



November 2005 MMBC newsletter

Texas Two-Step

By Bill Walch

It was my first time ever in the state of Texas. When I think of Texas, I think of oil and country music. Who knew they played hockey there? Well, I'm only kidding. I knew. That was the purpose for going there in the first place. I was not alone. Booster Club members Michelle Gagnon and Paul & Katie Kemp were with me.

We left on an early morning flight Friday, October 21. Our flight from Manchester arrived at Newark Int'l Airport and we only had minutes to make our next flight to San Antonio. Once we got to the gate we needed, we started down the skyway to the plane. We were the last four to get on that flight.

We arrived in San Antonio around noon, central time, picked up our rental car and drove to where the Quality Inn Hotel was "supposed to be". We could not find it, but there was another hotel in its place. Well, the reason we could not locate the Quality Inn was because that hotel was just bought out and the new Quality Inn signs had yet to be erected.

We had some down time and we decided to walk over to a restaurant called Whataburger. The food was not bad, but the service was. After that, we went back to the hotel, where we just relaxed. I relaxed more than the other three. I was counting zzzzzz's. I would tell you how many there were, but I don't remember.

Game time! It was not very hard to find the SBC Center. It is located off a major interstate. The

arena is very large, as it is the home of the San Antonio Spurs. It is a very clean arena and the concourse is wide and very well set up.

The Monarchs ended up losing the game in a shootout, but they did receive a point for their efforts. At times it didn't look like they wanted to win this game, but they did put a few points on the board. Many of the San Antonio Rampage players were taller than 6 feet. They seemed to tower over many of the Monarchs players.

We found our way back to the hotel with no problems and hung around for a bit. We decided to do a little sight-seeing the next day in San Antonio, so we called it a night.

Saturday morning, we ventured into downtown San Antonio. We went down to the Riverwalk to catch a cruise. This cruise along the San Antonio Riverwalk was a narrated tour. Our tour guide pointed out many interesting facts during this cruise. It lasted approximately 40 minutes. If you ever are in the San Antonio area, the Riverwalk cruise is a must.

After the cruise was over, we went back to the car and left for Houston. It was a 3-4 hour trip, and we had plenty of stuff to talk about. Well, maybe I was doing most of the talking. It is something I do a lot of. We arrived at the hotel in Houston. Once again we were staying at a Quality Inn.

At the game, the Monarchs came out strong from the beginning. Brust was making his first start in a Monarchs uniform. Houston scored on what I thought was a very easy save, but what do I know. Maybe Brust was nervous. From that point on, he was

(Continued from page 1)

quick and made some great saves. Once again, it took overtime, but the guys were relentless in the offensive zone and scored, thus winning this game 2-1. Bravo!!!

We decided to go out and get a bite to eat after the game. We chose Bennigans not far from the hotel. The place was well decorated and the staff was fine, but there were a couple issues that needed to be relayed to the corporate offices, which I did take care of.

From there it was back to the hotel for a good night's sleep. In the morning, we went to the front lobby where they had a nice set up for breakfast. Bagels, toast, and waffles oh my!!! All we could eat... Then we drove back to San Antonio for our flights home.

Would I do it again? Hell yeah!!! In a heartbeat. Having the opportunity to spend some quality time with Michelle, Paul and Katie was very satisfying. I can't tell you how much fun this trip was. You just had to be there!

Winter Auction at NHPTV



On Friday, November 4th twelve members of the Manchester Monarchs Booster Club were volunteers at the 15th annual New Hampshire Public Television Winter Auction. The station raises money for it's public programming twice a year by auctioning off goods, services and gift certificates. Volunteers are needed to answer phones, run bids to the board workers, mark the boards, keep track of the bids and model items up for bid. Friday night just happened to be "sports night," so many volunteers wore hockey, baseball and football jerseys, NASCAR items and hats.

Many MMBC members were caught on camera during the auction (a camera seemed to always find Bill), which featured an MMBC trip up for bid along with UNH men's, and women's team autographed sticks and a Manchester Monarchs away jersey - signed by the entire team. During the auction, volunteers are allowed to bid on items, provided they remain in a special phone area and do not return to the auction floor until they have placed their last bid on an

item. Needless to say - the trip and Monarchs jersey were both in tight battles until the end among MMBC members at the auction and those members at home!

Working at the auction is a rewarding and memorable event. More volunteers will be needed for the spring auction, and the next person having fun and being caught on TV could be you!

Thanks once again goes to:

- Bill Walch
- Marlene Lein
- Pat Kisselburg
- Ken Savage
- John & Lydia Perry
- Gerry & Noelle Clark
- Michelle Gagnon
- Carol Gagnon
- Steve Englert
- Mandi LaVoie

Manchester Monarchs Booster Club Membership

74 Members

Welcome to Our Newest Members:

- Joanne and Melissa Chauvette
- Alan Cushing
- Dexter and Ellen Healey
- Paula, Andy, and CJ Laflamme
- Edward and Phyllis Milan
- Priscilla Stewart

December Birthdays:

Members:

- Devon Gifford 12/5
- Kevin Marshall 12/5
- Crystal Davidson 12/6
- Tina Rothaug 12/6
- Pat Kisselburg 12/8
- Carol Gagnon 12/15
- Edward Milan 12/20
- Richie Ladd 12/21
- Don Lessard 12/25
- Pierrette Auger 12/26
- Samuel Demeritt 12/30

Players:

- Brad Chartrand 12/14
- George Parros 12/29
- Reagan Rome 12/29

Mr. Bill's Notes & Quotes

Giuliano's NHL Dream Comes True!

November 5, 2005



Nashua native Jeff Giuliano finally played in his first ever NHL game as an LA King. He came out flying as he always does – and played a great game! Congratulations Jeff!

Tambellini MMBC Player of the Month for October

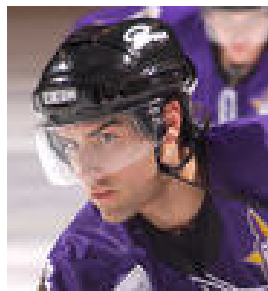
November 7, 2005



Rookie sensation Jeff Tambellini was voted at October player of the month at the MMBC booster club meeting. So far he's looking like he's in the running for November too - keep racking up those points Jeff!

Lehoux Did That?

November 8, 2005

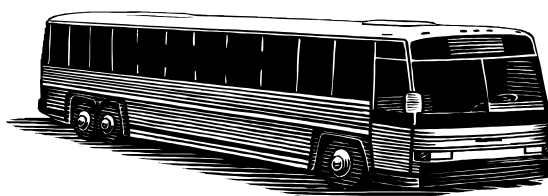


Former Monarch, Yanick Lehoux, playing in his very first NHL game for the Phoenix Coyotes achieved a very rare feat! On his first shift out in his first game he scored on his first shot! Rumor has it that someone else did this before – we're

sure Yanick is pretty proud to share this achievement with none other than Mario Lemieux. We knew he had it in him – and share in the congratulations. Way to go Yanick!

Booster club trips planned for the 05'-06' season

12/10/05	Springfield	\$45 / \$55
01/12/06	Boston (bus only)	\$30 / \$40
01/28/06	Albany	\$55 / \$65
02/18/06 02/19/06	Hershey—Philly Hershey—Reading	\$140 / \$150
03/04/06 03/05/06	Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Binghamton	\$136 / \$146
03/31/06 04/02/06	Toronto— Hamilton	\$172 / \$182



Prices are subject to change. Overnight trip prices do not include the cost of the hotel. Last but not least these trips are a lot of fun, so hope you can enjoy them with us.



Booster club pins \$5.00

Do you have anything to say?

I am always looking for good fan based articles to put in each months newsletter. Articles can be as short or long as you like, and does not even have to be hockey related, we want to know about the members in the club as well as the players on the ice. Like what first turned you into the fan you are today?

Please send us your stories and we will use them.
Gerry Clark— centerice@monarchsboosters.com
Mandi LaVoie— writeon@monarchsboosters.com

New AHL Rules for 2005-06

(Official rules courtesy of www.theahl.com)

The AHL has announced rule changes and some reinstated rules for the 2005-06 Season that have been put in place with the intention of “opening up the game” and making hockey more exciting for fans. They are:

- The neutral-zone edge of the blue lines will be moved four feet towards center ice, creating 64-foot attack zones and reducing the neutral zone to 50 feet. The goal lines will remain 11 feet from the end boards, same as last season.

- The blue lines and center red line will each be 12 inches in width as compared with last season’s 24 inches.

- “Two-line passes” are to be permitted, in other words a pass from behind the defensive blue line across the center red line will be considered legal.

- “Touch” icing will be reinstated. A linesman will be able to wave off an apparent icing violation if it is deemed to be the result of an attempted pass. If a team is found guilty of icing, they will be prohibited from making a line change prior to the ensuing face-off.

- “Tagging up” on delayed offside situations will continue to be allowed, same as last season.

- Games that end up in a tie will have a five-minute overtime period, and will go to the same shoot-out format as last season if the game in the overtime period.

- A penalty for instigating in the final five minutes of regulation or in overtime will carry an automatic game misconduct, an automatic one-game suspension and fines to the coach and team of the offending player. Punishments will double with each subsequent offense.

- The dimensions of goaltender equipment will be reduced to meet the NHL’s directives. In addition to a one-inch reduction (to 11 inches) in the width of leg pads, there will be reductions in the maximum size of the blocking glove, upper body protector, pants and jersey.



Fundraising Notes:

- Our pie sale was quite successful. We sold 115 pies. Due to ordering in case lots, we have 27 additional pies for sale. Pies are being delivered on Thursday, November 17 and will be frozen. If you didn’t get your order in, but would like to order a pie or two, please give Noelle a call at 303-7513.



- Noelle just sent out several boxes of ink and laser cartridges. Thank you to everyone who has been collecting cartridges! Please keep collecting them. If you know of any businesses that would be willing to donate cartridges, please contact Noelle. She can arrange a pickup service.

- New Pins are in!! Get yours today. Only \$5.00. Pins can be purchased at the monthly meeting or any home games.

- Cow bells have been ordered. Estimated shipping date is 11/18. They will sell for only \$10! Let’s ring those bells to support the team!

- Entertainment books are for sale. They are selling for \$25 – that’s \$5 off the retail cost and there’s no shipping & handling cost! There are plenty of savings – Buy one ticket, get one free for the Lowell Lock Monsters. That’s an \$18 savings to see Manchester play Lowell. Think holiday gifts (easy to wrap too). It’s for a good cause.



- We will be selling Entertainment books in front of Sam’s Club in Manchester on Saturday, December 3rd. Noelle is looking for Volunteers to help sell. If you are interested, e-mail

dreamonnh@yahoo.com or call at 603-303-7513.

- Who doesn’t love a 50/50 raffle? The booster club will be selling 50/50 tickets at the Monarchs game on Wednesday, December 28th. We are looking for volunteers to help sell and rip tickets. Contact Noelle to sign up. Don’t forget to buy your tickets at the game. Think of the holiday bills you can pay off with your winnings!

Skating with the Monarchs

By Mandi LaVoie

Imagine being twelve years old. You're in the locker room getting ready for a mid-week hockey practice. Coach walks in and lets you and your teammates know that practice is starting in a few minutes - and by the way - two of the Manchester Monarchs will be skating with you! That's exactly what happened to lucky groups of Pee Wee A, B and C (11 & 12-year old) hockey players at the West Side Arena in Manchester on Thursday October 27th. Denis Grebeshkov and Konstantin Pushkarev joined the kids on the ice for practice and some fun.

While the "A" group was out, the coaches ran many drills as Grebeshkov and Pushkarev assisted them. Often during the drills the "guest coaches" waited on line with the kids to run the drill with them. It was fun watching a kid take a pass from one of the guys and score a goal with it. They tried to make sure that every kid there had a chance to play with them, talk to them and learn something from them. At one point during the practice, Pushkarev was working one on

one with goalie Kevin Kent. It was really obvious that "Pushie" was impressed with the 12-year-old because he didn't exactly go easy on him. Kevin made a lot of great saves and I'm sure making those saves on shots from one of the Monarchs will only boost his confidence! He just seemed to know exactly where to be on the ice. I told Kevin's mom Donna (who was in the audience) that he was a terrific goalie and a lot of fun to watch.

I spoke to coach Mark Putney when he was off the ice. "I just found out today that the guys were going to be here and told the kids in the locker room. They were in awe," he said. "This is the fifth year that I've had some of the Monarchs at a practice. The guys are really good with the kids, running the drills with them and everything. The Monarchs organization is awesome," He said. I wondered about the language barrier on the ice. "The language difference was not an issue. The guys are a bit soft spoken, but right off Pushkarev asked that everyone call him by his nickname "Pushie." Coach Putney was glad that he had attended the Monarchs open practice earlier that week because he was able to incorporate some of their drills into his practice, which was helpful since Grebeshkov and Pushkarev knew them too. He introduced me to his daughter, Katherine who is on the team. She told me that she had fun and hadn't been nervous on the ice with the guys.

In between sessions the "entertainment" included watching Grebeshkov hook his stick onto the zamboni and be pulled a few laps around the rink.

The B&C groups came out next. There were a lot more

kids in these groups. Even though Grebeshkov and Pushkarev couldn't have much individual time with the kids, there were lots of drills to do with them and many smiles all around. One kid in the group looked a bit nervous during a skating drill as he felt the blade of a stick in the middle of his back and looked back to see Grebeshkov sort of "pushing" him around the rink. At another point Pushkarev went down a line of kids with a puck and a big grin, sort of daring them to take it away. Many times during the practice, small groups of kids were gathered around the players asking questions. A couple of times Grebeshkov pretended to put a kid into a headlock with a big smile on his face.

During the practices I found out from a small group of

parents who were there that they are all a tight-knit bunch. While sitting there and taking notes it only took about 10 minutes before someone wanted to know who I was (and what the heck I was doing there with a notebook in hand!) Many of the parents told me that they were Monarchs season ticket holders. Others wanted to know who the two Monarchs were. Luckily I had done a bit of homework.

When the practices were over and the guys were changing from skates to sneakers, they

told me that they had a great time with the kids. While chatting with them, a young boy asked Pushkarev for his stick. He looked over at Grebeshkov. Grebbie looked at the kid and said, "no, but you can have these," as he pointed to his own skates. The kid's eyes got really big as he said, "really?" As Grebbie laughed and told him he was just kidding and the kid started laughing, I saw for myself that there was no language barrier whatsoever. These guys just absolutely connected with the kids. Hockey and laughter - two languages they all could speak.



Hershey's Elite Come to Manchester

Saturday afternoon was a beautiful day to have a hosting. Actually, the weather didn't have anything to do with it. The Hershey Bears hockey town and club was here to cheer team. Twenty-nine Manchester Boosters members welcomed the "Elite" bus as it pulled into the parking lot.



Elite is not just the name of the bus company; it describes the group of people on the bus as well. The MMBC owes a lot of our success, including the honor of winning the AHL Booster Club of the year award, to the Hershey Bears Booster Club. They were instrumental in helping our club get started and on the right skate!

The hosting was held late in the afternoon at TR Brennan's in Manchester. Thirty-three Hershey fans filed into the hall and were greeted by both familiar and new faces. After hellos and hugs were exchanged, everyone found a seat and waited for the food to be served. The late lunch / early dinner was a buffet style dinner with Chicken Tenders (ALMOST as good as the Puritan Backroom), Meatballs, Lasagna, Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Salad and Rolls. The food was wonderful and there was plenty of it. A fast scan of the room showed Hershey fans sitting with Monarchs fans chatting about their respective new teams. I heard Coach Boudreau's name come up a lot. Some comments good, some bad and others indifferent. It certainly was going to be interesting game (if we only knew just how interesting!).

It wouldn't be an MMBC hosting without a 50/50 raffle. The winner was John Perry from Manchester, taking home \$96. The funny thing is, that he knew he was going to win. A fellow MMBC member was purchasing tickets and John said that he already had the winning ticket in his pocket. Hey John, think you can pass out the winning Powerball numbers?!? Congrats John and thank you to all who purchased tickets!

After the 50/50 was drawn, Hershey loaded up the bus to head to the arena. It was still early, but the bus driver needed his 8 hours of rest before heading back to Hershey after the game. Bill went with the Hershey folks to the arena to show them the sights –

which included a Bowling arcade game at Greg's Place Restaurant (I think that was the only stop). There are some things that Bill just isn't good at – bowling is one of them. Just come to our bowl-a-thon next March and see for your self!

Even though Manchester won in overtime 6-5, I believe the Hershey Booster Club had a good time, I know we did. It was great to see old hockey friends again. I just wish it were more often.

Board Members and Chairpersons

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<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Marlene Lein</u>
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<u>Recording Secretary</u>	<u>William Carbonneau</u>
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<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Gerry Clark</u> <u>Mandi LaVoie</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Karen Heaton</u>
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MMBC Mailing Address

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Manchester, NH 03108

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This will ensure the correct person receives your mailings.

Thank You