

Booster Club Meeting Boosted - Guest Appearance by Cheryl Abbott

By Mandi LaVoie

On October 3rd the Monarchs Booster Club had it's 2nd meeting for 2005-2006. With just a few days to go until the AHL season, the excitement was already in the air. Cheryl Abbott, just named Vice President of Community Affairs for the Manchester Monarchs was kind enough to be the first guest speaker of the year. It was congratulations all around as the Booster members congratulated Cheryl on her promotion - and Cheryl congratulated all of the members in attendance on being named AHL Booster Club of the year!

Cheryl came bearing gifts from the Monarchs organization. A large basket of chocolate goodies to be appreciated by all (if anyone could tear it away from Bill) and a copy of the article about the Booster Club of the Year from the Union Leader which was beautifully framed with a message of congratulations from the Monarchs.

Many booster members had ideas and questions for Cheryl. It sounds as if lots of fun events are planned for the season, many of which fans have seen and/or attended before and enjoyed. Hockey 101 for Women Only will take place in November, as will the Meet & Greet for season ticket holders. There will be Food, Coat and Toy drives around the holidays, 70's night will make a return, and the At Your Service dinner is scheduled for March 6th.

During the off-season the Max Pack has changed a bit and most of the crew are now hockey players which should make on ice events in between periods a bit more fun and exciting. Another change that the fans should notice will be the full color larger editions of ROAR, which will be available on line as well as at all home



games. Perhaps the most exciting new item - will be the addition of web cast games which will be available for most home and road games through the "B-2 Network" - which can be accessed through Monarchshockey.com for \$6.00 per game.

The rest of the Monarchs Booster Club meeting was very informative as to upcoming booster events. Members will be volunteering for the NH Public Television winter auction to be held in early November. There are several fundraising events going on as well. For more information on those events/items please see the fundraising section of Center Ice. There are also many trips being planned for the rest of the season - the next will be on December 10th to Springfield - with a deposit deadline of October 30th.

The next Booster Club Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th at 7pm. Please see monarchsboosters.com for location.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

By Mandi LaVoie

A boat could have gotten us to Hartford. Everyone arrived on time in the downpour on Saturday, October 8th to catch the bus for the first road trip of the year for the Monarchs Booster Club. Somehow everyone made it through the summer without hockey but was really excited to see the Monarchs get going again.

Along the way, we watched "Are We There Yet?" And of course that's what we were all thinking! What was the "new" team going to be like? Would Joe Rullier be playing for Hartford that night? Believe it or not - I think the first game of the season is really a nail biter for the fans too!

We arrived in Hartford with a few minutes to go before they opened the doors. It was really, really hot in the lobby - in fact we were starting to wonder if we were going to have to see a floor hockey game instead! It was much cooler in the Hartford Civic Center though, and the ice looked just fine.

It was fun watching warm-ups and trying to see how well I had done studying the new names. I did better than I thought I would. I think some of the new guys were pretty surprised to see so many of us there for the first game of the season since it was on the road. Yes, Rullier was playing for Hartford and he was wearing #7. We noticed that he did look over towards the Monarchs a few times. Even though we have some really young rookies this year, I still think he had more pre-game jitters than anyone on the ice!

Before the game, the Hartford Wolf Pack honored long time player, AHL all-star, and now assistant coach, Ken Gernander by retiring his number #12. The ceremony was very moving - even for the Monarchs fans in attendance. Gernander recalled wanting to play hockey as a kid because a neighbor played and told him that he would get, "free tape, laces and bubblegum." (I thought that would be a great title of his autobiography if he wrote one



someday!) He later said that, "it is said that you play for the name on the front of your jersey - not the name on the back." I think everyone can relate to that!

The Monarchs started off the scoring 6:59 into the first period on a goal from defenseman Marty Wilford on the power play with help from Noah Clark and Lauri Tukonen. Just a few minutes later, Connor James stepped out of the penalty box, grabbed the puck and broke in on Al Montoya, beating him at 11:58 - 2-0 Monarchs, much to the

delight of the Monarchs fans! Jarkko Immonen scored for the Wolf Pack on the power play at 14:23 with assists from Fedor Fedorov and Jake Taylor. At the end of the first period it was 2-1 Monarchs.

Both teams took a while to get going in the second

period. James scored his second goal of the game at 18:41 with assists from Jeff Giuliano and Joey Mormina to give the Monarchs a two goal lead again. It was short lived as Craig Weller slipped one by Adam Hauser on the power play at the 19:01 mark with some help from Martin Grenier and Bruce Graham to keep the Wolf Pack within one. 3-2 Monarchs at the end of the second period.

There seemed to be a really high number of odd penalty calls throughout the game. They ended up starting to unravel the Monarchs during the third period. 6:18 into the third, the Wolf Pack tied it up on a goal from Ivan Baranka with assists from Fedorov and Graham while Brad Smyth was serving a bench minor for delay of game for the Monarchs.

And then came the kicker.....

With under a minute to go in the third period - and the Monarchs serving a too many men on the ice penalty the unthinkable happened. Immonen was able to deflect a Joe Rullier slap shot from the blue line past Adam Hauser to give the Wolf Pack the only lead they would need in the game. Final score 4-3 Wolf Pack.

Shots on goal: Monarchs 25, Wolf Pack 37.

It was a heartbreaker, but hey the Wolf Pack had to win their home opener, right.....aaaaagh.

The bus trip back was pretty quiet. We watched a really great movie called "Second Hand Lions." That title doesn't describe the Monarchs

this season. Instead, we have some very young lions that I just know will start to roar. I can't wait for fans at the Verizon wireless arena to see some young lions like Konstantin Pushkarev and Lauri Tukonen get going!

Before we hit the New Hampshire border - our driver let the team bus pass us. There were some fun thoughts on how to cheer the team up and make them laugh, however things like that you can only learn by going on a road trip!

Membership Notes

As of 10/15/05 there are 49 Monarchs Booster Club Members.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Ashlee Cormier, Devon Gifford, & Dan Barrett

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Members:

Zoe Kemp 11/15

Players:

Dustin Brown 11/4

Jaroslav Bednar 11/8

Matt Ryan 11/12

Brad Church 11/14

Chris Aldous 11/19

Rich Brennan 11/26

MMBC Mission Statement

It will:

Provide a more formal means for fans to meet and communicate their interests in the Club;

Assist MMBC members in sharing their ideas and views of the Club;

Perform civic activities in the community and establish financial support for local charities, including a scholarship for a child to attend the Manchester Monarchs hockey school;

Find ways to promote the Manchester Monarchs Hockey Club and to be a civic organization that is responsible in the community;

Encourage and support good sportsmanship among all fans and players who attend Monarchs home games, as well as away games;

Promote good sportsmanship at all games we attend.

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

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.

12/10/05	Springfield	\$45 / \$55
01/12/06	Boston (bus only)	\$30 / \$40
01/28/06	Albany	\$55 / \$65
02/18/06	Hershey—Philly	\$140 / \$155
02/19/06	Hershey—Reading	
03/04/06	Wilkes-Barre/	\$136 / \$150
03/05/06	Scranton Binghamton	
03/31/06	Toronto—	\$172 / \$190
04/01/06	Hamilton	

Fundraising Updates:

- Pie Orders are due by Friday, October 21st. Dessert for Thanksgiving is done; just order a pie or two! If you need a pie flyer, please let me know and I can get one to you. I do order extra pies, so there will be extras to sell. However, if you want pies, please order them upfront as I cannot guarantee which kinds or how many extras I will have. The pies will be delivered on Thursday, November 17th. They will be frozen and pick-up/delivery arrangements will be determined as 11/17 gets closer.
- I am still collecting ink cartridges. You can drop them off at any meeting or give me a call and we can arrange a pick up.
- New Pins are in!!! Get yours today. Only \$5. They can be purchased at the monthly meetings or any home games. Thank you Susan for the design!
- Cow Bells have been ordered. Once they are in, pick yours up at any meeting. Only \$10! Let's ring those bells to let the team know we support them!

Entertainment books are still for sale. This year they are \$25, but think of the savings. There is a coupon for the Lowell Lockmonsters – Buy one ticket, get one free! That is an \$18 savings. I'm sure you can find more savings to make it worth it. Think holiday gift! It's for a good cause! Let's sell more than last year

Presidential Tidbits

By Bill Walch

Well, the AHL season is upon us.

The Monarchs will try to repeat as Division Champions and go far into the Calder Cup Playoffs. Manchester fans will look toward raising the Calder Cup Champion banner at the Monarchs first home game of 2006-07.

Although the 2005-06 hockey season is about to begin, for the Manchester Monarchs Booster Club, it began two months earlier. Things started to roll when the Monarchs schedule was released in August. Plans for the upcoming season commenced and the MMBC trip schedule was put together.

In September, the American Hockey League Booster Club Convention was attended by five Monarchs Booster Club members. This is always a great time! This year, it was something special. The convention was held north of the border in Hamilton, ON. Not only was it special because it was held in Canada, but the Manchester Monarchs Booster Club was named the 2005 AHL Booster Club of the Year. Although there did not seem to be time to give a speech, I did want to say a couple things about it.

I would first like to thank the AHLBCC Board of Directors for their hard work year in and year out. Thanks to the Hamilton Bulldogs Boosters for the fantastic job on hosting the convention. It takes many people to complete a job the size of hosting a convention and you folks in Hamilton went above and beyond.

It would not be right not to mention a couple of groups who were instrumental in helping the MMBC form. If it wasn't for the Hershey Bears Booster Club, we probably would not be here today. Before we could actually start our club, we needed to find out what we needed to do and why. Hershey came up to Manchester on a bus trip and we met in the Mall of NH to go over everything. I can't say enough things about this group. Even when a fan group planned a trip to Hershey with three busloads

of Monarchs fans, the HBBC hosted them, even though this fan group was not a booster club. Good portions of the people on that bus trip are now members of the MMBC.

The other group that worked with us was the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Booster Club. They are a wonderful group of people. When we needed more info, they skated up to the face-off circle and helped out. They raffled off a Derek Bekar Islanders Jersey in memory of Jen Kemp and all the proceeds went to the Jennifer Kemp Memorial Hockey Scholarship Fund. They do great things in Bridgeport.

Thanks to both the HBBC and the BSTBC for supporting us. Without your support from the very beginning, the MMBC might not be where it is today. We are proud to be the 2005 AHL Booster Club of the Year, and the HBBC and the BSTBC should be too, as they had a hand in our success.

The most important group of people responsible for the success of the MMBC continues to be the members of the MMBC. Their hard work and dedication is the reason we have been so successful for our first two years. It takes many people to accomplish the things we have and I am sure it will continue for years to come. Their commitment to the Manchester Monarchs and the Manchester community is amazing.

In reality, all AHL booster clubs are deserving of the honor of winning the award. Each club does what it can for the team, players and the community they live in. There are several booster clubs that no longer have teams in the AHL. Hats off to them for their continued success without a team to support. Now that is special!



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