



The Official Publication of the Florida Panthers Booster Club

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July Membership Meeting

Monday, July 18 at 7:00 pm
Incredible Ice

3299 Sportsplex Drive
Coral Springs FL 33065
954-341-9956

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P.O. Box 551797
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33355

Florida Panthers Booster Club Website
www.flpbc.com

FPBC Hotline • 954-835-7575

Florida Panthers Official Website
www.flpbc.com

Texas Wildcatters Official Website
Florida Panthers ECHL Affiliate
www.wildcattershockey.com

July Cold Front

by Cheryl LaPalme
bluliner_55@earthlink.net

Brrrrr, there's a chill brewing in the air. Can you feel it?

It can only mean one thing.

HOCKEY IS BACK!

That's right. In case you've been living on some remote island, you are well aware that Santa Claus

has come early and he brought us the gift we've been waiting 301 days for... a new collective bargaining agreement (in principle) and an end to the lockout.

The new agreement still needs to be put to a vote by the owners and the members of the NHLPA. Some analysts and players have come out and said that the ratification process is just a formality and that this agreement will be accepted by both sides via majority vote. After the long year we've all had, lets hope that's the case.

Details of the agreement have not been disclosed officially by either the NHL or the NHLPA, but the current consensus is that the agreement will contain the following:

- o 24% rollback of existing contracts
- o salary cap between 21.5 and 39 million
- o revenue sharing
- o two way salary arbitration
- o player contract buy out that doesn't affect cap (this year only)
- o no restructuring of player contracts to fit within cap limits
- o minimum salary at \$450,000
- o drug testing policy
- o participation in Olympics in Turin

The participation in the Olympics is of specific interest because it has been speculated that if the NHL participates, there will be no All-Star game this year.

There are many who say that the players are the big losers in this deal, but it's the fans and those who counted on salaries and income from hockey who have suffered much greater losses.

I've seen players beginning to speak out, bashing their union leaders or bashing the head of the NHL. While I may agree with one side over another, the fact is, once the



From the President's Desk

Hello Fellow Boosters! I hope all of you had a wonderful 4th of July weekend. You know you saw a great fireworks display when the ooohs' and aahhs' sound like a choreographed chant you would hear at a hockey game.



Ooops, Did I say hockey?

Well, it finally appears the boys of the ice and the owners have an agreement, and it looks like we can get our "sweaters" out of the closet, and look forward to a "COLD FRONT COMING."

I can't wait to spend 40 plus nights of getting to wear long sleeves and taking in the cool chill of the Office Depot Center. Yes I know it seems odd, and almost unbelievable, and yet by the time you read this there will be ratification of the agreement that will bring the boys home.

Before you know it the talk we will what position do we draft at, who is available, what free agents is the Organization looking at, and why didn't they sign fill in the blank and hey, that lottery was fixed, etc., etc., etc. Now is the time for you get up from that chair, go to your window, open it wide and yell, "There will be I C E @ the O D C !"

Now is our time to figure out what you would like to do to be an integral part of the Panthers Organization. Now is the time for us to get ideas on how to make hockey and the Panthers a premiere event for the evenings in South Florida.

It is time to get that feeling back when each game is an event. Things that seem dumb, (5, 4, 3, 2, Juan- for Juan Pierre every time he comes to bat) are actually cool. Remember the rats? That was all ours.

So now it is time to get ready for, Hockeyfest, Rookie Camp, the next Trek to Tampa! Are You Ready For Some Hockey?

Doug English

Florida Panthers Booster Club Officers

- President Doug English
- Vice President Kathy Dodson
- Treasurer Magdalena Curbelo
- Secretary Karen Schmier

Committees

- Booth Kathy Dodson
- Events Andre LaPalme
- Disciplinary/Sergent at Arms Carl Kanas
- Hospitality Karen Schmier
- Membership Kathy Dodson
- Publications Cheryl LaPalme
- Youth Membership Shelly Goldberg
- Website Eric Seiden

Cat Chat Contributors

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
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| Ward Benjamin | Simon Johansson |
| Sidney Chabus | Barbara Kay Kahn |
| Magdalena Curbelo | Carl Kanas |
| Kathy Dodson | Brittany LaPalme |
| Doug English | Cheryl LaPalme |
| Frank Garner | |

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News and Updates

Next General Membership Meeting

The July General Membership Meeting will take place on July 18 at 7:00 pm at Incredible Ice. Incredible Ice is located at 3299 Sportsplex Drive, Coral Springs FL 33065. 954-341-9956

Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Stephane Provost Fund

At around 3:30 am on April 22, NHL linesman Stephane Provost died when the motorcycle he was driving crashed into the back of a truck on St. Rd. 84.



Provost is survived by his wife Sandra and his two daughters, Ashley and Reily.

During the June general membership meeting, the membership voted to donate funds to the family on behalf of the Club. If individual members would like to contribute additional funds to the amount being donated by the Club, please send your check payable to the Florida Panthers Booster Club and write CLEARLY in the memo section that the money is to be donated to Stephane Provost's Children's Fund.

New Baby

Congratulations to Florida Panthers' Vice President of Communications, Randy Sieminski and his wife on the birth of their son, Samuel Edward. Samuel was born on June 30 and weighed 7'13".

According to Randy, "He sleeps a lot and he eats a lot. He's got a great life."

Congratulations

The Booster Club would like to congratulate Roberto Luongo and Jay Bouwmeester on their selection to team Canada's Olympic Orientation Camp.

Camp will begin on August 15 in Vancouver, BC and will head to Kelowna, BC for four days concluding on August 20th.

For Sale

"Hockey Fight's Cancer bracelets are currently on sale for \$5.00 each. A portion of each sale will be donated to Hockey Fight's Cancer.

Florida Panthers Booster Club Polo shirts are currently on sale. The shirts are light blue with the Club logo on the front upper chest corner. Cost of the shirts are \$15.00 for members, \$18.00 for non-members for sizes small through extra large. Sizes 2X and above costs \$18.00 for both members and non-members.

With the return of hockey, you'll want to pick up your "puck crashing through the window" cling. The cling is \$10.00 each.

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please contact Kathy Dodson at KDFL44@aol.com or come to one of the general membership meetings.

Sports Radio 560 WQAM Inks New 2-Year Panthers Deal

SUNRISE, FL. – Sunrise Sports & Entertainment Chief Operating Officer Michael Yormark announced today an agreement with Sports Radio 560 WQAM to continue the station's relationship as the radio rights holder for the Panthers.



Under the agreement, WQAM, a Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc. station, will broadcast all 82 regular season games and playoffs for the next two seasons with an option for a third year. The new agreement also includes weekly Panthers team related programming and expanded exposure for the many entities associated with Sunrise Sports & Entertainment.

Florida Panthers Capture 2005 Stanley Cup of Business

SportsBusiness Journal Names Cats' 2004-05 Off-Ice Efforts No. 1

SUNRISE, FL –Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal announced today that the Florida Panthers have won the publication's 2005 "Stanley Cup of Business."

The award was presented to the Panthers for their ability to create new business initiatives through a variety of outreach methods, which helped to continue to fortify the bonds with their fans during the NHL lockout. The SportsBusiness Journal is the leading national publication in the sports business industry.



Member Thoughts

What you think about the New CBA and the Upcoming Season

Doug English (President) - I am happy to see both sides finally getting serious about all aspects of the game. It is nice to know there will be some form of a cap that may not prevent the upper echelon market teams from spending to the maximum, but it will at least keep a better system of balance for the rest of the league.

And heck, it's just great to know there will a Cold Front Coming to Florida once again.

Kathy Dodson (Vice President) – I am very excited that they finally came up with an agreement and the fans can get back to the sport that they love.

Magdalena Curbelo (Treasurer) - I am ecstatic about the prospect of hockey returning. I do believe in prayers being answered and this one sure was.

Shelly Azzinaro – I can't wait to get back to a game and get in my new seats at the arena. We managed to get seats even closer to where we were before. I'm very excited to enjoy hockey again and bring some of my new friends to a game.

Barbara Kay Kahn and Ward Benjamin – YAAAAA! We are excited and looking forward to wonderful things happening.

Sidney Chabus – I'm looking forward to the season and to a much better product than we've seen in the past few years.

Carl Kanas – It's a shame that it took this long but they got it done and got it done right. They did it in a way that the ownership, the league and the fans can succeed.

It will be a better game and in the next six years there will be greater parity – more teams will have a chance to win and there will be less dominant teams. It will be a league-wide success and I can't wait for training camp.

Shelly Goldberg - They wasted a complete year and got less than they would have if they had signed in February. They are going to have to do a lot of changes to make this game exciting again for the fans.

Cheryl LaPalme – Hockey is Back! Those words are music to my ears. I'm glad it's finally over. I am hopeful that the framework of the current deal will be one that is solid enough to last not just through the next six years, but beyond so that it is easier to negotiate the next CBA. I can't wait until training camp, Hockey Fest and opening night.

Now, where did I put my hockey jersey?

Frank Garner – I'm glad we are having a season because last year at this time, we didn't know if we were having a season. I think we will all be happy.

Brittany LaPalme - I've missed hockey and the season last year more than I thought I would. I've missed going to the games after school, putting on my jersey, waiting outside, eating french fries in the food court, watching cute guys skate around; I've missed the noise, the excitement and the aura that the games creates. I've missed it and I'm glad it's back.

Simon Johansson - To me, the new deal looks pretty fair to both sides. Sure, the players will make less money than they've been used to, but ask any employee worldwide working at a factory and he'll tell you that the players were, and still are overpaid.

The situation for the teams looks more pleasant and inviting in the new CBA. The well-being of the entire league will improve if both sides manage to become more of a team from now on. With a co-operation of that kind, and some interesting rule changes on top of that, I think the North American hockey fans will have a blast once things get back on ice.

And for us Panthers' fans, there's finally going to be a new year of seeing our team develop and learn to function as a unit, taking us one step closer, or maybe even all the way, to rising the Stanley Cup.



May Birthdays

Members

03 - Frank Garner
 03 - Beth Ward
 04 - Rob Collett
 04 - Jim Wollrab
 15 - Sherry Thomas
 25 - Diane Halley
 25 - Brittany LaPalme



Panthers

03 - Eric Beaudoin (LW)
 07 - Serge Payer (C)
 14 - Mike Van Ryn (D)
 29 - Nathan Horton (C)

Prospects

04 - Kent Huskins (D)
 21 - Kristian Kudroc (D)

June Birthdays

Members

02 - Elana Trident
 05 - Howard Kusnick
 10 - Barbara Kay Kahn
 13 - Evy Leach
 15 - Sidney Chabus

Prospects

02 - Paul Elliott (D)
 04 - Denis Yachmenev (LW)
 06 - Jan Blonar (D)
 07 - Scott Kelman (C)
 08 - Grant McNeill (D)
 21 - Jeremy Swanson (D)

Panthers

27 - Eric Cairns (D)
 30 - Jaime McLennan

July Birthdays

Members

04 - Dave Taylor
 09 - Magdalena Curbelo
 17 - Shelly Azzinaro
 22 - Michelle LaPalme
 29 - Donna Pape

Prospects

13 - Josh Olson (LW)
 20 - Stefan Meyer (LW)
 26 - Peter Hafner (D)

Panthers

none

Editor's Note: My apologies to all those who celebrated a birthday during the months of May and June. Unfortunately due to unusual circumstances, those birthdays never made it into the newsletter. If anyone has a birthday that they would like included, please contact your officers so that your records can be updated.

If you would like to announce a new birth, a marriage or an anniversary, please contact me directly at bluliner_55@earthlink.net

Cheryl LaPalme

July Cold Front ... continued from page 1

new agreement is signed, all that has to stop. The fans are tired of all the bickering and we want some peace so we can enjoy hockey again.

It's time to look forward and figure out a way to begin healing the injuries inflicted by this labor dispute. Those injuries run deep and are still quite painful.

As you all know, hockey took a big hit and a lot of fans were lost... many will never return. That needs to be the focus, not who won or who lost or which labor dispute leader needs to go and which needs to stay. With the new CBA, the players and owners will be linked through revenue sharing and as such, both sides will suffer if the fans do not return.

The NHL will be working jointly with the players to bring the fans back into the fold. They are facing an uphill battle but it's a battle they cannot shy away from. Both sides know the importance of teamwork and they know that winning back the fans will take more than an "I'm sorry."

Many ideas have been tossed around from improvements to the game itself, lowering ticket prices and making the players more accessible. Hopefully a combination of those, plus overall team improvements will bring fans back.

Once the agreement is ratified, the next step is the Sidney Crosby show... whoops, I mean the 2005 NHL Entry Draft. The order of the draft will be determined by a lottery. Each team gets three balls, but for every playoff appearance in the last three years or the number one pick in the last four years a ball is taken away. No more than two balls can be taken away guaranteeing each team at least one shot at the number one pick.

The Panthers have had two first round picks (the fact that they traded the picks doesn't enter into the equation) and as such, lost two balls leaving them with a 2.08% chance of picking first in the draft. As someone recently reminded me, the Panthers have been very lucky the last couple of years with the lottery. Will lady luck continue to smile on us? Keep your fingers crossed.

Until then... enjoy the early arrival of winter. I can't wait to see you all and if I don't see you at Monday's meeting, I'll surely see you in a few months.

GO PANTHERS!