “accidental contact” on an opponent if the act is committed as a normal “windup or follow through” of a “shooting motion”, or “accidental contact” on the opposing center who is bent over during the course of a “face-off”. A wild swing at a bouncing puck would not be considered a normal “windup or follow through” and any contact to an opponent above the height of the shoulders shall be penalized accordingly. For situations involving “high-sticking the puck”: Rule 80 – High-sticking the Puck.

60.2 MINOR PENALTY

Any contact made by a stick on an opponent above the shoulders is prohibited and a Minor Penalty shall be imposed.

60.3 DOUBLE-MINOR PENALTY

When a Player carries or holds any part of their stick above the shoulders and makes contact with their opponent’s neck, face or head so that “injury results”, in the manner of drawing blood or otherwise, the Referee shall assess a Double-minor Penalty. Referees making this call shall have the option (but not the obligation) to review video of the play for the purpose of confirming (or not) their original call on the ice,



RULES CORNER



and, in particular, whether the stick causing the apparent injury was actually the stick of the Player being penalized. Rule 18.4 – On-ice Video Review of Double-minor Penalties for High-sticking.

60.4 MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, may assess a Major Penalty and an automatic Game Misconduct Penalty if, in their judgment, the Player recklessly endangers their opponent by “high-sticking”. Such assessment of reckless endangerment shall be based on the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

60.5 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.

RULE 61 SLASHING

61.1 SLASHING

Slashing is the act of a Player swinging their stick at an opponent, whether contact is made or not. “Non-aggressive” stick contact to the pant or front of the shin pads, should not be penalized as slashing. Any forceful or powerful chop with the stick on an opponent’s body, the opponent’s stick, or on or near the opponent’s hands that, in the judgment of the Referee, is not an attempt to play the puck, shall be penalized as slashing.

61.2 MINOR PENALTY

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a Minor Penalty, based on the degree of force and violence, to a Player guilty of “slashing” an opponent.

61.3 MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, may assess a Major Penalty and an automatic Game Misconduct Penalty if, in their judgment, the Player recklessly endangers their opponent by “slashing” and the player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a Minor Penalty. Such assessment of reckless endangerment shall be based on the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

61.4 PENALTY SHOT

This rule is described under Rule 24.8 – Infractions

61.5 AWARDED GOAL

This rule is described under Rule 25 – Awarded Goal

61.6 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.

RULE 62 SPEARING

62.1 SPEARING

Spearing shall mean stabbing an opponent with the point / toe of the stick blade, whether contact is made or not.

62.2 DOUBLE-MINOR PENALTY

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a Double-minor Penalty to any Player who attempts to “spear” an opponent.

62.3 MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, shall assess a Major Penalty and an automatic Game Misconduct Penalty to a Player guilty who “spears” an opponent.

62.4 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.



RULES CORNER



OTHER INFRACTIONS

RULE 63 DELAYING THE GAME

63.1 DELAYING THE GAME

A Player or a Team may be penalized when, in the opinion of the Referee, they are delaying the game in any manner.

63.2 MINOR PENALTY

A Minor Penalty for "Delay of Game" shall be assessed:

- (I) On any Player, including the Goalkeeper, who holds, "freezes" or plays the puck with their stick, skates or body in such a manner as to deliberately cause a stoppage of play. Regarding to a Goalkeeper, this rule applies outside of their Goal Crease area;
- (II) On any Player who deliberately shoots or bats (using their hand or stick) the puck outside the playing area (from anywhere on the ice surface) during the play or after a stoppage of play;
- (III) On any Player who shoots or bats (using their hand or stick) the puck directly (non-deflected) out of the playing surface from their Defending Zone, except where there is no Protective Glass. The determining factor shall be the position of the puck when it was shot or batted by the offending Player. If contact with the puck occurs while the puck is inside the Defending Zone, and subsequently goes out of play, the Minor Penalty shall be assessed. When the puck is shot over the Protective Glass surrounding the Players' Bench, the penalty will be assessed. Note: When the puck is shot into the Players' Bench, the penalty will not apply. When the puck goes out of the playing area directly off a "face-off", no penalty shall be assessed;
- (IV) On any Player who delays the game by deliberately displacing a Goal Post from its normal position. The Referee shall stop play immediately when the offending Team gains "control" of the puck. Note: If a Player deliberately displaces a Goal Post from its normal position when an opponent has an imminent scoring opportunity on an open net, a goal may be awarded by the Referee Rule 63.7 – Awarded Goal,
- (V) On a Player other than the Goalkeeper who deliberately falls on or gathers the puck into their body; Note: Any Player who drops to their knees to block a shot should not be penalized if the puck is shot under them or becomes lodged in their clothing or equipment but any use of the hands to make the puck unplayable should be penalized promptly;
- (VI) On a Goalkeeper who "races out" of their Goal Crease in an attempt to beat the attacking Player to the puck and instead of playing the puck jumps on the puck causing a stoppage of play; Note: If a Goalkeeper comes out of their Goal Crease to "cut down the angle" on a shot and after making the save covers the puck, this shall be legal.
- (VII) On a Goalkeeper who, when they are in their own Goal Crease, deliberately falls on or gathers the puck into their body or who holds or places the puck against any part of the goal in such a manner as to cause a stoppage of play unless they are actually being checked by an opponent;
- (VIII) On a Goalkeeper who plays the puck outside of the Designated Area behind the net. The determining factor shall be the position of the puck. Note: The Minor Penalty will not be assessed when a Goalkeeper plays the puck while maintaining skate contact with the Goal Crease.
- (IX) For adjustments to clothing, equipment, skates, or sticks. Note: No penalty should be assessed when a water bottle is delivered to a Goalkeeper, however, this should be conducted during time-outs and if, in the opinion of the Referee, it is being done to intentionally delay the game, a Minor Penalty may be assessed.
- (X) No delay shall be permitted for the repair or adjustment of Goalkeeper's equipment. If adjustments are required, the Goalkeeper shall leave the ice and their place shall be taken by the substitute Goalkeeper immediately. For an infraction of this rule by a Goalkeeper, a Minor Penalty shall be imposed.

63.3 BENCH MINOR PENALTY

A Bench Minor Penalty shall be imposed upon any Team which, after warning by the Referee to its Captain or Alternate Captain to place the correct number of Players on the ice and commence play, fails to comply with the Referee's direction and thereby causes any delay by making additional substitutions (including, but not limited to, continually substituting Goalkeepers for the purpose of stalling or delaying the game), by persisting in having its Players off-side, or in any other manner.

63.4 DELAYED WHISTLE

When the net is accidentally displaced by an attacking Player, and the defending side is in control of the puck and moving out of their zone, play shall be permitted to continue until such time as the non-offending



RULES CORNER



Team loses control of the puck. The resulting “face-off” will take place at a Face-off Spot in the zone nearest the location where the play was stopped, unless it is in the non-offending Team’s Defending Zone, and as such the ensuing “face-off” would be outside the Blue Line at one of the Face-off Spots in the Neutral Zone. It is possible for a goal to be scored at one end of the Rink, while the net at the other end has been dislodged, provided that the Team being scored upon is the Team responsible for dislodging the net at the other end of the Rink.

63.5 OBJECTS THROWN ON THE ICE

Not applicable for IIHF Championships. In the event that objects are thrown on the ice that interfere with the progress of the game, the Referee shall blow the whistle and stop the play and the puck shall be faced-off at a face-off spot in the zone nearest to the spot where play is stopped.

63.6 PENALTY SHOT

If by reason of insufficient time in the regular playing time or by reason of penalties already imposed, the Minor Penalty assessed to a Player for deliberately displacing their own Goal Post cannot be served in its entirety within the regular playing time of the game or at any time in Overtime, a “Penalty Shot” shall be awarded against the offending Team. No defending Player, except the Goalkeeper, will be permitted to fall on the puck, hold the puck, pick up the puck, or gather the puck into the body or hands when the puck is within the Goal Crease. For infringement of this rule, play shall immediately be stopped and a “Penalty Shot” shall be ordered against the offending Team, but no other penalty shall be given. The rule shall be interpreted so that a “Penalty Shot” will be awarded only when the puck is in the Goal Crease at the instant the offense occurs. However, in cases where the puck is outside the Goal Crease, Rule 63 may still apply and a Minor Penalty may be imposed, even though no “Penalty Shot” is awarded. The significant factor when determining whether or not a “Penalty Shot” is warranted is the location of the puck at the time it was held, grabbed or gathered into the body. If the puck is in the Goal Crease, a “Penalty Shot” shall be awarded. If the puck is outside the Goal Crease and gathered into the body of a Player (other than the Goalkeeper) who is inside the Goal Crease, a Minor Penalty shall be assessed.

63.7 AWARDED GOAL

In the event the Goal Post is displaced, either “deliberately” or “accidentally”, by a defending Player, prior to the puck crossing the Goal Line between the normal position of the goalposts, the Referee may award a goal. In order to award a goal in this situation, the Goal Post must have been displaced by the actions of a defending Player, the attacking Player must have “an imminent scoring opportunity” prior to the Goal Post being displaced, and it must be determined that the puck would have entered the Goal between the normal position of the Goal Posts. If the Goal Post is deliberately displaced by a Goalkeeper during the course of a “break-away,” a goal will be awarded to the non-offending Team. When the Goal Post has been displaced deliberately by the defending Team when their Goalkeeper has been removed for an extra attacker thereby preventing an impending goal by the attacking Team, the Referee shall award a goal to the attacking Team. The goal frame is considered to be displaced if either or both goal pegs are no longer in their respective holes in the ice, or the net has come completely off one or both pegs, prior to or as the puck enters the goal.

63.8 NO LINE CHANGE

In the event the Goal Post is displaced accidentally by a defending Player causing a stoppage in play, the ensuing “face-off” shall be conducted at one of the End Zone Face-off Spots in the Defending Zone. The offending Team shall not be permitted to make any Player substitutions prior to the “face-off”. However, a Team shall be permitted to make a Player substitution to replace a Goalkeeper who had been substituted for an extra attacker, to replace an injured Player, or when a penalty has been assessed which affects the “on-ice strength” of either Team. In the event the puck is shot into the End Zone by the attacking Team from their own side of the Center Line, and the opposing Goal keeper freezes the puck resulting in a stoppage of play, the ensuing “face-off” shall be conducted at one of the End Zone Face-off Spots in the Goalkeeper’s Defending Zone. The defending Team shall not be permitted to make any player substitutions prior to the “face-off”. However, a Team shall be permitted to make a Player substitution to replace an injured Player, or when a penalty has been assessed which affects the “on-ice strength” of either Team. In addition, for both situations outlined in this section, for the ensuing “face-off” in the Defending Zone, the attacking Team will have the choice of which End Zone Face-off Spot the “face-off” will take place.



RULES CORNER



IIHL Annotation RULE 63–DELAYING THE GAME

63.5 Objects thrown on the playing surface

The ice surface is intended only for players and on-ice officials. Any objects on the ice that are not directly related to them or their equipment, or the puck, are strictly forbidden. Any damage to the playing facilities by any means will result in the immediate stoppage of game action. Play will not resume until the ice is clear of these objects and the playing area ready for game action.

If, during the course of an IIHL game, the ice is littered with objects from the fans, (coins, lighters, plastic bottles, etc.) the Game Officials will not be picking any of the objects off the ice.

In the event that objects are thrown on the ice that interferes with the progress of the game, the Referee shall blow the whistle and stop the play. The puck shall be faced-off at a face-off spot in the zone nearest to the spot where play is stopped.

When objects are thrown on the ice during a stoppage in play and there are multiple amounts of debris on the ice surface, the game will be stopped. All game participants will exit the ice to their respective dressing rooms and a full ice clean will commence. The Zamboni operator must be prepared to dry scrape the ice surface immediately, with no delay. Game participants must be prepared to resume play within 2 minutes (or sooner) of the ice surface being cleaned.

It will be the responsibility of the home team to have people ready to enter the ice to clean up the debris. In addition, shovels, brooms and ice scrapers should be available for immediate use.

During the 1st delay a warning is given. The Game Officials shall announce over the public-address system that any further occurrences will result in a 2-minute bench minor penalty assessed to the home team.

If, during the course of a game, multiple debris is thrown on the ice where the game is delayed a 2nd time, following the delay, the home team will be assessed a 2-minute bench minor penalty.

RULE 64 DIVING / EMBELLISHMENT

64.1 DIVING / EMBELLISHMENT

Any Player who “blatantly dives”, “embellishes” a fall or a reaction, or who “feigns an injury” shall be penalized with a Minor Penalty under this rule. A Goalkeeper who deliberately initiates contact with an attacking Player other than to establish position in the crease, or who otherwise acts to create the appearance of other than “incidental contact” with an attacking Player, is subject to the assessment of a Minor Penalty for “diving / embellishment”. Note: “Diving” is the action of a Player trying to draw a penalty against an opponent while “embellishment” means that the victim makes the impression of a foul look “bigger” than it really is, even though a foul has been committed.

64.2 MINOR PENALTY

A Minor Penalty shall be imposed on a Player who attempts to draw a penalty by their actions (“diving / embellishment”).

64.3 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion. Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline.

IIHL Annotation RULE 64–DIVING / EMBELLISHMENT

DEFINITION: *A player who blatantly embellishes a fall or fakes an injury in an attempt to draw a penalty by his action.*

A player who embellishes a foul or pretends to have been fouled by an opponent will be assessed a minor penalty.

Definition- *Any player who, at the discretion of the Referee, blatantly embellishes (enhances) a fall, a reaction or fakes an injury in an attempt to draw a penalty by his action.*

***Heightened awareness:** *Diving can happen in many different forms; however, the great majority of all diving infractions happen around the potential of 3 calls (Hooking, Holding and Interference). These 3 calls are categorised as non-aggressive penalties.*

***Understanding:** *put yourself in the shoes (skates) of a player or coach of a team that received a penalty for an infraction (Team A) and the player of the opposing team (Team B) dived on the play.*



RULES CORNER



Scenario 1: Referee calls a minor penalty on Team A for an infraction that a player of Team B dove on.

Scenario 2: Referee calls 2 minutes for diving against Team B.

Team A in scenario 1 plays shorthanded and in scenario 2, Team A, has a power play. This is all based on the same play, but interpreted differently by the Referee.

***Goaltenders: the rule book does a great job of protecting and allowing the goaltender to properly do his job.**

We have specific penalties called against opposing players when they occur against a goaltender.

However, you have to be very aware when goaltenders use this protection as a defiance to the game by diving or, more appropriately, embellishing a call. The majority of the time it is being done in 2 forms:

1) The goaltender uses his body in a manner to make you think he was bumped (hit) on a play and falls to the ice, when in reality he was not contacted.

2) A goalie covers the puck and when the whistle goes comes up shaking his hand like he has been slashed, but in reality, he was never touched.

The call: We would prefer that on a play where you feel a player dived to try and persuade you into making a call, that you ONLY take the player who dived. However, if a player embellished (enhanced) a call, there will be times where you must take a player from each team.

DOPS(Department of Player Safety)

Regardless of the call at ice level, DOPS will have the ability to fine players in situations where players feign an injury, embellish, enhance or dive within a game. In addition, players that become repeat offenders will be fined for each subsequent act. This procedure will be conclusive upon the video footage following a game. The fact a player received a 'Diving' penalty within a game by an on-ice official, does not automatically mean a fine will ensue.

RULE 65 EQUIPMENT

65.1 EQUIPMENT

The onus is on the Player to maintain their equipment and uniform in playing condition as set forth in these rules. Player's equipment consists of sticks, skates, protective equipment, and uniforms. Full equipment, including helmets, must also be worn properly during the pre-game warmup. A Referee can request a Player remove any personal accessories regarded as dangerous.

65.2 MINOR PENALTY

All protective equipment, except gloves, headgear and Goalkeepers' leg guards must be worn under the uniform. For violation of this rule, after warning by the Referee, a Minor Penalty shall be imposed. Equipment must conform to safety standards and be used only to protect Skaters, not to enhance or improve playing ability or to cause injury to an opponent. Players violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed. Play shall not be stopped, nor the game delayed by reasons of adjustments to clothing, equipment, skates or sticks. For an infringement of this rule, a Minor Penalty shall be assessed. No delay shall be permitted for the repair or adjustment of Goalkeeper's equipment. If adjustments are required, the Goalkeeper shall leave the ice and their place shall be taken by the substitute Goalkeeper immediately. For an infraction of this rule by a Goalkeeper, a Minor Penalty shall be imposed. Illegal equipment, equipment that does not conform to IIHF standards, and equipment deemed unacceptable for game action are all classified as dangerous equipment and Players wearing such equipment are subject to penalties.

RULE 66 FORFEIT OF GAME

66.1 FORFEIT OF GAME

In the event of failure by a Team to comply with a provision of the applicable rules or regulations affecting the playing of a game, the Referee shall, if so, directed by the IIHF or their designee, refuse to permit the game to proceed until the offending Team comes into compliance with such provision. Should the offending Team persist in its refusal to come into compliance, the Referee shall, with the prior approval of the IIHF or their designee, declare the game cancelled. The game shall be cancelled if a Team cannot place the required number of Players on the ice during the course of a game because of penalties and injuries. When a game is cancelled, the Referee must report all circumstances to the Proper Authority that shall investigate all cancelled games to decide the outcome of the game. In addition, the Proper Authorities may assess additional Disciplinary Measures on any Team or Team member in connection to the cancelled game.

HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

Darrian Wilson

Saturday evening Flyers will host Belfast Giants in what could only be described as firefighting mode. Lucas Chiodo has been granted bereavement leave and will miss the weekend, and I suspect not one person will have an off word to say about that. Bereavement is hard enough without being a ton of miles away and my heart goes out to Lucas.

Ryan Foss will also be missing on Saturday as he sits out a one game suspension for spearing. Despite the woes we feel we have with the officiating it simply isn't good enough to give any official half a chance to make a major call or indeed in some cases make the sort of challenge that will give the opposition a decent chance to sell a penalty. There are plenty cheats in this league happy to sell a penalty and a few officials happy to buy them like I buy half price cakes.

It will be genuine backs against the walls stuff for Flyers who not only had to play short benched last week but also the injury to insult was Austin Farley being out injured once more. I hope by the time he is fit to return we have managed to get him a set of cotton wool and bubble wrap body armour.

Flyers do have support on the way in, though whether Kieran Craig will make his debut this weekend and be able to sustain 20 to 30 minutes of ice time if he does, we can only hope.

After applying to the league for special dispensation to replace the departed Kazakhs permission was granted although, like many, I'm not sure just how many additional spots the team has been granted. The announcement from the league was met with the kind of mixed reaction you'd expect and it was fun reading through the bitching and moaning as Flyers take the heat off of certain other teams for a wee while.

It was even suggested that Flyers could simply solve their resource issue by signing a number of Brits. Now, I've been watching Flyers for a lot of years and once the British National League was torpedoed it really sounded the death knell for natural progression and development to the highest level in this country. Anyone that thinks you can simply reach into another league, sign a few Brits and hey presto problem solved needs to take a look at what isn't just a lack of top-quality Brits but how the majority of them are contracted by big bucks teams. In reality the players will follow the money and where they are likely to achieve success. That imbalances the playing field, though it happens in

every sport. Remember that Tom had already let us know that we'd been after a couple of Brits to boost the team though we couldn't meet the financial demands of one and the other opted to stay where they were. It wasn't for the lack of trying.

One thing is a certainty, we will need to be very select when it comes to recruitment to fill the newly opened import spots as we need players that will help lift the team, not just consolidate it. With the top line being heavily policed by the opposition our lack of scoring depth has been exposed like a builder's bum crack.

Aaron Fox was expected to tell a couple of his players they were suffering from vast cultural differences and suggest they sling their hooks as their season is hit with a roller coaster of results. Indeed Saturday night's visitors to the Auld Barn shut out Steelers to more or less sneek Steelers attempts to catch Cardiff Devils who are edging out front in the league. I suspect at the moment Aaron is having a difficult time with ego management in his creche.

Perhaps the only happy set of fans at the moment is Coventry Blaze fans as Kevin Moore seems to be squeezing the best out of the budget he has to play with and has his team motoring.

Flyers make the journey over the Irish Sea and head into the land of Giants on Sunday and to be honest, I don't think anyone could care less who we'd be playing as at the moment we just have to ride our luck, play route one hockey and try to grind out any points we can for the foreseeable.

Maybe on Saturday we can employ the Clan playbook and grit the ice after warmups are concluded. Might give us a chance if they have to move the match into the car park! If anyone travelling to Belfast has room for a spare bag of salt.....

By the time the next article comes out most of us will have had our fill of Turkey and Christmas Pud. For those that find the festive period a painfully unhappy time: please reach out to a friend or one of the many organisations that are there for you. If you have a friend that you think may need a little bit of support then likewise, please reach out to them. Let us also be thoughtful of our players who are away from home at Christmas, many of them just young lads. Even though these are challenging times let us show kindness.

Until the next time hockey fans, have yourselves a very Merry Christmas,
Darrian

Matchnight PRESENTATIONS

COVENTRY BLAZE DECEMBER 15TH 2024



**BLAZE MOM
CHASE GRESOCK**



**FLYERS MOM
BEN BROWN**



50/50 WINNER



**SHIRT OFF THE
BACK WINNER**



WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Flyers and Murrayfield Racers lock horns tomorrow in a belated Christmas cracker at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink. The eagerly awaited clash is expected to attract another capacity crowd with Flyers hoping to collect both points to cut their lead at the top of the Heineken Premier League/. After Saturday's 'landslide' victory over Southampton on Saturday the home fans are confident that their team can keep up the good work. It is indicative of Flyers improved standing in British ice hockey this season that just one point tomorrow would equal the Kirkcaldy side's total for the whole of last season. In three games against Murrayfield so far this season Flyers have two victories to their credit – both in the Bluecol Cup – but Racers win November's league meeting in Edinburgh. Flyers will be looking to Dave Stoyanovich to reproduce some of the devastating form he showed against Southampton to bring them to within a point of Racers. Stoyanovich spent Christmas in Italy with his brother, but was due to return yesterday. Gordon Goodsir and . Steven Kirk will both return after injury, while Stuart Drummond and Gary Smith who were rested will be in the squad. Jimmy Pennycook is available for tomorrow's League match, but is ruled out of Sunday's visit to Ayr. Flyers would be happy to settle for a repeat of their only meeting with Bruins so far this season when they won 12-5 in the Bluecol Cup on the opening day. It could be a significant weekend in the Heineken League with Murrayfield entertaining Cleveland on Sunday night and Streatham Redskins taking on Durham Wasps in London. However the match on the minds of most Flyers fans at the moment is the visit of Murrayfield. Advance tickets are on sale at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink, and all spectators are advised to come early to make sure of getting a seat.

February 23 has been revealed as the date when TV cameras will be at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink to see Fife Flyers in action. However, it has yet to be finalised who Flyers' opponents will be in the first televised match to be screened from Kirkcaldy in 20 years. Ayr Bruins are due to visit Kirkcaldy on that date, but the fixtures may be re-arranged to bring Streatham Redskins north instead. The match will have a 1 pm face-off for transmission on the BBC's 'Grandstand' programme.

29/12/1984 Fife Flyers v Murrayfield Racers Premier League

Fife Flyers gave their best performance of the season on Saturday as they completely outplayed Forth rivals Murrayfield Racers at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink. Once again, it was Canadian double act Dave Stoyanovich and Danny Brown who grabbed the limelight with six goals between them, but Flyers can take great satisfaction from the contribution of their local players. Netminder Craig Dickon had a particularly fine match and he was only denied a memorable shout with two goals in the last 90 seconds.

SEASON 1984-85

ICE HOCKEY

Saturday, December 29, 7.15 p.m.

FIFE FLYERS

SPONSORED BY FINLUX TV VIDEO

v

MURRAYFIELD RACERS

Heineken League

Adults £2.00 :: Juveniles £1.30

ADMISSION INCLUDES SKATING UNTIL 10.30 p.m.



WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Another near capacity crowd saw Flyers storm ahead after six minutes when Stoyanovich took advantage of the rebound of a Brown shot to open the scoring. Racers tried hard to get back on level terms, but they found the Kirkcaldy defence in fine form, with Dickson having an outstanding game. Even when Flyers were reduced to three men when Stoyanovich and Andy Linton both picked up penalties, the visitors were unable to open their account. The Fife team continued to hold the upper hand throughout the rest of the first period but Hanson in the Racers' net also proved to be on top of his game. However, five minutes into the second period, a fine move resulted in Linton deflecting a Ron Plumb shot between the netminder's legs. Flyers went 3-0 ahead with an excellent goal by Brown, and three minutes later, Stoyanovich was on target with a fierce slap shot the league leaders shot. Danny Brown then set the seal on an excellent period by the home side when he scored a fine solo goal. The match continued to be dominated by Flyers in the third period and two unstoppable shots by Stoyanovich bringing his total to four made the score 7-0. Jimmy Pennycook added an eighth goal six minutes from time to leave the home fans chanting "Easy, Easy!" With time running out the only interest left in the match was whether Craig Dickson could achieve a shutout but with 90 seconds remaining he was finally beaten by a speculative long range effort by Paul Heavey. Fifteen seconds later ex-Flyers Jim Lynch added a second for Murrayfield but it was purely academic. At the final buzzer the huge crowd gave a standing ovation to the victorious home team who had outshot the league leaders 46-31.



Andy Linton (right) slips home Flyers' second goal against Murrayfield with the visitors' netminder caught out of position.



Danny Brown on the mark as he fires the puck past the despairing Murrayfield netminder for Flyers' third goal.



KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB



Fife Flames maintained their unbeaten record this season with a hard-fought victory over Dundee Stars U16 on Saturday.

Caiden Forbes scored twice in the first nine minutes to set the Flames on their way, but the visitors refused to lie down and drew level by the 33-minute mark.

However, the Flames stepped things up with a six-goal blitz in just over six minutes to claim an impressive 8-2 win.

MVP Ross McEwan weighed in with a couple of goals. Harry Hudson (2), Callum McLaren and Murray Whyte were also on the scoresheet.

Congratulations to Matty McGroarty, Jenson Reid, Lucas Scarborough and Kaiden Coles, They are our first batch of players representing the club at the prestigious 3-on-3 Elite British Selects event.

Good luck, lads. Give it your all out there. Make yourselves and the club proud.



Kirkcaldy Kestrels hit the ice for the final time this year at home to Dundee Rockets on Sunday, 22nd December (6.30 pm).

This is an important game for the guys, so we are urging local ice hockey fans to come to Fife Ice Arena and support them.

If you are a Fife Flyers adult season ticket holder (proof will be requested), you can gain entry to the game for just £6.00 (ID may be required).

TABLES & FIXTURES

SEASON 2024/25

ELITE LEAGUE

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %	
Cardiff Devils	21	32	15	0	4	2	77	45	0.76	≡
Belfast Giants	18	26	11	1	4	2	70	44	0.72	↑
Coventry Blaze	18	25	11	1	5	1	73	49	0.69	↑
Sheffield Steelers	19	24	11	1	7	0	78	51	0.63	↓
Guildford Flames	20	23	10	1	7	1	59	55	0.58	↓
Nottingham Panthers	19	23	8	3	7	1	62	47	0.61	≡
Glasgow Clan	19	16	7	1	10	0	47	64	0.42	≡
Manchester Storm	18	13	5	1	11	1	54	80	0.36	↑
Dundee Stars	21	13	4	2	14	1	58	91	0.31	↓
Fife Flyers	19	6	2	0	15	2	43	95	0.16	≡

As at 16th December 2024

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
97	Wed	18-Dec-2024	Belfast Giants	Coventry Blaze	19:00
98	Sat	21-Dec-2024	Cardiff Devils	Sheffield Steelers	19:00
99	Sat	21-Dec-2024	Coventry Blaze	Manchester Storm	19:00
100	Sat	21-Dec-2024	Glasgow Clan	Dundee Stars	19:00
101	Sat	21-Dec-2024	Nottingham Panthers	Guildford Flames	19:00
102	Sat	21-Dec-2024	Fife Flyers	Belfast Giants	19:15
103	Sun	22-Dec-2024	Belfast Giants	Fife Flyers	16:00
CC54	Sun	22-Dec-2024	Cardiff Devils	Nottingham Panthers	16:00
104	Sun	22-Dec-2024	Dundee Stars	Glasgow Clan	17:00
105	Sun	22-Dec-2024	Guildford Flames	Coventry Blaze	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 Steelers	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	Won OT	4-3
Sunday Nov 17th	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15	Lost	1-4
Saturday Nov 23rd	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:15	Lost	4-5
Sunday Nov 24th	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30	Lost	2-9
Saturday Nov 30th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	2-5
Sunday Dec 1st	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15	Won	5-3
Saturday Dec 7th	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Dec 8th	Guildford Flames	League	H	17:15	Lost	0-4
Saturday Dec 14th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	19:00	Lost	0-6
Sunday Dec 15th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	17:15	Lost	1-7
Saturday Dec 21st	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15		
Sunday Dec 22nd	Belfast Giants	League	A	16:00		
Thursday Dec 26th	Dundee Stars	League	H	18:30		

FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

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



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Pettycur Bay Holiday Park

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