



# ***THE WEEKLY BUZZARD***

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

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Week 5

Friday, November 24,

## **White Storms Back Dark Prevails**

**Warinanco Park, NJ–November 24, 2006–With the return of forwards Charlie Snyder, Dave Paltjon and Peter Scolara, the White put a big scare on Dark. After being totally dominated a week ago, White proved that you can never count them out. The key factor of the night, was the speed of the game, and that was where Dark had a slight advantage.**

**In the beginning it was all White. Adam Popko, playing in just his second game since being called up, opened the games scoring, with his first ever career WOTHIHC goal. Moving up to the first line, center Charlie Snyder took a perfect pass from Dave Paltjon, got off a perfect shot to beat Dark Goalie Jerry Neilson for an early 2-0 lead for White.**

**The 2 goal lead didn't last long as Dark Center Bill Weiss, cutting across the slot took a pass from Rich Pollak and found the back of the net beating White Goalie Val Maleckar. On the very next shift by the white team, forward, Jack Lenart beat Neilson with a shot into the right corner and it**

**was white 3-1. Dark stormed back as second line center Ken LaBella's nifty break away enabled him to slide the puck backhanded around a sprawling Maleckar. Dark scored again as defenseman Dean Watters shot from the point got by Maleckar. Even with the three consecutive Dark goals, White team hung tough, fighting back as defenseman, Mike Marselle ended his 96 game non-scoring streak, to put white up 4-3.**

**The second period proved to be as good as the first. Both teams traded goals, with the Dark team getting a slight advantage. Once again it was the play by the Dark defenseman at the points that created most of the Dark chances. Though they did not dominate the game as much as last week, they still made the crucial plays that contributed to most of Dark's goals in the period. With the Dark Forwards pinching at the points, the White defenseman began pushing the puck up the middle to a hanging forward, that created quite a few breakaways. Those rushes left Neilson to fend for himself and his timely saves kept the White forwards at bay.**

**Early in the third period, the action was end to end. By the middle of the period, after Dark scored a couple more goals, that created a nice cushion. Dark started focusing more on defense. Even with Dark playing the trap, White kept skating hard, winning the battles in the corners and luckily, the Dark defensemen were able to fend off most of the White attempts on Neilson. As the game started to wind down, Forward Jack Lenart made it interesting as he scored two more times and Snyder added a tally and White was back in the game. It ended up being a little to late as the**

**Dark side was able to hang on to take the game.**

**Week Four: Dark had a slight edge on both sides of the puck.**

**Season to Date: White 1 Dark 3**

**3 Stars: 1<sup>st</sup> Star Bill Weiss; 2<sup>nd</sup> Star Jack Lenart; 3<sup>rd</sup> Star, Charlie Snyder.**

**GAME NOTES:**

**Charlie Snyder added a deuce on his return to the White lineup. The center had an interesting couple of weeks. After the first game of the Old Geezer Tournament in Montreal, he and former WOTHHC All-Star, John Healy, were having a bite to eat at typical French/Italian all night pizzeria. Soon after sitting down and eating, a few suspicious looking gentlemen entered and sat down. After a few minutes, a few more also entered the fast food establishment, with one of the new patrons, with his hand inside his jacket, moved to the back of the restaurant in, what Snyder (former Army Ranger) said seemed like a rear guard position. Not knowing what was going on and visions of bad things about to happen, it wasn't looking good for the duo. Then, without any warning, the restaurant was stormed by a Montreal Police Swat team. As the stunned hockey players watched, the newest patrons were all asked to drop to the floor. While lying face down, with their arms clasped behind their heads, the members of the SWAT team shouted orders and questions to now prone diners as they were being frisked. Snyder, learned real fast that the word for gun in French is *Gun* as the SWAT team found one of the accused to be armed. Not sure what to do, they just sat**

**there, hoping not to get caught in any kind of deadly cross fire. After about 15 minutes had passed, the two were asked to quietly leave. Not wasting any time, they both hustled out of the pizza joint happy to be alive. Sue Healy, who learned of the incident when John returned back to the hotel, said it was a good thing that Snyder was there. “If John had been alone, (Healy who has a history of enjoying a few beers after a game) and told me that story, I would have told him he was crazy and in need of help. He would have been enrolled in an AA group the moment we arrived back in New Jersey.” Snyder, always looking at the bright side of things said with a shrug, “We got to eat for free.”**

**Mark Lee, who was assigned by the league to the Dark team for one game, scored two goals for his new teammates. The defenseman was asked to skate through the first forward line instead of his playing usual defensive position. “I have watched him the past few weeks skating the puck out of the zone.” said Dark Captain Bill Weiss. “I felt a player with his size and ability could create traffic in front of the white goal and that could lead to goals. That is exactly what he did, he had a great night and even scored two goals .”**

**Bill Weiss, is on a scoring rampage adding 5 to his league leading total of 13. According to the Elias Sports Bureau if Weiss keeps up this pace, he is sure to break the WOTHHC single season scoring record of 90 goals set by Glenn Coutts. Both he and Ken LaBella extended their season opening scoring streaks to 5 games. Both Rich Pollak and Bob Pagan saw their streaks ending at 4 games. Defenseman, Dean Watters, who was called up to the big club in game 2, has had 2 goals in the three games he has**

**played. That is also a new WOTHHC record for consecutive 2 goal games by a defenseman. White Defenseman Mike Marselle, scored his first goal in over three and a half years, ending the longest non-scoring streak in WOTHHC history.**

**White forward, Jack Lenart's "Hat Trick" was his first since joining WOTHHC four years ago. More known for his outstanding defensive play. Since moving up to forward 3 weeks ago, the hard charging Lenart is finding his comfort level as a forward. Teamed with fellow countrymen, Adam Popko, it seemed like the pair had been playing together since they were kids. "There you go again." Lenart responded when asked if he knew Popko back in Poland. "How many times do I have to tell you, I have never met Popko before he arrived here." Our investigative team did some research and found some interesting similarities about the two Polish skaters. Both were born in Lodz, (pronounced WOODGE) a city that is about 75 miles (112 Kilometers) south of Warsaw. It is the second largest city in Poland with a population of 793,500. It is considered the textile capital of Eastern Europe.**

**More surprisingly, the city is also the heart of Polish art and counter-culture with a world famous film school. Both skaters lived off of Piotrkowska, Europe's longest pedestrian street and rates as one of Poland's most famous party streets. Both attended the National Film School and worked in the film industry. While attending the film School, both learned about and now love jazz. Music that was outlawed through most of Poland, Though they both enjoy a Polish beer or two after a game, they are connoisseurs of the drink Tatanka. It is a sweet blend of Żubrówka vodka (produced with a blade of bison grass in the bottle) and apple juice.**

**Both are smokers, as a city of Lodz boasts that almost 70% of males smoke cigarettes. Both are devoted Catholics, and attended Catholic Schools, in a town that has been know primarily for it's Jewish population. Both play hockey. These are just a few of the similarities unearthed. Watching them skate together, did or did they not know each other? It's also amazing that as far as their hockey skills go both seem to fit right in. In the past, Eastern Europeans have had trouble adapting to the friendly competition, that WOTHHC fosters. Three notable skaters, Slavo, Big Mark and Vlad, were like fish out of water. Slavo and Vlad were farmed out to Hockey Eastern Europe. Big Mark was part of a 3-way trade between WOTHHC, the South Buffalo Celtic and the Rochester Triax of the Northern Division of the Empire League. That was the trade that brought Colgate graduate, Bill Weiss to WOTHHC. Speaking of Weiss, he is the second player from Colgate to skate with WOTHHC. The first being the late Billy Plummer, who passed away in 2001. Plummer a local product from Cranford and Weiss are both smooth skaters, great puck handlers and both can play hockey.**

#### **Embattled Center Waived by the League**

**Management has given White Center John Markham, his unconditional release effective November 18, 2006. The release will allow the embattled center an opportunity to hook up with another team for the remainder of the season. In a statement released by WOTHHC Commissioner Rich Pollak, there was little the league could do. "It's apparent that John has continued to battle the league over his recent double minor and 5 game suspension. We feel he has created a situation that is untenable for the league and its players. We cannot allow this kind of behavior and it will best serve both parties if he is given his unconditional**

**release effective November 18, 2007. There has been no comment from Markham about his release by the league.**

**As players and fans receive this week Buzzard, the Management and Players of WOTHHC wish everyone a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving.**

**The Rosters:**

**White: Forwards; Scott Marchal, Peter Scolara, Jack Lenhart, Adam Popko, Charlie Snyder, Dave Paltjon and Rich Carlucci, Defense; Glenn Davidson, Mike Marselle , Paul Kardos & Mitch Lumagui. Goalie; Val Maleckar**

**Dark: Forwards; Rich Pollak, Peter Talias, Bill Weiss, Joey Marchwinski, Vince Cartier, Russ Jones, Mark Lee and Ken LaBella. Defense; Bobby Pagan, Dean Watters, Carl Roth & Bill O'Brien. Goalie; Jerry Neilson**