



Navy Hockey

The Warrior Sport

Special Edition

Thursday, October 09, 2008

Navy Hockey Alumni Post-Game Report 20 September 2008



The 2008 Navy Hockey Alumni Game was played on Saturday, 20 September at the McMullen Ice Arena at USNA. The game featured 26 alumni from the classes of '73 through '08, with six each from '80 and '88. The venerable Class of '80 also brought three of their offspring to the fray – Dan Frawley's '80 two sons, Derek and Dalton, and Whitey Stapleton's '80 daughter, Emily, who made up their own line. Coach Gordon, coming out of retirement to harass his old players (after whooping them at golf on Friday), affectionately referred to this line as the “kids.” The rest of us just thought of them in terms of an extended breather. A Blue vs. Gold format was used for the game and MIDN Nolan Anliker '09, the president of this year's Navy Hockey Club, and MIDN Phil Castiel '12, the team's manager, rounded out the two squads.

In a hard fought battle that seesawed all morning long, the outcome was an appropriate 6-6 tie. While the Gold team had many stars during the contest (some players apparently believed they were on



Dooley Gets Ready

“Dancing with the Stars” as they spun out about in pirouettes when younger players inconsiderately blew by them), Bill Dooley '78 stood out, as usual, not for his hockey skill but rather for his audacity. Assessed a penalty shot for some obviously faulty call by the referee, Dooley grabbed the goalie mask and glove and took to the net to defend his team. Dool's well timed, mid-ice tackle of the shooter saved the game for Gold. Initially,



Dooley Makes the “Save”

the Gold team players were very impressed by their ability to score 6 goals in regulation against Club

President Anliker '09, the goalie for the Blue team. Then, upon learning after the game that he is a not even a goaltender, the self-impressed Gold Team players remained as such.

No individual player stood out on the Blue team as a star, as noted by numerous fans. Rather, it was the tic-tac-toe passing style by the six players from the Class of '88

that turned heads on both benches and resulted in some of the game's prettiest goals (guess in what year the author of that line graduated). Gathering for their 20th reunion, these former players from the 80s showed their adoring (and sometimes snoring) fans some lingering moments of hockey mojo. In fact, it was noted that the Olympic-size ice surface at McMullen Arena only enhanced their free-wheeling style of play. To counter the Gold Team's offensive-minded "kids" line, the Blue



Look, Still Got All My Dentures



'88 Aged Like Moldy Cheese

Team Player Coach, Andy Mechling at least showed some coaching wisdom

by forming a checking line comprised of mostly rookie Alumni from the Class of '08. Andy, like some Presidential candidates of his era, is apparently not e-mail proficient and failed to read the memo that was to be a non-checking game. The so-called "Stoner" line played well defensively and even netted a few cheap ones.



A Young Frawley Who Can Skate



Tired? Let Me Help HOLD Your Stick for You!

A shootout by the 5 oldest players from each squad after the expiration of regulation time failed to resolve the issue, although it will provide endless fuel for the Frawley sons, both of whom scored in regulation, while their father, Dan '80, failed to save the day for Gold in the shootout. So we all left to go to the Navy-Rutgers football tailgater to sort it out over a few beers. Another bright spot was that no one actually needed significant medical attention – not even Mechling '73. The game was fairly gentlemanly, marred only by a vicious check into the net, laid on the game's organizer '80 by the present OREP '88, who himself was later seen with a laceration under his right eye. Allegedly this was caused by an errant puck, but allegations of retaliation swirled about the event.



Old Man Frawley Shoots—Misses!



Murray Gets Paper Cut

After the game the alumni gathered for pictures and were in general agreement that despite the years away from Dahlgren Hall, they had all retained their competitive edge and superior hockey skills. Regrettably a spouse had to make the rather loutish, but nonetheless astute, observation that from the stands it was rather easy to discern a player's relative age, particularly when the younger Frawleys motored by at the speed of light.

On the Blue side, Fred Severson '88 won an award as the most environmentally friendly player, choosing to spend the majority of his time picking cherries vice backchecking for his teammates. On the Gold team, Mike Budney '80 won the "Turnstyle at Safeway" Award for looking like one at left defense. Individual awards aside, all the players were winners in the overtime tie, and certainly all who witnessed this stirring event were overcome by the level of intermittent team play, the quick decisions to stop skating, and the total commitment to finishing the game, even if it meant shifting to a running clock.



New hockey book includes chapter on Navy Hockey's history and future.

This book was written by our very own Bruce Valley, my predecessor as President, Friends of Navy Hockey.

Sports/Memoir

SEAHAWK is a personal memoir of a youngster's late 1950's participation on a championship New England town hockey team composed of WWII veterans, and traces that boy's life and connection to hockey across almost sixty years. It is a groundbreaking study of aging while playing contact sports and reflects upon the famed WWII generation, pond hockey, black ice, and the hockey towns and teams of New England. Few books are written about hockey; fewer expound fully on its special qualities as a sport. **SEAHAWK** is such a book.

"A fine literary descendant of Jack Falla's *Home Ice* and Peter Growski's *The Game of Our Lives*. Like any good hockey book, it teaches us more about the world than hockey itself."

—Dave Bidini, Author of *Tropic of Hockey* and *The Best Game You Can Name*

"A compellingly intimate sports book that will hopefully become a movie, *Seahawk* has the breadth, depth, and power to be read for generations."

—Tom Clarie, Author of the award-winning Explorers educational game, and a forthcoming Egyptian history titled *A Lighthouse for Alexandria*

 Former Navy test pilot Bruce Valley has been an amateur hockey goalie for almost six decades. He is chief executive of an aerospace corporation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he lives with his wife of many years, Nancy. They have two children and six grandchildren, several of them hockey players.

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VALLEY
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SEAHAWK
Confessions of an Old Hockey Goalie
BRUCE VALLEY

Available on Amazon and in bookstores everywhere by mid-2009. Pre-publication copies available from the publisher by Christmas 2008. Send \$20 check (\$17 plus \$3 S&H) made to "Bruce Valley '66" to :

SEAHAWK, c/o Peter E. Randall Publisher,

PO Box 4726

FRIENDS OF NAVY HOCKEY

7513 Walnut Hill Lane
Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 401-477-6144
E-mail: mbudney16@cox.net



Navy Hockey on the Web
<http://www.usna.edu/hockey>



Not Quite What Coach Was Hoping For

How You Can Contribute to Navy Hockey

Mike Budney, Class of '80, President Friends of Navy Hockey

FNH participates in two fundraising efforts each year. The main effort is a letter requesting your support, written in conjunction with the United States Naval Academy Foundation. If you have not received this mailing in the past but would like to be added to the Foundation's list, please send me your address at mbudney16@cox.net.

Please consider making a generous donation in support of Navy Hockey this year. To do so, please make your check payable to the "U.S. Naval Academy Foundation," and in the memo section of the check write "Hockey." This will ensure that your gift will be accurately deposited in the Foundation account that supports Navy Hockey. Please mail your check to the following address:

U.S. Naval Academy Foundation
P.O. Box 64740
Baltimore, MD 21264-4740

Please also consider your gift to the Friends of Navy Hockey over and above your regular unrestricted support for the Naval Academy Annual Fund. Unrestricted funds are extremely important to the Academy, and I personally believe strongly in the value. Until I worked there as a Battalion Officer and Hockey OREP I had no idea how much of the Academy's mission was made possible by private donations. Unrestricted donations are critical to midshipmen's academic, ethical, and leadership development.

Donations to date this year are

only \$4900 from just 27 individuals. We really need your support.

The second annual effort is to produce the media guide for the team. This occurs in the fall as the new team forms. Some commercial advertising and ads placed by parents have traditionally paid for the production of the media guide, the proceeds of which also pay other expenses not covered by USNA funding sources. Our intention is to continue this effort, and we are always looking for assistance in this area with each new season. As I write this newsletter the media guide effort for 2008 is complete. However, do not let that deter you from donating to help offset production costs. Contact me at mbudney16@cox.net if you'd like to help.