

Who's in First?!

by Adam GAUTHIER

After the first week of the NHL regular season, the biggest surprise has to be the play of teams who failed to make the playoffs last season. The New York Islanders, Montreal Canadiens and Calgary Flames all sit atop their respected divisions. Both the Flames and the Islanders made key acquisitions during the offseason.

The Flames traded for goaltender Roman Turek from St. Louis who has two shutouts already this season. The New York Islanders made two key moves by landing troubled center Alexei Yashin from Ottawa and the troubled Mike Peca, who sat out all of last season because of contract problems, from Buffalo. The Islanders also acquired veteran goaltender Chris Osgood from Detroit in the recent waver draft. Osgood became expendable when the Red Wings signed Buffalo free agent Dominik Hasek. The Islanders wasted no time by signing the three players to long term contracts. Yashin received a ten-year deal worth upwards of \$90 million.

The Montreal Canadiens, however, made less substantial deals and yet have seemed to improve their team. The Canadiens acquired defenseman Yanic Perreault as a free agent from Toronto and also centre Joe Juneau from the Phoenix Coyotes. They were able to re-acquire defenseman Stephane Quintal and sign veteran free agent centre Doug Gilmour.

Gilmour's signing turned out to be key for the Canadiens who learned just before the start of training camp that their team captain Saku Koivu has cancer. Koivu will likely miss the entire season as he undergoes radiation treatment. Gilmour's leadership will become key for the young team as the season becomes more intense in the next few weeks.

Before we all jump on band-wagons, it should be remembered that it is still very early in the season. These teams, for the most part, have not yet faced high-caliber opponents. Also, the teams on top have not suffered any key injuries in the regular season.



The playoffs are still seven months away but I can't help but think how cool it would be to see Montreal play Calgary for the Stanley Cup. I really am getting too far ahead of myself. Good luck in your hockey pools.

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UPEI Athletes of the Month September, 2001

FEMALE ATHLETE

Name: Ambyr Gallant
Sport: Women's Field Hockey
Year: 3rd

Hometown: Charlottetown, PEI
Recap: The UPEI Women's Field Hockey team is a rejuvenated group. In the first month of the season they notched a win against powerhouse UNB and repeatedly played Saint Mary's to scoreless draws. The positive attitude and increased quality of play that has spread throughout the team originates from the back, and goalie Ambyr Gallant. Repeatedly she has stood out as a game-saver, she has preserved valuable points by keeping the opponents off the score sheet even when her own team failed to find the net. In four games in the month of September, Ambyr had two shutouts and allowed only two goals. Ambyr is a third year arts student who has been named an AUS Conference All-Star as well as conference rookie of the year in the past.

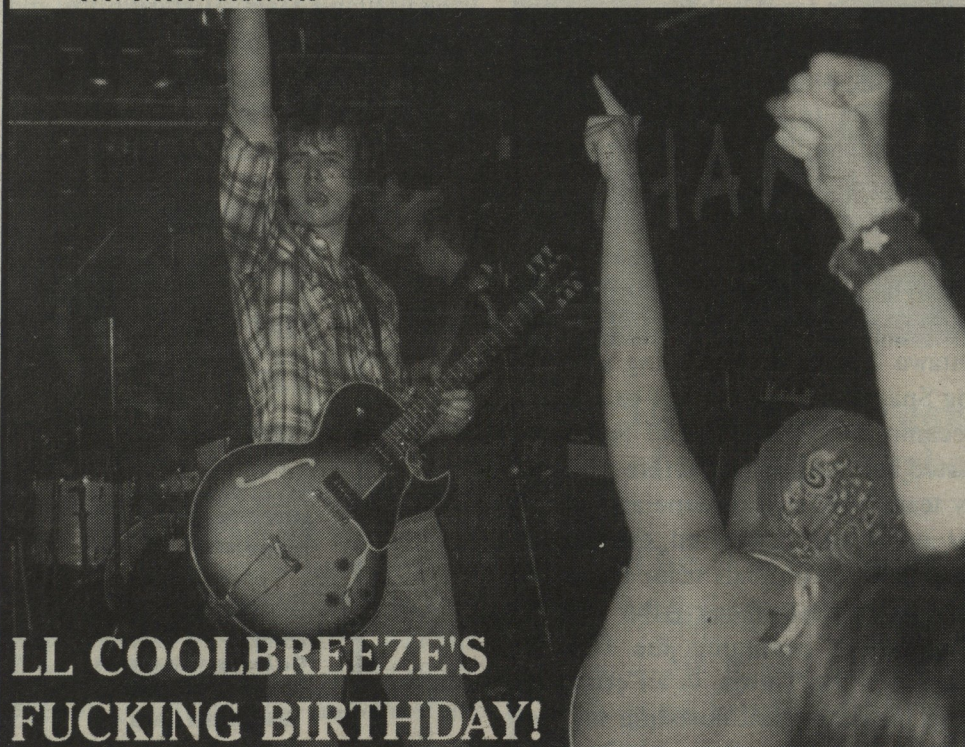
MALE ATHLETE

Name: Goran Rudic
Sport: Men's Soccer
Year: 5th

Hometown: Charlottetown, PEI
Recap: The Men's Soccer Panthers began the season on a tear going 6-1-1 and virtually guaranteeing top spot in the West Division before the leaves had a chance to change colour. While it has been a team effort throughout, on the score sheet Goran Rudic has led the way with six goals, and because of this he has been named UPEI Athlete of the Month for September. Rudic is a fifth year striker who is finishing his computer science degree at UPEI. He has been a prolific scorer in his career with the Panthers and was named an AUS All-Star as well as a 2nd team All-Canadian last season.



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