



# THE FLYER







VS



**SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY 2025**  
ELITE LEAGUE



# MATCH REPORT

Saturday 4th January 2025				1		3 Elite League	
			Period Scores 0-2,1-0, 0-1,				
Line ups	Jānis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza ✓
	Shane Owen	BackUp	Fynn Page	✗	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau ✗
			Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Jordan Stallard ✓
			Brodie Kay	✗	Johnny Curran	✗	Kieran Craig ✓
			Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✓	Ben Brown ✓
			Patrick Kyte	✓	Aiden Wilson	✓	James Spence ✗
			Olivier LeBlanc	✓	Charles-Antoine Paiement	✓	
	Brown	Refs	Ferguson		Rodger	Lines men	Thorpe

The Flyers entertained the Coventry Blaze for the second time this season in what was their first game of 2025. The home side were still without the injured Phélix Martineau, James Spence and Fynn Page were also scratched along with Brodie Kay who was on International duty with the GB U20's. The Flyers gave a debut to recent signing forward Charles-Antoine Paiement. The visitors were at full strength with no scratches.

Coventry had the first shot on goal in the 2nd minute when Voris saved with his chest following a shot by Grayson Constable from the slot. The visitors were looking the more fluent team early on and in the 4th minute only a fantastic post to post save by Voris kept the score line level as he denied Morten Jurgens after a slick give and go play across his crease. The home side were however behind moments later when a seeing eye shot from Brandon Alderson from just inside the blue line with the puck clipping the inside of the post on its way into the net. Coventry again went close in the 6th minute on another odd man rush and Nick Seitz was unfortunate to see his shot hit the outside of the post. A minute later and the Blaze again threatened to double their advantage when Jakob Stridsberg on the rush found space and his shot was deflected over the bar by Voris. The Flyers settled down a bit after that and started to create some offensive chances with Mat Robson making his first stop in the 9th minute from a long range effort by Daniel Krenželok. A minute later and the Coventry netminder stood tall to deny Kieran Craig from the circles. Austin Farley had a bad angle shot in the 12th minute that Robson kept out of the net with his shoulder. The visitors did however snatch another goal when once again their speed in transition caused the Flyers problems and with Alderson parked on the top of Voris's crease the puck was fired over by Michael Regush and it slipped into the net with Regush being credited with the goal. A pass from Craig found Patrick Kyte and with a good look at goal he was stopped by big save by Robson. The Flyers went on the games first power play in the 17th minute after Chase Gresock was called for slashing. The Flyers really didn't get anything set up and it was the final few seconds of the man advantage before Robson was severely tested when he made a solid stop on a Jordan Stallard tip from a Massimo Carozza pass as the Blaze returned to full strength and saw out the remainder of the period.

## PERIOD 2

In the second period Voris was first into action in the 22nd minute when he flashed the leather to snag a shot from the point. A minute later and the Flyers threatened when Michael Cichy cut across the slot but couldn't lift his back hand shot over the sprawling Robson. The Blaze were called for another penalty moments later when Alexander Kuqali went to the box for slashing.

# MATCH REPORT

Robson saved a one-timer from Craig with his pads before David Clements made a huge shot block on a Lucas Chiodo shot and the Blaze completed the kill as Cichy fired over the cross bar from the bottom of the circles. In the 27th minute the Flyers broke up ice with Carozza carrying the puck and his pass over to Paiement saw the debutant slide his shot narrowly wide of goal.

The Flyers got on the scoreboard seconds later when a smart quick up pass from his crease by Voris sent Chiodo in behind the Blaze defence and he drew Robson out of position before sliding a pass to Craig who made no mistake from the top of the crease. In the 29th minute Voris had to deal with a shot by Terrance Amorosa that came through a crowd. The Fife keeper produced a save of the week contender in the 31st minute when Blaze cycled the puck around before creating space at the back door for Regush but he couldn't beat a sprawling Voris when a goal looked certain. Tyler Heidt took the puck out of the corner to the net but he couldn't stuff it past Robson. A 2 on 1 break involving Cichy and Craig saw the puck get in behind Robson who didn't know where it was and although still loose the play was whistled dead.

## PERIOD 3

Two minutes into the third period Craig tested Robson with a shot from the circles. The visitors missed a glorious chance in the 44th minute when Regush was all alone in the slot and he had time to pick his spot but rang the puck off the crossbar. A minute later the same player was this time denied by a fine Voris save. Robson had to look lively in the 48th minute to stop a close range tip from Carozza and a minute later Farley went in on the visitors goal but couldn't find a hole through Robson. The Blaze managed the game and the clock was now against the home side but with a little over 3 minutes left the Flyers went back on the power play as Alessio Luciani was called for a trip in the neutral zone on Kyte. The Coventry penalty kill was strong and they almost snatched a shorthanded goal but a difficult midair pass eluded Regush in front of the Flyers net. Coventry returned to full strength and Luciani salted the game away with just 63 seconds left on the clock when he had three attempts to force the puck home after a couple of blocks by the Flyers defence and Voris who could do nothing with his third attempt as he lay prone on the ice.

Flyers Stats					Blaze Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Craig	Chiodo	Voris	1	Alderson	Clements	Stridsberg	For	
35				2	Regush			23	
Shots				3	Luciani	Seitz	Constable	Shots	
Against				4				Against	
23				5				35	
PiMS				6				PiMS	
0				7				6	
				8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Voris				10				Luciani	



BLAZE

# MATCH NIGHT ACTION



JILLIAN MCFARLANE  
& DEREK YOUNG







# GETTING TO KNOW #37

## LUCAS CHIODO

*Date of Birth – October 31, 1998*

*Position - Forward*

*Age - 26*

*Height - 175 cm / 5'9"*

*Place of Birth – Churchill, Ontario*

*Weight - 77 kg / 170 lbs*

*Shoots - Left*

*Professional Career*

*2019-20 - Fassa (AlpsHL)*

*2021-22 - Sterzing/Vipiteno (AlpsHL)*

*2022-23 - Meran/Merano (AlpsHL)*





# #37 WE ASKED...

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

Soccer

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

My parents

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

Andrei Svechnikov

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

Alex DeBrincat

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

OHL Championship series in 2019 playing for the Ottawa 67's

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

Toronto Maple Leafs I cheer for and Montreal Canadians I root against

**Most admired hockey player and why?**

Jack Hughes because he is so dynamic and I try and model my game after him

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

Work on your skating everyone who is playing at a high level can skate

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

I would say my playmaking ability is the strongest part of my game and I am always trying to improve on my defensive ability

**Pre-game routine?**

Have to have a coffee before coming to the rink

**Pre-game meal?**

Pasta and chicken

**Any gameday superstitions?**

Every piece of equipment I put it on the left side first

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

Tennis

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

Tennis

**Favourite athlete (non hockey)?**

Carlos Alcaraz

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

Las Vegas Raiders

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

Movies

**Favourite TV show(s)?**

Stranger Things

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

Pizza

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

Chocolate Milk

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

Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Drake, Morgan Wallen

**Favourite singer/music/band?**

Morgan Wallen

**What is your favourite vacation destination?**  
**Beach vacation**

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

Favourite was Gym and least favourite was Science

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

Don't stop believing

**If you could join any past or current music group which would it be and in what capacity?**

(guitar/vocals/drummer etc)

Jonas Brothers (singer)

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

Cheetos or Cheets

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

To fly

**How many languages do you speak?**





English

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

Pro tennis player



# MATCH REPORT

Sunday 5th January 2025			7		1	Elite League	
Period Scores 3-1, 3-0, 1-0,							
Line ups	Jānis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	✓	Ryan Foss	✓	Massimo Carozza ✓
	Shane Owen	BackUp	Fynn Page	✗	Lucas Chiodo	✓	Phélix Martineau ✗
			Tyler Heidt	✓	Michael Cichy	✓	Jordan Stallard ✓
			Brodie Kay	✗	Johnny Curran	✗	Kieran Craig ✓
			Daniel Krenželok	✓	Austin Farley	✓	James Spence ✗
			Patrick Kyte	✓	Ben Brown	✓	Aiden Wilson ✓
			Olivier LeBlanc	✓	Charles-Antoine Paiement	✓	
	Ions	Refs	Matthews		Young	Lines men	Coyne

The Flyers made their second visit of the season to the Guildford Spectrum looking to snap their 10 game winless skid. The Flames were without the defensive trio of Kyle Locke, Marcus Tesink and Sam Jones listing just four blueliners with Captain and forward Brett Ferguson filling in. The home side were also still missing long term injury victim Jake Coughler and Jake Kupsky. The Flyers listed the same roster as the previous evening with Phélix Martineau, Brodie Kay, James Spence and Fynn Page all missing. The game started in quiet fashion with neither side threatening the goal inside the opening three minutes but that was all about to change. The Flyers took the lead in the 4th minute when Ferguson gave the puck away in his zone and Noah Delmas picked it up before finding Ryan Foss who fed it across goal for a first Flyers goal for Charles-Antoine Paiement who beat Eamon McAdam from the edge of his crease. Jānis Voris was in action shortly after as he gloved a shot by Ryan Tait before the Guildford man was called for a holding penalty to put the Flyers on the first power play of the night. It lasted 12 seconds as Voris mishandled the puck and gave it away to a Flames player and as he slid across goal to get set for the shot he dislodged the net and was called for a delay of game. Skating 4 on 4 Voris made a pad save on Jack Jacome before the Flyers broke 2 on 1 with Lucas Chiodo supporting Foss who held on to the puck before getting the Flames goalie to bite but he lifted his backhand shot over the crossbar with plenty of net showing. With both teams back at full strength the Flames levelled the game in the 7th minute when a Travis Brown shot from the point found its way into the top corner past a clearly unsighted Voris. The Flames should have taken the lead on their next shift but Voris produced a remarkable glove save to deny Josh Waller from the slot. In the 9th minute Mike Crocock ragged the puck from his own blue line into the Flyers zone and went in on net before Voris kicked the puck away with his pads. The home side went on their first power play in the 11th minute as the Flyers were called for too many men on a line change. Voris held a shot from Jacome before he poked checked the puck away from Matt Alvaro who broke in on net from a face off win. Brown had another big blast at goal that caught a piece of Voris's glove and the puck looped over his head and nestled on top of the goal. The Flyers were back at full strength but 2 seconds later they went behind as Charlie Dodero let a fierce shot go that Voris blockered towards the corner but it landed nicely on the stick of Brett Welychka who found the gaping net. In the next shift Michael Cichy rang a shot off the Guildford goal frame and with McAdam all at sea Kieran Craig just failed to get a touch on the puck in front of net. A one timer from Tait in the 16th minute just missed the top corner but moments later he was able to capitalise on slack play coming out of the zone by the Flyers who turned the puck over and he drove the puck home inside the post on the stick side of Voris. Cichy almost pulled one back on the restart and McAdam did well to stand firm to deny Craig who tried to stuff the puck home from close range. In the 18th minute Voris snagged an Alvaro shot with his glove. Noah Delmas then had a shot just inside the blueline that McAdam blocked with Foss screening and in the final minute Tait went streaking down the right wing but fired wildly over the net.

## PERIOD 2

The Flyers survived an almighty scramble around their net in the 22nd minute with the puck eventually



# MATCH REPORT

landing in the glove of Voris. A minute later and Paiement latched on to a high looping dump out and he got in behind the Flames defence before being hooked and the officials called a penalty shot. The Flyers forward skated in on McAdam slowly and tried to beat the netminder glove side but was denied by the mitt. In the 24th minute Delmas was up with the play and his shot whistled just past the post and from the follow up play Foss tried to walk around McAdam but his stick was tied up by Ferguson to prevent the shot. Tait had a shot in the 25th minute that went in and out of the glove of Voris and at the other end a pass from Chiodo found Patrick Kyte at the back post but he couldn't hit the target. The Flames were let off the hook again in the 26th minute when Chiodo showed great hands to deke his way around McAdam and with an open goal his shot hit the far post and popped back up onto the pads behind McAdam. The officials checked the video review but clearly the puck hadn't crossed the line. A minute later and the Flames extended their lead when a Brown shot from the blue line was saved by the pad of Voris but Josh Waller was quickest to react to the rebound and fire it home. McAdam had difficulty dealing with an Olivier LeBlanc shot in the 31st minute and had to scramble the puck away. Jacome was called for holding in the 32nd minute as Flyers went on another man advantage. Crocock made a huge shot block early on from a one timer by Cichy but despite patient play from the Flyers they couldn't penetrate the Flames defence as they completed the kill. Almost immediately the Flames went on the power play as Jordan Stallard shot the puck over the glass for delay of game. LeBlanc did well defensively to take the stick away from Ferguson and Welychka missed the net from a good position as the Flames failed to capitalise. The home side added to their lead in the 38th minute when Lewis Hook gained the zone and let a shot go that crept inside the post with Voris in the butterfly position. The scoreline was stretched to 6-1 as we entered the final minute when Voris made the initial save on Ethan Strang who then managed to shovel the puck up into the air and as it landed in the crease Daniel Catenacci won the battle to stuff the puck into the net.

## PERIOD 3

Voris made a huge right pad save on a one timer from Tait who was parked in the high slot in the 42nd minute. A couple of minutes later almost an identical save from the visiting netminder denied Strang. In the 46th minute the Flyers had the puck in the net as Tyler Heidt fired one just inside the post on the stick side of McAdam. The Flames used their Coaches Challenge and in the review it was deemed that the skate of Craig made some contact with McAdam's skate outside of the blue paint and the goal was washed out. In the 49th minute McAdam made a save from Stallard and moments later the Flames added a 7th goal when Brown played a reverse pass behind the net to find Strang who buried a beauty top shelf on Voris. Voris made another save of the week contender in the 52nd minute when he dived post to post to stop a shot by Welychka. The Flyers were out of luck again in the 54th minute when Kyte steadied himself for a shot from the circles and he went to pick the top corner only to see the puck hit the inside of the post and bounce out. Ferguson had all sorts of time in the 55th minute to get a shot away on Voris but he was stripped of the puck and then tripped Foss. The Flyers power play saw Stallard on the edge of the Flames crease be denied by McAdam but the Flames the rest of the way came up with a comfortable kill. In the 58th minute Strang fired just over and in the final minute Charlie Curti struck iron for the hosts as they ran out comfortable winners.

Flames Stats					Flyers Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Brown	Tedesco	Dodero	1	Paiement	Foss	Delmas	For	
46	Welychka	Dodero	Crocock	2				21	
Shots	Tait	Glover	Strang	3				Shots	
Against	Waller	Jacome	Brown	4				Against	
21	Hook	Tait	Curti	5				46	
PiMS	Catenacci	Tedesco	Strang	6				PiMS	
6	Strang	Brown	Glover	7				6	
				8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Brown				10				Foss	



FLAMES  
MATCH NIGHT  
**ACTION**



JOHN UWINS





# 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	33	0	2	2	0	0	2	10	1249	0.89	4.68	0	0	1768	138
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	14	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	354	0.88	5.07	0	0	509	43
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	38	1	12	13	1	6	7			0		6	6	14	40
Madi Dikhanbek	D	27	0	2	2			0			0		2	2	12	42
Tyler Heidt	D	37	4	9	13	1	2	3			0	3	7	10	26	64
Brodie Kay	D	32	0	0	0			0			0			0	2	20
Daniel Krenželok	D	37	3	5	8	1	3	4			0	2	2	4	38	125
Patrick Kyte	D	35	1	4	5	1	1	2			0		3	3	39	48
Olivier LeBlanc	D	31	0	8	8		1	1			0		7	7	39	27
Fynn Page	D	11	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Josh Saunders	D	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	1
	D	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Lucas Chiodo	F	37	11	25	36	4	7	11			0	7	18	25	10	105
Michael Cichy	F	37	14	12	26	5	3	8			0	9	9	18	12	73
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	23	4	8	12	1	1	2			0	3	7	10	8	46
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	11	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	0	6
Ryan Foss	F	26	5	7	12	1	4	5			0	4	3	7	47	43
Aiden Wilson	F	14	0	0	0			0			0			0	4	3
Massimo Carozza	F	17	5	4	9	1	1	2			0	4	3	7	2	34
Jordan Stallard	F	15	1	2	3			0			0	1	2	3	6	21
Ben Brown	F	9	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	10
Kieran Craig	F	7	2	2	4			0			0	2	2	4	4	21
Owen Dell	F	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Rhys Edwards	F	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Joe Lynch	F	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Charles-Antoine Paiement	F	2	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	0	5
<b>Players in BLUE are everresents</b> <b>Inc All Competitions</b> <b>Figures as at 05/01/2025</b>																
<b>Totals</b>			<b>82</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1048</b>
			0 SO Goals													

### Legend

GP - Games Played, Tot G - Total Goals Scored, Tot A - Total Assists, Tot Pts - Total Points, PP G - Power Play Goals Scored, PP A - Power Play Assists, SH G - Shorthanded Goals Scored, SH A - Shorthanded Assists, EV G - Even Strength 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 18 – FLYERS STATS RECAP

## On Monday night.....

### Fife Flyers 3    Glasgow Clan 8    - Elite League

The Clan have now won on their last three visits to Fife Ice Arena, this equals their best run on Flyers ice since renaming as Glasgow in 2018/19. Their best ever in all EIHL seasons is 4 consecutive wins.

The 5th goal for Clan was their 400th against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions.

It was the first time in 8 games that the Flyers scored in the 3rd period.

## On Tuesday night.....

### Glasgow Clan 5    Fife Flyers 1    - Elite League

The Clan made it 8 straight wins at home which is their best sequence of results at Braehead Arena in 9 years. 10 is their all-time best.

It was the Clan's 6th consecutive win against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions which equals their best since renaming as Glasgow in 2018/19. Their best ever in all EIHL seasons is 8 consecutive wins.

The Flyers 3 shots in the second period equalled their lowest for a period this season.

Flyers 14 shot total for the game equals their lowest total so far this season.

14 is also the lowest number of shots Flyers have had against Clan all time in all EIHL competitions, 15 being the previous low in March 2012.

This was the Flyers 10th Hogmanay road game in the EIHL era – their record now reads W 6 L 4 F 31 A 33  
Their overall record in the EIHL on Hogmanay reads P12 W 7 L 5 F 40 A 44

Lucas Chiodo broke a mini drought with a point, it was the first time he had gone 3 games without a point – Lucas still has best points streak on season for team at 6 games

The Flyers month of December record over their EIHL seasons is as follows:

	December										
	P	W	D	L	OT/SOL	% W	% D	% L	F	A	Diff +/-
2011/12	9	3	0	5	1	33.3	0.0	66.7	24	38	-14
2012/13	9	5	0	3	1	55.6	0.0	44.4	30	32	-2
2013/14	11	5	0	5	1	45.5	0.0	54.5	38	40	-2
2014/15	11	5	0	6	0	45.5	0.0	54.5	33	45	-12
2015/16	9	5	0	4	0	55.6	0.0	44.4	28	27	1
2016/17	9	4	0	4	1	44.4	0.0	55.6	33	31	2
2017/18	10	8	1	1	0	80.0	10.0	10.0	46	21	25
2018/19	9	4	0	5	0	44.4	0.0	55.6	28	31	-3
2019/20	10	2	0	8	0	20.0	0.0	80.0	24	41	-17
2021/22	4	0	0	4	0	0.0	0.0	100.0	4	15	-11
2022/23	13	2	2	9	0	15.4	15.4	69.2	30	53	-23
2023/24	14	2	0	11	1	14.3	0.0	85.7	31	58	-27
2024/25	10	1	0	9	0	10.0	0.0	90.0	17	53	-36
	128.0	46.0	3.0	74.0	5.0	35.9	2.3	61.7	366.0	485.0	-119.0



# WEEK 18 – FLYERS STATS RECAP

## On Saturday night.....

### Fife Flyers 1    Coventry Blaze 3    - Elite League

The Blaze made it three consecutive wins against the Flyers which is their best run in the post pandemic seasons.

Blaze had 23 shots on goal which is the lowest total given up by the Flyers so far this season – This was the lowest shots against total in a game for Flyers since they faced 20 against Glasgow Clan in March 2023.

The 6 shots for Blaze in the third period equals the fewest given up by Fife in a period this season.

11 shots Kieran Craig equalled single most shots for a Flyers player in a game this season with 11 – he ties Daniel Krenželok who had that number against the Guildford Flame in October.

Congratulations to Charles-Antoine Paiement on his debut, he was the 26th debutant this season for the Flyers who have now iced 32 players.

Congratulations to Janis Voris who scored his first point for the Flyers – the 3rd goalie assist of the season and 5th goalie in the EIHL era to register a point for Flyers from the 16 who have ice time in at least one game.

Lucas Chiodo became the third Flyers player to register 100 shots on the season so far.

## On Sunday night.....

### Guildford Flames 7    Fife Flyers 1    – Elite League

Congratulations to Lucas Chiodo who made his 100th competitive appearance in all EIHL competitions for the Flyers.

Congratulations to Charles-Antoine Paiement who scored his first goal for the Flyers.


Excluding shootouts the Flyers scored their 100th goal against the Flames in all EIHL competitions.

This was Flames biggest ever win against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions.

It was the 3rd consecutive game without the Flyers conceding a power play goal which is their best streak of the season.

It was the Flyers 2nd Penalty Shot award this season with both being missed. In all EIHL competitions the Flyers have now been awarded 17 Penalty Shots and have scored 7 times (41.2 percent success)

The Flames remain the only team who are perfect on the penalty kill against the Flyers this season. The Flyers are 0 for 13 on their power play opportunities.

Season 2024-25 Flyers games Officiated by the Stripey's									
	2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	13	44 Sam Anderson	2	77 James Ions	2	
	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	1	49 Daniel Ferguson	14			
	16 Alan Craig	9	43 Graham Rodger	9	52 Stephen Matthews	3			



# WEEKEND PREVIEW

## WEEK 19




### Recent Form Guide

The last meeting between the teams was only two weeks ago and since then the Stars have had some mixed results. To see out 2024 Dundee faced up to the Giants in a doubleheader with the first game in Belfast which the home side won 5-2. The following afternoon on Tayside in their Hogmanay clash the Stars surrendered a two goal lead in the final six minutes of the game before the visitors completed their comeback with a winner just seconds into overtime. The Stars couldn't have hoped for a better start to 2025 as they visited the Cardiff Devils on Friday night and returned home with their first two point haul at the Vindico for two years after recovering from being a goal down to lead 3-1 and eventually seal the 4-2 win with an empty net goal. The following night they returned home to meet the Manchester Storm and in a game that swung back and forth the visitors took all two points with an odd goal in seven win. This weekend following their trip to Fife the Stars will host the Nottingham Panthers.

### LAST LEAGUE VISIT FROM STARS


Thursday

26th December 2024




2

3



Elite League



Flyers Stats				Stars Stats				
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
Heidt	Stallard	Farley	25	Goal 1	Harms	Dow	Tsekos	38
Carozza	Craig	Foss	Shots Against	Goal 2	Tsekos	Naas	MacDonald	Shots Against
			38	Goal 3	Sanche	Gravelle	Tsekos	25
			PiMS	Goal 4				PiMS
			6	Goal 5				6
				Goal 6				
			Goalie	Goal 7				Goalie
			Owen	Goal 8				Fiske
				Goal 9				
				Goal 10				

### OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST STARS

P 43 W 21 L 22 F 138 A 126

### Number Crunching

The Flyers have lost their last five games against the Stars which ties as their worst sequence against the Tayside club in all EIHL competitions.

A Stars win would also tie their best run of wins against the Flyers at Fife Ice Arena in the EIHL era at three games.

The Stars are enjoying a rich vein of success against their neighbours who have only 4 regulation wins in 15 encounters over the last two seasons.

Since his return to the team in mid-season Philippe Sanche has goals in each of the last three games against the Flyers and he leads the Stars scoring all time in the EIHL against the Flyers with 16 goals.

Chase Schaber with 21 goals is the Flyers goal leader against the Stars in all EIHL competitions.

The Flyers will be looking to avoid their 12th straight defeat which would tie their longest winless streak of this season.





# WEEKEND PREVIEW

## WEEK 19



### Recent Form Guide

The last meeting of the teams was the first day in December with the Flyers winning on home ice and it's fair to say that the defending Champions inconsistent form so far this season has continued since. The following weekend the Steelers downed the Blaze 5-2 at the Utilita Arena before picking up both points in a tight one goal encounter against the Stars in Dundee. There was a huge 9-0 shellacking on home ice of the Guildford Flames midweek which unsurprisingly remains both teams biggest win/defeat. The following weekend however the Glasgow Clan visited Yorkshire and registered a 2-1 win and this was followed the next night with a rare shutout for the Steelers as they went down 3-0 in Belfast. The Saturday before Christmas the Steelers slump became three games as the Devils won handsomely 5-1 in Cardiff. Boxing Day saw another reverse as the Panthers overcame their rivals in Sheffield but two days later the Steelers avoided a fifth straight defeat as they got some revenge on Panthers with a 3-2 win at the Motorpoint Arena. Manchester Storm visited the Utilita to close out 2024 with the Steelers visiting the Storm on New Years day to Hoover up four points over the two games. Last weekend started with what may yet be a statement 5-3 win in Belfast for the Steelers before they then downed the Flames 4-1 at home. This weekend the Steelers have a home double header with Coventry Blaze visiting the night before the Flyers.

### LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO STEELERS

Wednesday 30th October 2024				5	2	Elite League			
<b>Steelers Stats</b>						<b>Flyers Stats</b>			
<b>Scorer</b>	<b>Assist</b>	<b>Assist</b>	<b>Shots For</b>		<b>Scorer</b>	<b>Assist</b>	<b>Assist</b>	<b>Shots For</b>	
Vallerand			39		Goal 1	Martineau		18	
Juusola	Watling	Saucerman	<b>Shots Against</b>		Goal 2	Martineau	Chiodo	<b>Shots Against</b>	
Cormier	Vallerand	Whistle	18		Goal 3			39	
Ulrick	Watling	Diffley	<b>PIMS</b>		Goal 4			<b>PIMS</b>	
Watling	Whistle	Juusola	2		Goal 5			6	
			<b>Goalie</b>		Goal 6			<b>Goalie</b>	
			Greenfield		Goal 7			Owen	
					Goal 8				
					Goal 9				
					Goal 10				

### OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST STEELERS

P 31 W 3 L 28 F 47 A 142

### Number Crunching

The Flyers are winless on Sheffield ice in their last 17 visits.

Their last win was 17th October 2018 when goals by Evan Bloodoff, Brett Bulmer and Paul Crowder helped them to a 3-1 win.

Since then the Steelers have outscored the visiting Flyers 27-87.

Excluding shootout goals the Steelers need one more goal for 300 against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions – the Flyers next goal will be their 150th all-time against the Steelers.

Robert Dowd has 30 goals against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions which is the most by a single player all time against the Flyers in the EIHL era.

The Steelers lead all teams in empty net goals this season with 10 goals scored.

The Steelers are second in goal scored per game average across all EIHL competitions this season with 3.86 compared with Flyers league lowest 2.16.

The Steelers have also given up the second fewest shots on goal across all games this season with their average 30.17 with the Flyers also having conceded the most with a 42.18 average.



# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



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

## Department of Player Safety Outcomes

On Saturday night in Cardiff, Devils defenseman #20 Gleason Fournier was assessed a five-minute major penalty for Fighting and a game misconduct for an Aggressor.

Effective immediately #20 Gleason Fournier is fined and suspended for two games.

## Monday 30th December

### Sheffield Steelers 4    Manchester Storm 1    Elite League

(0-1, 2-0, 2-0,) SOG 36-29    PIMs 2-2    Att 9164

Mikko Juusola scored all four Sheffield Steelers goals in a 4-1 win over Manchester Storm, played in front of a crowd of 9,164 fans at the Utilita Arena. Manchester had the lead after the opening period in Sheffield thanks to an excellent spin pass from Ryan Hughes setting up Grant Hebert in front to fire back past Matt Greenfield at 8:56. Mark Simpson drew Evan Wenninger into his bed save of the period with a low pad stop from close range, while Alexis D'Aoust should have put Storm further ahead but couldn't beat Greenfield when through alone. The Steelers started period two the stronger and it didn't take them long to level - Mikko Juusola skated in front and wrapped around Weninger to tie the game just 17 seconds into the period. Just under nine minutes later, Juusola tipped Joona Huttula's shot in front of Weninger to put the home side ahead. Storm had a good pushback in the final five or so minutes of the second, but drew Greenfield into two excellent stops to keep the Steelers ahead. That said, Sacha Guimond saw a shot come back off the underside of the bar before the period was out which could have extended the Steelers' lead further. Sheffield again started the period quickly and caught Storm out early. This time it took 32 seconds for Juusola to put the Steelers 3-1 up and complete his hat trick. A late powerplay for the visitors failed to yield a goal to get them back into things, and with Weninger pulled with 93 seconds to go it seemed like only one person would score next: Juusola latching on to a short Jake Durflinger pass to race away and fire into the empty net.

### Belfast Giants 5    Dundee Stars 2    Elite League

(1-0, 2-1, 2-1,) SOG 49-26    PIMs 8-10    Att 6627

Belfast Giants moved to within two points of Cardiff Devils at the top of the Elite League with a 5-2 win over Dundee Stars in front of a sold-out 6,627-strong crowd at the SSE Arena. It was an opening 20 minutes in which the Giants were unlucky to not be more than one ahead after 20 minutes, but could easily have given up a tying goal with the final play of the period. The Giants had sustained pressure in the Stars zone and while skating on a powerplay where the visitors failed to clear the puck, Elijah Barriga worked the puck to Gabe Bast at the point, and he fed Scott Conway for an excellent one-timer from the circle to open the scoring with 14:39 played. Jake Elmer could have tied the game on a 1-on-0 as the seconds ticked down on the period, but a good back-check from Kyle Osterberg combined with a fumble on the puck saw the Stars forward fail to get a shot away. A quick period flew by in just 25 minutes. Belfast doubled their advantage 2:08 into the second on an odd-man rush with a sublime wrist shot from Grant Mismash which sent Richard Sabol's water bottle flying. Dundee, who killed off a 5-on-3 in the period, were back in things when a loose puck along the wall was fired past Tom McCollum by Zach Tsekos, and the Stars forward had one of two excellent chances to tie the game - the other falling to Cole MacDonald - only for McCollum to come up with the stop 1-on-0. An interference call on Ben Lake with just under seven minutes left in the period set the Stars up for another shot at an equaliser - but Bobo Carpenter broke and scored shorthanded a minute later with an excellent drag and shot past Sabol. Dundee brought the game back to a one-goal differential at 46:19 through Jake Elmer on the powerplay as the SSE Arena became a little more nervy. The visitors had another powerplay some two minutes later to try and tie the game, but couldn't beat McCollum third time. JJ Piccinich settled nerves among the Giants with an excellent finish at 57:34 to put the home side back two ahead with 2:26 to go, while Pierre-Olivier Morin slotted into the empty net in the closing seconds to make it 5-2 - that after Grant Mismash had missed the open cage twice on previous plays.





# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



**Tuesday 31st December**

**Nottingham Panthers 9      Coventry Blaze 2      Elite League**

(3-0, 3-0, 3-2,) SOG 41-22    PIMs 31-17    Att 6898

Three goals in each period secured a huge New Year's Eve victory for Nottingham Panthers, beating Coventry Blaze 9-1 at a sold-out Motorpoint Arena. The game was effectively won in just over six first-period minutes as the Panthers took full control. On a powerplay, the puck was worked by Mitchell Fossier and Matt Alfaro to Kristof Kontos at the far post to open the scoring. 44 seconds later, Didrik Henbrant burst down the wing and did exactly what we've come to expect of him - sniping high into the top corner to double the lead. Hugo Roy got on the end of a Matt Spencer feed at 15:13 to make it 3-0 with the Blaze somewhat stunned. Just 20 seconds into period two, Matt Spencer was left in space in the slot and picked his spot to beat Mat Robson and extend the lead further. The second period saw Greyson Constable given a major penalty for boarding on Jaakko Niskala which saw him leave the game through injury. Just over five minutes later, Jordan Kelsall was ejected for a high Cross-Check, but his team would go on to score two more before the intermission. Otto Nieminen snapped a shot in tight from close range to make it 5-0 at 37:04, while 74 seconds before the buzzer Henbrant added the home side's sixth. Again the Panthers started early, making it 7-0 through Henbrant 43 seconds into period three to complete his hat trick. Hugo Roy netted 55 seconds later to make it eight on the night for Danny Stewart's team, although an excellent breakaway finish from Chase Gresock got Coventry on the board at 49:09. That goal, breaking Ryan Bednard's shutout saw the Panthers goalie replaced by Jason Grande. Otto Nieminen finished well to make it 9-1 at 55:53, while Nick Seitz scored the final goal of the game after an excellent pass from Mike Regush.

**Dundee Stars 3      Belfast Giants 4      Overtime      Elite League**

(1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 0-1) SOG 33-62    PIMs 4-2    Att 2202

A breakaway save from Jackson Whistle, Jordan Kawaguchi equaliser, and Ben Lake overtime winner gave Belfast Giants a 4-3 overtime win in Dundee in a game where they'd trailed the Stars since the ninth minute. Belfast controlled the pace of the first 20 minutes, outshooting the Stars 26-6. Despite this, Dundee scored the only goal of the period as Jake Elmer found the back of the net at 08:29 for his second goal of the weekend. Jonathan McBean intercepted a pass in the defensive zone, sending the puck to Elmer on a breakaway who beat Jackson Whistle with a quick wrist shot. The second period began similarly to the first, with the Giants maintaining consistent pressure in an attempt to secure an equalising goal. Jarrett Fiske, however, displayed strong goaltending and stood tall against the high quality chances against him. Jake Elmer scored his second goal of the game at 33:23, doubling the Stars lead after tipping a shot from the point by Kyle Pouncy past Whistle. JJ Piccinich got the visitors on the board at 36:30, converting on Belfast's first power play of the afternoon. Quick passing down low allowed the American to lift the puck over the pads of Fiske, netting his third goal in three games to make it 2-1. Brendan Harms picked the puck up behind the Giants net, sending a centering pass to Spencer Naas in the slot who fired a shot past Whistle to make it 3-1 at 44:29. Scott Conway made it a one-goal game at 54:08, beating Fiske in close for his second of the weekend. Shortly after this, Whistle denied Brendan Harms on a breakaway to keep Belfast within on - a save that kept the Giants in the game. Jordan Kawaguchi levelled the score and made it 3-3, tipping Mike Lee's backhand shot past Fiske at 55:19 to send the game to overtime. Ben Lake completed the comeback 24 seconds into overtime, firing a loose puck past Fiske to secure the two points on Hogmanay for the Giants.

**Cardiff Devils 5      Guildford Flames 1      Elite League**

(1-1, 3-0, 1-0,) SOG 52-20    PIMs 8-10    Att 3110

Cardiff Devils stayed two points clear at the top of the Elite League with a 5-1 win over Guildford Flames at a sold-out Vindico Arena. In an opening period that the home side dominated, Kohen Olischefski put them ahead at 7:10. While the Devils forward was hooked by Josh Waller, he carried on and let a shot fly past Eamon McAdam to open the scoring. The Flames were on the back foot for most of the period but drew themselves level at 14:35 when Matt Alvaro's throw to the crease deflected past Mac Carruth off a Devils defenseman. Joey Martin broke on an odd-man rush and fed Cole Sanford for a neat finish 65 seconds into period two, while a Brett Perlini powerplay after good work by Evan Mosey at 23:32 put the Devils 3-1 ahead in a matter of minutes. Martin had the Devils' fourth with a shot from the point that seemed to have landed in McAdam's glove but somehow slipped out and trickled over the line at 31:19. Daniel Tedesco had the



# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



Flames' best chance to pull themselves back to within two, but couldn't beat Carruth when sent through 1-on-0 shorthanded. The league's leading goal-scorer Josh McDonald capped off the win with the Devils' fifth with 3:03 to play as Cardiff ended 2024 at the top of the table.

## Wednesday 1st January

### Coventry Blaze 0 Nottingham Panthers 3 Elite League

(0-0, 0-0, 0-3,) SOG 35-28 PIMs 13-15 Att 2965

Ryan Bednard posted his second league shutout, and third overall this season, to help Nottingham Panthers to a 3-0 win in Coventry at a sold-out Skydome. "I think it's a big win, all of these points matter, especially on the road. Now we have to keep it rolling," said Bednard in post-game comments. "We've had a good stretch recently. It's always hard coming on the road, we play pretty good at home but going into other buildings is always a big test and it's something we can build on." The Panthers were restricted to just two shots in the opening period as the Blaze had the better of things, but a failure to convert on a 5-on-3 and an additional powerplay would come back to haunt the home side. Otto Nieminen had the best chance to open the scoring in period two when a puck landed quickly at his stick off a rebound, but he could only scoop it across the crease to the opposite post. Coventry were being restricted to a lot of shots from the outside, but were hungry for loose pucks in and around Bednard. The deadlock was eventually broken 67 seconds into period three - defenseman Zsombor Garát's shot finding the back of Mat Robson's net through a gap to put the Panthers ahead. A little over eight minutes later, the visitors broke 3-on-1 where Kristoff Kontos used the passing options as a distraction before skating in on Robson and slotting the puck home. Robson was pulled with 48 seconds to play, but just 11 later Ollie Betteridge skated down the ice to find the empty net and win it for the Panthers.

### Manchester Storm 2 Sheffield Steelers 4 Elite League

(0-3, 2-0, 0-1,) SOG 41-32 PIMs 12-8 Att 2350

A three-goal first period did the damage for Sheffield Steelers on the road in Altrincham, beating Manchester Storm at a sold-out Steel Shelter. An ill-advised drop pass as Storm broke into the Steelers' zone sent the visitors on an odd-man rush the other way, with Max Golod opting to shoot and beating Evan Weninger glove-side to open the scoring at 10:43. Less than three minutes later, a Mitchell Balmas shot from the wing squirmed its way through Weninger and trickled over the line to double the lead. Mark Simpson fired home a Cole Shudra feed to make it 3-0 at 14:39 as Mike Morin called his timeout to steady the Storm who had conceded three goals in under as many minutes. Whatever was said by the Storm interim coach then, and during the break, worked. Cam Critchlow capitalised on a neutral zone turnover to snipe past Matt Greenfield 3:58 into period two, and a little under five minutes later Storm were back to within one - a puck fell kindly for Grant Hebert to set up Alexis D'Aoust all alone in the slot and make it 2-3. 3:26 into period three, the Steelers ended up on a two-man powerplay which prompted Aaron Fox to call his timeout in an effort to make it count. Storm held out, and then had a Robert Dowd interference minor to try and level things with 11 minutes to go.

For all the home side's possession in the final 10 minutes, they didn't work Greenfield into any serious saves and instead were left chasing. Weninger was pulled in the final 90 seconds although coach Morin had no time-out to call, and as Storm dumped the puck for one final attack Kevin Tansey scooped the puck down the ice from below his own goal line to settle the game with an empty-netter with 10 seconds remaining.







# ELIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



## **Guildford Flames 5      Cardiff Devils 3      Elite League**

(1-0, 2-2, 2-1,) SOG 34-41 PIMs 6-8 Att 1959

A sold-out Guildford Spectrum saw late drama as the Flames beat league leaders Cardiff Devils 5-3 on New Year's Day. "It was awesome with a sell-out crowd!" said Flames captain Brett Ferguson post-game. "Last night in Cardiff we didn't show up how we wanted to so our aim was to come back in here and take two points off them. It was a great atmosphere and I'm glad we got the two points." After a slightly delayed start, the opening phases of the game were cagey as both teams managed short benches for their second meeting inside 24 hours. The Devils came closest to scoring with a shot that rebounded into the crease only for Jake Kupsky to get a pad on top of the loose puck. "Any time you get good goaltending, you give yourself a chance to win. Jake (Kupsky) was great tonight, most of the time our goalies are giving us that chance to win, but it's huge to have that confidence to play knowing your goalie can bail you out" said the Flames captain of his goalie. A similar play led to the Flames opening the scoring – Charlie Curti's shot from the point hit the glass behind Mac Carruth's net but bounced back and deflected off the Devils' goalie and over the line with ten seconds left in the period. After Ryan Tait had missed the target on a breakaway, Josh MacDonald levelled 5:56 into period two with a snap shot off a Joey Martin feed after the Devils turned won puck back in the offensive zone. A pair of goals in just over three minutes looked to have swung things the Flames' way. Josh Waller threw the puck on net from the wing and saw it get tangled in Carruth's pads and bounce over the line at 35:34. Curti then fired another one in from the point to make it 3-1 at 38:38, but MacDonald hit back 22 seconds later to make it a one-goal game heading into the third. Brett Perlini tied the game 67 seconds into period three, and the Devils then had two powerplay opportunities to take the lead but could capitalise on either. With Kohen Olischefski in the box for tripping, the Flames went back ahead in unusual fashion as a looping puck bounced off Jack Jacome and into Carruth's net at 54:42. An excellent pass from Daniel Tedesco found Brett Welychka in front to make it 5-3 less than two minutes later to give the Flames a cushion. Carruth was pulled at 58:39 but the Devils weren't able to fashion any Grade A chances on Kupsky's net and the home side held on for the two points. "We're proud of the win tonight but would have liked to have played better in Cardiff and in Manchester, too. But it's all about your next game," added Ferguson. "We're playing in Sheffield in a few days, so it's about focusing on that game. There's still a chance for a lot of teams to get to the top of the league, so we just have to keep picking up wins and getting better and better."

## **Friday 3rd January**

### **Cardiff Devils 2      Dundee Stars 4      Elite League**

(0-0, 1-2, 1-2,) SOG 44-35 PIMs 4-8 Att 3110

Dundee Stars logged their first win in Cardiff since 2021 with a 4-2 win over the Devils at a sold-out Vindico Arena on Friday night. A competitive opening period ended scoreless. Such was the open nature of the period, with large spells without whistles, it took just 26 minutes to complete. Cardiff's best chance to open the scoring fell to Josh MacDonald who just couldn't lift the puck over Richard Sabol, while on the very next shift Philippe Sanche hit a post with the best opportunity for the Stars. 33 seconds into period two the Devils took the lead. MacDonald did well to win the puck on the blue line, skated into the zone, and backhanded the puck over Sabol to open the scoring. Two and a half minutes later, the Stars were level, however. A Ben O'Connor shot was stopped by Carruth but the rebound only got as far as Zach Tsekos before it was put home at 23:02. Dundee were growing in confidence and took the lead at 29:24 – while the Devils killed off Reid Duke's hooking minor, eight seconds after it expired they could only look on as Cole MacDonald found space and fired home a Keanu Yamamoto feed to put the visitors ahead. MacDonald drew another good save out of Sabol before the period was out, with the Stars leading 2-1. Just over six minutes into the final period, Kameron Kielly batted the puck home off a rebound to put the Stars two ahead. A similar play from Reid Duke got the Devils back to within one with 3:45 to play, but with 94 seconds of empty net time the Devils failed to trouble Sabol as they pushed for an equaliser. Dundee added an empty-netter on the buzzer that was eventually deemed to have entered the net before time expired, and the Stars took a 4-2 win.

### **Manchester Storm 4      Glasgow Clan 1      Elite League**

(0-0, 2-1, 2-0,) SOG 32-28 PIMs 2-8 Att 2019

Manchester Storm got an important win on Friday night, beating Glasgow Clan 4-1 in front of a crowd of 2,019 fans at the Storm Shelter. After a scoreless opening 20 minutes, Storm hit two in each of the following



# ELIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



periods to take an important two points in the race for the playoffs. Manchester went ahead 3:06 into period two. A loose puck around Landon Bow has several players try to fire it home, but as Bow couldn't get the puck covered it eventually broke to Ryan Hughes to lift into the roof of the net. 25 seconds later, Craig Martin cut in from the wing and beat Bow blocker side to double Storm's lead. Mitchell Heard pulled one back for Clan when he reacted fastest to a rebound off Evan Weninger from a Darien Kielb shot. Clan thought they might have tied the game late in the second, but a puck was ruled not to have crossed the goal line with 24 seconds remaining. With just over nine minutes to play in the final period, Weninger made an excellent save across his crease to deny Liam Finlay a tap-in at the far post and keep Storm ahead. A beautiful dangle from Hughes at 52:48 ended with him back-handing the puck over Bow's glove hand to put Storm 3-1 up, Alexis D'Aoust proving an excellent distraction in front of the net on the play. Captain Cam Critchlow hit the empty net from the red line with 2:49 to play to make it 4-1, just as Bow had left the net with Clan needing two goals in the final stages.

## **Belfast Giants 3      Sheffield Steelers 5      Elite League**

(1-0, 1-2, 1-3,) SOG 46-34 PIMs 8-6 Att 6633

Sheffield Steelers fought back from two down in Belfast to beat the Giants 5-3 at a sold-out SSE Arena in Belfast, denying the Giants the chance to go top of the Elite League in the process. It was the perfect start for the Giants who were ahead inside the first minute of the game. A faceoff win by Scott Conway set up Mike Lee for a wrist shot that beat Matt Greenfield blocker side with just 39 seconds played. The Steelers steadied themselves and had arguably the best chance of the period to score the next goal – the puck worked to Patrick Watling at the far post but an excellent pad save from Tom McCollum kept the game level. Belfast had some decent looks around Greenfield's net to go further ahead, but the period ended with just the one goal separating the teams. Having scored 39 seconds into the first period, the Giants struck again in exactly the same, quick time in the second. Make Cooper's pass from the corner found Ben Lake in space, and he put the puck on a plate for Grant Mismash to slide into the empty net and double the home side's advantage. After killing off a Mark Simpson tripping minor where the Giants came close to a third, the Steelers came to life. Max Golod got them on the board on an odd-man rush after Gabe Bast's pass across the offensive zone was intercepted at 30:39, while on a powerplay at 31:29 Patrick Watling one-timed Mitchell Balmas' perfect feed to tie the game. McCollum made another excellent pad save in the period as the Giants found themselves on the back foot for the final seven minutes. The Steelers' comeback was completed by a Joona Huttula shot that snuck through McCollum at 44:50 on a play he would have wanted back. Some 90 seconds later, Golod one-timed a Daniel Ciampini feed to put the Steelers two ahead. The Giants were all at sea, prompting Adam Keefe to call a timeout - and replace McCollum in net with Jackson Whistle. Josh Roach banked a shot in from behind the goal line off Greenfield to cut the deficit in half with 11:19 to play, but after that the Steelers goalie was a wall for anything the Giants through at him. Whistle was pulled with 1:14 to play, but as the lcock wound down Mikko Juusola found the empty net to secure a vital 5-3 win for the Steelers.

## **Saturday 4th January**

## **Dundee Stars 3      Manchester Storm 4      Elite League**

(2-1, 1-2, 0-1,) SOG 34-33 PIMs 6-4 Att 2035

Manchester Storm made it a four-point weekend with an important 4-3 win over Dundee Stars on Tayside. 2,035 fans saw the seven-goal thriller at the Dundee Ice Arena that brought Storm back to within a point of the playoff places. Owen Griffiths opened the scoring, tipping an innocent looking shot from Loren Ulett past Jarrett Fiske at 06:51. Brendan Harms equalised at 12:20 on the power-play, deflecting Ben O'Connor's shot from the point past Evan Weninger. The Stars gained their first lead of the night at 14:06, as Drydn Dow sent a pass to the stick of Kameron Keilly who redirected the puck into the Manchester net to make it 2-1 heading into the second period. Owen Griffiths opened the scoring, tipping an innocent looking shot from Loren Ulett past Jarrett Fiske at 06:51. Alexis D'Aoust levelled the score at 25:55, backhanding the puck over the pads of Fiske and continuing his hot streak with his 17th point in the past 11 games. A pass from Zach Tsekos found Philippe Sanche in front of the Storm crease, with the Canadian firing into a wide open net to once again regain the lead at 27:25. Cameron Critchlow took advantage of a fortunate bounce, finding himself alone in the slot with the puck and firing it past the Stars netminder at 34:38 to even the score at 3-3.





# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



A goal-line clearance at one end led to Storm taking the lead. Tsekos threw a puck out from behind the goal line that bounced off Ryan Hughes' skates and rolled towards the net, however he reacted quickly enough to scoop it literally off the line. As play continued up the other end, a solo effort Grant Hebert set up Alexis D'Aoust for his second of the game, as he backhanded the puck into the roof of the net for the eventual game winning goal at 45:29. Dundee battled hard in an attempt to score the equalising goal, pulling Fiske to deploy an extra attacker in the final minutes. However, Evan Weninger stood tall, and Manchester secured their first four point weekend of 2025.

## **Nottingham Panthers 2      Glasgow Clan 1      Elite League**

(1-0, 1-1, 0-0,) SOG 28-24 PIMs 4-6 Att 6706

Nottingham Panthers continued to keep up pressure on the teams at the top of the table with a 2-1 grind-out win over Glasgow Clan at the Motorpoint Arena. 6,706 fans saw them do it on Saturday night. The Panthers led by a single goal after the opening period, although easily could have been more ahead. An excellent sauce pass from Sam Herr found Mitchell Fossier in front to beat Landon Bow with a top-shelf finish and open the scoring at 4:40. On almost the very next shift, Jason Grande made a good pad save to keep the Panthers ahead, although the Panthers came closest to scoring the next goal with a shot that flew off the crossbar. With Clan on a man-advantage, Grande made two excellent low saves to deny Liam Finlay an equalizer as the Panthers stayed ahead at the buzzer. Clan created more in period two, but the Panthers should have gone two up early in the period – Bow making an excellent last-ditch save on Didrik Henbrant to keep it a one-goal game. Reid Stefanson fired over when put through 1-on-0 as the Panthers threatened a second, and their 2-0 lead did come at 37:27 when Zsombor Garát's shot from the point went through traffic to beat Bow. Clan hit the iron themselves not long after, but were back into things at 33:03 - Robert Lachowicz intercepted a Cooper Zech pass with the Panthers on a powerplay and raced away the other way. Mitchell Fossier's slash stopped the shot but resulted in a penalty shot being awarded that was excellently dispatched by Cole Ullly. Period three saw Clan push, but without grading anything stand-out in front of Grande. A minor on Stefan gave them a powerplay with just over nine minutes to play, but Clan ended the man-advantage without a shot on target. At the other end, Kontos and Herr combined off a faceoff with a shot going just wide, while Bow was pulled with 77 seconds to play with Clan's last throw of the dice. Nothing was doing, however, and Clan were defeated on Corey Neilson's first game back in Nottingham.

## **Sheffield Steelers 4      Guildford Flames 1      Elite League**

(2-1, 1-0, 1-0,) SOG 26-32 PIMs 10-8 Att 6962

Sheffield Steelers made full use of Cardiff Devils and Belfast Giants not playing to cut the gap on the top two with a 4-1 win over Guildford Flames at the Utilita Arena, although had the Flames taken their chances it may well have been different. Guildford were given an early man-advance when Dominic Cormier shot the puck out of bounds, but having killed that off the Steelers took the lead - a faceoff win by Mark Simpson and a quick shot from Max Golod getting past Jake Kupsy at 3:37. A clever Golod pass set up Brien Diffey for a second at 12:58, but while Kupsy made the save it was Simpson on hand to put home the rebound. Two penalties on the Steelers saw Ethan Strang score 5-on-3 at 16:12 to get the Flames back into things. The Steelers were unable to add to their lead on a Flames bench minor that carried over into period two, but Guildford started to press and came close to an equalizer on a couple of occasions – Matt Greenfield stood in the way multiple times over the frame to keep his team ahead. Having soaked up some decent Flames' pressure, the Steelers went back two ahead as Daniel Leavens one-timed Simpson's pass at 36:43. Going into the final period two down, the Flames created a hatful of chances to get themselves back into it. Ryan Tait fired over in close when it looked easier to score, Josh Waller rang a shot off the underside of Greenfield's crossbar, and a Charlie Curti shot from the point caused chaos in the crease only for the Steelers goalie manage to cover the puck. As the Flames pushed with an empty net, Charlie Dodero was called for Elbowing after a high hit on Mikko Juusola chasing down an empty net with 65 seconds to go, making the visitors' task somewhat harder. Golod, who opened the scoring, finished it with an empty-netter with 29 seconds remaining to settle the game, and put him on 22 points in just 19 games since joining the team.



# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



**Sunday 5th January**

**Coventry Blaze 3    Belfast Giants 2    Shootout    Elite League**

(2-2, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 1-0) SOG 30-38    PIMs 6-6    Att 2041

Coventry Blaze raced into a two-goal lead, were pegged back, and then won in a shootout to pick up two points against Belfast Giants on Sunday night. 2,041 fans saw them win at the Skydome. "We started off really well, got up by two, and it's never good to blow a lead like that but we showed great resilience to stick with it," said Mat Robson, who stopped 30 shots for the Blaze. "That's the mentality of our group, we never get too high or too low no matter what's going on or if we're on a streak. We stayed dialled in, it was a good game and I saw the puck well. "It's a long hockey season. Every team in every league will have ups and downs. We hadn't won in four before but we are resilient and work hard." It took only 65 seconds for the game's first goal. Alessio Luciani played a give-and-go with Nick Seitz on a 2-on-1 rush, with Seitz dragging Whistle to one side for Luciani to slot into the open cage. It was an excellent start for the hosts who were deservedly two ahead through Greyson Constable off another Seitz feed at 7:25. Adam Keefe called his timeout after seeing his side slip two behind, and whatever he said had the desired effect - though not before Constable was denied by Whistle on a breakaway. With 10:56 on the board, JJ Piccinich showed some excellent quick hands, after the Blaze turned the puck over in their own end, to make it a one-goal game. Some four minutes later, Jeff Baum fired through traffic off a faceoff win by Ben Lake to tie the game. Mark Cooper almost put the visitors ahead shorthanded before the period was out, but it ended tied at two each. Period two saw both teams with powerplay chances in the early stages, but neither able to convert. Constable saw a shot come back off the pipes at 33:37 following a period of Giants pressure. Period two ended with no further scoring. The third was equally as tight as the second, but got more so as the game went on. Belfast had two man-advantages but came up short, while a Scott Conway minor gave the Blaze a short chance to find a winner around the mid-point of the period but to no avail. Overtime was cagey for the opening few minutes as teams opted to reset in the neutral zone rather than risk a pass. Josh Roach had the best chance to win it but Robson stopped his breakaway attempt when he tried to go five-hole. The Blaze drew Whistle into a good save in the final 30 seconds but the game was to be decided in a shootout. "I love shootouts!" said Robson. "Something my dad drilled into me since I was a kid is that 'pressure creates diamonds', and you have to live for those big moments. I get excited when I have the chance to make saves and win games." In the final round of the shootout, it fell to captain Kim Tallberg to fire in the winning shot and get the Blaze the extra point. "I wanted to make the last save and end it on a save, but Kim is clutch in the shootout, never in doubt!" he added.

**Cardiff Devils 3    Nottingham Panthers 2    Elite League**

(1-0, 0-1, 2-1,) SOG 46-31    PIMs 2-4    Att 3110

Cardiff Devils scored with 66 seconds remaining to edge past Nottingham Panthers with a 3-2 victory in an enthralling game at a sold-out Vindico Arena. "It was good, we knew this was a big game for our team and I just wanted to bring everything I could. It was a great effort by the whole team, we stuck with it and found a way to win," Tyler Busch levelled the game inside the final ten minutes before the Devils won it late. "We knew we had to be hungry on that powerplay, we have confidence in it and it was a great boost for the team." An end to end first period saw a range of opportunities for both teams. Nottingham saw an early penalty kill after Matt Alfaro picked himself up two minutes for an interference call 10:30 into the period, but the Panthers were able to successfully deny any goalscoring chances. Reid Duke found the opening goal of the night after Tyler Busch stole the puck as the Panthers tried to break out of their zone, and fed it to Duke for a neat finish in front at 14:11. The Panthers' first powerplay of the game saw them very much on the front foot but without being able to find an equaliser. The Panthers carried that momentum from the back of the first period into the second. Just 3:32 into the period, Kristoff Kontos found a huge interception in the Devils end which allowed the visitors to construct a nice tic-tac-toe play with Mitchell Fossier feeding Kristoff Kontos to set up captain Sam Herr for the equaliser. Minutes later Sam Herr once again, found himself in a 1-on-1 against Carruth. Fortunately for the Devils, Mac Carruth was able to shut down the opportunity. Despite Cardiff's best attempts, the scoreline remained 1-1 as the period came to a close. The Devils had looked leggy for large parts of the middle frame, but at push towards the end brought them and the home crowd to life. Having been on the back foot in period two the Devils came out on the front in the third and drew Ryan Bednard into a couple good early saves to keep the game level.





# EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 18



The Panthers then struck on the counter attack through Tim Doherty with one of their only real chances of the opening phases, timed at 48:48. 19 seconds later, the Devils thought they'd hit straight back as a loose puck went in off the skate of Josh MacDonald. The goal was reviewed for a kicking motion, and disallowed despite it also then hitting Matt Spencer on its way to the net. The IIHF rulebook is clear on this situation: A goal cannot be scored on a play where an attacking Player propels the puck with their skate into the net (even by means of a subsequent deflection off another Player, unless from a stick of a skater) using a "distinct kicking motion". The home crowd didn't like the call, but it lifted the noise level in the building. There was further drama when Jason Grande had to enter the Panthers net as Bednard needed to leave the ice, and only 24 seconds after coming on the new goalie was beaten - Tyler Busch fired home on a 2-on-1 rush after the Panthers lost the puck in the offensive zone. With 2:14 to play, Spencer was called for a slashing minor and the Devils pushed for a winner. A Cody Donaghey pass from the slot low to Zach O'Brien fed Brett Perlini in the slot to fire home and put the Devils ahead with 66 seconds remaining. The Panthers called a timeout immediately, and pulled Grande with 42 seconds left, but came closer to conceding on the empty net than they did finding a way past Carruth in the final stages. "It'll be nice to get a full week of practice. We've been going pretty hard the past 10 days but then we have two very tough teams on the road next week. Hopefully we can get a few guys back" concluded Busch.





### 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  
37 Lucas Chiodo 'A'  
78 Michael Cichy 'A'  
94 Kieran Craig  
41 Johnny Curran 'A'  
91 Austin Farley  
27 Ryan Foss  
22 Phélix Martineau  
72 Charles-Antoine  
Palement  
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
<b>Flyers</b>				
<b>Visitors</b>				

Referee :

Linesman :

Referee :

Linesman :





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

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

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

### Goalies

- 33 Jarrett Fiske
- 1 Dominick Jaglar
- 36 Richard Sabol

### Defencemen

- 6 Drydn Dow 'C'
- 11 Kris Inglis
- 26 Cole MacDonald
- 24 Craig Moore
- 83 Ben O'Connor
- 49 Xavier Pouliot
- 23 Kyle Pouncy
- 77 Josh Saunders

### Forwards

- 8 Domenic Alberga "A"
- 98 Jake Elmer
- 15 Craig Garrigan
- 27 Brett Gravelle
- 81 Brendan Harms "A"
- 45 Gary Kelly
- 10 Kameron Kielly
- 12 Jonathan McBean
- 18 Spencer Naas
- 95 Brogan O'Brien
- 21 Alex Robert
- 13 Philippe Sanche
- 17 Zack Tsekos
- 20 Keanu Yamamoto

**Man of the Match Flyers:**

**Man of the Match Visitors:**

# VISITING THE BARN

## STARS IN LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR...

**29**  
Games played

**8**  
Wins

**17**  
Losses

**2**  
Overtime wins

**2**  
Overtime losses

**0.379**  
Win %

**22**  
Points

**90**  
Goals scored

**118**  
Goals against

**3.10**  
Goals For average

**4.07**  
Goals Against average

**1837**  
Average attendance

**995**  
Shots on goal for

**1029**  
Shots on goal against



			Gp	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG	SHG	+/-	SOG	S	FOW	FOL	BS	TOI/Game	
81	CAN	Brendan Harms	FW	29	14	14	28	24	8	1	-9	74	100	12	8	10	20:23
98	CAN	Jake Elmer	RW	24	14	11	25	10	3	1	-17	110	161	0	2	4	17:51
17	CAN	Zachary Tsekos	FW	25	8	14	22	13	2	1	-5	73	114	364	253	6	21:32
6	CAN	Drydn Dow	D	29	6	15	21	8	2	0	-1	86	134	0	0	17	23:14
8	CAN	Domenico Alberga	FW	25	3	17	20	8	0	0	-8	51	72	177	202	9	19:19
27	USA	Brett Gravelle	FW	29	6	13	19	4	1	0	-10	76	113	23	25	10	19:07
83	GBR	Ben O'Connor	D	29	2	17	19	14	1	0	-17	71	107	0	0	16	20:45
13	CAN	Philippe Sanche	FW	22	9	5	14	10	0	0	1	64	94	1	3	9	19:30
20	USA	Keanu Yamamoto	FW	29	5	9	14	16	0	0	-11	65	90	149	138	8	18:09
10	CAN	Kameron Kielly	FW	18	6	6	12	4	0	0	-1	42	57	124	140	4	15:54
45	USA	Spencer Naas	FW	10	3	7	10	0	0	0	4	36	57	14	13	2	20:04
88	CAN	Alexander Tonge	FW	10	4	5	9	4	2	0	-3	24	32	0	0	1	16:35
26	CAN	Cole MacDonald	D	29	4	5	9	10	2	0	-19	44	67	0	0	17	20:23
12	GBR	Jonathan McBean	FW	29	3	4	7	6	2	0	-22	40	70	11	31	9	13:54
23	CAN	Kyle Pouncy	D	26	0	7	7	2	0	0	0	39	57	0	0	45	19:16
11	GBR	Kris Inglis	D	29	0	5	5	12	0	0	-8	29	45	0	0	16	17:00
21	CAN	Alex Robert	FW	15	1	2	3	2	0	0	-6	16	19	9	17	1	08:56
15	GBR	Craig Garrigan	FW	29	1	2	3	8	0	0	-10	21	28	0	4	15	09:30
49	CAN	Xavier Pouliot	D	21	1	0	1	24	0	0	-12	19	31	0	0	10	15:57
24	GBR	Craig Moore	D	20	0	1	1	4	0	0	-13	12	14	0	2	8	13:28
77	GBR	Joshua Saunders	D	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	01:28
95	CAN	Brogan O'Brien	FW	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3	3	4	11	10	0	07:54



			Gp	W	L	SO	SA	GA	MIN	GAA	SVS%	PIM
33	USA	Jarrett Fiske	14	4	9	0	482	47	796	3.54	90.25	0
36	SVK	Richard Sabol	18	6	10	0	542	65	934	4.18	88.01	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 defenceman **Ben O'Connor**

2019 and as Great Britain were preparing to take part in the top pool of the Ice Hockey World Championships for first time since 1994 for one player it was a journey that would reflect a road travelled by his father. Ben O'Connor was about to follow in his dad Mike's skates who represented Great Britain at the 1994 tournament. Great Britain would take on USA, Canada, Finland and more in the group stages

Twenty five years before that Mike O'Connor was a defensive rock in the Great Britain side that shocked the ice hockey world by reaching the top level of the world championships and taking on the superstars of Canada and Russia. Now they were back with a familiar name in their ranks. Ben O'Connor was to follow in the footsteps of his father when he took to the ice in Kosice, Slovakia, for Britain's shock return to the elite of ice hockey for the first time since those heady days in Italy a quarter of a century before.

It will be O'Connor junior, an outstanding defenceman at the time with the Sheffield Steelers and arguably Britain's best player, who would have the job to repel some of the biggest names in the game just as Mike had done all those years ago during Britain's one-year foray to the very top.

'It's a dream come true,' said Ben as he sat alongside his father in an interview for the Daily Mail at that time. 'Growing up you want to play against the superstars of the world and to be on the same ice as NHL players is going to be very special. I think most of us in the GB team won't make the NHL so our only chance of competing with the best comes in the Olympics or World Championships. After we won promotion last year we were so excited and this year's tournament has been a long time coming but it's just around the corner now.'

That promotion came totally unexpectedly last year when they secured promotion back to ice hockey's elite level with an overtime win over Hungary in Budapest. Robert Farmer equalised with 15 seconds of regulation time remaining to give GB the point they needed from the World Championship Division 1A game. Hosts Hungary had led 2-0 in the third period before Robert Dowd's goal set up a frantic finish. "What we have achieved is out of this world," said captain Jonathan Phillips. "We believed we could do it and that was so key. "We had belief in ourselves from the moment we arrived and the confidence just built throughout the week." GB were the first team to win back-to-back gold medals in Division 1. After a 2-2 draw in regulation time, they won 3-2 after a shootout as overtime ended with the score still level. The two points for an overtime win meant GB - who had been in the third tier and ranked 29th in recent years - topped their group with 11 points. "This team is very special and what we have pulled off is absolutely unbelievable," said Head Coach Peter Russell. "We did not give up and showed true British spirit to pull that one out of the bag." Captain Phillips added: "We set our goal and we didn't give up and showed the character to come back from a terrible first period when I think the nerves set in."

The aim had simply been to retain their place in the second tier of the world championships but they exceeded all expectations with their second consecutive promotion. Now they faced Germany in their opening match before taking on the NHL-laden squads of Canada and the United States. 'It's a massive deal for our sport and we want to be playing against the biggest and the best,' said Ben. 'We're facing USA, Canada and Finland in our group so we will have our work cut out but we're going to embrace it and try to show the world GB can play hockey and we deserve to be there. 'Realistically it's going to be very difficult to stay up but we're targeting France and Denmark as games where it's possible for us to win. If we beat Canada I don't think we'll be ready for the next game because we'll be flying so high!'

It was in the Italian alps that Mike O'Connor, a Canadian who qualified as a dual national to represent GB, played against his countrymen in a tournament where his adopted nation ended up beaten in every game but far from humiliated. 'When we played Canada we went in for our pre-game skate and lined up in the hallway getting their autographs,' remembered O'Connor senior. 'They must have thought "who the heck are these guys?" I think they felt the public had been let in rather than the team they were playing that night! 'I grew up aspiring to play in the NHL and to play against players we'd idolised as kids was incredible. It was an experience I'll never forget. We didn't disgrace ourselves against Canada and we were quite pleased with the outcome despite the scoreline (GB lost 8-2), but I

# VISITING THE BARN

think the Canadians were using the first round to have a bit of fun because I spotted a few of them in the beer tent. They didn't get serious until the next round! They were different times and we used a lot of dual-nationals with the Brits but now I watch this GB team and they are packed with outstanding home-grown talent. We targeted Austria as the one game we could win and we got shellacked. We weren't even at the races because we had no preparation. Now these guys have got five warm-up games before they go to Slovakia and that will stand them in good stead and get them up to speed. I think it will be an amazing experience for everybody and, you never know, GB could upset somebody. Coach Pete Russell has got them playing a very good game and while nobody's suggesting these guys are going to push Canada, Finland or the States, there are a couple of teams in there that GB could surprise if they don't come out ready to play. That's what they're looking for but however tough it will be they deserve to be there.'



Many Flyers fans will remember that Mike arrived at Durham to play for the Wasps in 1983 'just for a year to have a good time' and has been in the country ever since. He had a distinguished career with Durham, where Ben was born in 1988, and Sheffield where he remains to this day as the Steelers commercial manager. 'You know what, this is the best level of hockey the UK has ever seen,' said Mike back in 2019 of the modern day Elite League. 'In the old days when each side had three or four imports they stood out. Now, though, there's a great crop of Brits and they're not playing at the top because they're British, they're there on merit. I never thought we'd top the Superleague days but this certainly has. From top to bottom it's a good product.' Ben O'Connor was one of the stand-out players in that current set-up. 'Growing up watching my dad play I wanted to follow in his footsteps,' he said. 'My dad didn't push me into hockey but I just wanted to be like my old man. From an early age I knew I'd do whatever it took to get there. When he played for Durham I'd sit on the step and watch him play. Then here in Sheffield I'd sit in the stand with mum and it was fantastic. I'd go down to the dressing room and went on the ice when they won the grand slam. I remember that like it was yesterday. It was something else and playing for Sheffield runs deep in me because of all the memories.'

Mike, takes up the story. 'I'm very proud because he's done very well and it's been on merit. Ben's done his own thing and travelled the world and I was delighted when he came back to Sheffield. My message to him now is to enjoy every minute of it because when you retire and get on with life these are the times you remember. Make the most of it.' Ben again: 'The only thing he has ever really said to me when I've asked for advice is follow your heart because at the end of the day it's my career and I've got to make the decisions and live with the consequences. He's always been very supportive but it's always been up to me. I'm very grateful to have someone in my life who has been there and done that.'



# VISITING THE BARN

Now for the big question, who was the better defenceman? Father or son? 'I suppose I was closer to the NHL than the young lad purely because that's where I plied my trade,' said Mike. 'But Ben is obviously a lot more offensively gifted than I was and, yes, he is better than me, I'll concede that. Times have changed. It's a different game now.' Ben smiles: 'That kills him to say that! We pride ourselves on the fact our system has grown and improved ten-fold since 25 years ago. Hopefully we can keep going and kids who play the sport can see us in this tournament and see what's possible. If I was a kid watching GB play Canada I'd think 'I want to do that.' I was lucky enough to have dad and that's what I wanted to do.' Now Ben will get the chance to do it against the very best, just like dad did.

The 36-year-old, blueliner joined the Dundee Stars in the summer on a two year deal from fellow EIHL outfit, Guildford Flames, where he has spent the past two years and last season, he contributed 41 points (9G, 32A) in 68 games. O'Connor, who has won two Elite League Championships, one Playoff Championship and a Challenge Cup, reached the Challenge Cup Final and Playoff Semi-Finals last season with Guildford and was part of the Flames side that challenged for a league title in the 2022-2023 season, finishing second.

The Englishman, who also has dual-nationality with Canada, has represented Team GB on 94 occasions at the senior level but also five times at Under 20's and four times for the Under 18's. The veteran defender is highly decorated with three gold medals, three silver medals and a bronze medal on the international stage and was once again part of the GB squad at last summer's World Championships in Czechia. O'Connor made his professional debut back in 2003 with Hull Thunder in the British National League and played his first Elite League game in 2007 with Basingstoke Bison, before going on to have spells with Edinburgh Capitals, Coventry Blaze, Sheffield Steelers, Cardiff Devils and then the Flames. Standing at 6-foot and 1-inch tall and weighing in at 198lbs, Ben has also had spells in the Canadian junior leagues, including the OHL, the French, Kazakhstan and Romanian top flights and the Swedish second-tier, Allsvenskan.

Stars Director of Hockey Operations and Head Coach, Marc LeFebvre had this to say about the deal: "This was a massive signing for our club and it is a message of intent of where we want to take things this season. Obviously, we wanted to improve our team defensively and especially on the powerplay as well, we did finish with the fourth best powerplay last season but we can always improve and get better. Adding Ben gave us two of the most offensive defensemen in the league now with him and Drydn, so we have a dual threat there now, offensively on the back end and I could not be more pleased. Especially with his experience that he can share onto our younger guys as well and to get an import-quality, British player who is on the national team too, those guys do not come around every day, so when I knew he was available I had to get on it." LeFebvre continued: "I think what we were missing a bit last year was that championship pedigree, we had a great group of guys but we just missed that element that Ben brings us, which is that championship winning experience. He is a good puck moving defenseman which is also something I thought we lacked last season, bringing the puck up the ice and out of our zone quicker, which is the way we want to play with speed and coming through the neutral zone. He brings a lot of quality on and off the ice and it is great to be reunited with him after I played with him in 2009 in Edinburgh, but we kept in contact over the years and I know him personally and what he can bring to our group, so it is going to be a pleasure working with him." Discussing how O'Connor has performed in recent seasons, the Stars coach added: "He not only had a good season last year but the year before he was the best British player in the league and he won that award. So, even at his age he is still getting the job done back there and he is a threat every time he is on the ice, especially in the offensive zone as he is like a fourth forward out there. His numbers are still there, his foot-speed is still there, the puck movement is still there and he just brings so many elements to our club and like I said, it is a statement of intent of how we wanted to finish this year, as we do not want to finish down towards seventh place again, we wanted to look up the table and take things a step further again this year. Getting Ben for two years and not just one was a key to this and with me being here for at least another two years and also Drydn, we are really building something here and it is going to be something exciting to be a part of for everybody."

# VISITING THE BARN

Looking in a bit more detail, Ben's career began back in 2001 with Sheffield Rapiers in the English U16 league and by the following season, he had progressed to also play with the U19's side, Sheffield Steelhawks and make his professional debut in the BNL with Hull Thunder. After putting up 50 points in 16 games for the Rapiers in the 2002-2003 campaign and being recognised as an U13 and U15 All-Star, the young Brit then moved across the pond to play in Canada and spent the next four years learning the game in Ontario. O'Connor would start with London Jr. Knights U16 AAA team and scored 77 points from 68 games and then stepped up to play for Bowmanville Eagles in the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League, adding 21 more points, which earned him a spot on Team GB Under 18's roster in the summer of 2005.

The next season saw Ben join the Ontario Hockey League and ice in 38 games for Windsor Spitfires after being selected 267th overall by them in the 2004 OHL Priority Selection Draft. The defender would make 39 appearances for the Spitfires and also had another spell with the Eagles before moving to Mississauga IceDogs to finish the 2006-2007 season, where he then returned to the UK that summer. Ben would make his EIHL debut that year with Basingstoke Bison and play 17 times before switching to Edinburgh Capitals mid-season, making 44 appearances and also earning his call-up to the GB Under 20's, where he scored his first international goal. Ahead of the 2008-2009 Elite League season, O'Connor moved to Coventry Blaze and spent a year in the West Midlands, before then making his senior debut for GB in the 2010 Olympic Game Qualifiers and then icing the World Championships and picking up a Bronze Medal. It was then in the 2009-2010 campaign that Ben returned to Scotland for another stint with the Capitals and that is where he met Marc LeFebvre and outscored his now-coach by 11 points as O'Connor posted seven goals and 21 assists to LeFebvre's four goals and 13 assists. Another GB call-up followed as the blueliner then moved abroad for the first time in his pro career, joining Morzine-Avoriaz in the French top-flight and once again was part of the national squad at the end of the 2010-2011 season, where GB won a Silver Medal. In 2011, O'Connor then began a four-year spell in Kazakhstan as he joined Saryarka Karaganda for one year and then spent the next three with Arlan Kokshetau, where he totalled 167 points across 204 matches. It was a spell where O'Connor was settled for a period of time without hopping from team to team which he reflected on as follows: "Yes it wasn't easy moving around all the time but I made the decision based on my career and what I thought was best for my hockey. I would have liked to stay and play for a team for more than one year but I also wanted to play at the highest level possible. Sometimes you have to move around new countries, new leagues and new teams to do so". So how did the offer to play professional club hockey in Kazakhstan come about and did Ben have to think long and hard about the decision to head east? He reveals: "I played for GB at the World Championships in Ukraine and there were some representatives from Karaganda attending who saw me play. Shortly after I received an email offering me to go and play for them. It was an easy choice for my career, but then the worry of living, everyday life style & culture crossed my mind. I put that aside after being assured everything was fine and I haven't looked back since, couldn't be happier. I really enjoyed my time here. In those ears I saw a big improvement to my game on and off the ice. Training twice a day with gym work outs and maturing personally in a different environment all helped my progression".

Ben collected a heap of awards during his time in Kazakhstan as in his first year, he was named the league's Best Defenseman as Saryarka won the Bronze Medal and then in his second season, he led the league in assists and points by a defender with 29 and 38.

In the 2013-2014 season, Arlan finished as runners-up in the league, whilst O'Connor was again voted as the league's best blueliner and led the league in goals (17), assists (39) and points (56) by a defenseman, and also plus/minus with a +57 rating. During the following campaign, the Durham-native returned to England and joined Sheffield Steelers, where he would stay for the next seven years and build a legacy, winning two Elite Leagues, one Challenge Cup and a Playoff Championship with the Yorkshire club. O'Connor and the Steelers clinched the league title in his first season and he was also named as the British Player of the Year, Best British Defenseman and to the First All-Star Team that year. In the 2015-2016 campaign, Ben was once again an Elite League champion, voted the Best British Defenseman and to the First All-Star Team, before finally winning a playoff title in 2016-2017. He continued to gain experience on the European stage by icing in the Champions Hockey League and Continental Cup, then to start the 2018-2019 season, O'Connor found himself starting the year in Sweden with Leksands IF in the Allsvenskan, Sweden's second division.



# VISITING THE BARN

After 11 appearances for Leksands, he returned to Sheffield and would then add a Challenge Cup win to his list of honours in the 2019-2020 season, before COVID-19 shutdown the league early. During the pandemic season, Ben stayed in Sheffield but played for their NIHL counterparts, the Sheffield Steeldogs and helped them to claim the NIHL Cup but after hockey fully resumed, the Englishman then began plying his trade in Wales as he joined Cardiff Devils but would switch to play in Romanian for half the season. Icing with SC Csiksztereda, O'Connor won both the Romanian League and Erste Liga titles and then came back to Britain to play his next two years in Surrey, as he suited up for the Guildford Flames.













After helping the Flames to a second-place finish and being involved in a very tight title fight, Ben was again named British Player of the Year in the Elite League and over his two seasons in Guildford, he totalled 100 points in 136 games. O'Connor has also been involved with Team GB for every season since 2013, as he helped the nation to claim two Gold Medals (2017-2018 & 2022-2023) and was named the Best Defender at the World Championships three times (2014-2017).

Coming into this season and his 23-year-career so far he has featured in 1292 matches, recorded 289 goals, 662 assists and collected 935 penalty minutes, while also playing in 92 playoff games, where he tallied 50 points (17G, 33A) and 80 penalty minutes.

# LEAGUE STATS

## SEASON 2024/25

										
Total Games Played	38	38	37	41	38	38	38	35	35	36
Challenge Cup Games	12	10	10	12	12	12	10	10	10	10
League Games	26	28	27	29	26	26	28	25	25	26
Biggest Win	7-0 v Flyers	6-0 v Storm	9-2 v Flyers	7-0 v Flyers	4-1 v Stars	8-3 v Flyers	7-1 v Flyers	7-3 v Clan	9-2 v Blaze	9-0 v Flames
Biggest Loss	1-5 v Panthers v Clan	2-5 v Blaze	2-9 v Panthers	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	1-5 v Devils
Longest Win Streak	7	4	6	2	1	6	3	2	4	6
Longest Loss Streak	2	2	4	8	12	4	4	6	3	4
Current Streak	2 Losses	1 Win	2 Wins	1 Loss	11 Losses	2 Losses	1 Win	2 Wins	1 Loss	5 Wins
Fastest Goal	00:39	00:50	00:18	01:08	01:32	00:08	00:21	00:29	00:56	00:14
Shut Out For	6	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	3	1
Shut Out Against	0	0	3	2	5	2	2	2	0	1
Empty Net Goals For	5	5	5	4	1	6	4	5	4	10
Empty Net Goals Against	5	5	2	6	7	11	3	4	3	2
Penalty Shots Scored	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Penalty Shots Conceded	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Total Goals Scored scored by Forwards	123	130	108	101	73	97	93	98	114	113
Powerplay	29	24	32	21	18	18	19	23	26	19
Even Strength	90	104	71	78	55	72	71	73	86	90
Shorthanded	4	2	5	2	0	7	3	2	2	4
Total Goals Scored scored by Defencemen	25	12	13	17	9	16	18	13	5	23
Powerplay	2	1	1	5	4	4	5	4	0	6
Even Strength	23	10	10	12	5	10	12	9	5	17
Shorthanded	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Forwards	75	89	96	137	166	106	104	123	78	86
Penalty Kill	20	18	24	22	27	28	24	31	15	17
Even Strength	53	70	68	109	137	75	77	87	58	69
Shorthanded	2	1	4	6	2	3	3	5	5	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Defencemen	13	7	18	19	22	15	14	17	11	13
Penalty Kill	3	2	4	2	5	3	5	3	3	2
Even Strength	10	5	13	17	15	10	9	14	8	10
Shorthanded	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Goals Scored Period 1	48	35	29	41	28	29	29	36	42	38
Goals Scored Period 2	46	56	40	37	28	37	39	42	37	44
Goals Scored Period 3	50	51	51	37	25	48	42	29	37	54
Goals Scored OT/SO	4	0	4	3	1	1	2	3	5	3
TOTAL Goals Scored	148	142	124	118	82	115	112	110	121	139
Goals Scored Per Game	3.89	3.74	3.35	2.88	2.16	3.03	2.95	3.14	3.46	3.86
Goals Conceded Period 1	27	30	43	47	58	27	39	40	17	36
Goals Conceded Period 2	27	28	32	55	63	39	43	58	37	32
Goals Conceded Period 3	30	35	37	52	66	55	38	44	35	29
Goals Conceded OT/SO	4	3	4	3	3	1	2	2	2	2
TOTAL Goals Conceded	88	96	116	157	190	122	122	144	91	99
Goals Against Per Game	2.32	2.53	3.14	3.83	5.00	3.21	3.21	4.11	2.60	2.75
Shots For P1	537	470	385	429	380	438	403	370	385	399
Shots For P2	520	475	421	467	355	443	408	352	371	419
Shots For P3	418	441	389	437	307	355	338	377	329	406
Shots For OT	14	3	20	12	6	0	15	8	15	11
TOTAL Shots For	1489	1389	1215	1345	1048	1236	1164	1107	1100	1235
Shots for Per Game	39.18	36.55	32.84	32.80	27.58	32.53	30.63	31.63	31.43	34.31
Shots Against P1	306	397	481	489	533	378	397	422	374	420
Shots Against P2	362	411	430	505	564	398	415	430	380	339
Shots Against P3	371	379	384	423	494	370	384	376	396	315
Shots Against OT	14	10	17	15	12	3	5	7	14	12
TOTAL Shots Against	1053	1197	1312	1432	1603	1149	1201	1235	1164	1086
Shots Against Per Game	27.71	31.50	35.46	34.93	42.18	30.24	31.61	35.29	33.26	30.17
League & Cup games played as at 06/01/2025										

League & Cup games played as at 06/01/2025



# ANDI IN THE ATTIC



## WE DON'T PLAY YOU ANYMORE: AYR BRUINS

In the early days of the Heineken era Flyers had some entertaining battles with Ayr Bruins. Bruins, who wore black and gold strips based on the uniform of NHL's Boston Bruins, were initially based in the Beresford Terrace rink in their initial Northern League seasons until that rink closed in 1972. Bruins were "mothballed" until they were reformed in 1974 and were re-admitted to the Northern League alongside Flyers.

From 1974 Bruins played their home matches at the Limekiln Road rink, which was actually built as a curling rink and was far smaller than Kirkcaldy Ice Rink, both in terms of spectator capacity and ice pad dimensions. That said, Limekiln Road had a bit of character and I enjoyed my visits there in the mid 1980's to see Flyers. The rink held 1000 spectators at a push, had minimal seating and was a place where the fans were only inches away from the action behind the netting.

Bruins had struggled through their time in the Northern League and in the first season of the British League in 1982/83, won only 3 out of 26 games, but some canny recruiting meant that in the first four seasons of the Heineken Premier Division, Ayr finished with at least a 0.500 record and qualified for the Play-Offs in each of these seasons.

A game that stands out for me between Flyers and Bruins was the play-off match at Kirkcaldy on Tuesday 15/04/86. Flyers had finished 5th in the league with 46 points, while Ayr had three more points and finished third, meaning that the teams would be placed in the same play-off group. Flyers had won both Autumn Cup group games between the clubs and the lone Scottish Cup group encounter, but Bruins had taken five out of eight points in the league, winning both games at Kirkcaldy, while Flyers won once at Ayr with the other match finishing in a 7-7 tie.

An incredible crowd of 2247 turned up to see Flyers, who had beaten Durham the previous Saturday, play Bruins. What made the size of the crowd remarkable was the fact that the game faced off at 11pm. The reason for the late start was that Ayr had refused to play on the original date, Wednesday 16/04/86, and Kirkcaldy Ice Rink was booked for curling earlier on the Tuesday evening, so the hockey started later than usual.



Despite outshooting the visitors 24-5 in the first period, Bruins took the lead and held on until Danny Brown equalised in the last minute of the period. Brown put Flyers ahead, but Kevin Conway scored his second for Bruins to level the score, Then John Gibson netted for Bruins to retake the lead in the last minute of the second.

Early in the third Andy Linton pulled Flyers level once more, but yet again Ayr went in front, this time through a goal from veteran Jackson McBride. The noise in the building was intense as Flyers pressed for the leveller and it was two locally trained players who sealed the win for Flyers, firstly Dean Edmiston and well after midnight Neil Abel (pictured) got the winner.

# ANDI IN THE ATTIC



The game also marked the competitive home farewell of Danny Brown and Chic Cottrell who announced his playing retirement earlier that week. Flyers won the return game at Ayr two nights later 10-5 to qualify for the Wembley finals weekend. In Bruins' line up for that late night game were future Flyers goalie, John "Bernie" McCrone and defenceman Ally Reid.

In the era of high scoring games, Bruins were the first team that I ever saw Flyers "shut out", the following season on 20/12/86. Flyers had won only four of eleven league starts and were toiling a bit when Ayr came to Kirkcaldy just before Christmas, but in reality it was a fairly easy win as Andy Donald only had 21 saves to claim Flyers' first ever Premier Division shut out and their first in competitive play since they blanked the Glasgow Dynamos on 26th February 1983.

Flyers' "goal machine" Dave Stoyanovich netted four times, Mike Jeffrey got two and a goal apiece from Al Sims and captain Gordon Latto gave Flyers an 8-0 victory. Jeffrey managed to get binned for fighting in the last period and only played a further three games for Flyers, before being released and replaced by Steve Moria. In Ayr's team that night were once again Messers McCrone and Reid.

Flyers last game against Bruins was on 25/03/89 in the Scottish Cup semi-final, held at Murrayfield. Flyers had performed poorly in the group stages, winning only two of six games and losing both ties against Bruins 4-9 at home and 8-9 away. Flyers finished third in the group and Ayr ended up second, meaning the teams would be paired together in the semis.

Flyers started well in the first period with goals from Jindrich Kokrement twice and one from Bobby Haig (pictured), but Ayr reduced the deficit to one before the end of the period.



Bruins took the second period 2-0 and the game was all but won within two minutes of the start of the third period, when Danny Shea made it 5-3 to Ayr. Gordon Latto, one of the few Flyers to emerge from this game with any credit made it 5-4, but John Gibson ended the scoring at 7-4 with a double.

Flyers' performance in their last game against Bruins was described by the Fife Free Press reporter as "lacklustre", and by all accounts it had been a poor display by Flyers. Bruins changed their name for the 1990/91 season to Ayr Raiders (as they had been post war) and at the time of writing there is no senior hockey played in Ayr and it looks unlikely that the sometimes intense games between Flyers and Bruins will be repeated any time soon.

ANDY  
RENSON





# RULES CORNER



We now look at the section of the rulebook dealing with Game Flow which is covered by Rules 76 to 87. In Part 1 rules 76 to 78

Again the full text of the IIHF rule is provided along with any annotations as per the EIHL Casebook.

## RULE 76 FACE-OFFS

### 76.1 FACE-OFF

The action of the Referee or Linesperson in dropping the puck between the sticks of two opposing Players to start or resume play is called a "face-off". A "face-off" begins when the Official indicates the "location of the "face-off" and the Officials and Players take their appropriate positions. The "face-off" ends when the puck has been legally dropped. A Goalkeeper may not participate in a "face-off".

### 76.2 FACE-OFF LOCATIONS

All "face-off" must be conducted on one of the nine (9) Face-off Spots located on the Rink. If two (2) rule violations are the reason for the stoppage of play (e.g.: "high-sticking the puck" and "intentional off-side"), the ensuing "face-off location" shall be determined as the spot that provides the least amount of "territorial advantage" to the offending Team. When the play is stopped for any reason not specifically attributable to either Team while the puck is in the Neutral Zone, the ensuing "face-off" shall be conducted at the nearest Face-off Spot outside the Blue Line whenever possible. When it is unclear as to which of the four (4) Face-off Spots is the nearest, the spot that gives the Home Team the greatest "territorial advantage" in the Neutral Zone will be selected for the ensuing "face-off". When Players are penalized at a stoppage of play so as to result in penalties being placed on the penalty time clock to one Team, the ensuing "face-off" shall be conducted at one of the two (2) Face-off Spots in the offending Team's Defending Zone. There are only three (3) exceptions to this application:

- (I) when a penalty is assessed after the scoring of a goal – "face-off" shall be conducted at Center ice;
- (II) when a penalty is assessed at the end (or start) of a period – "face-off" shall be conducted at Center ice;
- (III) or when the defending Team is penalized, and the attacking Players enter the Attacking Zone beyond the outer edge of the End Zone Face-off Circle – "face-off" shall be conducted in the Neutral Zone.

The Team awarded the "Power-Play" will have the choice of which End Zone spot the "face-off" will take place at to start the "Power-Play". When an infringement of a rule has been committed by Players of both Teams in the play resulting in the stoppage, the ensuing "face-off" will be conducted at the nearest Face-off Spot in that zone. When stoppage occurs between the end Face-off Spots and near end of the Rink, the puck shall be faced-off at the end Face-off Spot on the side where the stoppage occurs unless otherwise expressly provided by these rules. No "face-off" shall be made within 4.50 m of the goal or side Boards nor anywhere other than at a Face-off Spot. When a goal is illegally scored as a result of a puck being deflected directly off an Official, the resulting "face-off" shall be made at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone where the puck deflected off of the Official. When a goal is illegally scored by the attacking Team by "directing", "batting", "kicking" or "high-sticking" the puck into the goal, the resulting "face-off" shall take place in the Neutral Zone at the nearest Face-off Spot. When the game is stopped for any reason not specifically covered in the official rules, the puck must be "faced-off" at a Face-off Spot in the zone nearest to where it was last played. Following a stoppage of play, should one or both defensemen who are the "point Players" or any Player coming from the Players' Bench of the attacking Team, enter into the Attacking Zone beyond the outer edge of the End Zone Face-off Circle during an altercation, "gathering or scrum", the ensuing "face-off" shall take place in the Neutral Zone near the Blue Line of the defending Team. This rule also applies when an "icing", an "intentional off-side", or a penalty has been assessed, and the ensuing "face-off" is to be in the offending Team's Defending Zone. Should any of the non-offending Players enter the Attacking Zone beyond the outer edge of the End Zone Face-off Circle during an altercation, "gathering or scrum", the ensuing "face-off" shall take place in the Neutral Zone near the Blue Line of the defending Team. For a violation of Rule 71 – Premature Substitution, the resulting "face-off" will take place at the Center ice Face-off Spot when play is stopped beyond the Center red line. When play is stopped prior to the Center red line, the resulting "face-off" shall be conducted at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone where the play was stopped. When play is stopped for an injured Player, the ensuing "face-off" shall be conducted at the Face-off Spot in the zone nearest the location of the puck when the play was stopped. When the injured Player's Team has "control of the puck" in the Attacking Zone, the "face-off" shall be conducted at one of the Face-off Spots outside the Blue Line in the Neutral Zone. When the injured Player is in their Defending Zone and the attacking Team is



# RULES CORNER



in “control of the puck” in the Attacking Zone, the “face-off” shall be conducted at one of the defending Team’s end-zone Face-off Spots.

## **76.3 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE**

As soon as the line change procedure has been completed by the Referee and they lower their hand to indicate no further changes, the Linesperson conducting the “face-off” shall blow their whistle. This will signal to both Teams that they have no more than five (5) seconds to line up for the ensuing “face-off”. At the end of the five (5) seconds (or sooner if both centers are ready), the Linesperson will conduct a proper “face-off”.

However if:

- (I) One or both centers are not positioned for the “face-off”,
  - (II) One or both centers refrain from placing their stick on the ice,
  - (III) Any Player has encroached into the Face-off Circle,
  - (IV) Any Player makes physical contact with an opponent,
  - (V) Any Player who lines up for the “face-off” in an off-side position, or
  - (VI) One of the centers wins the face-off by using the skates,
- the Linesperson may assess a warning for a “face-off” violation prior to dropping the puck.

In the last two (2) minutes of regulation time or any time in Overtime, the Linesperson will still blow their whistle to initiate the “face-off”, but the five (5) second time limit will not be enforced. However, Players must abide by the verbal directions given by the Linesperson in their attempt to conduct a fast and fair “face-off”.

## **76.4 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE – CENTERS**

The puck shall be faced-off by the Referee or the Linesperson dropping the puck on the ice between the sticks of the Players facing-off. Players facing-off will stand squarely facing their opponent’s end of the Rink approximately one stick length apart with the blade of their sticks on the ice. When the “face-off” takes place at any of the nine Face-off Spots, the Players taking part shall take their position so that they will stand squarely facing their opponent’s end of the Rink, and clear of the ice markings (where applicable). The sticks of both Players facing-off shall have the blade on the ice, within the designated white area. At the eight (8) Face-off Spots (excluding Center ice Face off Spot), the defending Player shall place their stick within the designated white area first followed immediately by the attacking Player. When the “face-off” is conducted at the Center ice Face-off Spot, the visiting Player shall place their stick on the ice first. If a Player facing-off fails to take their proper position immediately when directed by the On-ice Official, the Official may assess a warning for a “face-off” violation. If a center is not at the designated “face-off” area once the five (5) second time limit has elapsed, the Linesperson will drop the puck immediately. If the center is back from the Face-off Spot, is “quarterbacking” or refuses to come into the “face-off” area when instructed to do so by the Linesperson, or the center is simply slow getting to the Face-off Spot when the five (5) seconds has elapsed, the puck shall be dropped. If the center attempts to arrive at the Face-off Spot just as the five seconds elapses in an attempt to gain an advantage to win the “face-off”, the center will be warned by the Linesperson that they have committed a “face-off” violation. If a Player received a warning for a “face-off” violation, they must come into position quickly or risk having the puck dropped by the Linesperson without the Player being set or will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” for a second “face-off” violation during the same “face-off”.

## **76.5 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE – OTHER PLAYERS**

No other Player shall be allowed to enter the Face-off Circle or come within 4.5 m of the Players facing-off. All Players must stand on-side on all “face-offs”. During end-zone “face-offs”, all other Players on the ice must position their bodies on their own side of the restraining lines marked on the outer edge of the Face-off Circles. If a Player other than the Player taking the “face-off” moves into the Face-off Circle prior to the dropping of the puck, then the offending Team taking the “face-off” shall receive a warning for a “face-off” violation. Players on the attacking Team (exclusive of the center) must establish their position first and then the defending Team may counter and hold its position until the puck is dropped. A violation of this procedure shall be treated as “face-off” encroachment and the Linesperson shall assess a warning for a “face-off” violation to the offending Team. Should an attacking Player attempt to establish a new position prior to the “face-off”, and the defending center steps back from the Face-off Spot in order to reposition their Teammates, the “face-off” violation shall be charged to the attacking Team as they must establish their position first.





# RULES CORNER



## 76.6 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE – VIOLATIONS

If a center should move prematurely prior to the “face-off”, or if the Referee or Linesperson shall have dropped the puck unfairly, the “face-off” shall be considered a “face-off” violation. A warning shall be issued to the offending Team and the “face-off” must be conducted again. When two (2) “face-off” violations have been committed by the same Team during the same “face-off”, this Team shall be penalized with a Bench Minor Penalty to the offending Team. This penalty shall be announced as a “Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” – Face-off Violation.” “Face-off” violations shall be summarized as follows (any of the four (4) On-ice Officials may identify a “face-off” violation):

(I) Encroachment by any Player other than the center into the “face-off” area prior to the puck being dropped. Players on the perimeter of the Face-off Circle must keep both skates outside the Face-off Circle – skate contact with the line is permitted. If a Player's skate crosses the line into the Face-off Circle prior to the drop of the puck, this shall be deemed as a “face-off” violation. A Player's stick may be inside the Face-off Circle provided there is no physical contact with their opponent or their opponent's stick.

(II) Encroachment by any Player into the area between the hash marks on the outer edges of the Face-off Circle prior to the puck being dropped. Players must also ensure that both of their skates do not cross their respective hash marks. Contact with the line with their skate is permitted. If a Player's skate crosses the line into the area between the hash marks prior to the drop of the puck, this shall be deemed as a “face-off” violation. A Player's stick may be inside the area between the hash marks provided there is no physical contact with their opponent or their opponent's stick.

(III) Any physical contact with an opponent prior to the puck being dropped. If either Player taking the “face-off” makes helmet-to-helmet contact with their opponent, they must receive a first “face-off” violation warning. If the Linesperson cannot differentiate which Player initiated the contact, both Players must receive a first “face-off” violation warning.

(IV) Failure by either center taking the “face-off” to “properly position themselves behind the restraining lines” or place their stick on the ice – as outlined in Rule 76.4 – Face-off Procedure – Centers.

“Properly position themselves behind the restraining lines” shall mean that the center must place their feet on either side of the restraining lines that are parallel to the side Boards (contact with the lines is permissible), and the toe of the blade of their skates must not cross over the restraining lines that are perpendicular to the side Boards as they approach the Face-off Spot. The blade of the stick must then be placed on the ice, at least the toe of the blade of the stick, in the designated white area of the Face-off Spot and must remain there until the puck is dropped.

(V) Failure to comply with this positioning and “face-off” procedure will result in a “face-off” violation. Whenever a Team has committed two (2) “face-off” violations during the same “face-off”, the Referee shall immediately assess the offending Team a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game”. This penalty shall be announced as a Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Face-off Violation. Players who are late to the “face-off” location and therefore in an off-side position for the ensuing “face-off” will be warned once in the game by the Referee. This warning will also be given to the offending Team's Coach. In this situation, the offending Team's center will not receive a warning for a “face-off” violation. Any subsequent violation shall result in a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” being assessed to the offending Team. This penalty shall be announced as a “Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” – Slow Proceeding to Face-off Location. In the conduct of any “face-off” at any of the nine (9) Face-off Spots on the playing surface, no Player facing-off shall make any physical contact with their opponent's body by means of their own body or by their stick except in the course of playing the puck after the “face-off” has been completed. For violation of this rule, the Referee may, at their discretion impose a Minor Penalty or penalties on the Player(s) whose action(s) caused the “physical contact”.

Nonetheless, this “physical contact” prior to the dropping of the puck shall be deemed as a “face-off” violation and the center will be warned by the Linesperson that the Team has committed a “face-off” violation and any subsequent violation will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” – “face-off” violation being assessed. “Face-off” encroachment may be applied during “face-offs” at any of the nine (9) Face-off Spots on the playing surface. However, since no such lines are painted on the ice at the four (4) Face-off Spots adjacent to the Blue Lines, Linespersons shall use their judgment as to whether or not a violation has occurred. All Players, other than the centers, shall be uniformly back from the “face-off” location similar to being outside the Face-off Circle for “face-offs” in the End Zones.



# RULES CORNER



## 76.7 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE – LINE CHANGES

No substitution of Players shall be permitted until the “face-off” has been completed and play has resumed except when a penalty is imposed which affects the on-ice strength of either Team. Should an On-ice Official notice that the defending Team has not placed enough Players on the ice for the ensuing “face-off”, the Referee in the Neutral Zone shall be notified and they will instruct the offending Team to place another Player(s) on the ice. If, in the opinion of the Referee that this is being done as a “stalling tactic”, they will issue a warning to the offending Team’s Coach and any subsequent violations shall result in the assessment of a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game”. Should an On-ice Official notice that the attacking Team has not placed enough Players on the ice for the ensuing “face-off”, the Linesperson will proceed with conducting the “face-off” in the normal manner. The attacking Team must ensure they put the appropriate number of Players on the ice at all times.

## 76.8 FACE-OFF PROCEDURE – VERIFICATION OF TIME

Any loss of time on the game or penalty clocks due to a false “face-off” or a “face-off” violation must be replaced. The Video Review Consultant may be consulted to ensure the time is accurately replaced. Rule 37.6 – Video Review to verify time on clock. The whistle will not be blown by the Official to start play. Playing time will commence from the instant the puck is “faced-off” and will stop when the whistle is blown, or a goal is scored.

## RULE 77 GAME AND INTERMISSION TIMING

### 77.1 GAME TIMING

The time allowed for a game shall be three (3) twenty-minute (20) periods of actual play with a rest intermission between periods.

### 77.2 INTERMISSION TIMING

Play shall be resumed promptly following each intermission upon the expiration of fifteen (15) minutes or a length of time designated by the IIHF from the completion of play in the preceding period. Timing of the intermission commences after termination of the period. Rule 34 – Game Timekeeper. For the purpose of keeping the spectators informed as to the time remaining during intermissions, the Game Timekeeper will use the electronic clock to record length of intermissions.

### 77.3 DELAYS

If any unusual delay occurs within 10 minutes of the end of the first or second periods, the Referee may order the next regular intermission to be taken immediately. The balance of the period will be completed on the resumption of play with the Teams defending the same goals after which the Teams will change ends and resume play of the ensuing period without delay.

## RULE 78 GOALS

### 78.1 GOALS AND ASSISTS

It is the responsibility of the Referees to award goals and report the “goal scorer” and “assists”, and their decision in this respect is final, notwithstanding the report of the Referee or any other Game Official. The Officials Scorekeeper, with the assistance of the Statistic staff will confirm the “goal scorer” and any Player deserving an “assist”. This decision is final in this regard and no changes can be made after the conclusion of the game. The use of video replay to verify the proper awarding of a goal or an assist is essential. Such awards shall be made or withheld strictly in accordance with the provisions of this rule. Therefore, it is essential that the Official Scorekeeper be thoroughly familiar with every aspect of this rule; be alerted to observe all actions which could affect the awarding of a goal or assist; and, above all, give or withhold awards with absolute impartiality. In case of an obvious error in awarding a goal or an assist that has been announced, it should be corrected promptly, but changes should not be made in the official scoring summary after the Referee has signed the game report. The Team scoring the greatest number of goals during the three (3) twenty-minute periods shall be the winner and shall be credited with three (3) points in the standings. In the event a winner during the Round Robin or Preliminary Round is determined in the Overtime period or the shootout, the winning Team shall be credited with two (2) points in the standings and the losing Team will be credited with one (1) point in the standings.





# RULES CORNER



## 78.2 CREDITING GOALS

A “goal” shall be credited in the scoring records to a Player who shall have propelled the puck into the opponent’s goal. Each “goal” shall count one point in the Player’s record. Only one point can be credited to any one Player on a goal.

## 78.3 CREDITING ASSISTS

When a Player scores a goal, an “assist” shall be credited to the Player or Players (maximum two) who touch the puck prior to the “goal scorer” provided no defender plays or has “control of the puck” subsequently. Each “assist” shall count one point in the Player’s record. Only one point can be credited to any one Player on a goal.

## 78.4 SCORING A GOAL

A goal shall be scored when the puck shall have been put between the Goal Posts by the stick of a Player of the attacking side, from in front and below the crossbar, and entirely across a red line the width of the diameter of the Goal Posts drawn on the ice from one Goal Post to the other with the goal frame in its proper position. The goal frame shall be considered in its proper position when at least a portion of the flexible peg(s) are still inside both the Goal post and the hole in the ice. The flexible pegs could be bent, but as long as at least a portion of the flexible peg(s) are still in the hole in the ice and the Goal Post, the goal frame shall be deemed to be in its proper position. The goal frame could be raised somewhat on one post (or both), but as long as the flexible pegs are still in contact with the holes in the ice and the Goal Posts, the goal frame shall not be deemed to be displaced. A goal shall be scored if the puck is shot into the goal by a Player of the defending side. The Player of the attacking side who last touched the puck shall be credited with the goal, but no assist shall be awarded. A goal shall be scored if the puck is put into the goal in any other manner by a Player of the defending side. The Player of the attacking side who last touched the puck shall be credited with the goal and assists may be awarded. If an attacking Player has the puck deflect into the net, off their skate or body, in any manner, the goal shall be allowed. The Player who deflected the puck shall be credited with the goal. Should a Player legally propel a puck into the Goal Crease of the opponent Team and the puck should become loose and available to another Player of the attacking side, a goal scored on the play shall be legal.

## 78.5 DISALLOWED GOALS

Apparent goals shall be disallowed by the Referee and the appropriate announcement made by the Public Address Announcer for the following reasons:

- (I) When the puck has been directed with any part of their body (excl. skates), batted or thrown into the net by an attacking Player other than with a stick. When this occurs, if it is deemed to be done deliberately, then the decision shall be NO GOAL. A goal cannot be scored when the puck has been deliberately batted with any part of the attacking Player’s body into the net Rule 78.4 – Scoring a Goal.
- (II) When the puck has been kicked using a distinct kicking motion Rule 49.2 – Kicking.
- (III) When the puck has deflected directly into the net off an official Rule 85.4 – Puck Striking Official.
- (IV) When a goal has been scored and an ineligible Player is on the ice → Rule 68.5 – Disallowed Goal.
- (V) When an attacking Player has interfered with a Goalkeeper in their Goal Crease → Rule 69.1 – Interference on the Goalkeeper.
- (VI) When the puck has entered the net after making contact with an attacking Player’s stick that is above the height of the crossbar. Where the puck makes contact with the stick is the determining factor Rule 80.3 – Disallowed Goal.
- (VII) When Video Review confirms the scoring of a goal at one end of the ice, any goal scored at the other end on the same play must be disallowed Rule 37.2 – Video Review.
- (VIII) When a Linesperson reports a Double-minor Penalty for high-sticking or a Major Penalty to the Referee following the scoring of a goal by the offending Team, the goal must be disallowed, and the appropriate penalty assessed Rule 32.4 – Reporting to Referee.
- (IX) When a Goalkeeper has been pushed into the net together with the puck after making a save Rule 69.7 – Rebounds and Loose Pucks.
- (X) When the net becomes displaced accidentally. 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. However, if this occurs as a result of the actions of a defending player, refer to Rule 63.7 – Awarded Goal.



# RULES CORNER



(XI) During the delayed calling of a penalty, the offending Team cannot score unless the non-offending Team shoots the puck into their own net. This shall mean that a deflection off an offending Player or any physical action by an offending Player that may cause the puck to enter the non-offending Team's goal, shall not be considered a legal goal. Play shall be stopped before the puck enters the net (whenever possible) and the signalled penalty assessed to the offending Team;

(XII) When the Referee deems the play has been stopped, even if they have not physically had the opportunity to stop play by blowing their whistle;

(XIII) Any goal scored, other than as covered by the official rules, shall not be allowed.

## **IIHL Addendum**

### **RULE 77-GAME AND INTERMISSION TIMING**

#### **77.2 Intermission Timing**

***Periods are separated by an intermission of minimum 15 minutes and maximum 18 minutes. These must be consistent throughout the duration of the game. The ice must be resurfaced prior to the start of each period (excepting 5 minute and 10 minute overtime periods). Note the ice will only be resurfaced before a 20-minute overtime period.***



# HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

**Darrian Wilson**

Flyers welcomed Charles-Antoine Paiement to the team last weekend and whilst the team couldn't quite find their way back to winning ways he did manage to bag a goal early doors down in Guildford last Sunday before Flames pulled away and delivered another confidence bruising loss on the road.

That was after Flyers came very close to securing points at home against Coventry Blaze in a hotly competed match up on Saturday, Blaze flattering the scoreline late in the game as Flyers pushed hard to find an equaliser to guarantee at least one deserved point from that game. Flyers sole goal came off a beautifully delivered pass from Janis Voris as he stroked the puck from his own goal line all the way to the opposing blue line to find Lucas Chiodo before he raced in on goal and selflessly passed to the ever impressing Kieran Craig. That one may be on highlight reels for years to come.

Whilst Brodie Kay was off on his travels with the GB U20 squad the hole that left in Flyers D was noticeable and that goes to show just how important to the team Brodie has become. We will look back on this season and certainly more recent games where the like of Brodie, Ben Brown and Aiden Wilson have been afforded more ice time due to Flyers playing short and none of those guys look out of place. Ben and Aiden in particular have faced a steep transition curve.

Also trying to skate up a steep learning curve without a paddle have been Massimo Carozza, Ryan Foss, Jordy Stallard and Kieran Craig. Whilst Massimo has settled in quicker, likely due to his prior experience in the league, the other three have had the kind of introduction to the league that would scare some people away.....and has done. I've found myself being overly critical of the big guys in particular, them having been brought in for their size and offering zero physical presence up to now. The however moment is that these guys have to preserve themselves from game to game or it really leaves everyone else paddling up a creek without a canoe.

Whilst it's helpful that every other team is knocking each other off like coconuts off a shy the gap has still been expanding. As much as I'd like to see Flyers

getting towards a play-off spot, I think my own wishes for the team would be to see the guys getting back to enjoy playing the game and getting some success each weekend. I genuinely feel for the guys as there's fewer things worse than being kicked whilst you're down and up till now the team has taken a fair kicking. Again I'd like to share my thanks to the guys for sticking with us and keeping Elite hockey alive in the Auld Barn.

This weekend Flyers get another crack at Dundee Stars as they cross the Tay and head back to the Auld Barn for the first time this year.... Stars have had some pretty decent results which belies their eighth position in the league and ninth place Manchester are only one point behind them with four games in hand. Stars may be sixteen points ahead of Flyers but are still staring into the rough that is early post season golf. Perhaps surprisingly but just as mirth inducing is Clan topping out the bottom section of the league table in seventh as a distinct gap starts to appear. The definition of good money after bad?

To think, after taking a look at the three Scottish teams in pre-season I thought there was an opportunity for another Scottingham Play-Offs this April. Now we would be lucky to see one team make it past the qualifiers.

On Sunday Flyers travel to play the much unloved Steelers, a theme that does seem common ground between the nine other teams in the league. Steelers themselves struggled with some consistency with their league campaign, possibly still living off the milk and honey from their continental run and how often do we see teams do well in these competitions to have a terrible run of domestic action?

They have put together a wee run of fortune though Steelers were the last team Flyers beat so if nothing is brewing on Saturday for Flyers it may be apt to stick it to the puffed up divas down Sheffield way to get ourselves back on track. Steelers are still in touch with top placed Cardiff but insult may be on the horizon as Danny Stewart's Panthers snap at their heels just a solitary point behind. It's the wee things that keep me cheered up.

Have yourself a happy hockey weekend.

Darrian

# Matchnight

## PRESENTATIONS

COVENTRY BLAZE JANUARY 4TH 2025



**BLAZE MOM**  
**ALESSIO LUCIANI**



**FLYERS MOM**  
**JĀNIS VORIS**



**SHIRT OFF**  
**BACK WINNER**





## WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

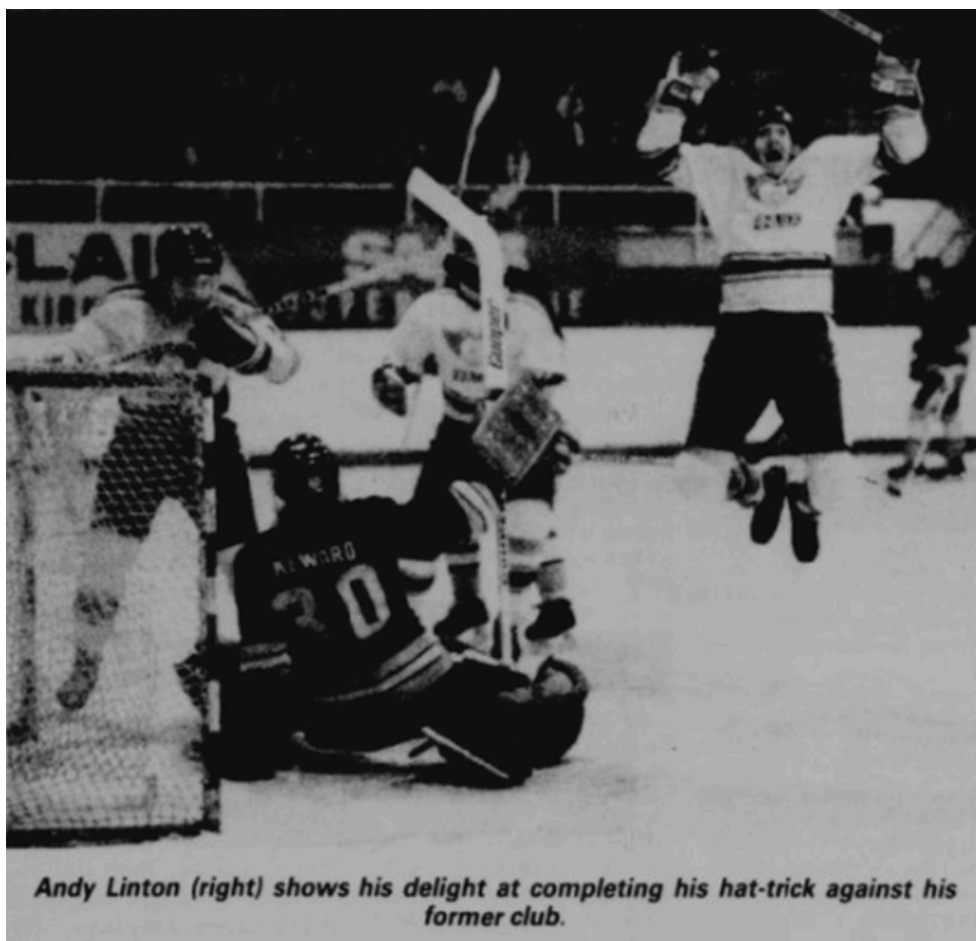
Fife Flyers will take a giant step towards the Heineken Premier League title if they can defeat close rivals Murrayfield Racers in Edinburgh on Sunday night. The Kirkcaldy side currently hold a two point advantage at the top of the table but Racers have a game in hand so the importance of Sunday's match is obvious. Before then however Flyers must overcome the challenge of Nottingham Panthers at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink tomorrow night. Ron Plumb's men will not be expected to slip up against the English side and the big match as far as fans are concerned will be at Murrayfield. However Plumb pointed out yesterday "This is a very big weekend for us but we must take one game at a time. Obviously a win over Murrayfield would put us in the driving seat but there are still a lot of key games to be played." While Flyers meet Nottingham tomorrow several of the Racers squad will be involved in a match between a Scottish Select and English Select at Stratham. Flyers were asked to release players for this game but declined on the grounds that they did not want let their fans down by either postponing the Nottingham fixture or even consider playing under strength. There are no injury problems in the Flyers camp for this weekend with Stuart Drummond having shaken off the achilles tendon trouble which kept him out of last Saturday's match against Cleveland. One familiar face who will be missing from Flyers line-up from now on is Allan Anderson who is reverting to coaching the U13 side. Anderson however will remain a signed player for use in emergencies. Another move this week saw young winger Gary Smith return to Glasgow Dynamos whom he left to join Flyers towards the end of last season. Smith has failed to gain a regular place in the Kirkcaldy side and was released at his own request. Meanwhile, Flyer second attempt to set up a world record for the shooting speed of a puck on Saturday again fell victim to technical difficulties. The record bid by Dave Stoyanovich, Danny Brown Ron Plumb, Neil Abel and Brian Peat had to be abandoned due to faulty equipment which gave a series of erratic readouts.

### **26/01/1985 Fife Flyers v Nottingham Panthers Premier League**

Andy Linton, the man who returned to Fife Flyers earlier this season after three years with Nottingham, scored the first hat-trick of his second spell at Kirkcaldy against his former team on Saturday night. It was an invaluable contribution in a match which Flyers never really looked like losing, but did not produce anything like their best form. The Kirkcaldy side did not play with their usual rhythm, and apart from Linton, the outstanding performance came from player-coach Ron Plumb whose brilliant work in defence did much to blunt the Panthers' attack. Although Flyers' finishing might have been better, Nottingham netminder Keward kept the score down with a fine display. Flyers picked up three penalties in the first six minutes, but Panthers only found a way past Andrew Donald once when ex-Flyer Robin Andrews scored an unassisted effort from just inside the blue line. It took the home side until the ninth minute to get back on level terms, with Dave Stoyanovich skating the length of the ice before setting up the simplest of chances for Andy Linton to sweep the puck into the empty net. There was a let-off for Flyers when McDonald was clean through but sent his shot against the post, and they celebrated by taking the lead after 17 minutes. Some neat inter-play between Brown and Stoyanovich saw the puck moved inside to Linton, and he turned brilliantly to fire a low shot right into the corner. Flyers' defence was again caught out just before the buzzer when Gauthier went clean through, but this time Donald made a fine save. However, the Canadian made no mistake when he was presented with a similar opportunity five minutes after the restart and made it 2-2. It took Flyers just two minutes to regain the lead with a power play goal, Danny Brown lifting the puck high into the net past the helpless netminder. And with Nottingham again under penalty, Flyers increased their lead midway through the period when a Stoyanovich shot was blocked by Keward, and Jimmy Pennycook made no mistake with the rebound. The visitors pulled back to 4-3 eight minutes into the final when Eratt scored with a fierce shot, but within 60 seconds a low shot by Ron Plumb found the corner of the net through a forest of legs. Four minutes later, another Plumb pile-driver came back off the keeper and Linton was on the spot to complete his hat-trick. Although McDonald brought the score to 6-4, Dave Stoyanovich grabbed his only goal of the night when he flicked home a Brian Peat effort to complete the scoring.



## WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85



*Andy Linton (right) shows his delight at completing his hat-trick against his former club.*

### **27/01/1985 Murrayfield Racers v Fife Flyers Premier League**

An inspired performance by Murrayfield netminder Moray Hanson prevented Fife Flyers taking both points in Sunday's top of the table thriller in Edinburgh. After being put through the mill in the first period, Flyers got better and better as the match progressed, and Racers were a very relieved side to hear the final buzzer. The match was watched by a crowd of 3800 — the largest attendance at an ice hockey game in Scotland for more than 25 years — with the Flyers' contingent outnumbering the home support. This created a superb atmosphere in the Murrayfield rink, and it was the home side who drew first blood in the eighth minute. After a scramble in front of the Fife goal the puck was cleared to the point from where Paul Heavy fired past the helpless Andrew Donald. Racers were clearly on top at this stage and they went 2-0 ahead after 12 minutes when Tony Hand broke away to score from the right wing. However, Flyers kept plugging away and they pulled a vital goal back two minutes from the interval when Danny Brown won a face off and Andy Linton gave Dave Stoyanovich a simple chance. The second period was very tightly contested with Flyers coming more into the game but neither side managed to add to their score. Murrayfield did however have a couple of powerplay opportunities and at one stage were skating five against three with Ron Plumb and Dave Stoyanovich under penalty but brilliant defensive play by Gordon Latto, Stuart Drummond and Danny Brown kept them out. However Racers went 3-1 ahead early in the third period when a shot by ex-Flyer Gordon MacDougall was blocked and Lindsay Lovell followed up to score. Although Flyers took a firm grip of the match Hanson continued to defy them until Murrayfield were left shorthanded with Tony Hand and Chris Kelland off the ice. Skipper Gordon Latto made it 3-2 with a shot into the top corner, and within 30 seconds the Kirkcaldy side were back on level terms when Jimmy Pennycook made no mistake after being left all on his own at the back post. Flyers dominated the last 10 minutes, but found Hanson in magnificent form, with saves from Stoyanovich and Plumb in the unbelievable category. Murrayfield were outshot 47-31 and resorted to icing the puck to relieve the pressure on their over-worked defence. Flyers achieved this result despite a leg injury to Danny Brown sustained against Nottingham the previous night, while Dave Stoyanovich played despite illness.



# KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB



Kirkcaldy Ice Hockey Club enjoyed a productive start to 2025, with three teams recording victories over the weekend.

**Fife Falcons** showed plenty of attacking intent at Lightning Pirates U19, out-shooting the hosts 61-13 during the game.

However, they were made to sweat before finally securing a 2-1 victory, with Cole Wallace's 56th-minute goal adding to Jake Blyth's earlier effort.

Joe Somerville was the Falcons' MVP.

**Fife Phantoms** had an easier time as they claimed an impressive 14-2 home win over Kilmarnock U14.

Ryan Venters, who also won the MVP award, and Charlie McLean topped the scoring with four goals apiece.

At senior level, **Kirkcaldy Kestrels** started their 2025 fixtures in style with a hugely impressive 5-3 victory at Edinburgh Capitals.

The Capitals took an early lead, but Scott Jamieson levelled the scoreline in the 18th minute.

Grant Jamieson put the Kestrels 2-1 ahead after 24 minutes, but two goals either side of the second buzzer moved the home side back in front.

However, three goals in the final seven minutes secured a stylish win for Steven Wishart's side.

Kyle Horne, Kian Shevlin and Allan Anderson hit the target as the Kestrels put a dent in the Capitals' title hopes.

The result moved the Kestrels five points behind the Murrayfield-based side with a game in hand.

The team are back in action at North Ayrshire Wild on Saturday (6.30 pm). The next home game is against Aberdeen Lynx on January 18th (6.30 pm).



Derek Young Photography













Derek Young Photography



# TABLES & FIXTURES

## SEASON 2024/25

### ELITE LEAGUE

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %	
Cardiff Devils	28	40	19	0	7	2	100	65	0.71	
Belfast Giants	26	37	15	2	6	3	99	65	0.71	
Sheffield Steelers	26	34	16	1	9	0	101	69	0.65	
Nottingham Panthers	26	33	13	3	9	1	90	62	0.63	
Coventry Blaze	27	32	13	2	10	2	92	81	0.59	
Guildford Flames	27	31	13	2	11	1	89	86	0.57	
Glasgow Clan	26	24	11	1	14	0	75	88	0.46	
Dundee Stars	29	22	8	2	17	2	90	118	0.38	
Manchester Storm	25	21	9	1	14	1	81	103	0.42	
Fife Flyers	26	6	2	0	22	2	54	134	0.12	

As at 6th January 2025

### WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
136	Fri	10-Jan-2025	Belfast Giants	Nottingham Panthers	19:00
137	Fri	10-Jan-2025	Glasgow Clan	Cardiff Devils	19:30
138	Sat	11-Jan-2025	Belfast Giants	Nottingham Panthers	19:00
139	Sat	11-Jan-2025	Glasgow Clan	Guildford Flames	19:00
140	Sat	11-Jan-2025	Manchester Storm	Cardiff Devils	19:00
141	Sat	11-Jan-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Coventry Blaze	19:00
142	Sat	11-Jan-2025	Fife Flyers	Dundee Stars	19:15
143	Sun	12-Jan-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Fife Flyers	16:00
144	Sun	12-Jan-2025	Dundee Stars	Nottingham Panthers	17:00
145	Sun	12-Jan-2025	Coventry Blaze	Manchester Storm	17:30

# 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	Lost	1-6
Sunday Dec 22nd	Belfast Giants	League	A	16:00	POST	
Thursday Dec 26th	Dundee Stars	League	H	18:30	Lost	2-3

# FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Dec 28th	Dundee Stars	League	A	19:00	Lost	2-7
Monday Dec 30th	Glasgow Clan	League	H	19:15	Lost	3-8
Tuesday Dec 31st	Glasgow Clan	League	A	14:00	Lost	1-5
Saturday Jan 4th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	19:15	Lost	1-3
Sunday Jan 5th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00	Lost	1-7
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		
Wednesday Mar 26th	Belfast Giants	League	A	19:00		
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		





# WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



*Pettycur Bay Holiday Park*

For information on commercial opportunities with Fife Flyers, please email: [commercial@fifeflyers.co.uk](mailto:commercial@fifeflyers.co.uk)