



The Swamp Gazette

Official Newsletter of the Florida Everblades Fan Club
February 2005/March 2005



President's Message

Hi everyone. The holidays are over and we coming into the playoff home stretch. We are currently running 2nd in the Southern Division and tied for 2nd in the American Conference. I want to thank everyone who put together our annual Holiday Party it was a tremendous success. Everyone that attended went away after a great evening of fun and games. In every President's Message I have to ask for the help of our members to make our club be the best one in the ECHL. A few have stepped forward to help but of course we are stilling looking for more. Remember, this is your club and needs your help. Please contact any Board member when you come by the Fan Club table to ask how you can help. As you read our current edition of THE SWAMP GAZETTE and you have an idea for any article or column put in on paper or email and you to could have a byline in our next issue. Our guys are the best in the ECHL and need our support at home and on the road, if you make road trips, to make it to the playoffs. Last but not least. GO BLADES!!!

Let's Light Up Germain!

As one of the many fundraisers this year, the Everblades Fan Club is offering Flashing Blinky Lights for a \$3.00 donation per light and flashing hockey guys and hearts for a \$5.00 donation. We also have extra batteries for sale. Stop by the Raffle Table at the next game to pick up your supply.

Florida Everblades Fan Club Mission Statement

We, the members of the Florida Everblades Fan Club, are committed to act in a professional manner, as a booster organization, in supporting all efforts for the promotion of professional hockey in Southwest Florida. The objectives of the Fan Club are to have fun, along with providing a forum for hockey enthusiasts to exchange ideas and have opportunities to enjoy the game of hockey. Furthermore, the Fan Club will provide support for the members of the Florida Everblades hockey team and their families.

Road Trips

Chuck (BUBBA) Devan
Road Trip Committee

The big road trip is over, with 9 points out of 12 the team WORKED HARD! The bus was loaded with a lot of food, water and sport drink. There has been a lot of HELP in loading the bus for road trips. All are welcome to help do this. Big thanks to, Gerry Hill, Robert Brunda, William Ferguson, Brenda Sterling, Robert Senita, Ryan Allen, and Sandra Harper, for all their good help in loading the bus.

Continued on page (2)

Community Services

Kimberly Christiansen
Charity Committee

Hi there. I can't believe the regular hockey season is almost over, it went so fast. I look forward to the play-offs. The March 28th game was dedicated to Barbara's Friends. The Fan Club members helped sell tickets for that game. I want to say THANK YOU to all of you that helped out. A donation of \$9 for every \$12 ticket sold was donated to Barbara's Friends. During the first intermission, fund raising checks were presented to representatives of Barbara's Friends by members

Continued on page (2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership
Roadtrips
Sunshine/Hospitality
Community Services
Special Raffles/Projects
Kudos
Interview with Greg Hornby
Player's Psalm
Goalie Psalm
Education Day
Taste of NHL

Board Members & Contact Information

President – Doug Byington
fanclubpresident@earthlink.net
Vice President – Toeny Zantello
DJTZ2000@hotmail.com
Member – Jay Willis
avhockeynut@aol.com

Treasurer– Melissa Willis
avhockeynut@aol.com
Member – Chuck Devan
mobiletraviler@webtv.net
C. Secretary –Sandra Harper
sandrad242@aol.com

R. Secretary – Kimberly Christiansen
kchristiansen1@earthlink.net
Member – Gerry Hill
biggerry5@earthlink.net

Membership *Gini Hogenson*

Here's a list of our new members who joined since our last newsletter.

Ed & Leeann Knapp & Family
Amy & Scott Coulter & Family

Welcome to all our new members and their families. We are what makes our club the best fan club in the ECHL.

Memberships expire 6/30/05. New applications will be sent out in May.

Send all membership questions to membershipchair@earthlink.net

Community Services *Kimberly Christiansen* Charity Committee

Cont'd from page (1)

of Atkins Construction Company and Lexington Community Association. Individuals or corporations wishing to donate to Barbara's Friends may send tax-deductible checks to: Barbara's Friends, P.O. Box 2218, Ft. Myers, FL 33902. Seat naming opportunities are also available at Germain Arena with a \$200 donation to Barbara's Friends. If you want information on Barbara's Friend stop by the fan club table. Thank you for all you do.

Committees

Membership – *Gini Hogenson*

Road Supplies – *Bubba Devan*

Special Events – *Gerry Hill*

Newsletter – *Doug Byington*

Fundraising – *Open*

Sunshine/Hospitality – *Karen Devan*

Community Services – *Kimberly Christiansen*

Volunteer Services – *Open*

Phone – *Doreen Carman*

An Education on Education Day

Being a die hard Everblades fan I decided to brave the 5000+ kids on Education Day and *try* to watch the Blades play the Augusta Lynx. I am not around little kids a lot so I found it very interesting and made some observations of the kids around me. For those of you who have never attended an Education Day Game the concept is to apply hockey to school lessons. It tries to answer the age old question I'm sure we all asked ourselves at one time or another during our school days, what do I need to know that for? Geography was incorporated into ECHL team locations, Science to making ice, and Math to player and game statistics.

Most of the kids had never been to a game before; most of the kids didn't even seem to care about watching the game, they were just happy to miss a day of school. The first comment I heard as the boys were gliding down the ice was that it looked like they were dancing. Highlights of the game were Swampee throwing T-shirts, the old faithful wave, and the deafening decibels when the loudness meter was displayed on the scoreboard. . With all the noise and excitement I don't know how she did it but one little girl was able to sleep, another little girl was so unhappy that she cried the whole game. I guess not everyone is meant to be a hockey fan.

The between period entertainment was musical chairs and broomball. It seemed that they found the biggest kids to play against the littlest kids. It was cute, especially when the little kids kept tripping on their floor length T-shirts.

Continued on page (3)

Sunshine/Hospitality *Karen Devan* Sunshine Committee

Fan club members February birthday cards were mailed. We hope everyone had a happy day. No players had a birthday in February. Members March birthday cards are in the mail. We hope everyone had a happy day. Jared Newman, Chris Lee, and Bryce Charpentier have March birthdays. They received cards with a small gift card with birthday wishes to all.

A bit of information on Jim Abbott's family. Well, it's official... Riley William Abbott arrived February 4th at 7p.m. 8lbs 7oz.

Here is a quote for Jim, about the Everblades Fan Club.

"I had planned on going back to play hockey, but with my new baby boy I have decided to hang'em up! It was a hard decision, but my family will always come first. Now, I'm in transition with jobs; I work as a non-profit charity director, but also looking for more. You made my final season very memorable, and I will always know that the Everblades have the best off-ice support ever. We miss you!"

Be a FEFC Corporate Sponsor

Contact Bubba Devan by email
mobiletraviler@webtv.net

Buy a monthly ad in the FEFC
Swamp Gazette

Business Card \$5.00
Quarter Page \$10.00
Half Page \$20.00

Newsletter
Doug Byington
Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter committee is still looking for volunteers to help create one of the best newsletters in the ECHL. The committee is looking for reporters, photo submitters, article writers and people with ideas and imaginations. The newsletter, "Swamp Gazette", is a monthly publication and is created by and for the Everblades Fan Club members. Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15th of every month. Articles and photos should be submitted electronically using e-mail or dropping off a diskette to the Fan Club Raffle Table at home games.

If you have a great idea, please let us know and you too could become a part of the fan club activities. Just contact me or stop by and see me at the raffle table.

Membership

Membership cards are ready. If you haven't received yours yet, please stop by the Raffle Table to pick it up. Any suggestions or ideas to help our membership grow would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me at membershipchair@earthlink.net or phone 239-281-0554. Let's Keep Growing!!!

From the Special Projects
Chairman: Gerry Hill

The Fan Club has put up for the Raffle the only and last Coffee Table of this type to be done. The Table is made from 1 1/2" Teak Planks, from the Coast Guard Station at Ft. Myers Beach, FL, that are at least 30 years old. The Table has all of the current Team Autographed Pictures including Coach Fleming and Associate Coach Nobili.

Estimate cost of material is \$450.00 to have this table custom made.

NOTE- The legs have not been put on due to the lack of Storage, but will be on at the last night of the Raffle on April 9, 2005. Be sure to stop by the Raffle Table and get your tickets for the Drawing, as the last Night is quickly coming.

Website

Hooray! Our website is up and running. Please check it out often at www.everbladesfanclub.com. The site will keep you up to date on what's happening, current schedule, team members, misc photos and of course a link to our corporate sponsors. We would like for you to visit the website of our corporate sponsors and let them know we appreciate their assistance and participation. We want to thank West Coast Web Design and Carolyn Masten for designing and hosting the site. If have anything to add to the site pictures, stories or anything of interest. Send it to webmaster@everbladesfanclub.com

An Education on Education Day

When the kids in the stands got restless they made up their own games like kick the seat in front of you or let's see if our seats can be used as a trampoline. The teachers, tried to keep them in order. The mom chaperones spent most of the game in the bathroom with the girls, the dad chaperones just wanted to watch the game.

The fun part came when it was time to eat lunch. Try being a little kid and juggling a sandwich, snack, cookies and a drink with only 2 hands and no table. Some were lucky enough to get cup holders, but many soon found out that juice boxes and pouches are too small for the opening.

As far as an education that day, I know there was a successful math lesson. Everyone knew how to count from 10 to 1 at the end of each period regardless if the clock had stopped. Few probably realized that this game was hockey at its most exciting (other than playoff hockey) tied scores, overtime and then a shootout. Unfortunately the Blades lost 3-2 in the shootout, but hopefully we gained some future fans and they learned that hockey is an awesome game. I know I got an education that day!!

ROAD TRIPS Contd

We would like to thank Robert Brunda for donating some supplies to our team. I hope I didn't leave anyone out that has been helping. Only 8 more road trip games and 6 home games until play offs. Anyone that would like to donate to road trips, please call Bubba @ 994-4499 or Doug @ 281-0560. Thanks, Bubba Road Trip Manager

WANTED: Young family in Everblades fan club with 3 kids (2 boys ages 6 and 8 and infant girl) looking for other young families with kids to: hang out with at future Everblade fan club events and/or have dinner at Big Cypress club before games. If interested, please call or email: Amy or Brett Turner (888) 825-0744 or email: amybrett@earthlink.net .

Up Close and Personal with.....Greg Hornby

By Amy Turner

I had a chance to chat with Greg Hornby at one of the Everblades games recently. I asked him a few questions that I had been wondering about.

Amy: I saw you smiling when you got your tooth knocked out a few weeks ago. Didn't it hurt?

Greg: I actually broke 2 teeth the first night and one the next night. The second night, the tooth was hanging by a thread and, yes, it hurt bad!

Amy: You sure can fight. I heard on the radio you fought the tallest guy in the league, he was something like 6'9'. How did you get to be such a tough fighter? I mean, do you go to bars and try to get people to fight you, so you can gain confidence? How do you do it?

Greg (laughing): First of all, let me say, I don't go out and get in fights. I have a very good reputation to uphold here in this club as an Everblade. We try to stay OUT of trouble. (Smiling)
When I was younger I always got penalties for being too rough and it just stayed with me.

Amy: How do you actually get into a fight on the ice? I mean, what are you actually saying to the other guy? Do you tell him he skates like a sissy? Or something along those lines?

Greg (chuckling): Basically, you just look at the other guy and say (nonchalantly), "Wanna go?"

Amy: That's it?

Greg: Pretty Much. Some guys say more.

Amy: Do you come from a hockey family?

Greg: I come from a big family. I have one sister, three stepsisters and three step-brothers. My mom plays women's hockey and from the time I was 10 until 16 I used to help her team out. I also worked at Hockey camps in the summer teaching kids in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Amy: What kind of music do you like?

Greg: I like country music.

Amy: Do have an inspiring story I can tell my two boys about you?

Greg: Sure. When I was a freshman in college, I hurt my shoulder and arm while playing hockey. It was pretty bad. I even thought about quitting but I knew I had to keep going and not give it up. I made a decision to get better so I worked really hard, trained really hard. I did lots of bicep curls to heal. In my 2nd year of college, I went back to school and was able to start playing again. I was really glad I never gave up. I'm glad I stuck with it. And here I am.

Amy: Well, we're glad you're here too! Thanks for being so nice and answering these questions for the fan club. We're cheering for you!

I also had the chance to chat with Goalie Craig Kowalski. He was a more "to-the-point" kind of interview! Basically, he does train off the ice by doing a lot of stretching and hand-eye coordination exercises. He's played hockey since he was 6. Off the ice he likes to golf, fish, and go to the movies. He's 24 years old and he has all his teeth!

A Taste of the NHL.....

Sharon Weatherhead, MBA

Local writer for: Pro Hockey News

What's it like to live the sweet life? To play in the most elite league of the hockey world? To play with the big boys? To hear "he shoots and he scores" in front of 20,000+ screaming fans?

We are very fortunate to have a group of those elite players who have had a taste of the NHL. They are: Kris Vernarsky (Boston), Brad Church (Washington), Damian Surma (Carolina), and our newest member, Brad Fast (Carolina).

Our resident NHL expert is back on the ice for the Blades! We are lucky to have Shane Hnidy, who has played extensively with the Ottawa Senators and most recently the Nashville Predators.

Our own Coach Fleming, had his taste of the NHL when he played some games with the Montreal Canadiens.

Our team is so loaded with talent, the addition of those players with NHL experience definitely makes our team even more elite! What a thrill for our rookies to play with that caliber of player.

With the unfortunate lockout this year between the NHL players and team owners, we have placed even more emphasis on our very own Everblades team. Next season, some of our players may be at the AHL or even the NHL level, depending on how things shake out. The NHL may be short of players on their rosters and may raid the AHL and ECHL teams they are affiliated with.

Obviously, this would be a good thing personally for our young players. It would give them a chance to see what the big league is all about. It would be a sad thing for us fans, as we would have mostly new faces next year.

Whatever happens, we need to concentrate on the present. We have an excellent team. We have players who have tasted the NHL and bring that knowledge gained to the Blades. Everyone benefits when you have players who can lead and teach a new level of play to their team mates.

Here's to every player who has had a taste of the NHL.....and to those who strive to go there in the future!

GO BLADES!!!!!!!!!!!!

"It's all fun and games until you loose a tooth, then it's Hockey!"

The Player's Psalm

by Unknown

The coach is my shepherd
 I shall not get penalized.
 He maketh me to do skating drills.
 My captain leadeth me into games.
 He restoreth my faith.
 He leadeth me into the path of winning games for the team's sake .
 Yea though I face the wrath of the coach
 I will fear no evil
 for my stick is with me .
 my pads and my helmet they comfort me .
 They preparest game situations for me .
 In the presence of my rivals
 They annointest my body with sweat .
 My water bottle runneth over
 Surely stats and games shall follow me for all the days of my career
 And I will dwell on winning the Kelly Cup forever

The Goaltender's Psalm

The puck is my shepherd
 I shall not ice.
 It maketh me save in unnatural positions.
 It leadeth me into leg splits.
 It restoreth my fans' faith.
 It leadeth me in the paths of odd-man rushes.
 Yea, though I skate in the valley of the
 shadow of the net
 I will fear no sniper
 For my stick is with me.
 My facemask and pads they comfort me.
 They annointeth my body with Sports Crème.
 My back-up tippeth over!
 Surely coaches and trainers shall follow me
 All the games of my life.
 And I shall dwell in the house of the Germain Arena
 forever.

Corporate Sponsors

Naples Bag Co.
 Phone: (239) 775-5786
 Fax: (239) 693-4856
 Florida



www.naplesbagco.com

Phone: (239) 775-5786 Fax: (239) 693-4856

CC C042787 FINANCING AVAILABLE CG C033977
 MASTER CARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA

AMS
 ADVANCED MOBILEHOME SYSTEMS

ALUMINUM ROOFERS
 VINYL SIDING
 CARPORTS
 SCREEN ROOMS
 WINDOWS

1-800-522-3134

FREE ESTIMATES
 LICENSED & INSURED **TOM FREYSINGER**

Publix.

PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC.
 21251 Corkscrew Village Ln
 Estero, FL 33928-1914
 239.948.1174

JEFF KENNEDY
 Store Manager

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE

SunStream Hotels & Resorts
 6620 Estero Blvd
 Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931
 239-765-4111
 800-625-4111
www.sunstream.com

WATER911

FOR ALL YOUR WATER NEEDS
239-574-6150
 1031-B NE PINE ISLAND RD., CAPE CORAL

BANK OF AMERICA
 21301 S Tamiami Trail
 Estero, FL 33928

239 498-6110

**BUBBA'S PRESSURE
 & POWER WASHING**
CHUCK & KAREN DEVAN
FREE ESTIMATES
 REFERRAL WORK ONLY
239-947-2636 CELL-239-994-4499
LICENSED, INSURED, LLC.
mobiletravler@webtv.net

HILL MARINE SERVICE

703 FISHERMAN'S WHARF
 FT. MYERS BEACH, FL 33931
 JOHNSON & EVINRUDE
 FACTORY SALES & SERVICE
 239-765-8600

RACING LIMOS

8242 Laurel Lakes Blvd.
 Naples, Florida 34119
 Email: mail@racinglimos.com
 Toll Free: 866-746-LIMO (5466)

WWW.RACINGLIMOS.COM

Rogers Roofing

Sun Porch Creations

GullWing Beach Resort
 6620 Estero Blvd
 Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931
 239-765-4300

Costco Wholesale
 7171 Cypress Lake Dr
 Ft Myers, FL 33907
 239-415-3809

Everblades Pro Shop
239 948-PUCK

Ready for a New Sponsor