



THE FLYER







VS



SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025
ELITE LEAGUE

MATCH REPORT

Friday 14th February 2025				8		1	Elite League	
Period Scores 3-1, 3-0, 2-0								
Line ups	Shane Owen	Starter	Noah Delmas	✗	James Spence	✗	Massimo Carozza	✓
	Jānis Voris	BackUp	Olivier LeBlanc	✓	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	✗		
			Jonas Emmerdahl	✓	Charles-Antoine Paiement	✓		
	Dalton	Refs	Lukosevicius		Nelson	Lines men	Ward	

The Flyers made their first trip of the season on league business to Belfast. Returning to the Fife line up was Jonas Emmerdahl wearing number 18 who replaced Noah Delmas after his move to Injured Reserve following confirmation of a season ending injury. Brodie Kay and Aiden Wilson were also out injured but Kieran Craig was back in the lineup. The Giants who hold a commanding lead at the top of the standings were without long term injury victim Joe Casseti as well as scratches Bobo Carpenter, Grant Mismash and Karl Boudrias.

The home side opened the scoring inside 90 seconds as they dominated the puck in the Flyers end and Jordan Kawaguchi found Captain Mark Cooper with a no look back hand pass and he had a lot of net to shoot at to give the Giants the lead. The Flyers responded well and Lucas Chiodo broke into the zone in the 3rd minute to feed Michael Cichy who saw his shot from around the circles flash just wide of the net. The Flyers regained the puck with Tyler Heidt gaining the zone before dropping the puck for Kieran Craig who went cross ice with his pass and Massimo Carozza skated in to fire a shot that found a gap five hole on Tom McCollum. A minute later and the Flyers almost had the lead as Phélix Martineau forced a turnover in the Giants zone and the puck went to Cichy who found Chiodo who rang a shot off the post. The Giants went the other way and Owen made a good save before the rebound also struck metal. Pierre-Olivier Morin almost capitalised on a loose puck but Owen made a block as the opening 7 minutes saw a wide open game with both sides creating lots of chances. In the 8th minute Martineau set up Cichy for a one timer that had McCollum scrambling and a minute later Cameron Pound had two chances from close range but fired the puck high over the net on both occasions. On almost the halfway mark of the period JJ Piccinich picked the puck up in his own zone and skated deep into the Flyers end before cutting across the ice and went against the grain with his shot which found the corner of the net on the stick side of Owen. The Giants really started to dominate possession at this stage and in the 12th minute Kyle Osterberg had a big one time blast from above the circles swallowed by Owen. In the 13th minute Scott Conway was the trailing player in Giants breakout but he fired wide of the net from the slot. David Goodwin on the follow up was denied and finally Owen got a stop in play as he held on to a Piccinich effort. Owen made a kick save on Pound in the 15th minute. The Flyers had a chance in the 17th minute when Ben Brown stepped in off the half boards and McCollum was at full stretch to glove his back hand effort. The Giants increased their lead in the 18th minute when Cooper took the puck to the net passed to Elijah Barriga who whiffed on his shot which froze Owen and the puck slithered to Morin who found the net.

PERIOD 2

The Giants put the game to bed in the opening minutes of the second period. They added a fourth goal 23 seconds in when Gabe Bast found space for himself in the slot and his shot squeaked through Owen. 17 seconds later the Giants scored again as the home side passed the puck around smartly and Kawaguchi skated in from the bottom of the left circle and roofed the puck over the shoulder of Owen.

MATCH REPORT

In the 24th minute it was the home side again who were just too crisp for the visiting defence with their puck control and Kawaguchi again on the left side had space this time to fire low past Owen. The Flyers cause wasn't helped in the 26th minute when Charles-Antoine Paiement left the game favouring his leg and he would not return. The Giants went on the first power play of the night in the 26th minute when Emmerdahl got the gate for cross checking. A Bast wrister was turned away by Owen who then blocked a Morin one timer and with the penalty time almost elapsed Barriga tried a through the legs effort that was thwarted as the Flyers completed the kill. Back at full strength for less than a minute the Flyers went short handed again as Austin Farley was called for a trip on Ben Lake who had broken through into the Flyers zone. The Flyers once again did a good job on the kill and Giants didn't get any really clear looks at goal as the visitors once again returned to even strength without any further damage on the scoreboard. The Flyers first shot of the period came in the 38th minute when McCollum made a solid stop on Martineau and moments later the Giants keeper again had to look sharp as Heidt carried the puck into the zone and from an angle got a shot away that had to be stopped.

PERIOD 3

The Giants were quick of the mark in the third period when they added another one in the opening minute. Piccinich couldn't get his shot away in the slot but he slipped the puck behind him to Scott Conway who had a lot of net to shoot at with Owen trying in vain to get across his goal. In the 42nd minute Patrick Kyte played goalie as he blocked a shot on the line but Kieran Craig was called for a hook on the play that sent the Giants back onto the power play. It was another solid kill for the Flyers as they returned to full strength without the Giants creating any quality scoring chances. In the 44th minute Jeff Baum tried to go short side on Owen who shut him down. A minute later and the Flyers keeper got a piece of a shot by Goodwin and as the puck spun up into the air it was scrambled clear of the net. The Flyers went on their only power play of the game in the 50th minute as Ciaran Long sat for a cross check. A shot from Olivier LeBlanc from the high slot was tracked by McCollum who made a fine shoulder save and just as the time was expiring the Belfast keeper made another save this time to deny Kyte. The home side returned to the power play in the 55th minute when Kyte was called for a cross check on Barriga and this time the Giants made their advantage count. A shot from Morin forced a pad save from Owen but the rebound fell kindly for Kawaguchi to bag his hattrick into a gaping net. Flyers had the last chance of the game when McCollum made routine save on a shot from distance by Daniel Krenželok.

Giants Stats					Flyers Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Cooper	Kawaguchi	Hanson	1	Carozza	Craig	Heidt	For	
61	Piccinich	Conway	Roach	2				12	
Shots	Morin	Cooper	Barriga	3				Shots	
Against	Bast	Goodwin	Piccinich	4				Against	
12	Kawaguchi	Cooper	Lake	5				61	
PiMS	Kawaguchi	Conway	Hanson	6				PiMS	
2	Conway	Piccinich	Bast	7				8	
	Kawaguchi	Lake	Morin	8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Kawaguchi				10				Carozza	

GIANTS

MATCH NIGHT

ACTION



BELFAST GIANTS



GETTING TO KNOW #94

KIERAN CRAIG

Date of Birth - August 17, 2001

Position - Forward

Age - 23

Height - 180cm / 5'11"

Place of Birth - Alexandria, Ontario

Weight - 85 kg / 187lbs

Shoots - Left

Professional Career

2023-24 Florida Everblades (ECHL), Cincinnati Cyclones (ECHL)



#94 WE ASKED...

What other sports did you play growing up?

Soccer, Golf, Hockey

Who is the best player you have played against?

Alexis Lafrenière

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

Cheer for - Toronto Maple Leafs and dislike the Montreal Canadians

Most admired hockey player and why?

Crosby, does everything the right way and is always the hardest worker on the ice

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

The best quality you can have as a hockey player is "HEART".

Pre-game meal?

Chicken and pasta or steak and sweet potatoes

Any gameday superstitions?

None

Favourite other sport(s) to play?

Golf, Wakesurfing

Favourite other sport(s) to watch?

Football

Favourite athlete (non hockey)?

Josh Allen

Favourite sports team (non hockey)?

Buffalo Bills

Which do you prefer books or movies?

Movies

Favourite TV show(s)?

Ballers

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

Steak and sweet potatoes

Favourite beverage (non alcoholic/alcoholic)?

Milk

Favourite singer/music/band?

Morgan Wallen

What is your favourite vacation destination?

Anywhere warm, beach, ocean

What was your favourite and least favourite subject in school?

Gym – Favourite

History- Least Favourite

What is your go to Karaoke song?

Mr Brightside

Have you ever had a nickname?





What is it?

Craiger

How many languages do you speak?

French and English

MATCH REPORT

Sunday 16th February 2025				2		6	Elite League	
Period Scores 0-3, 1-1, 1-2								
Line ups	Shane Owen	Starter	Noah Delmas	✗	James Spence	✓	Massimo Carozza	✓
	Jānis Voris	BackUp	Olivier LeBlanc	✓	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	✗	Joe Lynch	✓
			Jonas Emmerdahl	✓	Charles-Antoine Paiement	✗		
	Rodger	Refs	Craig		Rodger	Lines men	Thorpe	

The Flyers welcomed Cardiff to Kirkcaldy for their second visit of the season. The home side scratched Charles-Antoine Paiement, Aiden Wilson, Ben Brown and Cameron Kenny with James Spence and Joe Lynch added to their lineup. The Devils who have endured a well publicised injury crisis were without Ben Davies, Brett Perlini, Duke Reid, Riley Brandt, Jarrod Gourley and Hunter Shinkaruk.

The opening spell of the game saw neither side create any clear cut chances but with 2 minutes exactly on the clock Evan Mosey played a cross ice pass from the point to Joey Martin who was positioned down low at the back post and he roofed the puck from an angle over Shane Owen. A minute later Owen did well to stop a close in effort from Gleason Fournier. The Flyers responded in the 4th minute when Austin Farley combined with Kieran Craig who saw his one timer kicked away by Ben Bowns. A minute later and the Flyers went close again when Lucas Chiodo stole in at the back post but couldn't quite direct the puck on net. Phélix Martineau and Craig combined in the 7th minute and from close in Craig just failed to get a touch on the puck as it flashed just past the post. Moments later however the Devils doubled their lead when a Cody Donaghey shot rebounded off the pads of Owen and fell nicely for Bradley Schoonbaert who had the easy task of finding the wide open net. Massimo Carozza then fired just wide in the 9th minute from the slot. In the 12th minute the Devils went on the first man advantage of the night when Olivier LeBlanc was called for boarding. Jonas Emmerdahl made a big shot block on Josh MacDonald before Owen made a fine pad save on Cole Sanford as the Flyers completed the kill and returned to even strength. In the 15th minute the Devils took a decisive three goal lead when Mosey cruised down from the circles and his shot found a space under the pad of Owen.

PERIOD 2

The second period opened with Owen making double save in the first minute when he denied Tyler Busch with a couple of full stretch leg saves. The Devils were adopting a shoot on sight policy with a lot of their efforts coming from the perimeter but it kept Owen busy on the opening minutes of the period. The Flyers were gradually starting to get more zone time in the Devils end of the ice and Bowns made a terrific pad save on Chiodo in the 28th minute as the Flyers enjoyed a dominant shift around the visitors net. At the other end a minute later Owen denied Zach O'Brien with a pad save. The Devils almost added another in the 31st minute but Busch saw his effort sit against the post after Owen got a piece of it and the Fife keeper flopped on the puck to get the stoppage in play.

MATCH REPORT

The Flyers went on the power play in the 34th minute when Schoobaert was called for a trip on Daniel Krenželok. The Devils kill was effective however with the Flyers failing to get anything set up around Bowns net. The home side reduced the deficit in the 38th minute when Krenželok who had taken some shifts on the wing burst through the centre of the Devils defence and his shot stick side on Bowns found the side of the net. In the 39th minute Sanford was shut down by Owen but before the buzzer the visitors regained their three goal cushion when Kohen Olishefski went to the net and stick handled the puck around Owen to slide it home. In the dying seconds there was a coming together between Martineau and Donaghey on the edge of the Flyers crease with both receiving double minors for roughing and the Devils player getting an extra 2 minutes for a cross check.

PERIOD 3

The Flyers power play to start the third saw a drive from Chiodo turned away by Bowns as the Devils completed the kill. Owen flashed the leather to glove a shot to the top corner by Martin in the 43rd minute. He was beaten however on the next shift when Sanford went top shelf over his stick to add another for the Devils. The Flyers responded with a goal in the 47th minute when Krenželok fired the puck from the blueline and Carozza net front got a tip on it to beat Bowns. In the 49th minute Bowns made an instinctive save as a cross crease pass by Emmerdahl intended for Joe Lynch struck a skate an almost snuck past the Devils netminder. In the 51st minute Carozza was given the gate for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after disputing a non-call. Owen went post to post to stop Olishefski but the Flyers again came up with another solid kill. Bowns made a blocker save in the 54th minute on a Krenželok drive from the blue line. In the 55th minute Martin was penalised for a hook as the Flyers returned to the power play. Craig went close with a scramble around the net and Mark Richardson sacrificed his body twice to make big shot blocks as the Devils returned to full strength. The Devils added another in the final minute when Mosey picked up the puck in the circle and his snapshot found the corner of the net on Owen's glove side.

Flyers Stats					Devils Stats				
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
For	Krenželok	Emmerdahl	LeBlanc	1	Martin	MacDonald	Mosey	For	
21	Carozza	Krenželok	Craig	2	Schoonbaert	Donaghey	Busch	43	
Shots				3	Mosey	MacDonald	Richardson	Shots	
Against				4	Olishefski	O'Brien		Against	
43				5	Sanford	Olishefski	O'Brien	21	
PiMS				6	Mosey	MacDonald	MacWilliam	PiMS	
8				7				10	
				8					
MOM				9				MOM	
Krenželok				10				Mosey	

DEVILS
MATCH NIGHT
ACTION



JILLIAN MCFARLANE
& DEREK YOUNG



DOING THE NUMBERS

Flyers Stats 2024/25

Players	Pos	GP	Tot G	Tot A	Tot Pts	PP A	SH A	Ev A	PiMs	S	S %	GAA	SO	PS S	TOI	GC
Shane Owen	G	45	0	2	2	0	0	2	10	1656	0.89	5	0	0	2278	190
Brython Preece	G	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luca Tessadri	G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caiden MacColl	G	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jānis Voris	G	25	0	1	1	0	0	1	31	515	0.87	5.45	0	0	716	65
Cameron Kenny	G	21	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	46	2	15	17	1	7	8			0	1	8	9	16	55
Madi Dikhanbek	D	27	0	2	2			0			0		2	2	12	42
Tyler Heidt	D	49	6	13	19	2	3	5		1	1	4	9	13	38	83
Brodie Kay	D	37	0	0	0			0			0			0	4	24
Daniel Krenželok	D	49	4	8	12	1	3	4			0	3	5	8	44	159
Patrick Kyte	D	42	3	5	8	1	1	2			0	2	4	6	45	61
Olivier LeBlanc	D	43	0	10	10		2	2			0		8	8	51	37
Fynn Page	D	11	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Josh Saunders	D	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	1
Jonas Emmerdahl	D	3	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	2	3
	D	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Lucas Chiodo	F	49	14	30	44	5	8	13			0	9	22	31	12	132
Michael Cichy	F	49	17	18	35	8	4	12			0	9	14	23	12	100
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	35	4	9	13	1	1	2			0	3	8	11	10	58
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	43	20	19	39	5	7	12		1	1	15	11	26	37	156
Maxim Musorov	F	23	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	12	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	0	6
Ryan Foss	F	35	6	12	18	1	7	8			0	5	5	10	49	60
Aiden Wilson	F	14	0	0	0			0			0			0	4	3
Massimo Carozza	F	29	9	9	18	1	4	5			0	8	5	13	4	53
Jordan Stallard	F	27	2	5	7		2	2			0	2	3	5	10	39
Ben Brown	F	19	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	0	19
Kieran Craig	F	16	8	5	13	2		2	1		1	5	5	10	12	55
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	2	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Charles-Antoine Paiement	F	12	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	2	29
Players in BLUE are everresents																
Inc All Competitions																
Figures as at 20/02/2025																
Totals			109	190	297	29	57	86	1	2	3	79	128	207	451	1367
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 - Craig	2 - Cichy 1 - Musorov Krenželok Chiodo Martineau	1 - Pilon	9

WEEK 24 – FLYERS STATS RECAP

On Friday night.....

Belfast Giants 8 Fife Flyers 1 - Elite League

The 61 Giants shots is the most that the Flyers have conceded in a game this season and the most since 62 against Stars in April 2024.

The Giants 28 shots in the first period was most given up by the Flyers this season in any 20 minutes.

Flyers had 2 second period shots which equalled their season low for any 20 minutes.

Flyers game total of 12 shots is the fewest this season and the fewest in the last 31 games against Giants since they were held to 10 in October 21.

Jordan Kawaguchi became the 10th Giants player to record a hat trick against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions. This now equals the Clans total as the most by a single team against the Flyers.

Massimo Carozza now has goals in each of the last three games against the Giants.

The game had 37 face offs which is the lowest total in a Flyers game this season.

On Sunday night.....

Fife Flyers 2 Cardiff Devils 6 - Elite League

The Devils made if four wins from four against the Flyers this season who have been outscored 9-21 in those games.


Michael Cichy became the fourth Flyers player this season to register 100 plus shots on goal.

Michael Cichy and Massimo Carozza are now tied for the team best shots to goals ratio at 17 percent.

The Flyers have an 84.62 percent penalty kill success against the Devils which is second highest against all teams – 90.91 percent against is Sheffield is best.

The Flyers power play drought is now 4 games, their season high without a PPG is six games.

The Flyers have now conceded 202 league goals which was the season total last term.

	Season 2024-25 Flyers games Officiated by the Strikey's									
	2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	15	44 Sam Anderson	4	77 James Ions	3		
	3 Tom Pering	2	20 Pavel Halas	7	45 Vytas Lukosevicius	2	24 Rene Jensen	1		
	9 Joe Sewell	3	23 Andrew Miller		46 Andrew Jarvie	2				
	11 Matt Rose	2	25 Andrew Dalton	4	48 Oliver Truswell					
	14 Chris Wells	3	42 Hollie Neenan	1	49 Daniel Ferguson	18				
	16 Alan Craig	13	43 Graham Rodger	13	52 Stephen Matthews	4				



WEEKEND PREVIEW

WEEK 25



Recent Form Guide

The Flyers last met the Steelers in mid-January. The following weekend the Sheffield travelled to Glasgow and won 3-1 before heading over the Irish Sea for a meeting with the Giants the following night which the home team won 4-2. The Steelers returned home the following Saturday when they defeated the Manchester Storm before travelling to meet the Guildford Flames who inflicted the Yorkshire team's heaviest defeat so far of the season when they lost 6-2 at the Spectrum. Into February and the Steelers won 5-2 in Glasgow before shutting out the Cardiff Devils 3-0 at the Utilita Arena in what was a dress rehearsal for the teams meeting in one of the Challenge Cup Semi-finals. The Steelers took the first leg at home 5-3 but the following week they Devils overcame the deficit to progress to the final with a 7-6 aggregate win. Back to league business and a 3-1 win in Manchester was followed by a 3-2 defeat in overtime to the Blaze at the Skydome. Last weekend the Steelers recorded two 5-2 wins with a road success in Guildford followed by them overturning a two goal deficit with five unanswered goals in the final period when they hosted the Belfast Giants to keep the title run in very much open.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO STEELERS

Sunday 12th January 2025				8	0	Elite League			
Steelers Stats					Flyers Stats				
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
Watling	Cormier	Balmas	58	Goal 1				22	
Golod	Leavens	Simpson	Shots Against	Goal 2				Shots Against	
Juusola	Watling	Balmas	22	Goal 3				58	
Leavens	Golod	Simpson	PiMS	Goal 4				PiMS	
Vainio	Leavens	Golod	4	Goal 5				10	
Cormier	Ciampini	Huutula		Goal 6					
Cormier	Simpson	Leavens	Goalie	Goal 7				Goalie	
Balmas	Juusola	Watling	Greenfield	Goal 8				Owen	
				Goal 9					
				Goal 10					

OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST STEELERS

P 32 W 3 L 29 F 47 A 150

Number Crunching

The Flyers have gone 18 games without a win against the Steelers in Sheffield.

During hat time the Steelers have outscored the Flyers 95-28

The last time the Flyers win in Sheffield was 17th October 2018 when goals from Brett Bulmer, Evan Bloodoff and Paul Crowder secured a 3-1 win.

Mark Simpson is the Steelers top scorer against the Flyers this season with 4 goals whilst Phélix Martineau leads the way for the Flyers in these games with 3 goals.

12 different Steelers have found the net against the Flyers this season with 5 different Flyers finding the net in the four games played so far.

The Steelers with 14 empty net goals scored lead all teams.

The Steelers are second only to the Giants for most goals scored per game average with 3.84.

With an average of 30.64 shots per game given up the Steelers have conceded the second fewest.

The Steelers all-time top scorer with 30 goals against the Flyers is Robert Dowd – he will be looking for one more goal to overtake Steve Nemeth as the Steelers all-time leading scorer.



WEEKEND PREVIEW

WEEK 25



Recent Form Guide

The Flyers and Storm last met in mid-January which was the Flyers last win coming into this week's action. The following night the Storm travelled to Belfast where they narrowly lost 3-2. A trip to play the Steelers followed which ended in another defeat before the next night the Nottingham Panthers visited Altrincham and shut out the home side 4-0 to extend Manchester's losing streak to a season high six games. February started with the Blaze visiting the Storm Shelter and a 5-2 win got the Storm off the 'schneid' before they followed that up the next night with a 3-2 overtime win in Glasgow. The following weekend it was a pair of 3-1 reversals as they lost at home to the Sheffield Steelers and then on the road against the Belfast Giants. Last weekend in Dundee they let a lead slip late before losing 4-3 to the Stars but the next night stunned the Cardiff Devils in Wales with a 5-3 win. In midweek the Storm travelled to Glasgow and in a see saw game they came up short losing by the odd goal in seven. Storm finish February after they host the Flyers with a trip to play the Nottingham Panthers.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO STORM

Saturday 18th January 2025					4	5		Elite League	
Storm Stats					Flyers Stats				
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	
Morrow	Martin	Johnson	46		Goal 1	Cichy	Stallard	Krenzelok	35
Ulett	Morrow	Durflinger	Shots Against		Goal 2	Delmas	Chiodo	Martineau	Shots Against
Hughes	Hebert	Durflinger			Goal 3	Chiodo	Cichy	Foss	
Hughes	D'Aoust	Morrow	PiMS		Goal 4	Craig	Foss	Carozza	PiMS
			13		Goal 5	Cichy	Martineau	Foss	11
			Goalie Weninger		Goal 6				Goalie Voris
					Goal 7				
					Goal 8				
					Goal 9				
					Goal 10				

OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST STORM

P 27 W 10 L 17 F 80 A 100

Number Crunching

The Flyers won on their last visit to Planet Ice Altrincham and will be looking to equal their best winning sequence of 2 games on Storm's home ice which has been achieved twice before in 2016 and 2022.

Loren Ulett is the Storm's top scorer against the Flyers this season with 5 goals whilst Phélix Martineau leads the way for the Flyers in these games with 4 goals.

9 different Storm players have found the net against the Flyers this season with 9 different Flyers also finding the net in the four games played so far.

Including shootout goals the teams are tied with 180 goals in their meetings across all EIHL competitions and both teams have also had 76 different scorers in these games.

The Flyers and Storm are the only teams yet to record a shutout this season.

The Storm have given up 6 shorthanded goals this season which is second most.

The Storm and Flyers have given up the most average shots per game across all EIHL competitions this term.



WEEKEND PREVIEW

WEEK 25



Recent Form Guide

The Clan met the Flyers at the start of the month and since then have put a winning streak together. The following night the Clan travelled to the Motorpoint Arena and handed the inform Panthers a 3-2 shootout loss. Last weekend they hosted the Guildford Flames and were 4-2 winners before travelling to Tayside and taking both points in a 4-3 overtime decision against the Stars. On Wednesday night the Clan met the Manchester Storm at Braehead and recorded their season equalling best winning streak with their 6th on the bounce after they came out on top with a 4-3 win. Before heading to Fife the Clan are due to host Coventry Blaze on Saturday night.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT FROM CLAN

Monday 30th December 2024			3	8		Elite League	
Flyers Stats				Clan Stats			
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For	Goal 1	Scorer	Assist	Shots For
Foss	Carozza	Craig	25	Goal 2	Seigo	Heard	46
Carozza			Shots Against	Goal 3	McKay	Schwartz	Shots Against
Farley	Heidt	Carozza	46	Goal 4	Sideroff		25
			PiMS	Goal 5	Schwartz	Jameson	PiMS
			4	Goal 6	Finlay	Schwartz	4
			Goalie	Goal 7	Schwartz	Heard	Goalie
			Owen/Voris	Goal 8	McLellan	Uly	Bow
				Goal 9	Despres	Heard	
				Goal 10			

OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST CLAN

P 43 W 20 L 23 F 146 A 149

Number Crunching

The Flyers will be looking to avoid a fourth consecutive home defeat against the Clan which would be the Glasgow sides best sequence of results at Kirkcaldy since 2018 and ties their all-time best run.

A Clan win would extend their winning streak against the Flyers to 9 games overall and that would be a new record for them against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions.

The Clan have outscored the Flyers 23-50 in all games this season.

17 different Clan players have found the net against the Flyers this season with 10 different Flyers finding the net in the nine games.

Cole Uly with 8 goals has top scored for the Clan against the Flyers so far this season whilst Phélix Martineau has 5 goals for the Flyers in those nine games.

The Clan have conceded 11 empty net goals which is most this season.

The Clan have 9 shorthanded goals on the season which most of all teams.

The Clan have the second most average shots on goal per game at 36.16.

Clan have conceded 46 percent of their goals in the third period which is highest of all teams.



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 24



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

Wednesday 12th February

Cardiff Devils 4 Sheffield Steelers 1 Challenge Cup

(2-0, 1-0, 1-0,) SOG 30-29 PIMs 6-4 Att 3110

Cardiff Devils advanced to their first Challenge Cup Final since 2022 after overcoming a two-goal deficit to beat Sheffield Steelers in the Semi-Finals. The Devils won the second leg 4-1 at a sold-out Vindico Arena to advance 7-6 on aggregate. The opening period went about as well as the Devils would have been hoping, and probably almost the worst-case scenario for the Devils. Off a defensive zone faceoff, the Steelers turned the puck over on the Devils' blue line straight to Cole Sanford who raced away to beat Matt Greenfield with 13:55 played. A minute before the end of the opening period, a speculative throw at the net from Josh MacDonald went all the way through and past Greenfield to tie the game - Joey Martin ducking out of the way at a crucial moment in front of the net. All square on aggregate through 20 minutes. Sheffield pushed back in period two, but a little against the run of play found themselves down on aggregate. Zach O'Brien took one touch in the slot and fired a shot past Greenfield who was screened again at 30:45 to put the Devils three ahead - and one up on aggregate. The Steelers had two chances to get back into the game with the Devils taking a pair of minors before the period was out - Marc-Olivier Vallerand miss-controlling while unmarked at the far post the best of their chances. Sanford took an early high-sticking minor in period three, but the Steelers' powerplay came up short a third time. Just as the Devils had got back to full strength, Josh Batch threw the puck into the slot from below the goal line for captain Joey Martin to fire home backhanded and put the Devils two ahead on aggregate with 42:52 on the clock. Everything seemed to be going the Devils' way, but a poor Gleason Fournier clearance landed straight on the stick of Mitchell Balmas to fire past Carruth and bring the Steelers back to within one at 47:25. Balmas had probably the Steelers' best chance to tie things up, but couldn't take the puck first time when otherwise doing so would have been a certain goal. Greenfield was pulled with 1:47 to play as the Steelers pushed hard, the Devils just trying to freeze the puck along the boards in their own zone. With 24 seconds to play, Dominic Cormier stepped across Sanford as he tried to exit the zone and was called for roughing. Greenfield left the net as soon as the Steelers won the faceoff, but time ran out on the visitors who went down 7-6 on aggregate having led 5-3 after 60 of the 120 minutes.

Belfast Giants 3 Nottingham Panthers 0 Challenge Cup

(2-0, 0-0, 1-0,) SOG 30-31 PIMs 4-4 Att 6283

Belfast Giants will take a three-goal lead to Nottingham in the second leg of their Challenge Cup Semi-Final after a shutout win against the Panthers at a sold out SSE Arena on Wednesday night. "I thought we were really good tonight," began Giants captain Mark Cooper, who scored his side's opening goal. "We knew they would push. They're a great team and we were able to keep them pretty quiet and defend hard, then take our chances when we had them and get a three-goal lead going into the second leg. But they have a firepower team so we just have to keep playing the same way in the second leg." After a cagey start, the Giants began to generate more pressure, and it was the home side who opened the scoring as Mark Cooper scored a brilliant solo goal to put the hosts ahead. Cooper drove from his own defensive zone, skipped by a defenseman, and finished through the five hole of Jason Grande at 8:51. Belfast doubled their lead at 14:28 through a wonderful Ciaran Long goal. The Panthers were caught on a change, which allowed Elijah Barriga to pick out Long with a pass into the slot. Long produced an excellent backhanded finish into the roof of the net to double the Giants' lead. The Panthers' best chance of the opening period fell to Reid Stefanson while the score was 1-0, as he found himself with only Whistle to beat. However, Whistle denied Stefanson to maintain the lead for the Giants - a common theme as the evening progressed. Both sides had chances in the second period, but both Whistle and Grande made big saves to deny each team. The Giants and Panthers each had one powerplay. However, neither could take advantage to leave the Giants two goals ahead going into the third. In the end, the period probably ended how both sides would have wanted - no further goals against for the Panthers, and the Giants still with a two-goal lead. Nottingham started period three the stronger and had some sustained pressure for some five to six minutes, but without success. Mark Cooper again got in behind the Panthers' defense and shot on net, but although Grande made the save he couldn't stop Jordan Kawaguchi following up to slot home the rebound - the Giants likely to be awarded a



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 24



Friday 14th February

Glasgow Clan 4 Guildford Flames 2 Elite League

(1-0, 1-1, 2-1,) SOG 39-36 PIMs 6-4 Att 2908

Glasgow Clan made it four wins in a row with a 4-2 Friday night win over Guildford Flames at Braehead Arena. Clan led by one through the opening 20 minutes but could have been further ahead. Eamon McAdam got across his crease well to deny Rylan Schwartz opening the scoring with a one-timer early, The hosts went ahead with 6:29 played on a 2-on-1 rush where Felix Pare beautifully fed Matt Barry for the far-post deflection to make it 1-0. McAdam then died a combination of Tyson McLellan and Liam Finlay to keep his side to within one, while Landon Bow was only really troubled by some shots from the point. Clan did everything but score at the start of period two with excellent pressure on the Flames' net, just without moving further ahead. Just shy of the five-minute mark in the period, Guildford were level, however. A giveaway by Simon Despres in his own zone eventually led to Matt Alvaro working the puck to Jack Jacome for an excellent snipe high into Landon Bow's net. The Flames then had their turn on the front foot and probably should have gone ahead - some chances in front, and a Travis Brown slapshot whistling just wide their best chances. A penalty on Flames' goalie Eamon McAdam with 3:11 left in the period led to Clan going back ahead. Steven Seigo had struggled to get the puck out of his feet to put Clan ahead on the following powerplay, but on the same play Cole Uly wristed home in the slot to put the hosts back ahead at 37:14. 5:53 into period three, the Clan worked the puck well to captain Steven Seigo who wristed home in the slot to give themselves a two-goal cushion. Brett Ferguson excellently tipped Daniel Tedesco's shot past Bow with 8:39 to play, and then with 4:09 to go the Flames were given a late powerplay off a Robert Lachowicz slash. Felix Pare had the best chance of the man-advantage to put Clan further ahead as the Flames ended the powerplay without success. McAdam was pulled with 92 seconds to play, but despite some pressure it was Tyson McLellan who finished into the empty net off an unselfish Finlay pass with 46 seconds to play.

Manchester Storm 3 Dundee Stars 4 Elite League

(2-0, 0-1, 1-3,) SOG 37-42 PIMs 8-4 Att 1800

Dundee Stars came from two goals down in Manchester to beat Storm 4-3 at the Shelter, moving themselves 10 points clear of their opponents in the race for a playoff place. Zach Sullivan was the star of the opening period with a pair of goals - doubling his tally for the season! Both were shots from the point that found a way through. The first came with 126 seconds played, through a screen of players to beat Jarrett Fiske. 4:50 later, Sullivan let one fly from the other side of the zone with the same result - Fiske only seeing it late and unable to react. Storm could have gone three ahead early in period two only for Ryan Hughes' shot to come back off the post. Dundee began to get themselves going in the game and called David Tendeck into a couple of decent saves until they did have the puck over the line - but the play was washed out for the net being off, and probably would have been disallowed for goalie interference if the goal had stayed in its position. Storm called off two quick penalties, but a final one led to the Stars getting on the board before the period was out - Keanu Yamamoto racing up the ice and beating Tendeck blocker side with some 40 seconds left in the period. Stars captain Drydn Dow tied the game 3:41 into period three with a shot from that point that beat Tendeck through a crowd of players. Storm captain Cam Critchlow then responded for his team with a shorthanded marker at 44:22, opting not to pass and take on the shot himself as the home side broke 2-on-1. Exactly on the 50-minute mark, Domenico Alberga brought the Stars level for a second time on the night when his quick shot beat Tendeck five-hole. Then, just 77 seconds later, Philippe Sanche got on a loose puck to fire home and put the Stars ahead for the first time in the game. Now it was Storm's turn to press, but they came up against Fiske who was determined not to be beaten again. Tendeck left the net with 80 seconds to play, but Fiske did well to block pucks out of bounds to slow the game down in the final stages. Zach Tsekos took a puck to the face inside the final 12 seconds of the game, but from the restart Storm couldn't get the puck under control in the attacking zone and saw time tick away.



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 24



Saturday 15th February

Cardiff Devils 3 Manchester Storm 5 Elite League

(3-2, 0-1, 0-2,) SOG 40-26 PIMs 4-6 Att 3110

Having lost at home to Dundee Stars on Friday night, Manchester Storm had no option but to win in Cardiff to reduce the 10-point deficit to a playoff place - and they did so in style with a 5-3 win over the Devils at a sold-out Vindico Arena. A chaotic opening period ended with the Devils 3-2 ahead as they shaded the five-goal first period. Andre MacWilliam's shot from the point was tipped by Joey Martin in front of David Tendeck with 6:20 played to open the scoring, but the Storm were level 43 seconds later when the Devils failed to clear their zone and the puck landed kindly for Ryan Hughes to fire home in the slot. Former Storm forward Ryan Barrow took Gleason Fournier's pass in the slot and turned to fire past Tendeck to put the Devils back ahead just shy of the 10-minute mark. Again, however, Storm hit back - this time captain Cam Critchlow putting home a shot that came back off the back boards just over two and a half minutes later. Cardiff ended the period ahead thanks to Joey Martin scoring their third of the night when Barrow worked the puck to him in the centre of the slot for another neat wrist-shot finish at 17:43. The only goal of the middle period went the way of the Storm. A long pass from Craig Martin left Carruth unable to come out and play the puck, but was perfectly weighted for Alexis D'Aoust to reach and then beat the Devils goalie to tie the game at 35:33. Storm killed off an early third-period penalty, and then shocked the Vindico Arena by taking the lead. As happened a week earlier against Coventry Blaze, the Devils found themselves behind for the first time on the night inside the final eight minutes of the game with a shot from the point - Noah Carroll the scorer this week with a shot that may have taken one, if not two, deflection on the way to the net. Manchester clogged up the centre of the ice which restricted the Devils to creating any Grade A chances in front of Tendeck in the closing stages. Tyler Hinam wrapped things up on the empty net with 47 seconds to go to claim a vital win for the Storm.

Guildford Flames 2 Sheffield Steelers 5 Elite League

(1-0, 1-1, 0-4,) SOG 30-62 PIMs 27-2 Att 1956

Sheffield Steelers scored four goals in the final period to beat Guildford Flames 5-2 at a sold-out Spectrum, twice coming from behind en route to victory. "I think we deserved to win that game. The first two periods were back and forth and although Guildford had the lead, I didn't think we were really out of it," said Brandon Whistle, who hit the game winner in the third period. "Sticking with it was key. We've been up and down on the bench this season and this is one of those games where we didn't feel out of it whereas in past games we maybe lacked a little bit of desperation when we needed it." The home side led by one after 20 minutes but did well to come through the opening stages not behind. A Robert Dowd shot inside the opening minute stayed out of a combination of Jake Kupsy and the crossbar, while Mikko Juusola also found the Flames' goalie when played in through the slot. The Flames' best chances prior to scoring fell to Daniel Tedesco and Ryan Tait, both of whom fired over Matt Greenfield's net. Kupsy made a diving save to haul the puck off the line with his stick around the halfway mark of the period off a deflected Marc-Olivier Vallerand shot. The game's opening goal was a special finish from Matt Alvaro, who deked Greenfield and finished high with a backhanded shot into the roof of the net with 20 seconds left in the period. Sheffield levelled the game early in period two with Mitchell Balmas given space in the slot to fire past Kupsy just 64 seconds after the break. The home side weren't level for long, though, with Travis Brown taking his time and picking his spot past Greenfield at 23:38 while Daniel Leavens sat a high-sticking minor. Sheffield came again as they looked to equalise, but Kupsy wasn't to be beaten despite a few scrambles around the crease. However, the Flames should have been further ahead when they broke 3-on-1 but Daniel Tedesco opted for an extra pass instead of shooting, and the opportunity went begging. The period ended with Charlie Dodero being ejected for slashing after video review, putting the Steelers on a five-minute advantage that would carry over to the third period. That penalty, and the Flames not having increased their lead, came back to hurt the hosts. Juusola finished high 67 seconds into the period to level the game, and then Brandon Whistle put them ahead at 43:25. "Sheffield are a really good team, and I thought we played well taking away a lot of their space on the ice. They got that five-minute powerplay, and when you give a team like that a five-minute advantage they have the players on their team to get the job done," said Flames' Travis Brown. "It was tough to come back from that, we gave it our all, but kudos to them." The Flames survived being down to three



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 24



skaters but were punished as they chased the game late - Robert Dowd wristing home on the rush at 52:50 to make it 4-2 to the Steelers. Kupsky was pulled with 2:15 to play, but Daniel Leavens' empty-netter settled the game with 97 seconds to go. "When we lose a defenseman like that, which was unfortunate because Charlie is a big part of our d-core, the five of us just have to step up, We have to take quicker shifts and make sure we think defense first," added Brown. "Sheffield defend very well. If you don't score they're very good in transition and will turn it around very quickly. You can't give them anything or they'll punish you for your mistakes."

Dundee Stars 3 Glasgow Clan 4 OT Elite League

(1-0, 1-2, 1-1, 0-1) SOG 49-38 PIMs 2-6 Att 2261

Glasgow Clan edged a point ahead of Dundee Stars and clear in seventh with a 4-3 overtime win, helped by Mitchell Heard netting a hat trick. The home side led after the opening period on Tayside thanks to Kyle Pouncy scoring the only goal of the opening 20 minutes. He got on a rebound from a Spencer Naas shot 16:05 into the period to put the home side ahead. Landon Bow in the Clan net made an excellent double save off Naas and then Brendan Harms as the Stars almost doubled their lead shortly before the break. Mitchell Heard tied the game just 35 seconds into period two with the final touch off a Deven Sideroff pass into the slot, and the sides went up and down the ice tied at one for the next 10 minutes. With 5:08 left in the period, Craig Moore beat Bow through traffic to put the Stars back ahead, but that lead lasted only 77 seconds until Heard circled the zone and fired home from the slot with Richard Sabol screened. Both sides had powerplay opportunities to go ahead at the start of period three, but with none taken. Heard then made it a hat trick with a neat finish entering the Stars' zone to give Clan their first lead of the night with 8:52 to play. Just as it was looking like it might not be the home side's night, a Robert Lachowicz hooking minor saw Kameron Kielly put the puck over the line as the Stars pressured Bow's net to tie the game with 55:44 played. A tie at 60 minutes was probably a fair scoreline with both sides taking a point. Dundee were straight on the attack in overtime, but eventually Clan carved out a chance for Matt Berry that he scored backhanded at 63:11 to win the visitors the extra point.

Nottingham Panthers 6 Coventry Blaze 2 Elite League

(2-1, 0-0, 4-1,) SOG 34-19 PIMs 11-13 Att 6786

Nottingham Panthers opened up a four-point cushion in third, and moved back to within nine points of the league leaders, with a 6-2 win over Coventry Blaze in front of a sell-out crowd at the Motorpoint Arena. Period one had almost everything and was enthralling entertainment. Josh Tetlow found himself in all kinds of space and beat Mat Robson with a bottle-popping high finish just 4:30 into the game. Chase Gresock was sent through 1-on-0 but couldn't finish from a tight angle to tie the game, but the Blaze were level at 6:10 as fired home from the slot after being fed the puck from Michael Regush. 26 seconds later, Sam Herr crashed home a Mitchell Fossier pass through a crowd of players to put the Panthers back ahead. They could have moved further in front when they were awarded a penalty shot at 12:50 but Robson had done his homework on Kris Kontos and stopped the five-hole attempt. The period ended with the Panthers 2-1 ahead, although their lead probably should have been greater. After a first period full of chances, the second was less open. A couple of whacks around Jason Grande on a loose puck drew the displeasure of the Panthers defense, while later in the period Tetlow and Grayson Constable dropped the gloves and took a fighting major each. As the period drew on, the Blaze were struggling to get pucks out of their zone and had Robson to thank for saves off Tetlow, Fossier and Herr to name but a few. Heading the other way, Alessio Luciani was moments away from breaking 2-on-1 for the Blaze, but got the puck caught in his feet and the opportunity went by. The visitors did well to see out the period just one behind. The Panthers made their dominance count with two goals just over four minutes apart to start period three. Tim Doherty tipped a Matt Spencer shot just in front of Robson to put the home side 3-1 up 88 seconds into the third, and took Didrik Henbrant's pass nicely before he deked Robson to finish at 45:28. Mitchell Fossier made it 5-1 a little over two minutes later as the home side began to cruise home. Zach Heintz pulled one back for the Blaze with 6:24 to go, but Reid Stefanson rounded off the scoring with just under four minutes to play to give the Panthers their first win in two.



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Sunday 16th February

Sheffield Steelers 5 Belfast Giants 2 Elite League

(0-1, 0-1, 5-0,) SOG 30-30 PIMs 4-4 Att 8672

Five goals in the final 13 minutes of the third period saw Sheffield Steelers turn a 0-2 deficit into a 5-2 home win over Belfast Giants on Sunday afternoon. Robert Dowd's two goals saw him tie Steve Nemeth's all-time goals record for the Steelers. It was a very defensive opening period in Sheffield with both sides well aware of the significance of the game. Ben Lake had the Giants' best half-chance of the opening phases, while a Robert Dowd tip called Jackson Whistle into early work. The visitors went ahead just 14 seconds after the Steelers killed off a penalty, Josh Roach being left in lots of space on the off side to wrist home past Matt Greenfield glove side with 13:15 played. David Goodwin saw a shot come back off the post shortly after goal as the Giants almost doubled their advantage. Jeff Baum's excellent block prevented Mitchell Balmas having a clear shot at goal from the slot inside the final 10 seconds of the period as the Steelers ended the first strong, but behind. It took just 54 second-period seconds for the Giants to go two ahead. With the puck round Greenfield, it worked its way to David Goodwin off Kevin Tansey's skate to finish well from close range to double the visitors' advantage. For a seven or so minute spell, the teams played more open leading to chances at both ends. Sasha Guimond's slapshot needed a Whistle save and snow angel to cover the puck, while Patrick Watling couldn't get the puck to settle quick enough to wrist high into Whistle's net towards the end of the period. The home side also hit a post in the second, while the Giants were doing well forcing the Steelers into turnovers in their own end to create chances on Greenfield. Marc-Olivier Vallerand's bar-down finish from the high slot out of nothing brought the home side back into things with 13 minutes to play, and crucially got their 8,672-storng crowd more into things. The Giants then took a Too many men on the ice call after a slow line change, and were punished when a perfect Mitchell Balmas pass landed straight on the stick of Robert Dowd at the top of the crease to tie the game with 6:43 to play. Three minutes later, a broken play led to Dowd blasting the puck through Whistle's five-hole to put the home side ahead. Whistle was pulled with two minutes to play, but just nine seconds later Patrick Watling found the empty net from his own zone to put the home side two clear. Brandon Whistle scored into another empty net as the Giants rolled the dice again with 52 seconds to go to seal a 5-2 win.

Coventry Blaze 4 Nottingham Panthers 6 Elite League

(0-3, 3-1, 1-2,) SOG 38-21 PIMs 13-22 Att 2851

A thoroughly entertaining game at the Skydome saw Nottingham Panthers leave with a 6-4 win over Coventry Blaze in front of 2,851 fans. The game was played in memory of Dayle 'Keeno' Keen who passed away a year ago, and was marked by his son preforming the ceremonial puck drop, and the playing of Flower of Scotland before faceoff. "Every game is so important in this league, and we did a good job to get the win," said Reid Stefanson who had two goals and a pair of assists in the game. "I think we did well to bounce back after the last few games this weekend." The opening period was back and forth but saw the Panthers lead it by three. Didrik Henbrant beat Mat Robson with 5:14 played to put the Panthers ahead, while Otto Nieminen finished some nice Panthers passing at 16:19 to make it 2-0. Having just killed off a penalty the Panthers saw Reid Stefanson then score on the rush 30 seconds later to lead 3-0 with 10 seconds left in the first period. Period two was pure chaos, with hits, a fight, and four goals. Mike Kennedy and Didrik Henbrant dropped the gloves after a disagreement and both took fighting majors. Panthers' Matt Alvaro was then penalised for a check to the head, leading to the Blaze getting on the board just 59 seconds later - assistant coach Zach Vinnell wristing through a screen to make it 1-3. After another penalty, this time for a face-off violation, Zach Heintz got his stick on the end of a Mike Regush throw to the net to make it a one-goal game at 30:13. Danny Stewart called his timeout to calm his team down after the goal, but some 50 seconds later Zsombor Garát was given a standalone major for a hit on Alessio Luciani. The Blaze's powerplay went to work again and tied the game off an excellent Brandon Alderson one-timer at 31:15. "Sometimes it's challenging if you're not getting the shifts you normally would because of special teams, so it was a good move by our coach to call a timeout and reset and re-focus us" added Stefanson. The Panthers did well to survive the rest of the penalty kill as they were hemmed in their zone by the Blaze. With the game barely back to 5-on-5 a strange play around the Blaze net allowed Stefanson to poke into an empty net and



EIHL ROUND UP - WEEK 24



put the Panthers back ahead 2:29 before a much-needed break for everyone. The Panthers went back two ahead 1:43 into period three. Mike Kennedy couldn't control a pass to his wrong side along the boards, and Henbrant raced past his and sniped high past Robson to make it 5-3. Nieminen scored his second of the game at 45:46 to put the Panthers back three ahead, although Terrance Amorosa scored another powerplay goal for the Blaze with 9:29 to play to make it a two-goal game again. Robson was pulled with 4:29 to play as the Blaze chased two goals, and having had a lot of success with an extra skater. Their cause was hurt, however, by Nick Seitz's roughing minor with 2:54 to play, and the Panthers held on for the two-goal win. Concluded Stefanson: "Our goal at the beginning of the year was to be in the league title race, and we've done a pretty good job so far of striving towards that that. The job isn't finished, it might come down to the very last games. We've put ourselves in a good position and will keep pushing for that."





Goalies

- 30 Cameron Kenny
- 50 Shane Owen
- 36 Jānis Voris

Defencemen

- 5 Noah Delmas
- 44 Jonas Emmerdahl
- 7 Tyler Heidt
- 9 Brodie Kay
- 88 Daniel Krenželok
- 19 Patrick Kyte
- 3 Olivier LeBlanc 'C'

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
- 26 Evan MacKinnon
- 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
Flyers				
Visitors				

Referee :

Linesman :

Referee :

Linesman :



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

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

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

Man of the Match Flyers:

Man of the Match Visitors:

Goalies

- 29 Landon Bow
- 44 Lucas Brine
- 39 Daniel McGowan

Defencemen

- 4 Simon Després
- 73 Joseph Hazeldine
- 74 Darien Kielb
- 25 Chris Martenet
- 55 Chris McKay
- 40 Archie Salisbury
- 49 Steven Seigo
- 53 Kian Shevlin
- 24 Matt Stief

Forwards

- 14 Matt Berry
- 88 Kyle Carruth
- 10 Liam Finlay
- 57 Alex Forbes
- 13 Mitchell Heard
- 12 Keaton Jameson
- 7 Robert Lachowicz
- 9 Tyson McLellan
- 94 Cade Neilson
- 28 Félix Paré
- 77 Nick Prkusic
- 71 Rylan Schwartz
- 95 Deven Sideroff
- 91 Cole Uilly

VISITING THE BARN

CLAN IN LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR...

38 Games played	15 Wins	18 Losses	4 Overtime wins	1 Overtime losses	0.513 Win %
39 Points	119 Goals scored	128 Goals against	3.13 Goals For average	3.37 Goals Against average	3 284 Average attendance
1367 Shots on goal for	1212 Shots on goal against				



			Gp	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG	SHG	+/-	SOG	S	FOW	FOL	BS	TOI/Game
91	Cole Ully	FW	35	20	20	40	4	4	0	5	126	191	2	1	1	18:39
13	Mitchell Heard	FW	36	16	22	38	101	4	0	1	109	163	359	279	3	18:21
95	Deven Sideroff	FW	36	18	18	36	51	5	1	4	133	198	2	4	2	17:41
71	Rylan Schwartz	FW	37	12	19	31	43	1	1	6	101	147	12	15	9	18:13
9	Tyson McLellan	FW	38	13	17	30	25	1	2	3	102	163	285	304	3	18:31
10	Liam Finlay	FW	37	8	19	27	8	2	0	5	107	170	2	4	3	17:18
49	Steven Seigo	D	36	5	21	26	14	1	1	-2	77	144	0	3	43	22:32
4	Simon Despres	D	37	6	15	21	53	2	0	2	65	122	1	1	25	21:10
14	Matt Berry	FW	19	4	8	12	22	0	0	-1	41	59	2	3	2	13:43
55	Chris McKay	D	38	2	9	11	53	0	0	-3	77	125	0	2	39	20:43
73	Joe Hazeldine	D	35	1	8	9	10	1	0	3	57	104	0	2	15	19:42
28	Felix Pare	FW	33	5	3	8	36	0	0	-7	32	46	175	163	12	12:25
74	Darien Kielb	D	31	2	6	8	8	0	0	-3	55	106	0	2	14	17:32
27	Reece Kelly	D	28	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	30	45	1	0	6	11:00
77	Nick Prkusic	FW	26	0	5	5	10	0	0	-1	46	63	7	4	7	12:10
12	Keaton Jameson	FW	37	0	5	5	14	0	0	-14	60	102	148	129	11	14:21
7	Robert Lachowicz	FW	35	2	2	4	16	0	2	-11	35	55	106	93	7	12:52
24	Matt Stief	D	20	1	3	4	6	0	0	-9	23	40	0	0	3	12:13
25	Chris Martenet	D	21	0	3	3	8	0	0	8	27	44	0	2	15	16:37
57	Alex Forbes	RW	32	1	1	2	2	0	0	-5	24	40	1	2	6	08:41
23	Gary Haden	FW	7	0	2	2	0	0	0	-3	15	24	0	1	1	14:04
17	Michael Pelech	FW	14	1	0	1	6	0	0	-6	17	22	88	83	2	13:58
88	Kyle Carruth	FW	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00:54
94	Cade Neilson	FW	5	0	1	1	2	0	0	-2	8	10	22	32	2	14:03

			Gp	W	L	SO	SA	GA	MIN	GAA	SVS%	PIM
29	CAN	Landon Bow	29	13	15	0	882	87	1668	3.13	90.14	0
44	GBR	Lucas Brine	11	6	4	1	321	32	598	3.21	90.03	0

VISITING THE BARN

ON THEIR ROSTER

Simon Després has had a distinguished career in terms of players to have played in the EIHL. Over 200 NHL games along with over 100 in the DEL is a mark of his pedigree and it would take more than we have space for to detail his entire career so far. In this article we will look back on an 18 year Després as he headed into the NHL draft of 2009 at the Bell Centre in Montreal.

NHL.com had two quotes in their scouting report that both excited and concerned the reader about Després ahead of the draft:

NHL Central Scouting's Chris Bordeleau

"I think for a potential pro player, he's got the size and mobility. I've seen him [in] many games, and he never seems to make a bad play. He's never going to get 100 points, but definitely, when you want a guy to play defense, he's your guy. He does it all, he'll block shots and he moves the puck at the right time."

Saint John Sea Dogs head coach Jacques Beaulieu

"Simon is a very good skater with and without the puck. He has good hands for a big man and he has outstanding vision as well as hockey sense. To make it to the next level he will need to improve his upper body strength and his shot, but overall Simon is an outstanding person on and off the ice. He loves the game. He is without a doubt an NHL prospect."

While there was some serious praise in these comments, going a long way in explaining why some were thinking he'd go early in the first round: he was big, a good skater (a still somewhat rare combination), he was apparently very good in his own zone, and willing to do whatever it took for success. All good stuff so far. That said, it wasn't all golden for Després. Chris Bordeleau of Central Scouting, the organization high on Després, came right out and said he's not a scorer, though one would have to be really, really good on defense to justify the ranking. His coach's words were more telling. He was 6'4", 212 pounds and Beaulieu thought he needed to get stronger? His numbers at Saint John were evidence that offense was an area of improvement. But how much stronger could Després get?

Some of these assets - and areas to improve - were highlighted further in Kevin Forbes' feature article on Després at Hockey's Future. The following section helped explain why Beaulieu stated that Després needed to get stronger:

"Despite all these pieces, the puzzle that is Després is far from complete. Although he has such tantalizing size, Després is not known for his physical play. As Kim Houston of Central Scouting described, "sometimes I think he plays a little soft, in the middle of the zone, maybe he doesn't feel he has to have that physical element, but he's going to find out at the next level, he's got to be a little bit more physical, especially in his own end." Sea Dogs assistant coach Jim Midgley attributed Després' preference to tie up opposing forwards instead of punishing them with his frame to his physical growth and his young age, saying "when his strength catches up to his body, he'll be fine." Naathan White reported on Després' performance at the CHL Top Prospects game said: "Working on his hitting is one of the next steps Després needs to take in his development, said one NHL scout who attended the prospects game. "We'd like to see a little more physical (play) from him, especially when it comes to finishing his check in the last three or four feet," the scout said. "Let people know that they're going to be punished. When Dion Phaneuf is finishing his check or Zdeno Chara finishes his check, he finishes his check. The quality guys finish their check the last three or four feet." While Després' combination of skating and size have vaulted him up the scouting lists, the scout would also like to see him work on his shot. "He's got an average shot, which needs to get much better because he's got a lot of tools. He has good vision, he's a good skater, he makes good plays with the puck and he contains pretty well one-on-one."

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In Montreal the Pittsburgh Penguins took Simon with their 1st round pick (30th overall) and that was regarded by some as the steal of the 2009 draft. One Penguins source indicated that the Penguins had Després rated among the top 15 prospects on their board. The 18 year old defenseman appeared to have fallen into the Penguins lap with the No. 30 selection in the 2009 entry draft and the Penguins hoped they would have another cornerstone defenseman among their core. Clearly the Penguins No. 1 prospect in their system, Després caught the eye of many during the Penguins prospect camp the previous July. After a slow start, Després established himself as the best defenseman on the ice near the end of the camp, along with 2006 second round pick Carl Snee. Després at the time was 17 and Snee was 22. Després continued to earn rave reviews after an impressive showing in training camp in September with the Penguins. A knock on Després by some scouts last year leading up to the draft was consistency and based on his physical skills, some felt that he should have been dominating games on a more consistent basis. Going into his third season (2009-2010) with the Saint John Sea Dogs of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, Després proved his critics wrong and is quickly developing into an NHL ready defenseman that was on the fast track to the NHL. Després had a strong regular season, scoring 9 goals and 38 assists for 47 points, including an impressive plus-26 rating in 63 games. Després' play in the playoffs was been even better and was characterized as dominant by a number of scouts. In just 18 games played, Després had 2 goals and 17 assists for 19 points. Després also has a team high plus-16 in the playoffs. By comparison, Després was a minus-5 in four playoff games last spring. Exceptional numbers for a young defenseman in the best Junior-A league in hockey. The 18 year old defenseman had made tremendous strides in his development and has drawn great praise from Saint John assistant coach Marc Hussey. Hussey who was the Penguins second round pick in 1992, said the following on Després ; "Highly skilled player and has made "huge improvement" this season," Hussey said. Biggest Strength: "Anticipation"....."He reads the play extremely well," Hussey said. "See's the play before it happens," he added. What caught people's attention during that interview was how Hussey talked very highly of how Després strived to get better by putting the extra work in after practices and indicating that he's a highly motivated player to get better. Marc said that Després had taking the initiative to develop his shot, which many thought was a clear weakness of his game during Penguins training camp. "He's taking the initiative, working after practice on his shot and the results show that the extra work has paid off." Hussey said. Després had a 7 goal improvement in 2009-2010. Marc added that he in particular had spent a lot of time with Després working with him after practice on a number of areas including his shot. Could the 18 year old push for a roster spot in the NHL next season? Hussey said not to rule it out and believed that Després was on the cusp of making the jump to the NHL as early as next fall. "He has a great

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opportunity in front of him and is prepared for a big summer," Hussey said. Després who possessed exceptional size (6-4, 218), had the skills, hockey sense and size to make the jump to the NHL. Hussey though said that strength work will have to continue to be an area of focus for Després that summer.



So how did breaking into the NHL work out for Simon. The following article charts his first couple of seasons after he finished his Major Junior career with the Saint John Sea Dogs in 2011.

He got several firsts out of the way as an NHL rookie with the Pittsburgh Penguins. He got his first NHL point in his first NHL game, a 2-1 win on Dec. 1 in Washington. Then in an 8-3 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Dec. 17 he scored his first NHL goal – becoming the first former Sea Dog to ever accomplish the feat. "I've been wanting to score that first goal for a while now. I'm happy it's been done," said Després, who accomplished the milestone at home in his eighth NHL game, one night after a large group of friends and family watched him play in Ottawa. He could even check "first legendary NHL prank" off his list after veteran teammates hung his dress clothes from the rafters at a recent practice. The "Welcome to the NHL" moments just kept coming for the 20-year-old defenceman, Saint John's all-time scoring leader among rearguards with 134 points in 240 games over four seasons. "Just playing against Ovechkin, Datsyuk, Jagr, it's crazy. ... The first few games I kept it very simple. I was very nervous but you get used to it. I find it hard when you first get called up, playing with players you looked up to when you were younger. It was a bit intimidating," a slightly winded Després said shortly after being one of the last Penguins off the ice for morning skate in Ottawa. "It's a lot of fun – a lot of hotels though. But I'm not

complaining. It's a great life, I'm enjoying it and I'm getting the most out of it." Després was disappointed when he didn't make the team out of training camp, being sent to Wilkes-Barre of the American League to work on his skills. But the six-foot-four, 205-pounder responded well to the setback, according to Pittsburgh scout Luc Gauthier. "He didn't cry for a long time, but he was mad and that's a good reaction for a guy who got sent down early at training camp. If a player thought that was normal we'd start to have some concerns," Gauthier said. "We knew he'd have some reactions but he turned it a positive way. That's why in Wilkes-Barre he progressed day after day, game after game and that's probably why he's in Pittsburgh now." Penguins head coach Dan Bylsma agreed the extra seasoning in the AHL has worked in the 20-year-old Laval, Que., native's favour.

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"He's had a great chance to develop in Wilkes-Barre, fine-tune his game and understand the pro game. I think coming in at this point in time he's been tossed into a couple tough situations," Bylsma said. "He's been very strong, very good defending and able to make a good first pass for our team. I think you can clearly see why he was a first-round pick and you can see he's going to be a very good player in the NHL for a long time." Looking back, Després said the circumstances worked out well, as Wilkes-Barre implemented the same hockey systems the Penguins used at the NHL level. "I was able to adjust to the system, work within the system and work on all that stuff down there. I learned a lot, the coaches down there were very good," Després said. The "Big Horse" also looked back fondly on his time in Saint John, where he finished as assistant captain of the 2011 MasterCard Memorial Cup Champions. "The Sea Dogs were a great organization. They treated us like professionals and the coaching staff were unbelievable. It was a great time, the best time in my life and I miss it too," Després said. "You don't have any worries really (off the ice). You've got your billets, you hang out with the guys and that's it. Here you've got bills to pay, you've got hotels, you've got to take care of your house, everyone's got families and kids, so it's a lot different." Gauthier said the Penguins were surprised Despres was still on the board when they selected him 30th overall in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft. The first overall pick in the 2007 QMJHL draft may have slipped after a so-so performance in Canada's fourth-place finish at the 2009 World under-18 championship. "We found out he was playing with some pain and some injuries, but we put everything (from under-18s) on the side and put more on what we saw all year long," Gauthier said. "He was between 10 and 15 on our list. The people on our staff agreed Simon would turn into a pretty good NHL player." So far it seemed that Gauthier and the Pittsburgh scouts were right. The former pro player and coach, who had been scouting for NHL teams for 15 years, said the Sea Dogs organization deserved some credit for developing players. Along with Despres, the Penguins had defenceman Alex Grant and forward Nick Petersen waiting in the wings at Wilkes-Barre. "I'm sure a lot of teams in junior are looking at Saint John to find out why they're so good at drafting players, how they develop players and how they manage."

A couple of years into his entry level contract with the Penguins, in the Summer of 2013, NHL.com named Simon Després the best #30 draft pick in league history as outlined in the following article. Després had three career goals. Almost every fan and scout would agree that Despres will become a solid NHL player, but he's not there yet. The Pittsburgh Penguins' management and coaching staff had an important decision to make heading into training camp this year. Després, 21, was knocking on the door of the NHL. He was impressive in 18 regular season games in the 2011-12 season, but his ice time was very sheltered. What does 'sheltered ice time' mean? Even though stats can be misleading and twisted to tell any story, let's look at his performance from a few basic perspectives. From an even strength Quality of Competition angle, Després had the second weakest rating among Penguins defensemen in the 2011-12 season. Only Alex Picard played against softer competition:

NAME	GP	TIME ON ICE		QUALITY OF COMP		CORSI		Off Zone	Off Zone
		Per Game	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Start %	Finish %
Brooks Orpik	73	18.27	1	0.020	4	4.77	8	51.50	49.30
Kris Letang	51	17.91	2	0.044	3	11.04	5	52.20	50.90
Paul Martin	73	17.64	3	0.061	1	12.72	4	54.70	51.00
Zbynek Michalek	62	17.24	4	0.054	2	4.21	10	51.90	50.40
Deryk Engelland	73	14.91	5	(0.005)	5	4.41	9	55.50	48.00
Matt Niskanen	75	14.54	6	(0.044)	7	15.51	3	57.30	50.70
Alex Picard	17	12.34	7	(0.122)	11	18.60	1	69.20	59.70
Ben Lovejoy	34	12.34	8	(0.074)	8	11.01	6	58.70	52.00
Brian Strait	9	12.31	9	(0.074)	9	(5.96)	11	62.50	63.60
Simon Despres	18	12.28	10	(0.083)	10	16.55	2	64.70	50.90
Robert Bortuzzo	6	10.06	11	(0.010)	6	10.93	7	62.50	60.00

(2011-12 Penguins Defense at Even Strength — Data Source: behindthenet.ca)

VISITING THE BARN

It comes as no surprise that Picard and Després also led the Penguins in Corsi rating. Corsi is a measure of a team's even strength shot differential when a particular player is on the ice. The numbers above are expressed on a per-60-minutes basis, meaning the Penguins directed 16.55 more shots on goal than they allowed per 60 minutes while Despres was on the ice. 16.55 is impressive (for perspective, Zdeno Chara led all regular defensemen with a Corsi rating of 17.54 that season) even if Després' limited number of games creates some sample size issues. On the other hand, Després' production obviously came courtesy of ideal circumstances. Not only did he face weak competition, but he also started close to 65 percent of his shifts in the offensive zone. The concerning stat is that he only finished 51 percent of his shifts in the offensive zone. Players trusted with more defensive responsibilities (i.e. more defensive zone starts) should see a positive zone start-to-finish percentage trend. The opposite should be true of players in Després' offensive role, but compare his trend to the rest of the list. He was being given very easy offensive assignments by the coaching staff and doing very little to maintain that offensive advantage. This was the dilemma facing coach Dan Bylsma and General Manager Ray Shero in camp. They knew Després had talent and potential. They just had no idea if he was ready to handle the challenges of being an everyday NHL defenseman. On top of that, they had eight NHL defensemen on the roster not named Simon Després that required waivers.

When writing a training camp preview in January it was concluded that based on this info there was only a 3 percent chance of Després making the opening day roster: Simon Despres is simply a victim of a numbers game. Shero says he'll keep no more than eight defenseman on the final roster and may possibly cut that to seven. Barring a trade, with eight defensemen eligible for waivers and no exhibition games for Després to steal a job, it'll be very difficult for him to make the team. It also wouldn't make sense from a development standpoint. A young, promising defenseman like Després can learn a lot more from having a big role at the AHL level as opposed to spending most evenings in the press box or getting limited minutes at the NHL level. The Detroit Red Wings wouldn't have thought twice about sending Despres to the minor leagues. Their philosophy — especially when it comes to young defensemen — is that you can never bring a guy up to the NHL too late, but you can always bring a guy up too early. Once confidence is destroyed in a young player, it may never come back.

Despite the 3% prediction he would make it Shero and Bylsma did decide to put Després on the NHL squad. Brian Strait was placed on waivers (and eventually claimed by the Islanders) to make room. The decision indicated that the Penguins felt Despres' development was better served by being thrown into the fire at the NHL level. In most respects, they were right. This season, the training wheels were taken off and Despres received more challenging roles. His Quality of Competition rank jumped to fourth and he still maintained the second best Corsi rating among Penguins defensemen.

NAME	GP	TIME ON ICE		QUALITY OF COMP		CORSI		Off Zone	Off Zone
		Per Game	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Start %	Finish %
Paul Martin	34	18.48	1	(0.013)	3	0.19	4	46.40	48.30
Brooks Orpik	46	18.34	2	(0.002)	2	(13.08)	8	44.20	45.60
Kris Letang	35	18.08	3	(0.036)	6	9.20	1	48.30	47.60
Matt Niskanen	40	16.55	4	(0.032)	5	2.18	3	49.30	51.70
Mark Eaton	23	15.72	5	0.043	1	(14.27)	9	45.80	48.20
Douglas Murray	43	14.29	6	(0.048)	9	(12.60)	7	46.50	47.30
Simon Despres	33	13.50	7	(0.014)	4	5.93	2	51.90	51.50
Deryk Engelland	42	12.75	8	(0.044)	7	(5.38)	6	52.20	54.30
Robert Bortuzzo	15	12.37	9	(0.047)	8	(2.91)	5	51.80	42.80

(2011-12 Penguins Defense at Even Strength — Data Source: behindthenet.ca)

VISITING THE BARN

Després also maintained offensive zone starts at a respectable rate (if you're looking for an explanation why Robert Bortuzzo didn't get more ice time this year, look at his Offensive Zone start-finish trend). Després passed the eye test and he performed well from this basic statistical perspective, but he never received additional ice time. The Penguins kept him in the lineup during stretches when he was struggling. They tossed him in the press box after some of his most impressive games. There was no rhyme or reason to the moves. I'm of the Red Wings belief that it's better to give players too much time in the minor leagues as opposed to too little. Patience is an advantage that only deep organizations possess. The Penguins had a solid group of defensemen and didn't need Després at the NHL level. He could have played big minutes in important situations in Wilkes-Barre (AHL) and stepped into training camp next year completely prepared. I can also appreciate how the details of the Collective Bargaining Agreement threaten that philosophy. Young players have value because the team possesses full control and leverage over salary demands in their early years. Once a player finishes seven pro seasons or reaches the age of 27, he gains unrestricted free agency rights and the value (and possibly the ability to retain him) is gone. Simon Després is entering the third and final year of his entry-level contract. His value to the Penguins at the pro level is his ability to contribute at a salary cap hit of just \$840,000. If Pittsburgh keeps him in the minor leagues for his entire entry-level deal, they lose the value he's capable of providing to a cap-strapped organization. The issue is that while the Penguins made the decision to keep Després at the NHL level, they didn't put him in a situation to contribute and deliver any value. You can't enjoy a nice bottle of wine by just placing it in the middle of the table.











Després could have been uncorked. He could have potentially played top-four defensive minutes this year if he was given the opportunity. He could have developed into a reliable option for the playoffs. He could have even shown enough promise to make the Penguins think twice about meeting Kris Letang's \$58 million salary demands. Of course, all of that would have required taking minutes from Letang, Brooks Orpik, Paul Martin, or Matt Niskanen, but that's the path the Bylsma and Shero chose to pursue with their training camp decision. They made the gutsy call. They weren't willing to live it. Was that a result of disagreement amongst the coaching staff or management? Was Després not as good as he looked in person and on paper? Does salary dictate who plays on a nightly basis, despite the Penguins' constant claims to the contrary? Who knows. The Penguins coaching staff took a lot of heat for not giving Després more of a chance in the playoffs — he only dressed three games — but that's actually the one decision they did get right. Bylsma needed a sixth defenseman he could rely on. If a sixth defenseman can play 10 to 12 minutes a night and not let up a goal, he's successful. He doesn't need to score or create offense. He needs to be invisible. Després wasn't capable of that. He struggled in front of his own net and with one-on-one battles. His lateral movement in the defensive zone was a weakness. It was tough to tell whether those are physical limitations or mental ones that can disappear with confidence. When Després had the puck on his stick, he made patient yet decisive plays and sidestepped opponents with ease. He made good decisions when pinching in the offensive zone — a rare attribute for a young defenseman. He wasn't afraid to unleash his hard, low shot and was great in the Penguins' transition game. Simon Després could have helped the Penguins win a Stanley Cup. He could have been a lot of things, or he could have been a bust. The Penguins never gave themselves a chance to find out.

On March 2nd 2015, Després was traded to the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for defenceman Ben Lovejoy however his career was far from over.



LEAGUE STATS

SEASON 2024/25

										
Total Games Played	52	49	50	52	50	51	50	48	51	51
Challenge Cup Games	13	12	10	12	12	13	10	10	12	12
League Games	39	37	40	40	38	38	40	38	39	39
Biggest Win	8-1 v Flyers	6-0 v Storm	9-2 v Flyers	7-0 v Flyers	4-1 v Stars	9-4 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	0-8 v Steelers	0-6 v Blaze	0-9 v Steelers	0-6 v Devils	2-5 v Stars	2-6 v Flames
Longest Win Streak	8	4	6	2	1	6	3	2	8	8
Longest Loss Streak	2	5	4	8	13	5	5	6	3	4
Current Streak	1 Loss	1 Win	2 Losses	1 Loss	9 Losses	6 Wins	1 Win	1 Loss	1 Loss	3 Wins
Fastest Goal	00:39	00:50	00:18	01:08	01:32	00:08	00:21	00:25	00:56	00:14
Shut Out For	8	2	1	1	0	2	3	0	4	4
Shut Out Against	0	1	4	3	7	2	2	3	2	1
Empty Net Goals For	8	5	7	4	1	7	7	6	6	14
Empty Net Goals Against	7	7	3	7	9	11	7	5	6	3
Penalty Shots Scored	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2
Penalty Shots Conceded	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Total Goals Scored scored by Forwards	164	156	138	133	94	134	133	126	152	161
Powerplay	39	28	42	27	24	23	26	31	29	32
Even Strength	120	126	90	103	69	104	104	91	121	125
Shorthanded	5	2	6	3	1	7	3	4	2	4
Total Goals Scored scored by Defencemen	35	18	21	22	14	23	22	17	15	36
Powerplay	2	2	4	5	5	5	8	4	1	6
Even Strength	33	15	15	17	9	16	13	13	14	30
Shorthanded	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Forwards	100	116	132	162	228	143	142	158	106	115
Penalty Kill	26	24	29	22	35	41	34	39	22	25
Even Strength	72	91	98	133	190	99	104	113	78	90
Shorthanded	2	1	5	7	3	3	4	6	6	0
Total Goals Conceded scored to Defencemen	16	15	26	26	36	23	21	27	16	15
Penalty Kill	5	2	5	2	5	3	6	4	6	3
Even Strength	11	13	20	24	29	18	15	23	10	11
Shorthanded	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Goals Scored Period 1	67	48	40	53	32	55	43	46	63	56
Goals Scored Period 2	63	63	52	45	37	53	52	53	48	62
Goals Scored Period 3	65	62	62	53	38	58	59	39	54	79
Goals Scored OT/SO	6	0	7	4	1	4	2	4	5	3
TOTAL Goals Scored	201	173	161	155	108	170	156	142	170	200
Goals Scored Per Game	3.87	3.53	3.22	2.98	2.16	3.33	3.12	2.96	3.33	3.92
Goals Conceded Period 1	37	40	56	63	89	37	52	56	25	45
Goals Conceded Period 2	32	39	47	62	83	52	59	72	47	46
Goals Conceded Period 3	44	48	53	59	91	76	52	59	50	36
Goals Conceded OT/SO	4	3	5	5	3	2	6	2	3	3
TOTAL Goals Conceded	117	130	161	189	266	167	169	189	125	130
Goals Against Per Game	2.25	2.65	3.22	3.63	5.32	3.27	3.38	3.94	2.45	2.55
Shots For P1	741	610	540	575	492	622	528	502	549	571
Shots For P2	681	594	560	628	459	659	540	508	560	628
Shots For P3	656	540	542	582	410	555	470	519	488	622
Shots For OT	16	3	28	16	6	8	26	12	18	11
TOTAL Shots For	2094	1747	1670	1801	1367	1844	1564	1541	1615	1832
Shots for Per Game	40.27	35.65	33.40	34.63	27.34	36.16	31.28	32.10	31.67	35.92
Shots Against P1	406	508	614	630	741	532	570	591	519	592
Shots Against P2	504	508	593	641	759	546	599	593	549	494
Shots Against P3	512	501	494	559	660	518	562	524	541	452
Shots Against OT	23	10	22	24	12	12	9	9	15	13
TOTAL Shots Against	1445	1527	1723	1854	2172	1608	1740	1717	1624	1551
Shots Against Per Game	27.79	31.16	34.46	35.65	43.44	31.53	34.80	35.77	31.84	30.41

League & Cup games played as at 20/02/2025

ANDI IN THE ATTIC



NICE TO MEET YOU BRAEHEAD CLAN

Braehead Arena was opened in September 1999, but it was three years before the first hockey match was played there between the arena's first tenants, Scottish Eagles and the original Manchester Storm. Eagles played only five games there before folding.

Pro hockey returned to Renfrewshire in 2010 with the formation of a new club, Braehead Clan, who joined the Elite League for their first season. Flyers played season 2010/11 in the Northern League, but had played at the arena against Paisley Pirates in the Scottish National League.

In Clan's squad for Flyers' first Elite season were a few players with Kirkcaldy connections, Jim Jorgensen, who was to have one season at Flyers in 2017/18, Fifers Adam Walker and Lee Mitchell, and Vince Connon, who played a handful of games for Flyers in 2007/08. Clan's bench coach that season was Flyers legend Frank Morris.



Flyers' first ever encounter with Clan was on 22/10/11 at Braehead in the Challenge Cup. Flyers had started the season poorly, while Clan were unbeaten at home in the games before Flyers' first visit of the year. Eleven minutes in Clan were three up as Flyers struggled to get a grip of the game and it took until two seconds before the end of the first period for Matt Siddall to get Flyers on the board.

Flyers were 1-4 down a couple of minutes into the middle period, but in a much better spell Flyers started to compete and Flyers got back into the game with a second from Siddall and one from Mike Hamilton. Two early penalties in the third period didn't help Flyers' cause, killing the first one, but conceding a fifth goal of the evening during the second penalty kill. Danny Stewart made it 4-5 but another Clan powerplay goal and an empty netter for the home side which resulted in Flyers' first game against Clan finishing in a 4-7 loss.

A 1-10 thrashing back at the shops three weeks later kept Flyers' dismal start to the season going. Seven behind after two periods saw Flyers' shell shocked goalie Garrett Zemlack pulled and replaced for the third period by Blair Daly. It was 0-9 before Matt Cohen got Flyers' only goal of the game as the team extended their loss streak to thirteen games.

ANDI IN THE ATTIC



A Challenge Cup/League match up a further three weeks later saw Flyers defeat their West of Scotland rivals for the first time 5-4 at Kirkcaldy, a game in which Mike Hamilton scored Flyers' first ever Elite League hat-trick. Siddall and Stewart got Flyers' other two tallies.

In January 2012 Flyers took three points from Clan with a first ever away win against them 4-3, Toms Hartmanis with two goals and singles from Tim Maxwell and Denis Kadic. On 31/01/12 Flyers gained a point in a 1-2 shootout defeat at home. Kadic was the only Flyers scorer as Clan prevailed on penalties.

That was to be the last point Flyers won against Clan in the initial season of their rivalry as a 2-7 and a 2-6 defeat ended the series with Clan having the upper hand overall.

Since that time, the teams have developed a fierce rivalry and as of the end of 2023/24 season Flyers have won 40 and drawn one game out of 101 against their Braehead foes including games following Clan's name change to Glasgow.



ANDI
RENSON





RULES CORNER



Over the next couple of issues we will round out the IIHF rulebook with a summary of the different penalty types as well as some game scenarios. Firstly a look at the penalty types and the rules that have previously been explained in earlier issues.

TABLE 1 · RULE 15

Calling of Penalties – Summary of Penalties to Coaches and Team personnel

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Hitting the boards or glass with a stick or any other object	39.3(I), 75.3(II)
Interference with an opponent on a breakaway	56.6
Interference with an opponent or the puck while play is in progress	56.3
Interference with an opponent or the puck while the Goalkeeper has been removed	56.7, 56.8
Interfering with a Game Official	39.3(III)
Leaving the bench by stepping onto the ice before the end of the period	70.5
Obscene language or gestures	39.3(II), 9.5(II),(VIII),(IX), 75.3(III), 75.5(II), (III), (V)
Physical abuse of an Official	40.7
Refusing to start play (Teams in their dressing room)	73.1, 73.3
Refusing to start play (Teams on the ice)	73.1, 73.2
Throwing a stick on the ice to a player who has lost or broken a stick	10.3
Throwing any object onto the ice (unsportsmanlike conduct)	75.1, 75.3
Throwing stick (breakaway on an open net)	53.8
Throwing stick (Defending Zone)	53.7

TABLE 2 · RULE 16

Summary of Minor Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Aggressor	46.3, 46.4	Boarding	41.2
Broken stick	10.3	Charging	42.2
Clipping	44.2	Closing hand on puck	67.2
Concealing puck with hand	67.2, al. 2 (II)	Cross-checking	59.2
Delay of Game	63.2	Elbowing	45.2



RULES CORNER



TABLE 2 · RULE 16

Summary of Minor Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Interference on the Goalkeeper	69.2	High-sticking	60.2
Holding	54.2	Holding the stick	54.2
Hooking	55.2	Illegal Check to the Head or Neck	48.2
Illegal Equipment	9.6, 12, 65.2	Illegal stick	10.5, 10.6
Instigator / Initiator	46.3	Interference	56.2
Kneeing	50.2	Leaving Penalty Box too early	70.4
Leaving the Goal Crease (Goal-keeper)	27.6	Participating beyond the Center Line (Goalkeeper)	27.7
Roughing	51.2	Slashing	61.2
Throwing puck towards opponent's goal	67.3 .3 al. 2 (III)	Throwing Equipment	53.2
Tripping	57.2	Use of hand on "face-off"	67.2, al. 3 (I)
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	75.2		

TABLE 3 · RULE 17

Summary of Bench Minor Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Abuse of Officials	39.3	Delay of Game	63.3
Deliberate illegal substitution	74.4	Face-off violation	76.4, 76.6, 76.7
Illegal substitution	68.2	Interference from players' bench/penalty box	56.3
Interference with an official	39.3	Leaving bench at end of period play	86.2, 86.8
Refusing to start play	73.2, 73.3	Stepping onto ice during period (Coach)	70.5
Throwing objects onto ice	75.3	Too many players on the ice	70.4, 74.1, 74.2, 74.3
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	75.3	Unsustained request for stick measure	10.5, 10.6



RULES CORNER



TABLE 4 · RULE 18.3

Summary of Double-minor Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Butt-ending (attempt)	58.2	Delay of Game (Coach's challenge)	38.8
Head-butting (attempt)	47.2	High-sticking (accidental, injury)	60.3
Spearing (attempt)	62.2		

TABLE 5 · RULE 20

Summary of Major Penalties (without a Game Misconduct possible)

DESCRIPTION	RULE
Fighting (Defender – Unwilling combatant)	46.6

TABLE 6 · RULE 20

Summary of Major Penalties that Result in an Automatic Game Misconduct

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Butt-ending	58.3	Checking from Behind	43.3
Clipping	44.3	Cross-checking	59.3
Dangerous actions	21.1	Fighting/Fighter – Willingness to fight and continuing to fight	46.1
Fighting (Dangerous puncher – Sucker puncher)	46.5	Fighting other than during the periods of the game	46.9
Goalkeeper who uses their blocking glove to punch an opponent (Roughing)	51.3	Head-butting	47.3
High-sticking	60.4	Hooking	55.3
Illegal Check to the Head	48.3	Kicking an opponent	49.3
Kneeing	50.3	Slashing	61.3
Slew-footing	52.2	Spearing	62.3
Throwing Equipment	53.7		

TABLE 7 · RULE 20

Summary of Major Penalties that Result in a Game Misconduct based on the Referee's Judgement

DESCRIPTION	RULE	DESCRIPTION	RULE
Boarding	41.4	Charging	42.4
Elbowing	45.4	Interference	56.5
Tripping	57.4		



RULES CORNER



TABLE 9 – RULE 22

Summary of Misconduct Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Banging boards with stick in protest of an Official's ruling	39.2 (IV), 39.4 (IV),(VII)
Hitting the boards or glass with a stick or any other object	39.2 (IV), 39.4 (IV)&(VII)
Deliberately breaking stick or refusing to surrender stick for measurement	10.5, 10.6
Deliberately throwing any equipment (including stick) out of playing area	39.4 (VI), 75.4 (II)
Entering or remaining in the On-ice Officials Crease	39.4 (V)
Inciting an opponent into incurring a penalty	75.4 (III)
Interfering or distracting opponent taking a Penalty Shot (Second violation)	24.4
Knocking or shooting puck out of reach of an Official	39.4 (II)
Leaving bench to protest	6.1
Refusing to change non-regulation piece of protective equipment (after warning)	9.5
Use of profane or abusive language	75.4 (I)
Verbal abuse towards an Official	39.4 (I)

TABLE 10 · RULE 23

Summary of Game Misconduct Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Kneeing	50.3
Leaving the penalty box during an altercation	39.5 (V), 70.4, 70.6
Obscene language or gesture	39.5 (II)
Persists to challenge or dispute Official's ruling	39.5 (I)
Physically abuses an Official	39.5 (III), 40.1
Racial taunts or slurs or sexual remarks	23.8
Removing jersey prior to an altercation	46.13
Slashing	61.3
Slew-footing	52.2
Spearing	62.3
Spitting, smearing blood on or at an opponent or spectator	23.8
Second Major Penalty in a game	20.4, 27.2
Throwing Stick or Equipment outside the playing area	39.5 (VI), 53.2 (IV), 53.5, 53.6
Tripping	57.4



RULES CORNER



TABLE 10 · RULE 23

Summary of Game Misconduct Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Biting an opponent or spectator	23.8
Boarding	41.4
Butt-ending	58.3
Charging	42.4
Checking from behind	43.3
Clipping	44.3
Continues or attempts to continue a fight	46.1
Cross-checking	59.3
Dangerous actions	21.1
Elbowing	45.4
Fighting / Fighter – Willingness to fight and continuing fight	46.1
Fighting (Dangerous puncher-“Sucker puncher”)	46.5
Fighting off the playing surface	46.11
Fighting other than during the periods of the game	46.9
First or second player to leave the players’ bench during or to start an altercation	70.3
First to intervene in an altercation (third player in)	46.7
Goalkeeper who uses their blocking glove to punch an opponent (Roughing)	51.3
Head-butting	47.3
High-sticking	60.4
Hooking	55.3
Illegal Check to the Head	48.3
Interference	56.5
Interfering with or striking a spectator	23.8
Kicking an opponent	49.3

HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

Darrian Wilson

The return of fan favourite Jonas Emmerdahl was a bright spot from last weekend and listening to him post-game on Sunday confirmed that despite the obvious skill and compete level the team has to offer the confidence is broken. There were spells against Cardiff where Flyers were all over Devils like a rash but again, with the visitors opening the scoring it was another kick in the dangles for the guys. In our wee area we talk about puck luck and it seems that Flyers get very little of that these days which seems to compound Flyers' woes. Ryan Foss took himself home and Jonas arrived to replace Noah Delmas who is finished for the season through injury and I hope he makes a full recovery. Whilst Charles-Antoine Paiment iced over in Belfast he was unfortunately missing on Sunday, adding to Flyers' troubles. With Ben Brown also missing from the line up Flyers welcomed back James Spence and Joe Lynch with both seeing valuable ice time. Shane Owen saw more rubber at the weekend than the A92 with sixty-one shots against him in Belfast before coming back to the Auld Barn on Sunday to face forty-three shots against Devils who flattered their win with a last-minute goal. Massimo Carozza kept up his good spell of scoring with a goal in each game whilst Kieran Craig also chipped in with a point in each game with two assists followed up by Flyers only goal down in Sheffield as Shane Owen saw another sixty-one shots. Steelers took advantage of tired legs to flatter the score line with three goals in the last ten minutes. We know Chiodo, Martineau, and Cichy are also capable of putting up numbers whilst other guys seem to be struggling to even get shots away. When you look at league leaders Belfast Giants there are only two players in and around a point per game however they have eleven players sitting with over twenty points. It's getting that production from a team that means you don't rely on one line of players to keep you in a game or get you over the line. Four goals from fifty-two shots in three games isn't conducive to success but stats are sometimes like sand in eyedrops and make for painful reading. Flyers have three guys sitting with twenty plus points in the bag with Carozza and Craig getting on there with their points per game. If we are to make anything from the last couple of months of the season it's going to need maximum effort every shift from all and that may be too big an ask for a team that can see the curtains slowly closing on an era, never mind a season. So how do we as fans set our expectations and what do we really see as a reasonable outcome for the rest of the season?

I'd love to see Ben Brown, James Spence and Joe Lynch in the line up at every opportunity with regular ice time, maybe not regular shifts but certainly a good amount of minutes a game wouldn't harm their development. If we get anything from the season it would be great to see those three along with Brodie Kay in a position to step into another team in the league if Flyers are unable to ice a team in the league next season. No great surprise that next season is on everyone's minds at the moment. With Tom and Jack having started selling off the merch and surplus equipment to wipe their slate clean prior to retiring from the club it seems to have raised some concern. Having a hand in a small business I see it is only logical to sell off the bits and pieces whilst you still have an engaged fan base and before you sell the rights to the brand which would put you in a tricky place when it comes to selling the branded merchandise. Nothing to worry about and no signal of doom, simply getting prepared for a clean handover of the brand. All just an educated guess though. If our esteemed editor indulges me I'm going to be contentious for a paragraph. What if Flyers had fallen by the wayside earlier this season when the wheels came off? The players would have had time and opportunity to find themselves a new team, possibly in a very different league that would allow some of them to flourish and achieve their full potential, Flyers would likely still be up for sale and certainly the season ticket holding fans would have lost out. The Elite League is not the most perfect league for Flyers as the team lost the best links it had to the community when the local lads couldn't get a decent crack at the league and fighting to stay competitive in the league went hand in hand with fighting to get people through the doors. Despite getting good crowds both Glasgow and Dundee have struggled to compete and that's with well-seasoned coaches that know the league. I don't think the issues Flyers face are unique in Scotland and this moment could be a catalyst for something much bigger. If Dundee and Glasgow lose the Fife games and the income they generate it could cause a cataclysmic effect to senior hockey in Scotland. Coming into the weekend and Flyers face a trip to Manchester before Glasgow come calling on Sunday. Two very tricky games against teams fighting at the bottom of the league with Manchester more desperately in need of the points as they see qualification for the play-off play-offs drifting further and further out of reach.

Thank you for sticking by the guys.
Darrian

Matchnight

PRESENTATIONS

CARDIFF DEVILS FEBRUARY 16TH 2025



DEVILS MOM
EVAN MOSEY



FLYERS MOM
DANIEL KRENŽELOK



50/50 WINNER



WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Fife Flyers are through to the Heineken Premier League play-offs — and that's official! Saturday's victory over Ayr Bruins confirmed the Kirkcaldy side as the first team to book their place in the play-offs for the championship finals at Wembley. While it has been apparent for some time that Flyers were virtual certainties to reach the play-offs, it is now a reality. Finishing in the top six has always been Flyers' primary objective this season — and they've done it in style. A delighted player-coach Ron Plumb said yesterday: "We have accomplished our first goal, and to do it as well as we have is a real bonus." The six teams who qualify for the play-offs in April are split into two groups of three who play each other home and away, with the top two in each section going through to Wembley. "It will be like starting a whole new season," said Plumb. "Whether a team finishes first or sixth in the league, they will have an equal chance and anything could happen." Flyers, of course, still want to finish on top of the league, but Durham closed the gap to just two points at the weekend — and they have three games in hand. However, the English side have several tough away matches still to play, and it is vital that Flyers continue to pick up as many points as possible. "We have to win as many of our remaining games as we can in order to put pressure on Durham," commented Plumb. Flyers travel to Nottingham tomorrow where they could only draw 7-7 in November, and will be boosted by the return of manager John Haig and the Kirkcaldy players who have been representing Britain in the World Under-20 Championships in Belgium this week. However, they will be without the unavailable Jimmy Pennycook and the suspended Stuart Drummond who has two games of a five match ban still to serve following his gross misconduct penalty at Ayr. Tomorrow's match presents Dave Stoyanovich with the opportunity to set a new record for the number of league and cup goals scored in a season. Stoyanovich requires just one goal to equal Roy Halpin's existing record of 128, having hit the target 91 times in the Heineken League after scoring 36 Bluecol Cup goals. Barring injury, it seems a question of by how many the Canadian will exceed Halpin's total. There are still some seats available on the supporters' bus for Nottingham which leaves Kirkcaldy Ice Rink at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Anyone interested" should contact Joe Rowbotham (tel. Kirkcaldy 54637) or turn up at the Rink in time for departure.

The British Ice Hockey Association this week announced that forward Dean Edmiston (16) and defenceman Richard Phillips (15) of Fife Flames will be in the under-19 team to travel to Italy for the European Championships from March 19-24. Both youngsters are currently in Belgium with the under-20 squad, Meanwhile, Flyers will play their outstanding match against Ayr Bruins at Kirkcaldy on Sunday, March 31, giving them a double header that weekend with Streatham the visitors the night before.

02/03/1985 Nottingham Panthers v Fife Flyers Premier League

Dave Stoyanovich claimed a new British ice hockey scoring record on Saturday when two goals against Nottingham Panthers took him past Roy Halpin's total of 128 goals in a season. The dynamic Canadian has now hit the target 93 times in the Heineken Premier League to add to his 36 Bluecol Cup goals, and with a minimum of 11 competitive games still to play, he looks set to establish a record that may never be beaten. But while Stoyanovich took the limelight as Flyers crushed a disappointing Nottingham outfit, his compatriot Danny Brown made an encouraging return to scoring form by registering a nap hand. This was one of Flyers' best away performances this season, and although Panthers kept the game tight in the first period, the visitors rattled in eight goals in the second to make the final spell a formality. Stoyanovich — 26 last week — took only nine minutes to equal Halpin's record when he opened the scoring with a rasping shot from the blue line. This was quickly followed by further long range efforts from Brian Peat and Danny Brown to give the Kirkcaldy side a comfortable 3-0 lead at the first buzzer. Brown wasted no time in stretching Flyers' lead when he scored just 34 seconds after the restart, and five minutes later ex-Panther Andy Linton scored a fine goal after good play by Brown and Ron Plumb. Then came the goal that Fife fans had been waiting for — and it was certainly worthy of being a record breaker. After fine work in his own end zone, Ron Plumb sent an inch perfect pass to Stoyanovich who was lurking on the left wing, and he accelerated past his man before drawing the netminder and calmly slotting the puck into the corner of the net. With the pressure of waiting for the record now off, Flyers really opened out, and by the 32nd minute had increased their lead to 9-0 with goals by Brown, Gordon Latto and Neil Abel. Panthers pulled one back through Gauthier, but Flyers continued to dominate and a fine long range effort by Abel and another goal by Brown left the home side with an impossible task. Although Nottingham scored a second goal through Fraser with 15 seconds of the period remaining, the third period was



WEMBLEY WIZARDS

SEASON 1984/85

purely academic. Danny Brown hit his own personal fifth goal, and after Fraser had netted Panthers' third, Flyers finished the match on a high note with goals in the last five minutes from Linton and Peat.

Fife Flyers take a break from the pressures of the Heineken Premier League when they entertain Canadian tourists Toronto Eagles at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink tomorrow night. The Toronto side made a poor start to their visit to Britain when they went down 10-2 to Glasgow Dynamos on Sunday, but having shaken off their jetlag, they will be expected to give a better account of themselves against Flyers. The Canadians have taken on a hectic schedule during their week-long tour. They are due to meet Dundee Rockets tonight, and after tomorrow's game in Kirkcaldy they go on to play Ayr Bruins on Sunday! Not much is known about the opposition, which is made up of players in the Toronto area, but their line-up does include former Ayr player Gary Steven. "We have a lot of hockey coming up over the next month, and it will be nice to have a little break from the league," said Flyers' player-coach Ron Plumb yesterday. "There is always the possibility of picking up some injuries, but I am thinking about bringing in a couple of our younger players for this match." Stuart Drummond completes his five-match suspension tomorrow, while Jimmy Pennycook is unavailable. Netminder Andrew Donald did not play in Nottingham on Saturday because of a leg injury, while Steven Kirk picked up a back injury, and both will have late fitness tests. Plumb felt that Flyers played a good offensive and defensive game at Nottingham, and commented: "It was good to see the goals being spread around the team." He felt that Nottingham's goaltending was a little suspect, but we played a solid hockey game." With Flyers not having a league match this weekend, Durham Wasps have the opportunity to go to the top of the table when they visit Murrayfield on Sunday, but the Kirkcaldy side will be hoping that Racers can do them a favour. Flyers have been asked to play Glasgow Dynamos in a Scottish Challenge Cup match in Dundee, but a suitable date has still to be agreed. Meanwhile, the seven Kirkcaldy players who were included in the British team for the World Junior Championships in Belgium last week earned praise from Flyers manager John Haig who was the British team boss. "They did us proud and the experience will do them the world of good" he commented. "These lads are the nucleus of the British team of the future. Britain finished fourth in the tournament, defeating Spain 5-3 but going down to Bulgaria, Holland, Hungary and the host nation.

09/03/1985 Fife Flyers v Toronto Eagles Challenge

Saturday's challenge match at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink gave Flyers the chance to relax from the pressures of the Heineken Premier League. Toronto Eagles, playing the fourth match of their Scottish tour, were looking for their first win — but despite giving a good account of themselves, Flyers proved too strong for them. The Kirkcaldy side were without Stuart Drummond, completing his period of suspension, but player coach Ron Plumb took the opportunity to ice young defencemen Blair Page and Gary Fyfe. The first period was closely contested, with Flyers going ahead through Dave Stoyanovich, only for Newby to equalise for the visitors with a well-taken goal. However, Stoyanovich restored Flyers' lead within a minute to give his side a 2-1 advantage at the first buzzer. As has been the case so often before this season, a middle period burst put Flyers firmly in the driving seat. In the dying seconds of a power play, Danny Brown brought the crowd to its feet with one of the goals of the season. Picking the puck up in his own end, the big No. 19 weaved his way the length of the ice, leaving the tourists trailing in his wake, before calmly beating the netminder. Another power play goal by Brown followed four minutes later, and soon after Stoyanovich completed his hat-trick from a Brown assist. Stoyanovich then snapped up the rebound of a Neil Abel pile-driver which was blocked by the netminder to give Flyers a 6-1 lead at the break. Just a minute into the final period, Abel himself got on the scoresheet when he crashed an unstoppable shot into the top corner from the blue line. Two minutes later, Brown completed an excellent hat-trick when he capitalised on good work by Murray McLellan to scoop an angled back-hander into the roof of the net. Eagles' persistent efforts were rewarded by a second goal from Newby, but within 25 seconds Stoyanovich brought up his nap hand after McLellan had again done the spade work. Period scores: 2-1, 4-0, 3-2. With Flyers threatening to run riot, the visitors, to their credit, raised their game sufficiently to prevent any further goals. Indeed, it was the Canadians who had the final word when Clark scored just two minutes from time. After the game, man of the match awards were presented to Danny Brown of Flyers and Newby of Eagles, and the sporting crowd gave the visitors a rousing send-off after an entertaining and clean fought encounter.

1984/85 SEASON ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** ROTHES HALLS SHOW TICKETS NOW ON SALE ****

The organisers behind the reunion of Fife Flyers' 1985 British Championship winning team can now confirm that tickets for the live show taking place on **Friday, May 2nd 2025 at the Rothes Hall**, Glenrothes, are on sale.

Initial sales have been good and fans are encouraged to get their seats as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Tickets are not available through the Fife Flyers and fans are asked to either visit any OnFife box Office in person or via the Rothes Halls online ticketing site; <https://www.onfife.com/venues/rothes-halls/>

All tickets will be £25 and booking fees will apply for online purchases.

There will also be a **souvenir brochure** available to buy at £10 which tells the story of the team's incredible triumph at Wembley Arena and the season that led to that never to be forgotten weekend.

It is being put together by members of the organising committee and will be published and available for the weekend of the celebrations. Anyone who wants to order a copy in advance can do so, and get their name listed in a page for patrons. **To become a patron please contact the organising committee via the email address fifeflyershistorian@btinternet.com , the FifeFlyers historian social media channels, or directly with any of the members of the committee.**

The organisers have been delighted by the initial response to news of the reunion of the Class of '85 with many old-time hockey fans keen to be involved at the live show.

They are also appealing to any supporters with memorabilia from that era to consider loaning or donating to the exhibition which will be hosted at **Kirkcaldy Galleries and will run from April 30th 2025 until June 8th 2025.**

Alan Westwater, the club's former programme editor, is leading the initiative and liaising with staff at the galleries where space has been reserved to showcase the team's successes. He said: "We'd love to hear from any fans who have items of interest - it could be anything from a strip to a puck or merchandising from Wembley in 1985. Anything loaned will be catalogued, displayed securely, and then returned afterwards." Offers of assistance should be directed via email fifeflyershistorian@btinternet.com

A sportsman's lunch will take place at the **Strathearn Hotel, Kirkcaldy, on Sunday, May 4th** with further details to be announced in the coming weeks.





KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB



Fife Flames maintained their unbeaten record in the Scottish U16 League with a fine all-round display against Murrayfield on Saturday.

Seven different players scored in an emphatic 9-1 victory, demonstrating just how much of a team performance this was.

Adam Malcolmson was the MVP.

The Flames are back in action on Saturday when they head over the Irish Sea to face title rivals Belfast Giants U16.

Kirkcaldy Kestrels booked their place in the Scottish Cup final after a thrilling encounter with Edinburgh Capitals at Fife Ice Arena on Saturday.

The start of the game was delayed due to the sizeable crowd who packed into Fife Ice Arena to get behind the Kestrels.

Steven Wishart's side held a 4-1 lead after the first leg and were in no mood to relinquish their advantage on home ice.

Both netminders stood firm during the first two periods, leaving the Capitals with a mountain to climb in the final session.

They piled on the pressure and reduced the aggregate deficit to just one goal midway through the third period.

However, the Kestrels players repeatedly put their bodies on the line to keep their lead intact and secure a spot in the final.

Their collective efforts took their toll, with nine players subsequently ruled out of the trip to Dundee Rockets in the Scottish National League (SNL) the following day.











The Rockets took full advantage, claiming a 10-2 victory to move a step closer to the SNL title.



TABLES & FIXTURES

SEASON 2024/25

ELITE LEAGUE

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %	
Belfast Giants	39	59	24	4	8	3	149	94	0.76	
Sheffield Steelers	38	53	25	1	11	1	148	92	0.7	
Nottingham Panthers	38	52	22	3	11	2	132	88	0.68	
Cardiff Devils	37	48	23	0	12	2	126	94	0.65	
Coventry Blaze	40	45	16	5	16	3	130	126	0.56	
Guildford Flames	39	41	16	2	16	5	129	131	0.53	
Glasgow Clan	37	37	14	4	18	1	115	125	0.5	
Dundee Stars	40	36	13	3	20	4	127	150	0.45	
Manchester Storm	37	27	11	2	23	1	110	144	0.36	
Fife Flyers	37	8	3	0	32	2	80	202	0.11	

As at 17th February 2025

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
195	Wed	19-Feb-2025	Glasgow Clan	Manchester Storm	19:30
196	Wed	19-Feb-2025	Nottingham Panthers	Guildford Flames	19:30
197	Wed	19-Feb-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Fife Flyers	19:30
198	Fri	21-Feb-2025	Belfast Giants	Cardiff Devils	19:00
199	Sat	22-Feb-2025	Belfast Giants	Cardiff Devils	19:00
200	Sat	22-Feb-2025	Dundee Stars	Guildford Flames	19:00
201	Sat	22-Feb-2025	Glasgow Clan	Coventry Blaze	19:00
202	Sat	22-Feb-2025	Manchester Storm	Fife Flyers	19:00
203	Sat	22-Feb-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Nottingham Panthers	19:00
204	Sun	23-Feb-2025	Nottingham Panthers	Manchester Storm	16:00
205	Sun	23-Feb-2025	Fife Flyers	Glasgow Clan	17:15
206	Sun	23-Feb-2025	Coventry Blaze	Dundee Stars	17:30
207	Sun	23-Feb-2025	Guildford Flames	Sheffield Steelers	18:00

FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Aug 24th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	H	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Aug 25th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	H	17:15	Lost	4-6
Saturday Aug 31st	UQTR	Pre Season	H	19:15	Won	2-0
Saturday Sep 7th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	H	19:15	Won	4-3
Sunday Sep 8th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	2-4
Saturday Sep 14th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15	Lost	5-6
Sunday Sep 15th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	17:00	Lost SO	2-3
Saturday Sep 21st	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:00	Lost	1-5
Sunday Sep 22nd	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	5-8
Saturday Sep 28th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	19:15	Won	4-1
Sunday Sep 29th	Guildford Flames	League	A	18:00	Lost	1-4
Saturday Oct 5th	Manchester Storm	League	H	19:15	Won	3-2
Sunday Oct 6th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	16:00	Lost	1-5
Wednesday Oct 9th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	H	19:30	Lost	0-7
Friday Oct 11th	Cardiff Devils	League	A	19:30	Lost	2-5
Friday Oct 18th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	A	19:30	Lost	0-7
Saturday Oct 19th	Guildford Flames	League	H	19:15	Lost	4-7
Saturday Oct 26th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	0-3
Sunday Oct 27th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	H	17:15	Lost	2-7
Wednesday Oct 30th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	19:30	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 2nd	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	3-5
Sunday Nov 3rd	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15	Lost SO	3-4
Saturday Nov 9th	Glasgow Clan	League	H	19:15	Lost OT	4-5
Sunday Nov 10th	Dundee Stars	League	A	17:00	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 16th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Won OT	4-3
Sunday Nov 17th	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15	Lost	1-4
Saturday Nov 23rd	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:15	Lost	4-5
Sunday Nov 24th	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30	Lost	2-9
Saturday Nov 30th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	A	19:00	Lost	2-5
Sunday Dec 1st	Sheffield Steelers	League	H	17:15	Won	5-3
Saturday Dec 7th	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Dec 8th	Guildford Flames	League	H	17:15	Lost	0-4
Saturday Dec 14th	Nottingham Panthers	League	A	19:00	Lost	0-6
Sunday Dec 15th	Coventry Blaze	League	H	17:15	Lost	1-7
Saturday Dec 21st	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15	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	Lost	2-5
Sunday Jan 12th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	16:00	Lost	0-8
Saturday Jan 18th	Manchester Storm	League	A	19:00	Won	5-4
Sunday Jan 19th	Nottingham Panthers	League	H	17:15	Lost	2-4
Friday Jan 24th	Glasgow Clan	League	A	19:30	POST	
Saturday Jan 25th	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:15	POST	
Saturday Feb 1st	Belfast Giants	League	H	19:15	Lost	5-7
Sunday Feb 2nd	Coventry Blaze	League	A	17:30	Lost	2-5
Wednesday Feb 5th	Glasgow Clan	League	A	19:30	Lost	4-9
Saturday Feb 8th	Glasgow Clan	League	A	19:00	Lost	0-4
Sunday Feb 9th	Dundee Stars	League	H	17:15	Lost	3-8
Friday Feb 14th	Belfast Giants	League	A	19:00	Lost	1-8
Sunday Feb 16th	Cardiff Devils	League	H	18:00	Lost	2-6
Wednesday Feb 19th	Sheffield Steelers	League	A	19:30	Lost	1-8
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		
Wednesday Mar 5th	Cardiff Devils	League	H	19:30		
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		



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Pettycur Bay Holiday Park

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