



# ***THE WEEKLY BUZZARD***

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The Official Newsletter of The Warinanco Over The Hill Ice Hockey Club

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Week 3

Friday, November 17, 2006

**Warinanco Park, NJ–November 17, 2006–On consecutive weeks, the Dark team has prevailed. The back to back wins were primarily due to the steller performance of the Dark backliners. The defensive corps of Ken Snyder, Bobby Pagan, Dean Watters & Bill O’Brien, never gave the white team many opportunities for goals. When there was, Jerry Neilson, was there to corral and snuff out almost all of their chances.**

**Neilson was a major factor in Dark’s win. The one goal that did get by the wily vet, was a perfect shot by Russ Jones that hit the near side corner. “There was a bit of action on my left, said Neilson. “All of a sudden there was a quick break and Jonesie teed it up. I saw it, but there wasn’t much I could do, it was a perfect shot.”**

**On the other end of the ice, the White defense labeled this week as the “Fearsome Foursome,” (fifth member Jack Lenhart moved up to forward) again had problems getting the puck out of their zone. If not for the heroics of goalie Val Maleckar, the white team would have been down by even more goals. Once again, the white goalie did a great job of squaring up and cutting down the angles of the dark teams snipers. There were many defensive lapses and missed assignments that led to Dark picking up costly rebounds that turned into goals. For Maleckar that was the difference in the game. “My guys have to be more disciplined in the defensive zone,” said the frustrated goalie. “Our wingers have to cover their points and make sure that all of the Dark players are accounted for.”**

**Speaking about covering the points, the Dark defenseman's play there never gave White much of a chance to clear the puck. Their tenacious effort and timely shots allowed Dark to keep the pressure in the offensive zone for most of the night.**

**"I've had a lot of nights living like white." remarked Dark forward Joey Marchwinski in reference to the inability of White to clear the puck. "It isn't much fun, that's for sure." Conversely for the Dark team it was one of those nights, when nothing could go wrong. At the drop of the puck, white was already down, playing without the services of Dave Paltjon, Charlie Snyder and John Markham who were all healthy scratches. "If we would have had just of the three, the game would have been a lot more even." said White Center, Kevin Kelly. "With no one to carry the puck into the offensive zone, we couldn't mount much of an offense" All three skaters are expected to return to the white lineup this week.**

**Dark again had solid efforts by both lines. Dark Center, Bill Weiss added 3 goals to his league lead. Also scoring for Dark was defensemen Bob Pagan and forwards Carl Roth, Ken LaBella, Peter Toiliak and Rich Pollak.**

**Week Two: Dark has the defense.**

**Season to Date: White 1 Dark 2**

**3 Stars: 1<sup>st</sup> Star Jerry Neilson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Star Val Maleckar; 3<sup>rd</sup> Star, Dark Defense.**

#### **GAME NOTES:**

**Elias Sports Bereau has noted that Dark forwards Bill Weiss, Ken LaBella, Rich Pollak and Bob Pagan have scored goals in the first three games this season. Four players achieving this is a league record for the start of a WOTHHC season. It will be interesting to see how many consecutive games many of the four can continue to score. The dark team defense allowed just 20 shots on goal, the fewest number since Elias started keeping stats for WOTHHC in 1997. It**

was the second game in two years that the dark goalie Jerry Neilson has given up just one goal. How sly were the white forwards? Not many spectators may have noticed, but at the start of each period, during a lull in play, a white forward could be seen poking his stick into the dark goal. "We had to make sure that Jerry wasn't cheating again this week." said forward Scott Marchal. "It's tough enough to score in this league without him getting more of an edge using "The Wrap." White Captain, Kevin Kelly even had league officials check the dark goalie for netting between his legs and to make sure that his sweater didn't have extra cloth under his arms that could thwart shots from going into the net. Neilson had this to say about the inspection after the game. "I guess white has to look for someone to blame." Kelly was pretty enraged when he was told of Neilson's remarks. "That guy has been getting away with murder for 35 years. Everyone knows he what he does. We're gonna catch him and when we do, you better believe the league will come down hard on him." When asked for a comment, Commissioner and dark team winger, Rich Pollak refused to even address the issue.

Elias who have been keeping stats since 1913 has noted that this is the first time that a group of players were chosen as one of the games top 3 stars. "We have looked back to when they first started naming the 3 stars of the game and it has always been a single player." said a spokesman for the Bureau. He didn't think this would start a trend for other leagues. "WOTHHC is unique in that as a league, they foster team play more so than any other league. This selection fits right in with the league bylaws and charter." When asked about the team aspect of play charter member and assistant commissioner Joe Seeman pretty much told it like it is. "We try to get everyone involved in every game. We don't tolerate any hot dogging here. If that's your style of play, there are a lot of other places for you to play." He went on to add. " A few years ago, a reporter asked me if maybe we pass too much, I told him, it is never enough, it's always pass first!"

In the middle of the second period league commissioner, assigned Dark Center, Ken LaBella to the white team in an attempt to ignite their offense. "The white team was playing with a player short and we had 8 forwards." stated Pollak. "I thought Ken might be able to help get the white offense on track." LaBella, who has been one of the

**bright spots for the Dark team this season and was more than a bit shocked by the move. LaBella didn't have much success wearing white. "I was smothered every time I got the puck." said the outspoken forward. "I guess we take the dark team defense for granted. I didn't realize how physical they are and how well they attack the puck. They don't give you much of a chance to make any kind of a play."**

#### **Other Tid Bits:**

**If forward Scott Marchal seems to be a tad faster on his skates this year, he attributes it to skiing. "I missed some games last season because I did a lot of downhill racing." said Marchal. "I even qualified for the NASTAR National Championships and I made it to the finals (top 15 in the country) To give you an idea of how impressive that is, here is a little bit about the race series.**

**"Developed by *SKI Magazine* in 1968, NASTAR (NAtional STAndard Race) is the largest recreational ski and snowboard race program in the world. Since the program's inception, more than 6 million skiers and snowboarders have raced NASTAR. Their mission is simple - to provide a fun, competitive and easily accessible racing program that, through the development of a handicap system, allows racers of all ages and abilities a means to compare their race results to other competitors across the country regardless of when and where they race."**

**The White forward has a clause in his contract that allows him to miss a maximum of 6 games to allow him to race on this ski circuit. "We feel it is great when one of our players can excel in another sport." said commissioner Pollak. "A lot of WOTHHC players ski on off days. There are a lot of similarities between skating and skiing and it's a big boost to the recognition of our league when someone like Scott can ski in a National championship."**

**As mentioned before, three notable white skaters were missing in action. Center John Markham, has chosen to sit out while he protests the automatic 5 game suspension that came with the double minor that was called during week two. The volatile center could play while his protest is being reviewed by the league disciplinary committee. Markham chose to sit hoping that his punishment will be reduced to a one game and time served.**

**Left Winger Dave Paltjon, was permitted to take off couple of games for personal reasons. He is scheduled to return to the ice as early as this Friday.**

**Center Charlie Snyder, who has missed the last two games, will also be returning this Friday. The crafty forward was chosen to represent a New Jersey All-Star team in a old geezer tournament in Montreal. Other WOTHHC members who have skated for New Jersey in previous years, include, Rich Pollak, Bobby Baker, Vince Cartier and former member Steve Fisher. Congratulations are also in order to Snyder, who missed the last game because of the marriage of his daughter on Saturday. Everyone in the league wishes Charlie and his family Mozoltov and we hope you got the check (Better cash it fast)!**

**Welcome aboard to newcomers:**

**Bill O'Brien and Adam Popko and the return of Russ Jones. Not much is known about O'Brien, who has been a more than welcome addition to the Dark Defense. His play so far has been at a very high level. As for Popko, we asked Jack Lenhart about the shifty playmaking forward. "Just because he is Polish and plays hockey, do you think we grew up playing together? To answer his question, yes we do. We expect everyone from other countries to know every fellow countryman, especially if they play hockey. For Jones, he had a late start and missed most of training camp due a serious groin strain. He looked good in practice all week and management was happy with his effort on Friday night. With the addition of the 3 missing white skaters, on paper it looks to be a different story this week.**

**International Interest:**

**With a roster that includes many nationalities, The Weekly Buzzard is happy to announce that they looking into publishing the weekly newsletter in Polish, Italian, Russian, Canadian and in Staten Island. The Weekly Buzzard as agreed with the request by The State Department to publish immediately in Arabic and Hebrew. It seems that there is international interest in the exploits of WOTIHC. The State Department believes that this interest shows the world that America is more than just a dealer for guns and bullets. There is even talk of an off season goodwill tour of the region to be set up by the State Department. Jim McHugh, spokesperson for the state**

**department believes that the weekly newsletter has assisted the peace process by showing how both sides have similar interests. “We were surprised to learn that there were a lot of downloads by Arabs and Israelis of the weekly Buzzard off the league’s website.” said McHugh. When newsletter officials pressed McHugh how the State Department was able to procure this information and how many ‘are a lot.’” McHugh pretty much let us know that under the Patriot Act, this is classified information.**

**The Rosters:**

**White: Forwards; Kevin Kelly, Scott Marchal, Matt Jagusak, Jack Lenhart, Adam Popko, Ken LaBella (half game). Defense; Glenn Davidson, Mark Lee, Paul Kardos & Mitch Lumagui. Goalie; Val Maleckar**

**Dark: Forwards; Rich Pollak, Peter Talias, Bill Weiss, Joey Marchwinski, Joey Seeman, Vince Cartier, Carl Roth and Ken LaBella (half game). Defense; Ken Snyder, Bobby Pagan, Dean Watters & New guy wearing colors. Goalie; Jerry Neilson**