



# ***THE WEEKLY BUZZARD***

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

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Week 7

Friday, December 8, 2006

## **Root Becomes A Nail Biter**

**Warinanco Park, NJ–December 8, 2006–Dark Center, Ken LaBella opened the evening’s scoring with two quick goals and Dark was off to the races netting 6 straight goals as the White side looked to be on the losing end of a humiliating rout. Playing with the dreaded 6 goal lead, the Dark side was pretty nonchalant when Russ Jones, who seems to find different ways of beating Dark goalie Jerry Neilson, netted Whites first goal in the closing minutes of the first period. Little did anyone know, that Jones goal would turn the tide and the outcome of the game would be up for grabs.**

**Another momentum change happened when the league officials made a few roster moves during the break between the first and second periods,. In the WOTHIHC By-laws, officials have the power to make in-game trades, if a team is ahead by 5 or more goals. White had 12 skaters in the first, while dark skated only 11. In a move to even the sides, forward Scott Marchal and defenseman Mike Maraselle were traded to Dark and defenseman Bob Pagan was sent to White, in hopes of shoring up their beleaguered defensive corps.**

**The changes brought immediate results as the white team went on a three goal tear, getting timely goals from Jack Lenart and Kevin Kelly**

**and it became a hockey game. With one less skater and the addition of the play-making Pagan, White became more aggressive on both ends of the ice. Forwards Dave Paltjon and Charlie Snyder again were able to work their magic, putting the dark defense on the heels for most of the last two periods. The second line anchored by center Kevin Kelly, also began to put pressure on the Dark forwards with their solid fore-checking efforts, creating timely turnovers that lead to some pretty goals.**

**Though, White pretty much dominated the last two periods, they were not able to make up for the 6 first period goals and Dark was able to hold on for another victory.**

**Week Seven: White dominated early, white fought back, Dark wins again**

**Season to Date: White 2 Dark 5**

**3 Stars: 1<sup>st</sup> Star Carl Roth; 2<sup>nd</sup> Star Jack Lenart; 3<sup>rd</sup> Star Bill O'Brien.**

#### **GAME NOTES:**

**White forward/defenseman Jack Lenart, seems unstoppable of late, as he continues on his scoring tear with another deuce. Since returning from Montreal, Charlie Snyder stretches his scoring streak to three games with another two goal game. Also scoring for White were center Kevin Kelly defensemen Mich Lumagui and Paul Kardos.**

**Dark side captain Bill Weiss two and a half goals, and Ken LaBella found the back of the net three times, to stretch their season opening scoring streaks to six games. Carl Roth, who is vying for the Tony Shaw, was again dominate on offense as he tallied for 3. defenseman Bill O'Brien added two, Joey Marchwinski had one and a half and Peter Tolias had one.**

**Proof is in the picture as they say, or is it a picture says a thousand words. In any case, Dark goalie, Jerry Neilson, who has been labeled the Phil Neikro of WOTHHC, might have been a bit cavalier on Friday night. For years, skaters have accused the geriatric goaltender of plain cheating. The unflappable Neilson has always admitted to nothing and brushed off these remarks as nothing more than excuses for poor play. This time, proof is in the photo, as you can see. Sitting atop of his goal is a box of Shop Rite clear saran wrap. Neilson, has been accused of using the so called "Wrap" on occasions when his puck stopping abilities had deserted him. These rumors have abounded for years. Till Friday, no one has ever been able to actually catch the cagey vet using "The Wrap" or any other kind of outside assistance in stopping goals from entering his net. One of White's forwards first noticed the box, in the middle of the first period. At first it just seemed as if Neilson had a new more colorful water bottle with a sponsors name. At the end of the first period, and down, by 5 goals, White Captain, Charlie Snyder took a closer look at the so-called water bottle and noticed it was actually a box of Wrap. He immediately alerted the on and off-ice officials, who confiscated the box and inspected both the Dark goal and goalie. The off-ice officials were not able to find anything to indicate that the dark goalie was guilty of any wrong doing. Could having the box sitting atop of his goal, another of Neilson's tricks to distract the white team? League commissioner Rich Pollak, who was in Montreal at the commissioners meetings, immediately dispatched a special team of investigators to look into the incident to see if there was any wrongdoing. The team will review all the arena's video tape, and the game tape to see how the box found it's way to the top of the Dark net. They will also be looking to see if Neilson, wrapped or un-wrapped his goal at any time prior, during or after the first period. In the meantime, Pollak will allow Neilson to continue to play, pending the outcome of the investigation. "There have been rumors of Jerry cheating for years and we have never found that to be true." Said Pollak. "This is as close we have ever gotten to having any kind of evidence. In this league, you are innocent until proven guilty, so Neilson will be able to continue to play till such time**

**as we find him guilty of any of the charges stemming from this incident.” The commissioner believes he will have a ruling on the matter sometime before the holiday break..**

**Dark Defenseman, Dean Watters, is on a game to game medical leave after being tomahawked last week. X-rays proved negative of any break and doctors have said that Watters has a severely bruised wrist bone and there is nothing that can be done other than rest. White captain, Bill Weiss, has filed a grievance with the league asking for the suspension of Lenart. Pollak said the league would review the game tape and talk with the on ice officials before issuing any kind of disciplinary action against Lenart.**

**Commissioner Rich Pollak, missed this weeks game due to his attendance winter meeting for the commissioners of the annual North American United Geezer League of Year-round Hockey (UGLY Hockey) meetings in Montreal. WOTHHC is one of the original 6 teams of The North American UGLY Hockey. Even though WOTHHC has always played from October to March, they were asked to join because many of the original members of the team played year round in WOTHHC Colors within the confines of New York/New Jersey corridor. At the formation of the league 30 years ago, there weren't any other old geezers playing hockey in the NYC metropolitan area other than WOTHHC. The league felt they should have a presence in the area to take advantage of television, radio, print and league sponsorship opportunities. Many of the current Board of Commissioners of UGLY Hockey have looked to banish WOTHHC, but all of their attempts have come up short. It seems that the founding fathers of the league really had no choice as WOTHHC was the only game in town. The attorneys for WOTHHC understood their perilous position in UGLY Hockey. Seeing that they were only a seasonal league, there might be a chance for the league to expand by inviting another league within the 100 mile protection zone which would mean the ouster of WOTHHC. League by-rules state that there can only be one league in each marketplace. The WOTHHC lawyers hammered out an agreement that made sure**

**that WOTHHC would always be that league. The winter meetings take place so that the commissioners of the various leagues around the country can get updates from each league, discuss trades and rule changes. Reporters who cover the 3 day meetings, say it's nothing more than an excuse for a bunch of old out of shape guys to get drunk, then stumble around looking for action in the many clubs in and around the city, where the league meetings take place. Pollak, who speaks fluent French says, unlike many of his fellow commissioners, he takes the meetings seriously. Pollak is know around UGLY Hockey as the only commissioner who actually enjoys indulging in the French atmosphere and culture of Montreal. "This city has some very fine French restaurants who don't charge an arm and a leg." said Pollak. "It also has some wonderful museums and I always enjoy meeting and making friends in Montreal. Carolyn, (Rich's wife) and I may end up moving up here when the time comes for me to retire."**

**Other News: Mike Schachter, will undergo back surgery on December 12<sup>th</sup>...Everyone on the Buzzard staff wishes the affable defenseman well and a speedy road to recovery. We have learned that Mike will be re-habing at the American Israeli National Sports Medicine Center in NYC. It the national sports center for Israeli athletes who train in the states. It is a state-of-the-art Sports and Re-hab facility and Mike will be able to take advantage of the latest in medical technology in his recovery. The facility is located at Beth Israel Hospital and is also affiliated with the hospital for special surgery, where Mike will be having his surgery. Even with this kind of intense therapy, doctors are not sure when Mike will be back on the ice. Schachter's attending surgeon, Mordecai Baakraakker, was asked to access the current state of Mike's condition, the surgeon responded. "He is in pretty bad shape physically. It's no wonder he has a bad back. I am amazed that a man in his physical condition can play hockey, it makes you wonder how tough that sport really is." Baakraakker then commented on Schachter's re-hab at the Sports Center., "He is very lucky to be able to take advantage of our facility and medical staff. Though I have to add,**

**this case will be a real test for our people and their abilities.” Baakraakker was adamant about not making any kind of prediction as to Schachters return to action. “I can’t honestly answer that question. We have never worked with a person in this bad of shape. Quite frankly, he is here only because he is a some kind of famous person back in Israel. The Prime Minister of sport said, we had no choice and I quote ‘The orders come from above’. We will do what we can, but we won’t guarantee anything.” We are sure that Mike will surprise his medical team with a rapid recovery and be back skating this season.**

### **In the Locker Room...**

**In anticipation to last Saturday’s big college football day, college colors seem to be the rage, as the skaters entered the locker rooms before the game. Dressed in the Red and black of Rutgers, was White center Kevin Kelly and Dark forward Mark Lee, while dark forward, Vince Cartier was in his usual orange and blue of Florida. The day ended up living up to it’s hype. For starters, Navy once again trounced Army to retain the Commander in Chief Trophy. UCLA did a number on USC winning 12-9. Florida came out on top of a topsy turvy game against Arkansas 38-28 and will now play in the national championship. Rutgers fell to West Virginia 41-39 in an exciting game that saw three overtimes. That game ended on a controversial 2-point conversion. Many of the WOTHHC players were rooting for Rutgers. “Because of Rutgers, New Jersey is making the news in a more positive way,” said defenseman Bob Pagan. “A lot of the players are also from Jersey, so of course we want them to win. This means a lot to the us, I am sure everyone is sick of hearing about the Sopranos.” Speaking of The Sopranos, James Gandolfini, who portrays Tony Soprano on the hit HBO Series, is a Rutgers alumnus and can be seen on billboards around key recruiting areas in state of Florida, touting Rutgers and their football program. On a side note Kelly, a Rutgers alum and season ticket holder, also travels to a few away games a year. His last trip was two weeks ago to watch the Cincinnati Bearcats hand Rutgers their first loss of the season. He is still debating on whether he will head to the Texas Bowl to see**

**Rutgers match up against Texas Tech. Cartier will not be making a trek to the Arizona desert as tickets for the championship game start at \$1,000. "Too rich for my blood. For two tickets to the game, I can buy a Plasma High Definition TV and watch it at home."**

**Then there was the New York Ranger talk. It seems that almost everyone had some kind of memory of growing up and watching the Rangers when they were the only team in town. This is how most of the members of WOTHHC learned about hockey. Names like Gump Worlsey, Eddie Giacomin, Andy Bathgate and Tim Horton rolled off of the tongues of old men who were reminiscing like it was yesterday. Ah, those free Saturday night broadcasts on channel 9, when there was no cable or MSG network. Winn Elliott, Bill Gordon, The Big Whistle, Marv Albert and Tim Ryan called the games, when, for the most part, before expansion in 1967, there were just 6 teams. Every Saturday Night, Black and white games would emanate from Montreal, Detroit, Toronto, Boston or Chicago. And what games they were. The good old days, were there any better? Sure, there weren't Big Screen or high definition TV's. No talk radio or all-sports networks feeding us hockey 24 hours a day. What there was; 6 teams, with the best playing the best every night. For WOTHHC members, that was hockey.**

**Valley Sports, the official outfitter for WOTHHC is the only place for any and all of your ice hockey needs. The hockey specific sports store is offering members of WOTHHC some kind of a discount for any and all hockey equipment. Regina, a player herself, will work with you personally to make sure you have the latest in skates, safety equipment and sticks. She carries the usual brands like CCM, Bauer, Nike, Easton, Louisville, Montreal, Eagle, Itech and Artec to name a few. Regina also does skate repair on the premises and is considered one of the best skate sharpeners in the state. If there is something you want that she doesn't carry it, she will special order it for you. There may be a lot of Hockey shops, but none like Valley Sports. Valley Sports is located at 1106 Valley Road, Stirling, NJ 07980. The phone number is (908) 580-1188. Regina, also has ice at Mennen during the week, for those who need another ice slot. Stop in, ask for Regina and tell her you play for WOTHHC.**

#### **The Rosters:**

**White: Forwards; Scott Marchal (1 Period), Jack Lenart, Adam Popko, Russ Jones, Charlie Snyder, Dave Paltjon. Defense; Glenn Davidson, Mike Marselle (1 Period), Paul Kardos & Mitch Lumagui and Bobby Pagan (2 Periods). Goalie; Val Maleckar**

**Dark: Forwards; Peter Talias, Bill Weiss, Joey Marchwinski, Vince Cartier, Mark Lee, Carl Roth, Ken LaBella and Scott Marchal (2 Periods) Defense; Bobby Pagan (1 Period) , John Healy, & Bill O'Brien, Ken Snyder and Mike Marselle (2 Periods). Goalie; Jerry Neilson**