

## MATCH REPORT



The Flyers were looking bring to and end their losing run in Sheffield that stretched back to 2018. The visitors were once again without Charles-Antoine Paiement, Brodie Kay and Aiden Wilson with James Spence and Cameron Keny also scratched. The Steelers who handed Reece Kelly a debut had a full roster but scratched Kevin Tansey, Joel Janatuinen, Ivan Bjorkly Nordstrom and Maxim Golod.

The home side had the first shot of the match when Shane Owen made a blocker save on Colton Saucerman after 30 seconds. Mitchell Balmas had a clear sight of the Flyers net in the 1st minute but flashed the puck just wide of the post. In the 3rd minute Jordan Stallard put the puck on net with a backhand shot from distance but it was a routine save for Matt Greenfield. The Flyers had another effort on the Steelers net a minute later when Patrick Kyte forced a pad save from Greenfield. Dominic Cormier from the high slot was denied by an Owen shoulder save but in the 6th minute the home side opened the scoring when Balmas won the puck along the boards and drove the net before he dished the puck to the back door for Mikko Juusola to hit a wide open net. In the 9th minute Lucas Chiodo showed some speed down the right wing and tried the wraparound on Greenfield who was alert to get across post to post. Owen denied Juusola with a stick save a minute later. In the 15th minute Brandon Whistle from close range tried a through the legs shot that Owen shut down and moments later the Fife keeper was alert again when he once against stopped Whistle who tipped the puck on net from the slot. A Daniel Leavens individual effort produced a toe save from Owen. Greenfield made a blocker save from a Kyte shot from the point in the 16th minute. Owen then made a big pad save a minute later on a one timer from Balmas. The Steelers went on the first power play of the night when Olivier LeBlanc was called for tripping in the final minute. Robert Dowd almost grabbed a second goal in the final second but his effort was wide of target.

#### **PERIOD 2**

The Flyers completed the kill to start the second period as they kept the Steelers to the outside. Joona Huttula standing at the edge of the Flyers crease was denied by Owen who shut the wickets in the 23rd minute. Moments later and Owen was aggressively out of his crease to take the net away on a Cormier blast from the high slot. The Steelers doubled their lead in the 26th minute as Balmas took the puck for a skate in the Flyers zone and as he had Owen dragged out of position his shot was deflected wide of goal to fall nicely into the path of Samuel Tremblay who had an easy task of hitting the wide open net.

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In the 27th minute Cormier blew a tyre along the boards and the Flyers got a chance when Daniel Krenželok saw Greenfield turn his shot around the post with his pad. In the 29th minute Leavens tried to sweep the puck around Owen who moved laterally to make the save. Marc-Olivier Vallerand dipsy doodled his way through the Flyers rearguard in the 31st minute but Owen made a good stop as he slid across his net to turn the puck away. Tyler Heidt was called for a hook on the play to send the Steelers back to the power play. The Flyers fashioned a 2 on 1 shorthanded chance as PhélixMartineau had Cichy up with him but his attempted pass was cut out by a sliding Cormier as the Steelers transitioned the otherer way and Patrick Watling pulled the puck around the Flyers defenceman and his shot went into the top corner off the pad of Owen. Daniel Ciampini was then denied twice in quick succession by Owen. The Steelers added another goal in the 35th minute when Reece Kelly put the puck on net and Mark Simpson cruising through the slot got a tip to send it high over a helpless Owen. The Flyers netminder was at full stretch a minute later to prevent a puck going past him off the skate of a Flyer. Kieran Craig forced a comfortable save from Greenfield in the final seconds of the period.

#### **PERIOD 3**

Balmas had a clear look at goal 30 seconds into the third period but Owen stood up and made a pad save. The Flyers responded with an odd man break but Massimo Carozza put the puck wide of the net from close range. The home side hit a fifth goal in the 44th minute when Tremblay played a no look back pass that opened up the ice for Juusola to take the puck to the net and his backhand went over the pad and off the post. In the 46th minute Watling went to the net and fell into Owen as the Steelers player appealed for a trip. The Flyers went on their only man advantage of the night in the 48th minute when Tremblay got the gate for a trip. A shot up high from Martineau almost fooled Greenfield but he managed to hang on to the puck. The Flyers controlled possession and got their reward for some patient build up when a Heidt shot from distance was spilled by the Steelers goalie and Kieran Craig was on hand to swat the bouncing puck into the net. Craig went close again in the 51st minute when Greenfield denied him on a wraparound attempt. A minute later and the Steelers added another as a shot from Watling hit the glass behind Owen and Leavens was on hand to take the puck around the net and squeeze it into the net on a wraparound. Greenfield was relieved at that point with Curtis Warburton coming into the net. The back up netminder was tested by Ben Brown as he made a kick save and then he gloved a shot from Kyte. With 4 minutes remaining Martineau was called for a trip and the Steelers got another one on the board on the power play. It was a significant goal as Robert Dowd became the Steelers all time leading scorer when he found the net from the side of Owen's net. Craig was penalized in the final minute for a hook and the Steelers again made their extra man count as Marc-Olivier Vallerand went top shelf over the stick of Owen with a shot from the circles. In the final couple of seconds the Flyers survived a rolling puck in behind Owen who managed to recover and get the whistle.

	<u>Steele</u>	ers Stats				<u>Flyers</u>	<u>Stats</u>	
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Juusola	Simpson	Balmas	1	Craig	Heidt	Chiodo	For
61	Tremblay	Balmas	Kelly	2				19
Shots	Watling	Cormier	Greenfield	3				Shots
Against	Simpson	Kelly	Balmas	4				Against
19	Juusola	Tremblay	Saucerman	5				61
PiMS	Leavens	Ciampini	Cormier	6				PiMS
2	Dowd	Juusola	Watling	7				8
	Vallerand	Saucerman	Whistle	8				
MOM				9				MOM
Juusola				10				Heidt

STEELERS





**HAYLEY ROBERTS** 









## GETTING TO KNOW #24

## AIDEN WILSON

Date of Birth - April 12, 2005

Position - Forward

Age - 19

Height - 171cm / 5'7"

Place of Birth - Saltcoats

Weight - 68 kg / 150lbs

Shoots - Right

Career

2017-18 to 2019-20 Kilmarnock Blizzard (Scotland U16)

2020-21 Utica Jr. Comets (USPHL 16U) 2021-22 Sollefteå HK J18 (J18 Div.1)

2022-23 Sollefteå HK J18 (J18 Div.1), Sollefteå HK (Division 2), North Ayrshire Wild (SNL), Telford Tigers (NIHL)

2023-24 Nybro Vikings IF J20 (J20 Div.1), Telford Tigers (NIHL)

2024-25 Romford Buccaneers (NIHL 1), Romford Raiders (NIHL), Fife Flyers (EIHL)



## #24 WE ASKED...

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

I used to be a football goalkeeper

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

I'd have to say my Dad & mum plus my billet family from Toronto

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

Rory Herman

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

Axel Sandin Pellikka

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

Last game of the U12s season in Kilmarnock when I won the league scoring 128 goals in 16 games

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

Favourite would be FIA of course least favourite South Ayr (it's closed now)

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

If we are on the penalty kill and we score the penalty ends

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

I cheer for Skellefteå AIK in the SHL and don't root against any teams to be honest

#### Most admired hockey player and why?

Sidney Crosby because his skating ability is just unreal

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

Take it day by day. Work hard

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

Strongest I would say is speed, puck handling and edge work but I'm trying to improve my overall strength

#### Pre-game routine?

Start off with a game of 2 touch then get into my personal warm up

#### Pre-game meal?

Salmon, noodles, peppers, onions and cream fresh all mixed together

#### Any gameday superstitions?

Change out my suit, tape my stick and hop on the bike for 10/15 mins then 2 touch

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

Football

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

Football

#### Favourite athlete (non hockey)?

Lamar Jackson

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

**Glasgow Rangers** 

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

Movies

#### Favourite TV show(s)?

Still Game

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

Has to be my mums homemade fajitas

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

Blue top milk or water

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

Donald Trump, Jordan Belford, Brodie Kay, Tom Brady

#### Favourite singer/music/band?

Morgan Wallen

#### What is your favourite vacation destination?

Maldives

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

Loved P.E and business but hated everything else

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

Tequila

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

Honestly don't know but would be pretty cool to play the drums I guess

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

Aids, Aidzy, custard and willy

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

Invisibility and flying powers

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

Jaffa cakes, knife and petrol

#### How many languages do you speak?

English, a little bit of Swedish and the odd Icelandic sentence

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

Some sort of business man or work on the Railway

## MATCH REPORT



The Flyers made their final visit of the season to Planet Ice Altrincham to meet the Manchester Storm. The Flyers had Brodie Kay and Charles-Antoine Paiement back in the line up and scratched Jānis Voris along with Aiden Wilson and James Spence and gave a professional debut to Evan MacKinnon who wore number 18. The Storm had Tyler Rockwell, Connor Lee, Gianluca Estevez and Evan Weninger all missing from their lineup with Harrison Caines on their bench who was a also making his pro debut.

The opening couple of minutes Shane Owen had a few routine saves as the Storm took the early initiative in the game. In the 4th minute the Fife netminder made a good pad save as CJ Garcia from the circles shot low on net. He made another big save in the 7th minute when he got his right pad out to stop Jake Durflinger who snuck in behind the Flyers defence and skated in on goal. Zach Milton was next to be denied by the visiting goalie in the 8th minute and then Owen was aggressively out at the top of his crease to stop a shot from Stephen Johnston. The Flyers went on the first power play of the game in the 9th minute when Johnston was called for holding the stick. The Flyers made their man advantage count as they controlled the puck and Kieran Craig collected it in the circles before he toe dragged around a defenceman and picked the top corner stick side on David Tendeck. Moments after the restart Massimo Carozza was penalised for a slash and the Storm power play went to work for the first time. Alexis D'Aoust had a shot saved up high by Owen but the Storm recycled the puck and Ryan Hughes found Joe Morrow in the slot and his shot went high into the net to tie the scores. The Storm continued to look the more likely to score as the period progressed although most of the shots faced by Owen were routine.

#### PERIOD 2

The Storm had the first shot of the middle period when Owen gloved an effort from D'Aoust. The Flyers responded a minute later when Tendeck couldn't hold an Austin Farley shot and Charles-Antoine Paiement tried to go top shelf with the rebound but fired over the crossbar. The Flyers survived a scramble around their net in the 24th minute when both Hughes and Johnston failed to force the puck past Owen. In the 25th minute a favorable bounce of the puck for the Flyers gave Craig possession in the slot and he fed Carozza down low but Tendeck did well to keep his pad against the post as the Flyer had three whacks to try and stuff it home. In the 26th minute Tendeck saved a shot from Patrick Kyte on a delayed penalty as the Storm were penalised again with Loren Ulett going to the box for holding the stick. The Flyers struggled to get anything clean set up in the Storm zone and late in the power play they turned over the puck at the Storm blueline and Tyler Hinam went down ice to score short handed when he beat Owen high on the stick side.

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. In the 30th minute Paiement tried a short side shot but Tendeck was alert. Owen made a big toe save in the 33rd minute when he turned away a shot from Hughes and when the Storm recycled the puck Owen was down and out in his crease but Hughes lifted his shot over the crossbar. The home side extended their lead in the 35th minute when the Flyers were guilty of turning over the puck again at the Storm blue line and Craig Martin this time broke away and he fired over the pad and under the blocker of Owen. In the final minute of the period Paiement went down the right wing but his shot from the angle was snagged by Tendeck's glove.

#### **PERIOD 3**

In the 42nd minute Evan MacKinnon went close and moments later Ulett at the other end almost beat Owen but he lost the handle on the puck close in on the Fife goalie. Owen flashed the leather in the 43rd minute to deny Jake Durflinger. The Flyers went back on the powerplay in the 45th minute when Zach Milton tripped Jordan Stallard in the neutral zone. The Flyers came close to cutting the deficit but for two lights out saves by Tendeck who denied Craig with his stick with the goal gaping on both occasions. The Flyers gave up another shorthanded goal when Durflinger broke down ice and his pass to the edge of Owen's crease was tipped home by Ulett. It was the Storm's turn with the man advantage in the 49th minute as Brodie Kay sat for slashing. Johnston saw an effort saved by Owen and the rebound fell to Durflinger who had his one time shot blocked by a combination of Daniel Krenželok and Owen as the Flyers survived to complete the kill. D'Aoust was called in the 52nd minute for a high stick on MacKinnon and Ulett almost got another short handed goal as Owen made a stick save to deny him. In the 54th minute CJ Garcia drove the net and Owen had to stand strong to make the save. The Flyers pulled a goal back in the 55th minute when Carozza fed the puck rink wide to Krenželok who was up supporting the rush and he picked the bottom corner of the net on Tendeck. Just over a minute later however and the Storm iced the game with a further two goals. Their fifth carried a bit of luck as D'Aoust saw his shot come cross hit a Flyers skate and deceive Owen and 30 seconds later the Storm won a puck battle behind the Flyers net and Martin fed the puck out to Cam Critchlow all alone in the slot and he finished bar down. In the final 30 seconds a drop pass by MacKinnon was one timed by Craig but Tendeck was well positioned to hold the shot.

	Storm	Stats				Flyers	<u>Stats</u>	
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Morrow	D'Aoust	Hughes	1	Craig	Cichy	Heidt	For
55	Hinam	Griffiths		2	Krenželok	Carozza	MacKinnon	21
Shots	Martin	Critchlow		3				Shots
Against	Ulett	Durflinger		4				Against
21	D'Aoust			5				55
PiMS	Critchlow	Martin		6				PiMS
8				7				4
				8				
MOM				9				MOM
Tendeck				10				Paiement

STORM





MANCHESTER STORM







# REPORT

	Sunday 23rd February	2025		3	GIAN	2	LIILE	1113
L			Period Scores 1	-0, 0	-2, 1-0,0-0,1-0			
i	Shane Owen	Starter	Noah Delmas	×	Evan MacKinno	n✓	Massimo Carozz	a 🗸
n	Jānis Voris	BackUp	Olivier LeBlanc	~	Lucas Chiodo	~	Phélix Martinea	u 🗸
e			Tyler Heidt	~	Michael Cichy	~	Jordan Stallard	~
			Brodie Kay	×	Johnny Curran	×	Kieran Craig	~
υ			Daniel Krenželok	~	Austin Farley	~	Ben Brown	~
р			Patrick Kyte	×	Aiden Wilson	×	Joe Lynch	~
s			Jonas Emmerdahl	~	Charles-Antoine	e Pa	iement 🗸	_
	Brown	Refs	Ferguson	Â	Dolan	Une: men	Rodger	

The Clan were visitors to Kirkcaldy for the final meeting between the two sides this season, the fits team that the Flyers have wrapped up their season series with this term with the visitors looking to sweep their rivals. Missing from the home line up were Patrick Kyte, Aiden Wison, Cam Kenny and James Spence with Joe Lynch coming back onto the bench. The Clan scratched Mitchell Heard, Alex Forbes and Nick Prkusic with Lucas Brine getting the start in net. It was a fast paced opening 4 minutes to the game with Shane Owen being called upon to make a few routine saves whilst the Flyers had yet to call Brine into action. Deven Sideroff got a touch on shot from the blue line by Simon Despres and Owen did well to get a piece of it before the puck was scrambled clear. Owen made the first of several big stops throughout the game in the 5th minute when he denied Tyler McLellan. Moments later and Brine was in the game as Charles-Antoine Paiement stole in behind the Clan defence but the keeper shut him down. The Clan transitioned instantly the other way and Owen absolutely robbed Rylan Schwartz with a glove save. Paiement looked spritely again in the 6th minute as he darted through the Clan rearguard and Brine was forced to make a solid pad save. The teams were going end to end at this point trading chances and Schwartz put the puck on net looking for a touch from Keaton Jameson but the Flyers managed to scramble it clear. In the 8th minute Owen was sharp again when a shot from the blueline by Darien Kielb changed direction off a Flyers skate but the Fife keeper kept it out. Jordan Stallard had a shot from the circles in the 9th minute that Brine blockered away and the Clan keeper was in action again in the 11th minute when he had to fight off a shot by Daniel Krenželok. Owen came up with a pad save in the 12th minute to thwart Liam Finlay and moments later the Flyers went on the first powerplay of the game as Cole Ully was binned for tripping. The Flyers man advantage generated a couple of good looks and Brine swallowed a shot from Massimo Carozza as the visitors were able to return to strength unscathed. Ully straight out of the box set up a 2 on 1 attack and he tried to feed the puck to Chris McKay who drove the net but Owen came up with a shoulder save. Lucas Chiodo was next to test Brine who made a blocker save in the 15th minute. A minute later and Kielb found all sorts of time and space but Owen came up big again with a pad save. The Flyers opened the scoring shortly after when Phélix Martineau carried the puck down the left wing before slipping it inside to Paiement who fired a perfect shot in off the post on the stick side on Brine. With 90 seconds to go Ully was in on Owen who made another pad save. In the final minute Cade Neilson and Olivier Leblanc collided along the boards with the Flyers captain going down to the ice. Martineau engaged Neilson for the hit. The played was reviewed with Neilson being assessed a 5 minute major for an elbow along with the offsetting minors for him and Martineau for roughing. LeBlanc left the game and wouldn't return until the later part of the 2nd period. The Flyers couldn't get anything set up on the power play for the remainder of the period.

#### **PERIOD 2**

The Flyers started the second period with 4 minutes of powerplay time and after a sustained spell of puck cycling Carozza took a shot which pinged the pipe as Brine dislodged the goal. With a minute left on the man advantage a shot from distance by Tyler Heidt wasn't tracked by Brine but he got lucky as the puck eventually ended up between his pads as he lay prone on the ice. In the last few seconds of the power play the visitors struck for a shorthanded goal as Jameson carried the puck down the left wing and passed to Felix Pare who buried the chance on a sprawling Owen. In the 26th minute Owen shut down McLellan on the rush and a minute later Lucas Chiodo danced into the Clan zone and his backhand on a spinorama was held by Brine. The Clan broke 3 on 2 in the 29th minute but Owen held on to a high shot by Kielb. In the 30th minute Ben Brown shot the puck over the glass and was assessed a delay of game

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penalty. The Clan took full advantage of their power play as Steven Seigo sent a pass over to the back post for McLellan to make no mistake. On the restart Owen had to fight off a shot by Schwartz moments before Kielb was given the gate for a slash to put the Flyers back on the power play. A nice set up by Martineau from behind the net found Kieran Craig in the slot but Brine was square to the shot to hold on. Owen then had to come up with a poke check to break up another short handed chance as the Clan returned to full strength. The Clan were back on then power play in the 35th minute when Craig was penalised for cross checking Ully. Owen made one big blocker save but otherwise the Clan were held to the perimeter as the Flyers completed the kill. Finlay had plenty of time in the 37th minute but shot wide of the target and the period ended with Clan having a trio of chances. Firstly Owen made a superb save when Despres fed the puck to the back stick then Finlay slid a shot wide of the target before Owen then denied Sideroff in the final seconds with a big save.

#### PERIOD 3

The Clan had the first chance of the third period when the puck was on Neilson's stick as he went in on goal but fired way over the crossbar. A minute later and Brine had a comfortable save to stop a floated shot by Jonas Emmerdahl from the blueline. In the 43rd minute Paiement and Chris Martenent clashed in the corner and both were given offsetting roughing minors. The Flyers almost leveled in the 45th minute when Martineau went down the left wing again and his drop pass to Craig was well dealt with by Brine. In the 48th minute LeBlanc dropped the gloves with Neilson as a carryover from the earlier incident. Neilson was given 5 for fighting and ejected from the game as was the Flyers captain who picked up a 2+5+10 for instigating. The Clan couldn't get anything set up on their two minute power play as the Flyers completed a crucial kill. In the 51st minute Brine made a toe save on a Krenželok drive. The Flyers leveled the game in the 54th minute as Paiement once again drove the Clan zone and his pass to Michael Cichy was finished with a shot into the top corner of the net. The Clan almost grabbed the lead back with two minutes to go with Jameson and Martenet both going close but once again Owen was a rock in the Flyers net. With 75 seconds remaining the Flyers were called for too many men on the ice as Cichy laboured back to the bench following a big hit in the corner. The Flyers saw out the clock to take the game beyond regulation.

The overtime started with 45 seconds of 4 on 3 powerplay time for the visitors and Owen made a save on Sideroff. Incredibly the Flyers almost won it when Chiodo jumped out of the penalty box as the teams skated 4 on 4 and went coast to coast as his shot slipped through Brine but lay against the post before being scrambled clear. With a little over three minutes remaining the teams returned to 3 on 3. Owen made a pad save on a 2 on 1 break and the Flyers went the other way on their own odd man rush but couldn't get a shot away as the game was played out at a frantic pace. With 6 seconds remaining Finlay was penalised for a cross check and the Flyers called their time out but the Clam won the face off and the teams went on to a shootout.

McLellan took the first and beat Owen on the glove side with a wrister. Cichy followed and leveled the score as he too wristed the puck past Brine on the stick side. Owen then made saves on Sideroff, Ully and Schwartz with Chiodo also being denied and Martineau missing on his attempt. Craig stepped up and beat Brine with another wrist shot on the stick side and the win was secured when Matt Berry missed with his shot to spark wild scenes of jubilation on and off the ice.

	Flyers	s Stats				<u>Clan</u> :	<u>Stats</u>	
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Paiement	Martineau		1	Pare	Jameson		For
26	Cichy	Paiement	Stallard	2	McLellan	Seigo	Ully	47
Shots	Craig PS			3				Shots
Against				4				Against
47				5				26
PiMS				6				PiMS
27				7				20
				8				
MOM				9				MOM
Owen				10				McLellan

CLAN





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	47	0	2	2	0	0	2	10	1758	0.89	4.94	0	0	2403	198
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	26	0	1	1	0	0	1	31	515	0.87	5.45	0	0	716	65
Cameron Kenny	G	22	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	РР А	PP Pts	SH G	SH A	SH Pts	Fv G	Fv 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	51	6	14	20	2	4	6		1	1	4	9	13	38	87
Brodie Kay	D	39	0	0	0	2	4	0		1	0	7	9	0	6	24
Daniel Krenželok	D	51	5	8	13	1	3	4			0	4	5	9	44	165
Patrick Kyte	D	43	3	5	8	1	1	2			0	2	4	6	45	63
Olivier LeBlanc	D	45	0	10	10	_	2	2			0	-	8	8	68	37
Fynn Page	D	11	0	0	0		2	0			0		0	0	0	0
Josh Saunders	D	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	1
Jonas Emmerdahl	D	5	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	2	7
Jonas Emmerdani	D	0	0	0	0			0			0		1	0	2	/
Lucas Chiodo	F		14	30	44	-					0	9	22		12	127
	F	51				5 8	8	13 13				10	22	31	12	137
Michael Cichy		51	18	19	37	8	5				0		14	24	12	102
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	37	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	45	20	20	40	5	7	12		1	1	15	12	27	39	162
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	31	9	10	19	1	4	5			0	8	6	14	6	57
Jordan Stallard	F	29	2	6	8		2	2			0	2	4	6	10	41
Ben Brown	F	21	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	2	20
Kieran Craig	F	18	9	5	14	3		3	1		1	5	5	10	14	59
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	3	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Evan MacKinnon	F	2	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	0	0
Charles-Antoine Paiement	t F	14	2	1	3			0			0	2	1	3	4	36
Players in BLUE																
are everpresents																
Inc All Competitions														Team	22	
Figures as at		Totals	113	197	308	30	59	89	1	2	3	82	133	215	482	1414
23/02/2025			1 SO Goals	s												

#### Legend

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

Shoot Out Goals Scored (Winners)	Shorthanded Goals Scored	Game Winning Goals	Empty Net Goals For	Empty Net Goals Against
1 - Craig	1 - Craig	2 - Cichy 1 - Musorov Krenželok Chiodo Martineau Craig	1 - Pilon	9

## **WEEK 25 - FLYERS STATS RECAP**

#### On Wednesday night.....

#### Sheffield Steelers 8 Fife Flyers 1 - Elite League

The Steelers stretched the Flyers winless streak at the Utilita Arena to 19 games – this is the longest losing streak on the road for the Flyers against any team in all EIHL competitions – the previous longest being 17 games at the Belfast Giants.

The 61 Steelers shots on goal equalled the most that the Flyers have conceded in a game this season and it was the most shots the Steelers have recorded against the Flyers in all EIHL competitions.

The Flyers were credited with 16 blocked shots in the game – their highest total this season.

Kieran Craig now has an active 3 game points streak.

Robert Dowd scored his 31st goal against the Flyers but also his 357th for Steelers to become their all-time leading scorer.

The Flyers powerplay is 44.44 percent against the Steelers – their best against all teams this season.

#### On Saturday night.....

#### Manchester Storm 6 Fife Flyers 2 - Elite League

Evan MacKinnon debut became the 28th player to make his debut for the Flyers this season which is now 7 more than last season which was at that time a record for the highest number of debutants.

Congratulations to Evan MacKinnon for scoring his first point for the Flyers and his first in professional hockey.

The Flyers conceded their 6th shorthanded goal on the road this season and 8th overall which leads all teams.

The last time the Flyers conceded two shorthanded goals in a game was December 2023 on the road in Sheffield.

It was the third short handed goal that the Manchester Storm have scored against the Flyers this season and the 3rd career shortie scored by Loren Ulett against Fife. He joins two other players on that number with 4 being the most by a single player against the Flyers.

Kieran Craig extended his points streak to four games.

It was the first time in 13 games that the Flyers had a lead and scored the opening goal in a game since they last did against Guildford on January 5th.

It was the Flyers 400th road game in all EIHL competitions – their record stands at W 118 L 280 D 2 F 1030 A 1640.

Flyers have now conceded 119 goals on the road which is the most of any EIHL season since their inaugural 2011/12 campaign.

## **WEEK 25 - FLYERS STATS RECAP**

#### On Sunday night.....

#### Fife Flyers 3 Glasgow Clan 2 Shootout - Elite League

Flyers ended their 8 game losing streak against the Clan which equals their longest winless against that opponent in all EIHL competitions.

It also ended a streak of three home losses against the Clan which equals Clans best run at Fife Ice Arena.

The win also prevented the Clan from sweeping the Flyers in league play for the first time in the EIHL era.

For the first time in 17 games this season at home when behind after 2 periods the Flyers came back to win a game.

Flyers are now 33-30 in shootouts in all EIHL competitions and against the Clan the teams have 4 wins each.

The Flyers gave up their 9th short handed goal on the season. It was their 16th against the Clan in all EIHL competitions, second most only to Belfast who have 18.

The Flyers all-time EIHL record for matches in February now reads:

						February					
	P	W	D	L	OT/SO L	% W	% D	% L	F	Α	Diff+/-
2011/12	8	0	0	8	0	0.0	0.0	100.0	15	43	-28
2012/13	9	5	0	4	0	55.6	0.0	44.4	30	31	-1
2013/14	10	8	0	2	0	80.0	0.0	20.0	42	26	16
2014/15	8	4	0	4	0	50.0	0.0	50.0	26	22	4
2015/16	7	6	0	1	0	85.7	0.0	14.3	34	16	18
2016/17	10	3	0	6	1	30.0	0.0	70.0	39	52	-13
2017/18	10	6	0	4	0	60.0	0.0	40.0	42	35	7
2018/19	8	4	0	4	0	50.0	0.0	50.0	19	24	-5
2019/20	10	4	0	5	1	40.0	0.0	60.0	24	30	-6
2021/22	8	3	0	3	2	37.5	0.0	62.5	21	26	-5
2022/23	8	1	0	6	1	12.5	0	87.5	15	27	-12
2023/24	9	3	0	2	4	33.3	0	66.7	34	36	-2
2024/25	10	1	0	9	0	10.0	0	90.0	23	63	-40
L											
	115.0	48.0	0.0	58.0	9.0	41.7	0.0	58.3	364.0	431.0	-67.0

		S	eason 2024-25 Flye	rs ga	ames Officiated by the S	Strip	ey's	
	2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	16	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	2	46 Andrew Jarvie	2		
CO FILE	11 Matt Rose	3	25 Andrew Dalton	4	48 Oliver Truswell			
	14 Chris Wells	3	42 Hollie Neenan	2	49 Daniel Ferguson	19		
# 1111	16 Alan Craig	13	43 Graham Rodger	13	52 Stephen Matthews	4		



## **WEEKEND PREVIEW**

## **WEEK 26**



#### **Recent Form Guide**

The Flyers last met the Devils a fortnight ago and following their win at Kirkaldy the Welsh side played a double header last weekend on the road to the Belfast Giants. In the first game the Devils held a fourth minute lead until five minutes into the second period before going behind early in the third. The Giants put some icing on their win with a couple of empty net goals. The following night the Devils failed to get on the scoreboard as the Giants recorded their season leading 9th shutout and hit the Devils for six which is their biggest loss on the season so far. On Wednesday night the Devils entertained the Sheffield Steelers and continued their dominant form this season over the Yorkshire side at home as they won for the fifth time this term with a 6-2 scoreline. Before hosting the Flyers the Devils are due to play the Clan at Braehead on Friday night.

#### LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO DEVILS

#### Friday 11th October 2024



5

2 FIFE 19/38

Elite League



	<b>Devils Stats</b>					Flyers Stats		
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
O'Brien	Fournier	Sanford	47	Goal 1	Cichy	Farley	Chiodo	24
Davies	Richardson	Brandt	Shots Against	Goal 2	Krenzelok	Heidt	Martineau	Shots Against
Sanford	Gourley	Martin	24	Goal 3				47
Davies	Perlini	MacDonald	PiMS	Goal 4				PiMS
Sanford	Martin	Richardson	10	Goal 5				6
				Goal 6				
			Goalie	Goal 7				Goalie
			Bowns	Goal 8				Owen
				Goal 9				
				Goal 10				

#### OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST DEVILS

#### P 32 W 3 L 29 F 47 A 150

#### **Number Crunching**

The Flyers have lost all 4 meetings against the Devils so far this season being outscored 9-21 in the process. Cole Sanford is the Devils top scorer against the Flyers this season with 4 goals whilst Massimo Carozza, Lucas Chiodo and Daniel Krenželok lead the way for the Flyers in these games with 2 goals.

12 different Devils players have found the net against the Flyers this season with 6 different Flyers on target in the four games played so far.

The Devils hold the record for the quickest goal scored this season when they netted after just 7 seconds against Coventry earlier in February. This beat the previous fastest by the Clan against the Flyers which was timed at 8 seconds.

The Devils have conceded the second most empty net goals with 9 after the Flyers 11.

The Devils and Steelers jointly have the most goals scored at even strength by forwards across all EIHL games this season.

The Flyers are 11 for 13 on the penalty kill against the Devils this season and that is 84.62 percent which is the highest against any of their opponents.

On the powerplay the Flyers are 2 for 13 which is 15.38 percent and so both teams have identical special teams records in the games against each other so far this season.



## WEEKEND PREVIEW WEEK 26



#### **Recent Form Guide**

Following their last meeting with the Flyers in mid-January the Panthers followed up that with a 7-4 win on home ice against the Guildford Flames before completing a four point weekend with a shutout in Manchester as they beat the Storm 4-0. The following weekend saw just the one game but the Panthers kept things rolling with a 3-2 win at the Vindico Arena against the home town Devils. The Panthers then travelled to Tayside to squeak past the Stars in a low scoring three goal game. The following night at the Motorpoint Arena the visiting Clan snapped the Panthers winning run at 7 games as they edged the two points in a shootout decision. The following midweek the Panthers met the Giants in Belfast in the first leg of their Challenge Cup semifinal with the Giants recording a 3-0 win. A home and home with the Coventry Blaze the following weekend saw the Panthers net six times in each game and take all four points on offer. A home midweek defeat against the Guildford Flames was followed up last weekend with a shootout loss in Sheffield on Saturday night before the Panthers hosted the Manchester Storm and prevailed 3-1. In midweek the Panthers had the Belfast Giants as visitors in the second leg of their Challenge Cup semifinal and narrowly failed to overturn their three goal deficit as they handed the Giants their first shutout of the season with a 2-0 win but fell short by a goal on aggregate. Before heading to Fife the Panthers host the Dundee Stars this weekend.

#### LAST LEAGUE VISIT FROM PANTHERS

Sunday 19th January 2025



2

4



Elite League



#### **Flyers Stats Panthers Stats** Scorer Assist Assist **Shots For** Scorer Assist Assist **Shots For** Farley 41 Goal 1 54 Foss Bunz Carozza Fossier Herr Craig Heidt Martineau Shots Against Goal 2 Nieminen Garat Kelsall Shots Against Goal 3 54 Kontos Zech Fossier 41 **PiMS** Goal 4 Nieminen Henbrandt **PiMS** Spencer 8 Goal 5 10 Goal 6 Goalie Goal 7 Goalie Voris Goal 8 Grande Goal 9 Goal 10

#### OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST PANTHERS

#### P 27 W 10 L 17 F 80 A 100

#### **Number Crunching**

The Flyers have lost all of their encounters with the Panthers this season being outscored 6-19 and are winless in their last five against Nottingham in total.

The Panthers have won on their last 3 visits to Kirkcaldy.

12 different Panthers players have found the net against the Flyers this season with 5 different Flyers finding the net in the four games.

Kristoff Kontos with 4 goals has top scored for the Panthers against the Flyers so far this season whilst Lucas Chiodo leads for the Flyers with 2 goals.

Excluding shootout goals the Flyers next goal against the Panthers will be their 200th in all EIHL competitions against that opponent.

The Panthers, Giants and Steelers have all had 8 game winning streaks this season which is the best of all teams.

The Flyers and Panthers have the fewest goals scored by defencemen with 15 and 16 respectively across all EIHL competitions this season.

Only the Belfast Giants have conceded fewer goals than the Panthers across all EIHL games this season.





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

#### Wednesday 19th February

#### Glasgow Clan 4 Manchester Storm 3 Elite League

(1-1, 1-1, 2-1,) SOG 36-26 PIMs 8-10 Att 2889

Cole Ully scored the game-winner inside the final four minutes to give Glasgow Clan their sixth straight win, beating Manchester Storm 4-3 on Wednesday night. The teams were tied at one after the opening 20 minutes at Braehead Arena. A nice drive to the net from Rylan Schwartz put the puck on Mitch Heard's stick at the far post to deflect home and put Clan ahead with 10:21 played. Tyer Hinam levelled on the powerplay for Storm just over five and a half minutes later, finishing on the next play after initially seeing a one-timer go wide. Storm couldn't covert on a shorthanded 2-on-1 rush as the period draw to a close all square. Each side added a goal each in period to as they skated level through 40 minutes. Captain Deven Sideroff had the Clan back ahead just under three minutes into the second, finishing off a tic-tac-toe play involving Steven Seigo and Heard. Storm were level under six minutes later, however, when a Loren Ulett throw on net deflected pat Landon Bow off Chris Martinet's skate past his own goalie to tie the game back at 29:23. A late Simon Despres stick stopped Ryan Hughes testing Bow late just as the buzzer sounded to end the period. A set play off a face-off saw Jake Durflinger feed the puck to Loren Ulett which came crashing back off Bow's post with 13 minutes to play. Heard put Clan back into the lead on a powerplay at 48:47 as the home side took advantage of a Hughes high-sticking call. Bow made a huge sliding save off Dallas Ehrhardt who had a half-empty net to shot at as Clan began to turn the puck over too often in their own zone. Those giveaways led to Darien Kielb taking a holding-stick minor, which set up Alexis D'Aoust to tie the game at 55:53. Just 26 seconds later, Cole Ully's 100th Elite League point put Clan back into the lead. Mike Morin called his timeout with 63 seconds to play as Storm struggled to get hold of the puck on the previous shifts. Evan Weninger eventually left the net with 53 seconds to play, but after Ehrhardt's shot went over the Clan did well to hold the puck in the corner at the other end to keep control of the puck. Craig Martin's shot on the final buzzer was Storm's last chance of the game, but not enough to trouble Bow.

#### Nottingham Panthers 2 Guildford Flames 4 Elite League

(2-0, 0-1, 0-3,) SOG 39-36 PIMs 10-6 Att 6836

Guildford Flames inflicted Nottingham Panthers' first regulation defeat in over a month, coming back from two down at a sold-out Motorpoint Arena to take a 4-2 win. Ethan Strang hit a post early on but the Panthers were the dominant team in the opening period. The home side were deservedly ahead at 6:44 when a Cooper Zech throw on net from the point took a wild deflection off a Flames defenseman to fool Eamon McAdam and bounce into the back of his net. A well-worked play at 18:37 put the Panthers two up, with Zsombor Garat firing home from the point off a Kris Kontos pass. The Panthers were almost three up early in period two off another fortunate bounce – this time a pass into the slot hitting Mike Crocock's skate and almost deflecting past McAdam who made the same. Guildford did well to hang around in the game, and after a period of pressure found their way back into things - Matt Alvaro receiving the puck in the slot and finishing nicely over Jason Grande's glove hand at 36:41. That goal changed the complexion of the team-talks through 40 minutes, and gave the Flames life. Didrik Henbrant's tripping minor 101 seconds into period three gave the visitors the perfect chance to tie the game, and they took full advantage just eight later when Daniel Catenacci got on the bouncing rebound of a Ryan Tait shot and fired it home. The Panthers ran into some penalty trouble with 11 minutes remaining in the third, and it was a Delay of Game call for shooting the puck out of bounds that led to the game-winner. Travis Brown broke his stick trying to fire a shot towards Grande, but made enough contact with the puck that it broke kindly for Jack Jacome to fire home at the far post with Grande totally wrong-footed. 3-2Flames with 3:40 to play. Eamon McAdam made a big save on Kris Kontos speeding towards him with 46 seconds to play as the Panthers pushed for a late equaliser. Danny Stewart called his timeout and pulled Grande at that stoppage, and his side controlled the puck for the next 16 seconds until McAdam was able to freeze the puck again. A bad bounced on the hosts allowed the Flames to break out of the zone 2-on-1, with Josh Waller unselfishly passing to Jack Jacome to slide the puck into the empty net and settle the game with 20 seconds remaining.





#### Friday 21st February

Belfast Giants 4 Cardiff Devils 1 Elite League

(1-1, 1-0, 3-0,) SOG 44-32 PIMs 2-6 Att 7256

Belfast Giants continued their 100% record against Cardiff Devils this season, coming from behind at a soldout SSE Arena for a 4-1 win. "I think it was a good team effort. Cardiff have a good team," began Pierre-Olivier Morin, who scored two goals for the Giants. "They're physical and have a good offence, and we matched that pretty well tonight. "We had a big crowd with full volume tonight, and we could feel the energy from the fans. I thought we stuck to our game for 60 minutes, and we came out with the win. It's nice, but we have to be ready for tomorrow. It's going to come quickly again, and tomorrow is another day." The SEE Arena, complete with a full bowl and over 7,200 fans inside, was rocking the part one of this weekend's double-header between the two sides. It was Cardiff who took the lead early in the period at 3:36 to silence the home crowd but delight their healthy travelling support. It was a scrappy goal as the puck broke to Tyler Busch just outside the right circle, and he finished past Whistle to give Cardiff the lead with 3:36 played. That was where the scoring ended in an opening period without a penalty called. The Giants started period two well and managed to grab an equaliser at 25:46 through Pierre-Olivier Morin. Bobo Carpenter carried the puck around the net and found Morin in front who shot form in close past Mac Carruth to tie the game. Belfast arguably should have gone ahead in the period, the best falling to JJ Piccinich with a penalty shot which Carruth came up big to stop. The home side also saw three powerplay opportunities go by without success, leaving the scores level heading into period three. "You've got to expect those games at this time of the year with the ranking being so tight, so we know every game matters," responded Morin when asked if any doubts were creeping into his team after not being ahead through 40 minutes. "Sometimes it goes in faster, but here we felt pretty good being 1-1 here at home going into the third period." Again the Giants struck early in the period. Grant Mismash succeeded to put the puck into the slot at the second attempt as his side broke the other way, with captain Mark Cooper the lucky recipient to crash a shot past Carruth with 45:48 gone. A late penalty on Mismash for shooting the puck out of bounds gave the Devils a chance to tie things up, but hitting Whistle's post was the closest they came. With the teams back at five skaters each, Carruth made an excellent save with his stick to stop Ben Lake rounding him and putting the game to bed. The Devils' goalie was pulled with 2:06 to play, but 30 seconds later Piccinich won a foot race for a cleared puck and slotted into the empty net from a tight angle. Morin added his second of the night as the Devils pulled Carruth again to make it 4-1 with 21 seconds to go. "Tomorrow is a new game so we've got to start strong and build as the game goes on, but we've got to take what was positive from today and maybe make a couple of adjustments if we need to," added Morin. "Overall, I think it's just working harder than the other team because in the end, both teams have talent and are physical, so we've just got to keep it simple and dig deep."

#### **Saturday 22nd February**

Belfast Giants 6 Cardiff Devils 0 Elite League

(1-0, 2-0, 3-0,) SOG 41-32 PIMs 8-4 Att 7280

Belfast Giants made it two wins out of two over Cardiff this weekend, and five out of five against the Devils this season, with a 6-0 victory at a sold-out SSE Arena. "I thought the guys played great," began Jackson Whistle, who posted a 32-shot shutout in the Giants' net. "I think after Sheffield, we kind of knew we laid an egg there and we knew we needed to respond this weekend to keep staying ahead of them. We know they're coming so having a four-point weekend was great and I thought the guys played really well." The game began with a great atmosphere from both sets of fans for the second night in a row. It was an even first period, with both teams forcing good saves from Whistle and Bowns. It was the Giants who took the lead at 16:30 through Mike Lee. He received the puck at the blue line, carried it into the left circle, and unleashed a rocket past Bowns to put the Giants a goal up heading into the break. Period two began with early pressure from the Devils as Jackson Whistle was forced into a number of saves. However, it was the Giants who got the next goal and doubled their lead at 29:26. Scott Conway picked out David Goodwin in the right circle, who fired a one-timer past Bowns. With the next goal being crucial, it was the Giants who got it. Josh Roach shot from the right circle, which took a small deflection but enough to get past Bowns to give the Giants a comfortable cushion going into the third period. The Devils were unable to capitalise on their two





powerplays as the Giants stood strong in their own end, leading by three after 40 minutes. "We were saying that after the game on Friday that that the job was really only half done, and we needed to follow through tonight. I thought the guys did that," added Whistle. "You'll take two wins over Cardiff any day, but at the end of the day all the points add up the same and we just need to make sure we do a job here going forward." Scott Conway one-timed David Goodwin's feed high into Bowns' net at 49:09 to pretty much kill off the game as the Giants moved four ahead. It got better for the hosts when Ben Lake batted a Cody Donaghey pass out of the air to race away on Bowns, moving him side to side and finishing shorthanded at 50:13 to make it 5-0. Mark Cooper tipped a shot from Goodwin, who had three assists on the night, past Bowns on a powerplay with 3:27 to play to wrap up a 6-0 win for the hosts.

#### Dundee Stars 2 Guildford Flames 6 Elite League

(1-2, 0-1, 1-3,) SOG 38-30 PIMs 4-6 Att 1841

Guildford Flames' excellent week on the road continued with a 6-2 win in Dundee over the Stars on Saturday night. "That was a great game, through and through. We had a little bit of bus legs off the beginning I think, a bit of a slow start but we responded right away and just rolled from there," said Flames goalie Eamon McAdam. "We're on a good little run here, the past few weeks. We weren't getting the results in the beginning but it seems like we're really starting to click here and it's really a sign of good things" Dundee opened the scoring in a fast paced opening period, with Drydn Dow sending a shot from the blue line through traffic that beat Eamon McAdam at 14:50. Daniel Tedesco equalised almost instantly at 15:07 for the Flames, as his wrist shot off the rush found its way past Richard Sabol to make it 1-1. Guildford gained their first lead of the night through Daniel Catenacci less than two minutes later at 16:31. After an initial shot from the visitors narrowly hit the post of the Stars' net, Catenacci found the rebound and put it past Sabol to give the Flames a 2-1 lead heading into the second period. The Stars started the second period strong, maintaining consistent pressure and testing McAdam with numerous high danger chances. Despite this, Guildford scored the only goal of the period, with Daniel Catenacci giving the visitors a two goal lead on the power-play with his second of the game and third in his last two games. Charlie Curti sent the puck towards the net, which found Catenacci in the slot who redirected it past Sabol at 25:36. "I think it's a confidence thing as much as any, we really struggled with that this year, really kind of finishing games when we have leads and really putting teams out of it," added McAdam, on his team building a lead out. "I think a little bit of confidence that we've done it now a few times and we're in the mindset we can really start to roll over teams on that." Three goals in under eight minutes put the game to bed for the Flames. Ryan Tait made it 4-1 at 43:51, followed by Charlie Dodero extending the lead just under four minutes later. Lewis Hook put six on the board for the Flames with 8:50 to go, though Kameron Kielly pulled one back for the Stars with just over seven minutes to play. That was, however, as close as the Stars got to a comeback as the Flames skated away with the well-earned points, their second road win of the week. "It's great timing, you really want to find your game this time of year, it's essential to get on a roll and be feeling good going into the playoffs. Obviously we had a bit of a rough stretch there but two in a row here against two good teams and hopefully we can keep rolling again tomorrow" concluded McAdam.

#### Glasgow Clan 3 Coventry Blaze 4 Shootout Elite League

(1-0, 2-2, 0-1, 0-0, 0-1) SOG 45-31 PIMs 2-8 Att 2854

Coventry Blaze came from two goals down in Braehead before eventually winning the game in a shootout on Saturday evening - but not before Mat Robson stopped a Mitchell heard penalty shot in the final seconds of overtime! Liam Finlay's goal was the only thing separating the teams after the opening period at Braehead Arena, where the Clan outshot their visitors 16 to 7. Finlay cut in from the wing and used the passing option to deceive Mat Robson, beating him high at 13:38 on the powerplay. A four-goal second period saw Clan cruising but then back to where they started when the buzzer finally sounded. Matt Berry scored twice in under three minutes to put Clan three up by 28:19, and seemingly in control. Brandon Alderson finished a passing play to get the blaze on the board 58 seconds later, before Chase Gresock then made it a 3-2 game at 36:36. The Blaze pushed for the equaliser for the majority of period three, and then pulled Robson with 1:33 to play. Exactly ten seconds later, captain Kim Tallberg crashed a shot past Landon Bow to tie the game. Both teams took a point with the game tied after 60 minutes. In overtime, Heard's tripping minor gave the Blaze the best chance to win but their powerplay couldn't find a winner. With the clock running out on the





bonus period, a thrown stick led to Heard being awarded a penalty shot as he was on a breakaway when it happened - but he fumbled his attempt. Mike Regush, Terrance Amorosa and Kim Tallberg all scored in the shootout, while Heard being the only scorer for Clan saw the visitors take the extra point.

#### Sheffield Steelers 3 Nottingham Panthers 2 Shootout Elite League

(0-0, 0-1, 2-1,0-0, 1-0) SOG 61-25 PIMs 6-10 Att 9241

9,241 fans saw an enthralling game at the Utilita Arena that went the full distance, with Sheffield Steelers coming from two down to eventually beat Nottingham Panthers in a shootout. The Steelers hit the pipes of Jason Grande's net twice in an opening period that ended scoreless. Both Brandon Whistle and Daniel Leavens saw Grande beaten but the iron-work deny them giving the hosts the lead. The Panthers grew into things are the period progressed, but without calling Matt Greenfield into any serious action. If the Steelers were frustrated by Grande's posts in the opening period, that was nothing compared with their frustration to be behind after the second thanks to the man himself pulling off a string of exceptional saves. The Panthers went ahead 3:48 into the period when they caught their hosts 2-on-1 the other way, and Tim Doherty beat Greenfield low to put the visitors ahead. Grande made an excellent stick stop to deny Marc-Olivier Vallerand tying the game at the far posts seven minutes into the period, and then a huge pad save to keep his team ahead at the click ticked down on the period. 3:21 into period three, Mitch Fossier beat Greenfield to put the Panthers two up on the road. Grande was the difference between the teams, but could do nothing about the Steelers getting on the board some 90 seconds later - a bad giveaway by the Panthers in their own zone setting up Brandon Whistle for the finish in the slot. Danny Stewart called his timeout to steady his team but, much like Adam Keefe six nights earlier, saw his team give up the equaliser. While Grande had been exceptional all night, he couldn't hold Dominic Cormier's shot form the wing and it dropped in behind him over the line for a tied game with 6:04 to play. The Steelers hit a post for a fourth time as they tried to score on a late powerplay, but overtime probably was a fair reflection of the game. The biggest chance of the bonus period fell to Fossier on a breakaway, but a diving poke-check from Mitchell Balmas prevented the opportunity. Going the other way, the Steelers later messed up a 3-on-1 as they tried to win it. In the end, the game was decided in a shootout. Goals from Kris Kontos and Cooper Zech, with only Mikko Juusola responding, gave Hugo Roy the chance to win things in Round 4. He missed, and Patrick Watling scored to keep things alive. Doherty couldn't finish it in round five, and after Kontos missed in sudden death it fell to Balmas to win it for the Steelers.

#### **Sunday 23rd February**

#### Guildford Flames 2 Sheffield Steelers 2 Shootout Elite League

(1-0, 1-0, 0-2, 0-0, 1-0) SOG 39-42 PIMs 4-6 Att 1924

Sheffield Steelers were denied cutting the gap on leaders Belfast Giants to four points by a shootout defeat in Guildford, the Flames winning out 3-2 overall in an exciting game at the Spectrum for their third straight victory this week. "That was a really fun one to play in," said Flames' Jack Jacome. "Coming off a tough of days of travel and then playing one of the top teams in the league, it was a lot of fun to see how we battled and be a part of." The Flames were out of the blocks quickly and an early hooking minor on Mukko Juusola helped them get ahead - a rebound falling straight onto the stick of Daniel Catenacci to get the puck over the line as a crowd of players were about to crash into Matt Greenfield's net. The Flames continued to dominate the opening stages of the game but found Greenfield in their way from adding more. Catenacci was instrumental in preventing a chance at the other end, as was Eamon McAdam who bailed his team out where needed under pressure towards the end of the period. Just under three minutes into period two, the Flames were given another powerplay but failed to extend their advantage. That didn't bother them, however, as Ryan Tait fed Daniel Tedesco who used defensemen as a screen and fired past Greenfield to double the Flames' lead at 25:11. Austin Glover was denied by Greenfield on a breakaway, while the Flames also saw another shot hit the pipes, as they led by two through 40 minutes. Sheffield came out hard in period three, and it seemed like only a matter of time before they would get on the board - 4:36 into the period, Daniel Leavens beat McAdam five-hole in close to half the deficit. Tait had an excellent chance to put the Flames back two up but shot easily into Greenfield's glove on an odd-man rush, and then with just 6:02 to play Joona Huttula crashed a shot through traffic off a faceoff to tie the game. "It was a good game of





hockey. Guildford played a very good first period, and I thought McAdam was outstanding" said Steelers captain Robert Dowd. "Our boys were fantastic to push back and come back from two goals down, but we have to find a way to make sure we start better. "It's been a few games now where we've been trailing, and it's been hard work to try and fight back. We grew into the game as it went on, and by period three I thought we were quite dominant. We had some big goals to tie it up, we'll go away with one point and move on. "We're in a tight title race with Belfast at the moment so we have to be on our game every night. We'll rest up now and get ready for Wednesday." A point each was probably a fair reflection on the game with things heading into overtime. In the bonus period, only Greenfield's excellent glove save prevented the Flames from taking the extra point as the home side looked to have more legs. In the end, the game was decided in a shootout. Jack Jacome and Ethan Strang scored wonderful attempts either side of a Mikko Juusola goal to give the Flames a 2-1 advantage, and with no further scoring they took the bonus point to cap a six-point week. "You just have to trust your instincts in a shootout," added Jacome. "It's something we've worked on with our goalies, picking their brains on how they react to certain moves. It's like anything else in the game, the work is done and hope it pays off. "It hasn't been easy for us the last few weekends, we were on a little bit of a slide, but to get some wins against some really good teams is big for our confidence. Hopefully we're peaking at the right time and we'll have a big finish,"

#### Coventry Blaze 2 Dundee Stars 4 Elite League

(1-1, 0-2,1-1,) SOG 38-31 PIMs 15-8 Att 2036

Dundee Stars picked up a 4-2 road win in Coventry over the Blaze, extending their cushion over Manchester Storm to nine points in the race for the playoffs. "I take a lot of pride playing in this league. I love playing for my country and in the EIHL, and I don't have that many years left so to have my name down there passing someone like Jonathan Weaver, who I looked up to when I was coming through here in Coventry is very special." began Ben O'Connor, who became the league's all-time leading defenseman for assists at 400. "To my team mates, and everyone who's scored those goals to get me those assists, I can only say thank you." O'Connor set that new EIHL record with an assist on Alex Robert's opening goal at 12:32, firing home after O'Connor's shot was blocked in front. Michael Regush levelled for the Blaze with just under three minutes to go in a first period that struggled to get going. "We knew that our game against Guildford wasn't good enough, and we had to play our game tonight," continued O'Connor. "Looking at other results around the league, it's two big points for us. This isn't an easy place to play, Coventry are a very good team and they come very hard. But we had a plan, stuck to it, and got it done." 5:35 into period two, Grayson Constable was given a stand-alone boarding major for a poor hit on Philippe Sanche, leading to the Stars going back ahead - a neat wrist shot from Zach Tsekos in the circle beating Mat Robson. O'Connor then made it 3-1 with a onetimer from the point that sailed past Robson into the net. At 39:25, the Blaze thought they'd scored but the goal was waived off on the ice. After video review, that decision was upheld with the puck appearing to hit the crossbar rather than the back bar. Tsekos added his second of the night on a breakaway, beating Robson at the second attempt to make it 4-1 7:17 into period three. Chase Gresock reacted quick to pull one back with just under eight minutes to go, but despite pulling Robson with three and a half minutes to go it was a frustrating night for the home side who couldn't get themselves any further back into the game.







Nottingham Panthers 3 Manchester Storm 1 Elite League

(1-0, 0-0,2-1,) SOG 28-28 PIMs 6-8 Att 6253

After two games in Week 25 where they were two goals ahead and lost, Nottingham Panthers logged their first win of the week with a 3-1 victory over Manchester Storm in front of a 6,253-strong crowd at the Motorpoint Arena. Cooper Zech gave the Panthers the lead inside four minutes in what turned out to be the only goal of the opening period. In what is becoming almost tradition for the Panthers, Zech found himself in space on the weak side and finish high into the net to put them 1-0 up. Storm could and should have been level some five minutes into the period, but Craig Martin shot over from in front of Jason Grande's net. Tendeck made two excellent low pad stops to deny Otto Nieminen putting the Panthers two ahead as the home side started finding more opportunities on the rush. A scramble in front of Grande's net somehow saw the Panthers keep the puck out, as the home side survived both a 5-on-3 and then 5-on-4 penalty kill to stay ahead. The home side also rang a shot off Tendeck's post inside the final minute of the period, which ended without score. 3:43 into period three, the home side doubled their lead as Mitch Fossier 3:43 into period three, the home side doubled their lead as Mitch Fossier backhanded a Tim Doherty pass past Tendeck - one he'd possibly want back. An unfortunate hooking call on Noah Carroll at 46:29 didn't please Storm's bench - but they scored shorthanded at 48:15 to ease their frustration off an excellent move by Dallas Ehrhardt. While Tendeck was pulled with 2:27 to play, Jaakko Niskala was called for tripping with 103 seconds remaining to give Storm a 6-on-4 advantage in the final stages. They worked the puck nicely to Tyler Hinam who couldn't get a shot away for their best chance to tie it, but with 13 seconds to go the game was over thanks to Sam Herr empty-netter.





	<u>Goalies</u>
30	Cameron Kenny
50	Shane Owen
36	Jānis Voris
	<u>Defencemen</u>
5	Noah Delmas
44	Jonas Emmerdahl
7	Tyler Heidt
9	Brodie Kay
88	Daniel Krenželok
19	Patrick Kyte
3	Olivier LeBlanc 'C'
	<u>Forwards</u>
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
	Paiement
61	James Spence
43	Jordan Stallard
24	Aiden Wilson



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

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

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

Referee: Linesman:

Referee: Linesman:



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

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

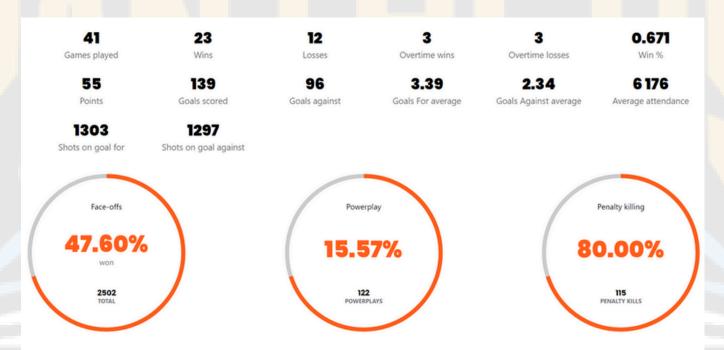
Shots on Goal							
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO			
Flyers							
Visitors							

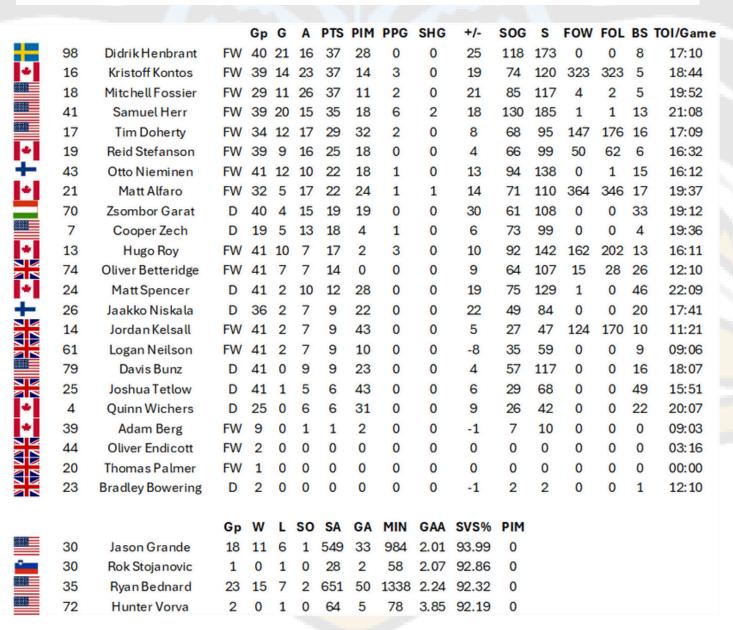
#### Goalies Ryan Bednard 35 30 Jason Grande 31 Jere Huhtamaa 33 Luca Sheldon <u>Defencemen</u> **Bradley Bowering** 23 79 Davis Bunz 70 Zsombor Garát Jaakko Niskala 26 Matt Spencer Joshua Tetlow 'A' **Quinn Wichers** Cooper Zech **Forwards** Matt Alfaro 21 74 Oliver Betteridge 'A' 17 Tim Doherty 44 Oliver Endicott 18 Mitchell Fossier 98 Didrik Henbrant 41 Sam Herr 'C' 14 Jordan Kelsall Kristoff Kontos 16 61 Logan Neilson 43 Otto Nieminen 13 Hugo Roy 'A' Reid Stefanson 19

Man of the Match Flyers:

Man of the Match Visitors:

#### PANTHERS IN LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR...





#### **ON THEIR ROSTER**

In this edition we focus on **Kristoff Kontos** and also look back on his father's hockey career which can only be described as interesting.

The 31-year-old Canadian centre, who began his career in North America arrived last summer in Nottingham after six free-scoring years across Europe. As a 16 year old Kristoff began his Major Junior career with the Sudbury Wolves from where this interview comes.

Whether he's playing his heart out for the Wolves in an Ontario Hockey League game or taking in a National Hockey League game and dreaming of becoming a big league player, Kontos' mind is always paying attention to every little detail going on in the game and with players on both sides of the ice. This is the way Kontos operates and it makes a huge difference in his game on a daily basis. "I take most pride in my passing. I think that it is an important skill that goes unnoticed. When you watch an NHL game live, you can hear the tape-to-tape passing and you can see how fast the game is because of the way they move the puck," Kontos said. "I think you need to be able to pass well to get to the next level and that is why I am always working on my passing abilities. Personally, I try to work hard and have attention to detail when I'm on and off the ice." Kontos is driven to succeed and to make the NHL one day. It comes naturally to him. His father, Chris, played for the Sudbury Wolves in the early 80s before embarking on a NHL and international professional career that lasted until the 1997 season. The younger Kontos has the desire to make a bigger mark on the game than his father did. "I think what motivates me the most is the dream of playing in the NHL. There is nothing I want more then to be able to play in front of a huge crowd with the best players in the world," Kontos said. "It's pretty cool knowing my dad played here early on in his career. Not many guys can say the same thing, but I don't think I have to try and carve my own path because I am trying to do the same thing he did. I think as long as I work hard and keep developing it doesn't matter what path I take as long I'm moving towards my goal. I think in a way it's pressure. People are always comparing me to him and looking for similarities between us, but I look at it as motivation because I do want to be better than he was. It's a goal I've always had." The initial rush of playing for the same team as his father hasn't exactly worn off with Kontos – it always gives him something to think about and gets his energy going in the right way. Kontos has learned to appreciate playing for the same team as his father once did as a real benefit. "When I was first drafted here I thought it was somewhat ironic I would be going to the same place as my dad, but I think I am very fortunate to be able to play in such a great hockey town. Sudbury has a great development program and I am happy to be a part of it," the Penetang native said. Kontos still relies on his dad for inspiration. "It is definitely a blessing having a NHL player as a dad. He has been able to teach me things that took him his entire career to understand, and at the same time guide me towards becoming a pro player," the 6-foot-1, 203-pound centre said. "He also pushes me to want to become a better player and has given me someone to look up to." Kontos has made great strides in his game from his rookie season. In 2009-10, Kontos was a raw rookie and saw very little ice time and managed three goals and five points in 68 games. In 2010-11, Kontos took advantage of increased ice time and responsibility from the Wolves coaching staff and responded with 10 goals and 32 points in 67 games. "He's a high-end skilled kid," Sudbury head coach Trent Cull said. "His vision and passing are second to none. He can really set up plays. He's a level-headed kid. He has stepped up this year and played in all situations for us and done a good job." Kontos has certainly earned admiration from his teammates for his devotion and skill. "He's a great room guy for us and he does a good job on the ice," Wolves forward and San Jose prospect Michael Sgarbossa said. "He has good hands, good shot and knows how to make good plays. He stepped up his game a lot this year and everyone noticed. He's a guy who will just keep getting better and better." Kontos is fired up to improve on last year's progress and he is raising the bar for himself. "My goal for this season is to really prove myself as a top player in the league. I want to be able to show that I am ready to take the next step towards becoming a pro player," he said.



Before turning professional win the ECHL with the Toledo Walley Kristoff achieved a special milestone at the end of the 2013-14 Ontario Hockey League regular season schedule when the now Saginaw Spirit overage forward tied the league's all-time mark for career games played with 337. A record that remains more than a decade later. Kontos played in his 337th game on Monday March 17 when the Spirit hosted the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. He equalled the mark set by Cory Tanaka who played five OHL seasons from 2004-09 with the Plymouth Whalers and the Belleville Bulls. "Luck has a lot to do with it," Kontos said in an interview at the time. "You see some freak accidents with guys and injuries, I've seen players get hurt in practices or even hurt in warmups where you have to miss a game or two and I've been pretty fortunate that way. I think a lot of it has to do with hard work in the summer, I really work on maintaining my body and making sure I am ready to go for the season when it comes around." After Sudbury he later joined Mississauga midway through the 2011-12 season before wrapping up his OHL career in Saginaw where he set career-highs with 75 points including 25 goals for the Spirit. Kontos missed just three games in his five-year OHL career en route to tying the record.

After stints in the ECHL with Toledo Walleye and Orlando Solar Bears very early in his career, Kontos helped lead St Francis Xavier University to two successive college championships in 2016 and 2017. Kontos joined French side Gap and returned 38 points (9+29) in 44 regular-season matches. The following year he immediately made an impact for Vimmerby HC in the HockeyEttan in Sweden with 25 points in 18 games, but lockdown ended the season early. The forward lit the league up with Bodens HF a season later, scoring 23 goals and leading the league in assists (39) and points (62). Kontos then moved up to the HockeyAllsvenskan to join Kristianstads IK and scored at just under a point per game, leading the team in assists (33) and points (48) which saw him finish in the top-10 points-scorers in the league. He joined Slovakian top-flight side HC Banska Bystrica in 2022-23 where he was the top-line centre, scoring 41 regular-season points (16+25), before returning to the HockeyAllsvenskan to ice for AlK in the 2023-24 season.



So what about the aforementioned Kontos senior?

He played pro hockey for a couple of decades in six different countries, won an Olympic silver medal and become teammates with two of the greatest players who ever lived. Yet after he retired NHL forward Chris Kontos is mostly remembered for a few snapshots in time. There's a Tampa Bay Lightning franchise record of four goals in a game that he's held or shared for more than 25 years. And, before that, there was a torrid stretch of nine goals in 11 playoff games for the LA Kings, helping Wayne Gretzky overcome a 3-1 series deficit to beat his old team, the Oilers, in 1989. Fair or not, the internet will forever paint Chris Kontos as a one-hit wonder.

"I always get that," Kontos said, laughing, during an interview in interview in April 2020. "I'm a frickin' first-round draft pick. I shouldn't be a 'one-hit wonder.' But I absolutely wouldn't trade it for anything. Around the playoffs, when a guy gets hot, my name comes up. Every year it happens when a Lightning player gets three goals. All of a sudden, my phone lights up. You'd think (Steven) Stamkos or (Nikita Kucherov) could have easily got five or six goals in a game. But it's been more than 25 years now." Kontos, now 56, was happy to take a trip down memory lane and relive that magical night in the old Expo Hall in Tampa on Oct. 7, 1992.

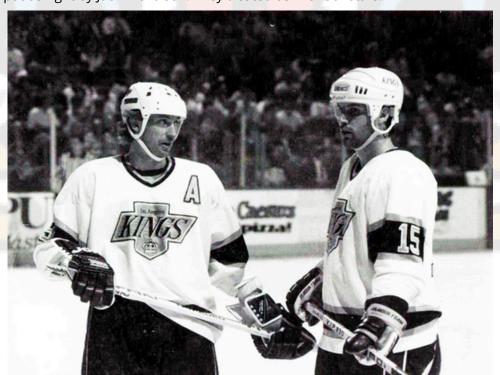
Sitting at his desk at the print distribution company he owns in Midland, Ontario, just outside of Toronto he also talked about his two kids, son Kristoff, who was playing hockey in Sweden, and Joelle, 22, an opera singer. He's been married for 36 years now to Joanne, who met him at a high school party and has followed him through life-changing moves to Sweden, Finland, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. "We got to see the world," Kontos said. "We're blessed."

Kontos is proud of his career, and he should be, even though his time in the NHL lights didn't last as long as he hoped. A first-round pick (15th overall) by the New York Rangers in 1982, Kontos played in just 230 career games split between New York, Pittsburgh, L.A. and Tampa Bay. He finished with just 54 goals.

There have been over 60 hat tricks in Lightning history, scored by the likes of Vincent Lecavalier, Stamkos and Kucherov. But only three players have ever scored four: Kontos, Stamkos and Hall of Famer Martin St. Louis, who tied the record Jan. 18, 2014.

It shouldn't be the only thing you remember about Kontos. But that said, if you're a Lightning fan, you'll likely never forget it. As wild as Kontos' introduction to the Lightning was, how he got there was just as interesting.

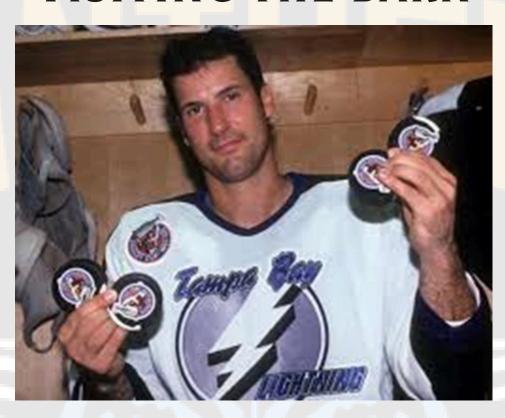
The same year Kontos was drafted, he broke into the NHL with the Rangers after a strong junior career with the Toronto Marlboros in the Ontario Hockey League. The Original Six franchise was in a four-decade-long Stanley Cup drought but had some strong seasons under coach Herb Brooks, losing to the Islanders dynasty in the playoffs from 1982-84. Kontos played in 78 games over three seasons in New York, splitting time with New Haven in the AHL. But he lost a grip on a roster spot, playing in Finland in the first half of 1985-86 before finishing in the AHL. He was traded to the Penguins in January 1987 for Ron Duguay, spending parts of several seasons with Mario Lemieux and company. "I just remember hanging out with Mario sometimes, and I thought I was pretty good at video games," Kontos said. "But he was that God on the video game as he was on the ice. I thought I was a skilled guy, a pretty good guy. But I played him my whole time and, man, he crushed me. This guy is from another planet. It might have been "Blades of Steel." The video games were pretty archaic back then. But he'd frickin' kill me. I couldn't believe it." After Pittsburgh, Kontos was traded to the Kings and got to be teammates with Gretzky, another amazing experience. "Looking back, how many guys get to do that, play with Mario and Wayne?" Kontos asked. "I was privileged. What I remember was their IQ. Both of them had incredible IQ. Gretzky is more chess, with a sneaky understanding of what's happening on the ice. Mario was raw talent with his stick and puck. He was big, and for a 6-foot-4 guy with a massive wingspan, you could see in his highlight goals how he made defensemen look silly day in and day out. He was special. I've never seen anything like it." Kontos played six games down the stretch with the Kings at the end of the 1987-88 season, even racking up a six-point night against Chicago. He thought he'd be able to earn a roster spot the next fall. Wrong. So he played in Switzerland the next year. That's when the fun began. "After my season, I came back and signed with the Kings last-minute before the midnight deadline," Kontos said. "I had just moved into a house. We didn't have a cell phone back then, and I had to fax the contract back to the NHL before the deadline. My dad came over at 11 at night and pounded on my door and said, 'You have to sign this contract and go to L.A.!' My buddy owned a lumberyard called Beaver Lumber. We hustled over and faxed it, and the next day I caught a flight to L.A. The media got hold of the story, and all of a sudden I was a kid working in the lumberyard, eating my lunch, when my manager came over to me: 'You're getting the call.' And that's not what happened. It was funny in the States how they blew it up out of proportion. I never worked in a lumberyard or ate out of a metal lunch box. But it was a funny story." Kontos went on a tear in the playoffs, scoring nine goals in 11 games to help the Kings beat the Oilers in seven games. He also scored his only other career hat trick. His career playoff stats: 11 goals, zero assists and minus-12 in 20 games. Playing in L.A., though, was special in itself. "You wouldn't believe it," Kontos said. "We'd have (Sylvester) Stallone at the games, Tom Hanks and John Candy. It was a parade of stars. We became the hot ticket. It was fantastic. We'd go to the Lakers games and the ushers would put us right by Jack Nicholson. They treated us like rock stars."



Which is what made Kontos' next NHL stop, Tampa Bay, quite the culture shock. Like many on the expansion Lightning, Kontos didn't plan to be part of it. He was training with the Canadian Olympic team, hoping to make the team for the games in Albertville, France. But as Kontos was getting ready to board the plane from Sweden to the Olympics, he was pulled aside and told he was one of the final cuts. It was heartbreaking. A punch in the gut. "I had a bit of a groin issue, and there were a few guys also in the running," Kontos said. "It was like 'Survivor,' and I was one of the guys voted off the island. "You know what, though? Being a hockey player it's devastating, but if you can't take that, then you shouldn't be in the business. There's always that kind of stuff happening. And every time a door closes, another one opens." Terry Crisp was an assistant on that Canadian Olympic team and took a liking to Kontos. After getting hired to be the Lightning's first coach, Crisp offered Kontos a two-year, two-way deal. "Terry said it was an open slate," Kontos said.

After playing in Hollywood, the scene in Tampa was a bit humbling. The Lightning played at Expo Hall, the charming but quaint barn on the Florida State Fairgrounds. There were some legendary stories, like how a father and son once walked into the dressing room at intermission during one game in the inaugural season, asking where the bathroom was. "I remember my godfather was at the game (when I scored four goals)," Kontos said. "When I got my third goal, he threw his hat on the ice. He was from Michigan. It's a tradition for a hat trick, everyone knows that. But one of the ushers was telling him, 'Hey, you! Out! You can't be throwing stuff on the ice.' "(Founder) Phil Esposito was yelling at the ushers and explaining the tradition. He's like, 'No, no, it's hockey."'

The building held just over 10,000 fans, but it boasted an electric atmosphere for that franchise opener against the Blackhawks in October 1992. "It was so intimate because everyone was right there on top of you, screaming," Kontos said. "It felt like we were in Chicago during the anthem. It was awesome." Kontos made it a night to remember with his four-goal game, lifting the Lightning to a 7-3 victory. He scored all four on reigning Vezina Trophy winner Ed Belfour. The first two goals came on the same power play in the first period, starting with a five-on-three tally. Kontos found himself at the back post as Adam Creighton forced the puck loose behind the net on the forecheck. He got it out to Rob Zamuner near the left circle. Kontos re-directed the shot/pass in for the first goal in franchise history. "I was just setting up to the side and Zamuner hit me at the side door," Kontos said. "I had just come through camp and was first or second on the team in points for training camp. I was lighting it up, which got my foot in the door for the opening game. I wouldn't have gotten that opportunity if I hadn't had a really good camp. Everything was going right in." Kontos' second goal came just 58 seconds later on the five-on-four power play. Zamuner had hit the post from the high slot area just a few seconds before. The Lightning retrieved the puck and moved it around, with Kontos creeping over to the same back post. John Tucker hit him with a cross-crease pass, which deflected off a Blackhawks defenseman right to Kontos, who tapped it in. The Lightning were up 5-1 midway through the second period when Kontos got his hat-trick-clinching goal. He slid into the slot and Joe Reekie put it on his tape. "The third one was a snapper five-hole on Belfour," Kontos recalled. "It's funny. When I was with the Kings and (had that playoff run of goals), it was against Grant Fuhr — he was the guy back then. And when we play Chicago that first night, it was Belfour, and he had just won the Vezina. I figured I just had to keep shooting. The puck had eyes for me." Was he aiming five-hole? Or just trying to get a shot on net? "I was a five-hole shooter," Kontos said. "It was my go-to spot. Back then we used those big, heavy wooden sticks and aluminium/wooden blades. After I retired, I tried my son's carbon fibre sticks. Those things came off like a rocket, like shooting a bow and arrow. The puck just flies off your stick." It was funny after the third goal to hear the TV announcers explain the tradition of throwing hats on the ice: "It can be costly." By the way, did Kontos' godfather get kicked out? "No way," Kontos said. "There's no way he was leaving that game." Kontos' fourth and final goal came with 28 seconds left in the second period, also on the power play. He was positioned on the left side down low and redirected a Joe Reekie pass through Belfour. "A between-my-legs deflection," Kontos said, "the one that (Sidney) Crosby does all the time like it's nothing." Kontos laughs: "I was ahead of my time."



He ended up with 27 goals (51 points) that season in 66 games. "At the 20th game, I had 21 goals and was ahead of Gretzky and Lemieux," he quipped. But later in the season in Toronto, Kontos collided with Leafs defenseman Drake Berehowsky and blew out his MCL. There went his season — and, even worse, his stint with Tampa Bay. "I could have at least hit 30 or 35 goals," he said. "But that's life." Kontos said there was an issue with his contract after the season, and he was allowed to get out of it to pursue his dream of playing on the Canadian Olympic team. He made the team for the 1994 games in Lillehammer, Norway, and won a silver medal as the Canadians lost to the Swedes in the goldmedal game (remember that Peter Forsberg golden goal that got him on the Swedish stamp?). Kontos never returned to the NHL, but he played in Sweden and Germany with stints with three IHL teams sandwiched in between. He retired in 1998. And Kontos has no regrets. "I wasn't a quitter, I'll tell you that," Kontos said. "I played for 16 years, and it started with the Rangers, a first-round draft choice. Got sent down to New Haven. I never drank — I'm the odd man. I was more of a prankster and joking guy, trying to fit in. It was just mentally grueling when you come out of junior and you're touted. You're a good guy, should be going in that direction and, all of a sudden, you might be a good player but you don't fit in their plans. "In hindsight, they should have sent me back to junior to finish when I was lighting it up. But that's life." Kontos' four-goal game record remained his for 22 years until St. Louis matched it in 2014. There were 42 Lightning hat tricks scored in between. For almost every one of those, there were reporters in the press box (and fans in the stands) thinking of Kontos and his record. "I was at the right place at the right time," Kontos said. "As long as Tampa stays in the league forever, it's not like you got the first goal in Quebec Nordiques history and they're not there anymore. It's pretty special. It's a bucket-list thing and at least I did that."

As the interview was wrapped up Kontos was asked whatever happened to the milestone pucks from that game? He posed afterward in the locker room with the four pucks from each of his goals. "I think they're in front of my house at the bottom of Georgian Bay (northwest of Toronto)," Kontos said, laughing. "We had a rink on the water, and the kids would be playing and taking a shot and it'd go over the snowbank. They'd lose it and say, 'We need a puck.' I had a drawer with memorabilia, and they kept going in there. They were only 8-9-10 years old. "It's kind of funny, right?"

## **LEAGUE STATS**

## **SEASON 2024/25**

		*		Dindee			G			-
Total Games Played	54	51	52	54	52	53	52	50	53	53
Challenge Cup Games	13	12	10	12	12	13	10	10	12	12
League Games	41	39	42	42	40	40	42	40	41	41
Biggest Win	8-1	6-0	9-2	7-0	4-1	9-4	7-1	7-3	9-2	9-0
5,555.	v Flyers	v Storm	v Flyers	v Flyers	v Stars	v Flyers	v Flyers	v Clan	v Blaze	v Flames
	1-5			1-7						
Biggest Loss	v Panthers	0-6	2-9	v Giants	0-8	0-6	0-9	0-6	2-5	2-6
	v Clan	v Giants	v Panthers	v Blaze	v Steelers	v Blaze	v Steelers	v Devils	v Stars	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	2 Wins	2 Losses	1 Loss	1 Win	1 Win	2 Losses	3 Wins	1 Loss	1 Win	1 Loss
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	9	2	1	1	0	2	3	0	4	4
Shut Out Against	0	2	4	3	7	2	2	3	2	1
Empty Net Goals For	10	5	7	4	1	7	7	6	7	14
Empty Net Goals Against	7	9	3	7	9	11	7	6	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	172	157	143	137	97	139	140	131	156	163
Powerplay	40	28	43	29	25	26	28	31	29	32
Even Strength	126	127	94	105	71	105	109	94	124	127
Shorthanded	6	2	6	3	1	8	3	6	3	4
Total Goals Scored										
scored by Defencemen	36	18	21	24	15	23	23	19	16	38
Powerplay	2	2	4	6	5	5	8	5	1	6
Even Strength	34	15	15	18	10	16	14	13	15	32
Shorthanded	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
Total Goals Conceded										
scored to Forwards	101	124	138	169	235	148	144	161	107	119
Penalty Kill	26	25	32	24	36	41	35	40	22	26
Even Strength	73	97	101	138	192	104	105	114	79	93
Shorthanded	2	2	5	7	7	3	4	7	6	0
Total Goals Conceded										
scored to Defencemen	16	17	27	27	37	23	23	29	18	15
Penalty Kill	5	2	6	2	6	3	6	4	6	3
Even Strength	11	15	20	25	29	18	17	25	11	11
Shorthanded	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1
Goals Scored Period 1	68	49	41	55	34	56	46	47	64	56
Goals Scored Period 2	66	63	54	47	37	57	54	55	49	62
Goals Scored Period 3	71	62	64	55	40	58	62	43	57	83
Goals Scored OT/SO	6	0	8	4	2	4	3	4	5	4
TOTAL Goals Scored	211	174	167	161	113	175	165	149	175	205
Goals Scored Per Game	3.91	3.41	3.21	2.98	2.17	3.30	3.17	2.98	3.30	3.87
Goals Conceded Period 1	38	41	58	66	90	38	53	58	25	46
Goals Conceded Period 2	32	42	51	63	87	54	59	72	47	48
Goals Conceded Period 3	44	54	54	63	94	78	55	62	53	37
Goals Conceded OT/SO	4	3	5	5	3	4	6	2	4	4
TOTAL Goals Conceded	118	140	168	197	274	174	173	194	129	135
Goals Against Per Game	2.19	2.75	3.23	3.65	5.27	3.28	3.33	3.88	2.43	2.55
Shots For P1	768	624	561	597	509	653	549	528	568	600
Shots For P2	715	620	575	656	473	685	560	529	578	668
Shots For P3										
Shots For OT	680	564	571	601	422	585	494	555	502	656
	16	1011	32	16	10	13	30	12	20	1025
TOTAL Shots For	2179	1811	1739	1870	1414	1936	1633	1624	1668	1935
Shots for Per Game Shots Against P1	40.35	35.51	33.44	34.63	27.19	36.53	31.40	32.48	31.47	36.51
Shore against P1	420	535	640	652	776	550	599	609	537	612
		542	617	654	790	562	629	610	579	515
Shots Against P2	530			F						
Shots Against P2 Shots Against P3	536	525	518	592	693	533	583	538	582	469
Shots Against P2 Shots Against P3 Shots Against OT	536 23	525 10	24	24	15	20	9	9	15	19
Shots Against P2 Shots Against P3	536	525								



#### ONE TO REMEMBER ONE TO FORGET NOTTINGHAM

Flyers and Panthers have a long playing history against each other beginning in 1946 and continuing to this day with of course some gaps following Flyers' withdrawal from the British League in 1955 until 1982/83 and then from 1997/98when Panthers played in Superleague then Elite League and Flyers played in BNL and SNL prior to joining Elite League in 2011/12. The two games featured here are from the mid 1980's in the Heineken Premier Division.

In the first season of the Heineken Premier Division, 1983/84 both Flyers and Panthers had relatively poor seasons, with neither club qualifying for the end of season play-offs. This situation was far from welcome at either club and the organisations made efforts to remedy things. Flyers got it right first time in 84/85 with the signing of three top imports, Ron Plumb, Danny Brown and Dave Stoyanovich, while Panthers toiled again and missed out on the play-offs once again as they tried six different imports to no avail including former Flyer Robin Andrew.

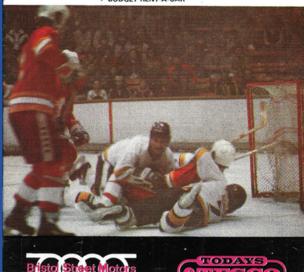
When Flyers travelled to Nottingham on 02/03/85 they were on a decent run of form having won nine and drawn two of eleven games from the start of the New Year including a 7-4 win against Panthers at home on 26/01/85. The previous visit to the East Midlands in November had ended in a 7-7 tie.

As was the norm at the time the Ice Stadium was filled to its 2800 capacity and Flyers were looking forward to finishing the series against Panthers unbeaten. Flyers took the initiative in the first period with goals from Stoyanovich, Brown and defenceman Brian Peat and were 9-0 ahead before Panthers import Jim Gauthier broke Craig Dickson's shut out at 33.26. Neil Abel with his second of the night and Brown's fourth made it 11-1 before Gavin Fraser pulled one back for the home side.

The third period was a formality as Flyers eased to victory, Brown getting his fifth of the evening, Peat his second and Andy Linton, who had re-joined Flyers from Panthers earlier in the season got Flyers' other marker in the third. Ged Smith netted Nottingham's only final session counter as Flyers won convincingly 14-3. Flyers remained unbeaten for the remainder of the season, having last lost at Ayr on 10/02/85 and went on to become British Champions at Wembley in May.

I have fond memories of visiting Nottingham at that time and believed that the passionate home crowd added to the atmosphere. I still have my programme and match tickets for the above game at a cost of £2.25 for the pleasure of sitting in Block 10 of the old Ice Stadium, a proper hockey rink.





Two seasons later is one to forget for Flyers supporters who saw Panthers dish out a hiding to their favourites at Kirkcaldy. Panthers had improved their recruiting of imported players for 1986/87 in the shape of defenceman Terry Kurtenbach and forwards Jim Keyes and Fred Perlini, who would sign for Flyers in 1987/88.

Flyers were still blessed with a good squad with another ex NHLer Al Sims replacing Plumb in defence, Stoyanovich back in the fold after a year in Italy and a new import Mike Jeffrey, whom Flyers had high hopes for as he replaced Brown who had retired at the end of 1985/86. Flyers home grown players included Gordon Latto, ex Panthers Abel and Linton and youngsters Bobby Haig and Dean Edmiston.



This game to forget took place on 08/11/86, a week before Flyers were due to meet Panthers again in the Norwich Union Cup final at Birmingham's NEC. Flyers were confident, having won all eight cup games, while Panthers had won five of eight group games and had beaten Whitley in the English play-off. Flyers' league form however was patchy to say the least and were bottom of the table with two wins, a draw and a home defeat to Streatham in the lead up to the league match with Panthers, a game that could well have been considered a dress rehearsal for the following week's cup final. The FFP reported that Flyers' three imports had been at the rink for three extra training sessions in preparation for the two match ups against Nottingham.

In the league encounter a large crowd witnessed Flyers being given a thrashing and described by the FFP reporter as "out played, out skated and out witted" which just about sums it up perfectly. At the end of the first period Stoyanovich had netted a powerplay goal but Flyers went in behind 1-4 including one from Perlini.



It looked like coach Chic Cottrell had done some tough talking in the first interval as Sims scored early in the second, but by the end of the second twenty minutes Panthers had stretched the lead to 7-2 and the third was to be even worse from a Flyers perspective as Perlini took his total for the evening to four goals as Panthers won the period 5-1. Flyers' only third period tally was scored by Gordon Latto as Flyers found themselves on the end of a 3-12 humiliation.

The following night in Ayr, Flyers continued their poor run or form in a 3-9 defeat and the next weekend Panthers beat Flyers in the cup final in overtime, leaving the Flyers management with some difficult decisions to make in order to turn the season around.

One of these key decisions was to release Jeffrey and replace him with Steve Moria around the turn of the year. Flyers improved their league position after this, finishing fourth in the table, with 47 points, the same total as Panthers despite the aforementioned hammering.

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 11 · RULE 24

Summary of "Penalty Shots"

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Deliberate illegal substitution	68.3, 74.4
Player Intentionally dislodging the net from its moorings when the penalty cannot be served in its entirety within regulation time	63.6
Falling on the puck in the Goal Crease	63.6, 67.4, 69.7
Picking up the puck with the hand in the Goal Crease	63.6, 67.2 (II), 67.4
Player on a "break-away" who is interfered with by an object thrown or shot by defending Team	53.7, 56.6
Player on a breakaway who is Interfered with by a player who has Illegally entered game	70.7
Player throws or shoots stick or an object at the puck in their Defending Zone	53.7
Player who is fouled from behind	24.8, 54.3, 55.4, 57.5, 61.6

#### TABLE 12 · RULE 25

Awarded Goals Summary of Awarded Goals (when Goalkeeper has been removed for an extra Attacker)

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Delaying the game (Goal post displaced)	63.7
Illegal substitution	68.4, 70.8
Interference	56.7
Leaving the players' bench or penalty box	70.8
Throwing stick or other object	53.8
Fouling from behind (including hooking, holding, slashing, tripping, etc.)	25





### **TABLE 12.1 · RULE 25**

Awarded Goals Summary of Awarded Goals (when Goalkeeper is on the ice)

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Removing face mask during a breakaway, Penalty Shot or Shootout attempt	9.6
Dislodging Goal Posts on a breakaway or at an imminent scoring opportunity	63.7

### TABLE 13 · RULE 27

Goalkeeper Penalties Summary of Goalkeeper Penalties

DESCRIPTION	RULES
Illegal stick	10.4
Illegal equipment	9, 12.1
Leaving crease during an altercation	27.5
Participates in the play beyond the Center Line	27.6
Playing puck outside restricted area	1, 27.7, 63.2 (VIII)
Proceeds to Players' Bench to replace stick	10.4
Deliberately shoots or bats puck out of play	63.2 (II)
Deliberately "freezes" the puck inside or outside the Goal Crease	63.2 (I), (VI) & (VII), 67.3 (I) & (II)
Deliberately drops the puck in their pads or on the goal net	67.3 (IV)
Piling snow or other obstacles	67.3 (V)
Throwing the puck towards opponent's goal	67.3 (III)
Using blocking glove to punch an opponent (Roughing)	51.3





### TABLE 14 · RULE 16

Minor Penalties Goals scored against short-handed Team

### Minor Penalty expiration criteria:

- A. Is the Team scored against, short-handed?
- B. Are they serving a Minor Penalty on the clock?
- C. If the answer is yes to a) and b), delete the Minor Penalty with the least amount of time on the clock, except when coincidental penalties are being served.

EXAMPLES	TIME	TEAM A	TEAM B	ANSWER	REMARKS
A One Playe	r with a Do	ouble-minor Pe	enalty		
A 1	3:00 4:30	A15 - 2+2	GOAL	No Player returns	First penalty ends, the second begins at 4:30.
A 2	3:00	A15 - 2+2	JUNE	A15 returns	The first penalty has expired,
	5:30		GOAL		the second ends with the scoring of the goal.
B One Playe	r with a M	inor and a Maj	or Penalty		
B 1	3:00	A15 - 5+2		No penalty	The Major Penalty must be
	4:30		GOAL	terminates	served first.
B 2	3:00	A15 - 5+2		A15 returns	The first penalty has expired,
	8:30		GOAL		the second ends with the scoring of the goal.
C Two Playe	rs of the S	Same Team - o	combination o	of minor and major pena	lties – signaled (S*)
C 1	3:00	A15 - 2		A15 returns	
	4:00	A23 - 2			
	4:30		GOAL		
C 2	3:00	A15 - 2		A15 returns	
	4:00	A23 - 5			
	4:30		GOAL		
C 3	3:00	A15 - 5		A23 returns	
	4:00	A23 - 2			
	4:30		GOAL		





#### TABLE 14 · RULE 16

Minor Penalties Goals scored against short-handed Team

### Minor Penalty expiration criteria:

- A. Is the Team scored against, short-handed?
- B. Are they serving a Minor Penalty on the clock?
- C. If the answer is yes to a) and b), delete the Minor Penalty with the least amount of time on the clock, except when coincidental penalties are being served.

EXAMPLES	TIME	TEAM A	TEAM B	ANSWER	REMARKS
C Two Playe	rs of the s	same Team - c	ombination of	minor and major pena	Ities - signaled (S*)
C 4	3:00	A15 - 2+2			
	4:00	A23 - 2			
	4:30		GOAL	No Player returns	
	5:30		GOAL	A23 returns	The first minor to A15 ends. A23 returns because they have the least amount of time to serve in their Minor Penalty.
C 5	3:00	A15 - 2		A15 returns	The signaled Double-minor Penalty
	(S*)	A23 - 2+2			to A23 is assessed at 4:30.
	4:30		GOAL		
C 6	3:00	A15 - 5+2		A23 returns	A15 must first serve the Major
	4:00	A23 - 2			Penalty. A23 returns as their are
	4:30		GOAL		serving a Minor Penalty.
C 7	3:00	A15 - 5+2		A23 returns	Least amount of time to serve.
	7:30	A23 - 2			
	8:30		GOAL		
C 8	3:00	A15 - 5+2		Both A15 and	The Major Penalty to A15 has
	6:00	A23 - 2		A23 return	expired. Their Minor Penalty ends
	8:00		GOAL		with the goal. A23's Minor Penalty has expired.
C 9	3:00	A15 - 5+2		Captain's choice	The Major Penalty to A15 has
	8:00	A23 - 2			expired. Both minors terminate
	9:00		GOAL		at the same time





#### TABLE 14 · RULE 16

Minor Penalties Goals scored against short-handed Team

### Minor Penalty expiration criteria:

- A. Is the Team scored against, short-handed?
- B. Are they serving a Minor Penalty on the clock?
- C. If the answer is yes to a) and b), delete the Minor Penalty with the least amount of time on the clock, except when coincidental penalties are being served.

EXAMPLES	TIME	TEAM A	TEAM B	ANSWER	REMARKS
D Three Play	ers of the	same Team -	delayed (D*)	or signaled (S*) penalty (r	no stoppage of play)
D 1	3:00	A15 - 2			
	3:30	A23 - 2			
	4:00	A6 - 2(D*)			
	4:30		GOAL	A15 returns	Delayed penalty to A6 begins at
	5:00		GOAL	A23 returns	4:30.
	5:30		GOAL	A6 returns	
D 2	3:00	A15 - 2			
	3:30	A23 - 2			
	(S*)	A6 - 2			
	4:30		GOAL	A15 returns and the penalty to A6 starts.	
	5:00		GOAL	A23 returns and A6 remains in the Penalty	
				Box.	
D 3	3:00	A15 - 5		A23 returns and the	
	3:30	A23 - 2		penalty to A6 starts	
	(S*)	A6 - 2			
	4:30		GOAL		
D 4	3:00	A15 - 5		A15 and A23 return and	The Major Penalty to A15 is com-
	7:30	A23 - 2		the penalty to A6 starts	pleted. The Minor Penalty to A23
	(S*)	A6 - 2			ends on the scoring of the goal.
	8:00		GOAL		

# HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND

### **Darrian Wilson**

Ohhhh-sha-bandit, if you were ever to look up the definition of a character win then you'd need look no further than last Sunday's penalty shoot out win against Glesga Clan.

The game had everything, mainly due to a first period flashpoint where Cade Neilson drove his chicken wing into Olivier LeBlanc's head without a care in the world. Well done to Phélix Martineau for stepping in and causing the ruckus that woke the officials up to the fact something had happened.

What was a stonewall ejection was discussed at length in the stripeys huddle before going to review. With a mere five-minute penalty for elbows dished out there was disbelief and anger in equal measure and I am assuming the referee's didn't have the benefit of the angles that circulated on social media soon after. If they did have the angles, then Houston, we have a problem. The Department Of Player Safety, if they live up to their title and their sole reason for being, should be dishing out a multiple match suspension for what was a deliberate and targeted check to the head. I'm glad Olivier took Neilson to task over it, just a shame Neilson was more interested in taking it to ground than answering the bell for his actions and I believe KFC are in negotiations for an advertising contract with him.

p.s. early Thursday morning and still nothing from

DOPS.....

Let's not take attention away from what was Charles-Antoine Paiement's finest game in a Flyers shirt so far as well as a good start for Evan Mackinnon who was signed on the deadline to replace Ryan Foss who had been wanting to finish his career in a play-off series back home so walked out on his contract. Just a shame Foss signed for Flyers knowing the poo we were in whilst all along seemingly planning to be away home before the season ended. You can certainly go off people quickly. In a 'now it all makes sense' moment that may explain his no contact hockey style of play and fear of getting into the crease.

Mid-season replacements Massimo Carozza and Kieran Craig have done well for Flyers and being able to sign fan favourite Jonas Emmerdahl was fortuitous. If Evan Mackinnon can make the same impact over the next five weeks I'll be a happy chappy.

Although the nerves are starting kick in a little about what's next for Flyers there are still seven home games left this season.

It was noticeable on Sunday that there are guys playing who are banged up and there aren't enough hats to take off to those that are.

They'll get a hard time for low to no production but within the dressing room the minutes they are logging will be hugely appreciated.

Appreciating also that the guys on the ice are the ones who stuck buy the team or joined recently knowing the situation and the battle they'd face leaves me with a feeling of gratitude that we got to see a game like last Sunday and we got to cheer a win against fierce rivals. Nobody is going down without a fight and Flyers proved that it isn't the size of the dog in the fight that matters but the size of the fight in the dog.

This week coming Flyers are away to Cardiff for St David's day on Saturday and back home to face the Nottingham Panthers. With a short break to recover Flyers will then lace up against Devils in the Auld Barn on Wednesday to play the rescheduled 'roof aff' game. Devils have had a stinker of a month in the league, tied in with going short benched themselves, and their title challenge is all but over as they succumbed to Giants last weekend going down ten goals to one over two games and making fourth place in the league their own. Nottingham Panthers seem to own third spot with a bit of wiggle room either side of them and not a bad season for them all told under Danny Stewart's stewardship though they will be slightly annoyed having lost out on the Challenge Cup final by a solitary goal after beating Belfast two nil on Wednesday which was not enough to overcome a three goal deficit from the first leg.

Steelers make up the top four, sitting in second spot and looking to be more reliant on Giants making mistakes despite Sheffield going on a run in February.

For the record, Flyers are mathematically on the brink of being out of play-off contention, but not ninth place! Flyers then playing for pride and looking to securing some of the last twenty-eight points on offer in the last fourteen games. Hopefully last Sunday's win will instil some confidence into the squad as they continue to rally.

Thank you for sticking by the guys. Darrian

# Matchnight PRESENTATIONS

**GLASGOW CLAN FEBRUARY 23RD 2025** 



CLAN MOM
TYSON MCLELLAN

FLYERS MOM SHANE OWEN



SHIRT OFF THE BACK

50/50 WINNER



### WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Fife Flyers' hopes of finishing on top of the Heineken Premier League suffered a major blow on Sunday as Durham Wasps came from behind to defeat Murrayfield Racers 5-4 in Edinburgh. The Kirkcaldy side had been hoping that Racers could boost their title hopes by taking both points from the English side, but a goal less than 20 seconds from time put Durham to the top of the table for the first time this season. that occasion, and must fancy his chances of grabbing the seven goals he needs to bring up his 'ton' in Heineken League matches. However, victory is at the top of player-coach Ron Plumb's list of priorities. Nevertheless, Flyers must aim to keep on winning to take advantage of any slip-ups by Durham, or at least make sure of finishing second to avoid both Wasps and Murrayfield in the play-offs. "We will be going out to win the game before thinking about anything else," he emphasised yesterday. "Southampton are not the push-overs they were earlier in the season, but the team is playing well at the moment and we will be expected to win." Winning is something which should not present too much of a problem to Flyers tomorrow night when they meet bottom of the table Southampton Vikings at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink, and when they visited Kirkcaldy earlier this season they found themselves on the wrong end of a 22-5 scoreline. Jimmy Pennycook is again available and Stuart Drummond is free of suspension, while youngsters Blair Page and Gary Fyfe are likely to be given another outing. Flyers have agreed to play Glasgow Dynamos in the semi-final of the Scottish Challenge Cup in Dundee on Sunday night with a 7 p.m. faceoff The match is being televised by Grampian TV and the winners will go through to the Final at Dundee on March 24. Murrayfield defeated Dundee Rockets in the first semi-final, but they have a Heineken League fixture against Whitley on the date of the final and Dundee are likely to take their place. Meanwhile, Murrayfield have returned 100 tickets for their televised against Flyers at Kirkcaldy on March 23, leaving 500 tickets still unsold.



Dave Stoyanovich's achievement in setting a new British ice hockey scoring record has been honoured by the Fife Flyers. The puck used to score the record breaking goals against Nottingham Panthers was mounted and presented to the Canadian by Bob Fernie, chairman of Kirkcaldy Ice Hockey Club, prior to Saturday's game against Toronto Eagles. Stoyanovich has scored 129 goals so far this season, beating the previous record held by Roy Halpin of Dundee Rockets.

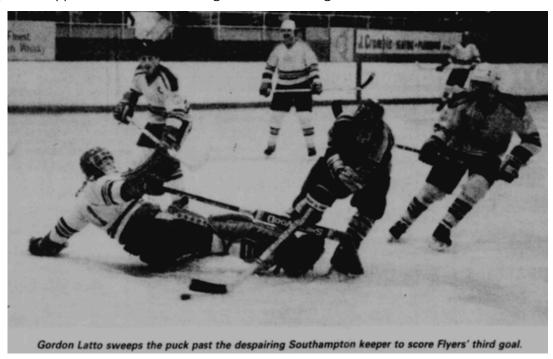
### 16/03/1985 Fife Flyers v Southampton Vikings Premier League

Valiant Vikings Anyone expecting a repeat of Fife Flyers' 22-5 victory over Southampton Vikings earlier this season was in for a big disappointment on Saturday night. Despite a totally one sided encounter, a combination of slack finishing and an inspired performance by the visitors' netminder restricted Flyers to a mere six goals. ance and actually managed to peg Flyers' lead back to 4-2 early in the third period. Flyers appeared to be over-anxious to put the puck in the net, with too many players trying to "go it alone", and it was significant that the biggest cheer of the night greeted the announcement of Ayr's victory over Durham.



## WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

Flyers out-shot the English side 52-9 and could so easily have run up another massive score, but had to be content with two goals in each period. Southampton arrived in Kirkcaldy with a youthful squad of just 10, including two keepers, but put up a gallant defensive perform- The rather dishevelled appearance of the Southampton team seemed to set the tone for a scrappy game, with Flyers always in control but out of touch in front of goal. Dave Stoyanovich put the Kirkcaldy side ahead after six minutes with a simple tap-in after netminder Colon had parried a Danny Brown effort. Thereafter, Flyers did everything but score, and it took them until 25 seconds from the buzzer to add to their lead when Chic Cottrell netted from close range after Gordon Latto had seen his shot blocked. Southampton had scarcely been able to cross the half-way line in the first period, and the pattern continued after the restart with Colon defying the Fife attack with a series of fine stops. Indeed, it took a power play goal by Gordon Latto 12'minutes into the period to make it 3-0 when he fired a low shot into the corner of the net from the left wing. Two minutes before the buzzer, the persistence of Danny Brown enabled him to force home Flyers' fourth goal with the home team short-handed. Vikings were expected to tire in the third period, but to the astonishment of the crowd, they hit back with two goals in the space of three minutes through Marshall Uretsky to end Craig Dickson's hopes of a shut-out. It took player-coach Ron Plumb to show his men the way to goal, returning from penalty to score a typical goal. And in the dying seconds, Jimmy Pennycook stepped in to score the final goal of the evening.



#### 17/03/1985 Glasgow Dynamos v Fife Flyers Challenge

Flyers emphasised the difference in class between a top Premier League outfit and the First Division when they swept aside the challenge of Glasgow Dynamos in the semi-final of the Scottish Challenge Cup in Dundee on Sunday night. Despite missing a number of scoring opportunities, the Kirkcaldy side were never in any danger of losing, with Dave Stoyanovich helping himself to a nap hand. It was Stoyanovich who put Flyers ahead in the third minute, but despite continuous pressure, it was midway through the period before Andy Linton added number two. Shields stunned the large Fife following when he scored on a Glasgow breakaway just 60 seconds later, but Stoyanovich restored Flyers' two-goal lead before the buzzer. ! Alihough Kirk reduced the leeway with a power play goal early in the second period, Stoyanovich completed his hat-trick to make it 4-2, and a move between Jimmy Pennycook and Danny Brown saw the latter net Flyers fifth. To their credit, Dynamos kept plugging away, and they scored again through Bestle, only for Stoyanovich end the period scoring with a rasping slap-shot The teams traded power play goals at the start of the final period with Pennycook netting for Flyers and Kirk on target for Glasgow. However, any hopes Dynamos had of saving the game were ended when Gordon Goodsir and Andy Linton scored within the space of two minutes to make it 9-4. Although Kirk completed his hattrick with another power play goal, the final say went to Stoyanovich with a spectacular slap-shot on the turn.

### 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

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.

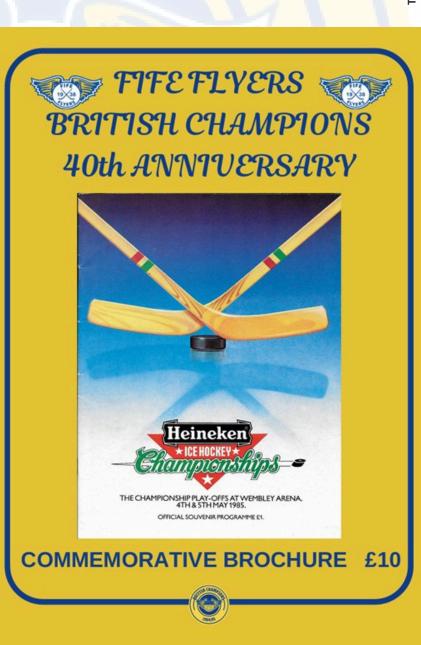
The organisers have been delighted by the initial response to news of the reunion of the Class of '85 with many oldtime hockey fans keen to be involved at the live show.

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** took a major step towards winning the Scottish U16 League title with a strong performance at Belfast Giants on Saturday.

MVP Caiden Forbes weighed in with a hat-trick as the Flames claimed a 5-2 victory. Ross McEwan and CJ Giannandrea were also on the scoresheet.

The Flames can clinch top spot if they win at Lanarkshire Lightning on Sunday. They triumphed 4-1 in the reverse fixture and will be keen to complete the job this weekend.

**Fife Redwings** continued their recent improvement with an impressive 5-1 home win against Solway Sharks U12.

Mason Kelly (2), Owen Wotherspoon, Adam Aird and Kaiden Coles got the goals. Ramsay Whyte was the MVP. At senior level, **Kirkcaldy Kestrels**' bid to build some momentum ahead of the Scottish National League (SNL) play-offs received a timely boost on Saturday.

The Kestrels recorded an emphatic 8-2 home victory over Kilmarnock Thunder to maintain their grip on fourth place in the SNL.

Conor Duncan (3) topped the scoring, while Ross Henderson (2), Allan Anderson, George Pitcaithly and Grant Jamieson were also on the scoresheet.

Jake Blyth was impressive on his debut for the Kestrels, becoming the fourth player from the club's junior system to step up to the SNL this season.

Callum McLaren, CJ Giannandrea and Caiden Forbes have also debuted for the Kestrels this term, highlighting the strength of the pathway from Kirkcaldy Ice Hockey Club.

The Kestrels are back in action on Saturday at Aberdeen Lynx. They round off their regular season fixtures at home to North Ayrshire Wild (March 8th) and Paisley Pirates (March 16th).



# TABLES & FIXTURES SEASON 2024/25

### **ELITE LEAGUE**

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %	
x - Belfast Giants	41	63	26	4	8	3	159	95	0.77	
x - Sheffield Steelers	41	58	26	2	11	2	161	98	0.71	
Nottingham Panthers	41	55	23	3	12	3	139	96	0.67	
Cardiff Devils	39	48	23	0	14	2	127	104	0.62	1
<b>Guildford Flames</b>	42	47	18	3	16	5	142	137	0.56	Ī
Coventry Blaze	42	47	16	6	17	3	136	133	0.56	
Glasgow Clan	40	41	15	4	18	3	124	135	0.51	
<b>Dundee Stars</b>	42	38	14	3	21	4	133	158	0.45	
Manchester Storm	40	29	12	2	25	1	120	153	0.36	
Fife Flyers	40	10	3	1	34	2	86	218	0.13	

As at 24th February 2025

### WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
CC	Wed	26-Feb-2025	<b>Nottingham Panthers</b>	<b>Belfast Giants</b>	19:30
208	Wed	26-Feb-2025	Cardiff Devils	Sheffield Steelers	19:30
209	Fri	28-Feb-2025	Glasgow Clan	Cardiff Devils	19:30
210	Fri	28-Feb-2025	Manchester Storm	<b>Belfast Giants</b>	19:30
211	Sat	1-Mar-2025	<b>Guildford Flames</b>	Manchester Storm	18:00
212	Sat	1-Mar-2025	<b>Cardiff Devils</b>	Fife Flyers	19:00
213	Sat	1-Mar-2025	<b>Nottingham Panthers</b>	<b>Dundee Stars</b>	19:00
214	Sat	1-Mar-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Coventry Blaze	19:00
215	Sun	2-Mar-2025	<b>Belfast Giants</b>	Glasgow Clan	16:00
216	Sun	2-Mar-2025	<b>Dundee Stars</b>	Sheffield Steelers	17:00
217	Sun	2-Mar-2025	Fife Flyers	<b>Nottingham Panthers</b>	17:15
218	Sun	2-Mar-2025	Coventry Blaze	Guildford Flames	17:30

<sup>\*</sup> denotes qualified for playoffs

# FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

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

# FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Dec 28th	Dundee Stars	League	Α	19:00	Lost	2-7
Monday Dec 30th	Glasgow Clan	League	Н	19:15	Lost	3-8
Tuesday Dec 31st	Glasgow Clan	League	Α	14:00	Lost	1-5
Saturday Jan 4th	Coventry Blaze	League	Н	19:15	Lost	1-3
Sunday Jan 5th	Guildford Flames	League	Α	18:00	Lost	1-7
Saturday Jan 11th	Dundee Stars	League	Н	19:15	Lost	2-5
Sunday Jan 12th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Α	16:00	Lost	0-8
Saturday Jan 18th	Manchester Storm	League	Α	19:00	Won	5-4
Sunday Jan 19th	Nottingham Panthers	League	Н	17:15	Lost	2-4
Friday Jan 24th	Glasgow Clan	League	Α	19:30	POST	
Saturday Jan 25th	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	19:15	POST	
Saturday Feb 1st	Belfast Giants	League	Н	19:15	Lost	5-7
Sunday Feb 2nd	Coventry Blaze	League	Α	17:30	Lost	2-5
Wednesday Feb 5th	Glasgow Clan	League	Α	19:30	Lost	4-9
Saturday Feb 8th	Glasgow Clan	League	Α	19:00	Lost	0-4
Sunday Feb 9th	Dundee Stars	League	Н	17:15	Lost	3-8
Friday Feb 14th	Belfast Giants	League	Α	19:00	Lost	1-8
Sunday Feb 16th	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	18:00	Lost	2-6
Wednesday Feb 19th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Α	19:30	Lost	1-8
Saturday Feb 22nd	Manchester Storm	League	Α	19:00	Lost	2-6
Sunday Feb 23rd	Glasgow Clan	League	Н	17:15	Won SO	3-2
Saturday Mar 1st	Cardiff Devils	League	Α	19:00		
Sunday Mar 2nd	Nottingham Panthers	League	Н	17:15		
Wednesday Mar 5th	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	19:30		
Saturday Mar 8th	Guildford Flames	League	Α	18:00		
Sunday Mar 9th	Coventry Blaze	League	Н	17:15		
Saturday Mar 15th	Belfast Giants	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Mar 16th	Nottingham Panthers	League	Α	16:00		
Saturday Mar 22nd	Guildford Flames	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Mar 23rd	Coventry Blaze	League	Α	17:30		
Wednesday Mar 26th	Belfast Giants	League	Α	19:00		
Saturday Mar 29th	Belfast Giants	League	Α	19:00		
Sunday Mar 30th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Н	17:15		
Saturday Apr 5th	Manchester Storm	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Apr 6th	Dundee Stars	League	Α	17:00		





















For information on commercial opportunities with Fife Flyers, please email: commercial@fifeflyers.co.uk