



**MARLIES BOOSTER  
CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**

charity • community • spirit

## "The Broken Stick" Challenge

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Marlie fans got on trains, buses and in cars and made their way to Cops Coliseum in Hamilton to cheer on our Marlies! Out of our 80 strong memberships, we sent 21 fans on 2 weeks of preparations. This was an excellent showing from our side to take the lead in the Challenge.

Purchase forums for the next and all other games have already been prepared and made available for the up coming games. If you are interested please stop by the booster table and pick up your form. Tickets will be purchased ASAP when your payment and forum is received.

Also we will be helping to try and car-pool interested people to the games. Check the website or ask at the table for more information.



## Current Scoreboard



Marlies Booster Club	The Growl
21/1	0/1

## Cleveland Adventure

On November 17<sup>th</sup> we sent 7 loyal clubbers to Cleveland to enjoy our first major trip as a club.

The trip in itself was entertaining itself with getting to know each other on a more personal basis. Also in a road stop our President made a friend with a local store owner by purchasing most of his stock of Cheetos! This made for a cheesy ride and a bunch of cheesy jokes!

Marlies unfortunately lost their 1<sup>st</sup> game of the season in regulation that night in a game we out shot Lake Erie 38-30. They got their 1<sup>st</sup> look at Lake Erie's newest goaltender Jason Bacashihua who has since stood on his head to take points away from us and make the Monsters a respectable team.

Our Clubbers represented us well with a few locals including "Cleveland's Finest".

A scrapbook full of Pictures and shared experiences will hopefully be posted on the website soon.

## Christmas With The Marlies

### Rochester Road Trip

On December 26<sup>th</sup> we are working on gathering at least 40 clubbers to come together and celebrate the holiday season with the Marlies and fellow Booster Club members.

The trip will be a day trip on a coach bus from Ricoh to Rochester and back. The trip price take is at \$50 which includes your admission to the game.

If interested, contact our Social Director, Tony Genco via his e-mail address at [tony@marliesboosterclub.ca](mailto:tony@marliesboosterclub.ca) or come visit the booster table for more information. The website will have more information soon.

### Games Upcoming within the series:

- 👑 Sat. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> @ Cops 7PM
- 👑 Sat. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> @ Ricoh 4PM
- 👑 Sat. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> @ Ricoh 4PM
- 👑 Wed. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> @ Cops 7:30PM
- 👑 Fri. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> @ Cops 7:30PM
- 👑 Sun. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> @ Ricoh 4PM
- 👑 Sat. Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> @ Ricoh 4PM
- 👑 Fri. Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> @ Cops 7:30PM
- 👑 Sat. Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Ricoh 7PM
- 👑 Fri. Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> @ Cops 7:30PM

## Team Roster

MURPHY	MITCHELL	LING
BOYCE	NEWBURY	GAMACHE
EARL	FOSTER	ONDRUS
AUBIN	WILLIAMS	LEVEILLE
	PERROTT	
MUIR	SIFERS	
WALSER	ORESKOVIC	
STRALMAN	HARRINGTON	
HARRISON	CASHMAN	
	CLEMMENSON	
	POGGE	

## Final Notes

Marlie/Leaf Media Guides were delivered to us 2 weeks ago. We have started to give them out to the membership at the Booster table. We have 15 members yet to receive their Media Guides.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> the Syracuse Crunch Booster club "Crunch Corps" had a few representatives make the trip to Ricoh to watch their Crunch battle our Marlies in a 4-3 OT win for us! They came dressed for the occasion and were a pleasure to speak to!



On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 6966 people, mostly public school kids attended the "School Day" game vs. Grand Rapids. They were loud and excited to take in the game. Marlies offices offer the seats for \$10 per to many schools in the GTA for a very successful day!

## Marlies in December

- 👑 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Philadelphia - "March Of Dimes" featuring Bret Hart
- 👑 Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 7:35pm @ Rochester
- 👑 Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Binghamton - Salvation Army Christmas Bell Day
- 👑 Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Milwaukee - Steve Thomas Bobble head
- 👑 Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 7:05pm @ Philadelphia
- 👑 Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm @ Hershey
- 👑 Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Syracuse
- 👑 Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 7:35pm @ Rochester
- 👑 Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 7:05pm @ Rochester - ROAD TRIP!!!
- 👑 Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Grand Rapids - Doug Gilmour Bobble head
- 👑 Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm @ Hamilton - 3<sup>rd</sup> of the "Broken Stick" Series
- 👑 Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Albany - Nickelodeon Family Day (2/4)

In November the Leafs made 4 calls to the farm to call up Jiri Tlustý, Anton Stralman, Staffan Kronwall and Scott Clemmensen. Stralman saw limited action, while Clemmensen was only utilized in a practise. Tlustý and Kronwall look to have stuck with the big club and could stay the rest of the season. We also got back Simon Gamache after an 11 game stint with the Leafs in which he registered 4 PTS.

Also in November we made 4 calls to Columbia. Todd Ford made the trip for a day while Clemmensen was up, Reid Cashman was sent for a 2 game conditioning stint to prepare him for action for a Bryan Muir injury, Patrick Weller was recalled as an insurance policy when Jay Harrison went down (once again seen no action). Phil Oreskovic has become the huge benefactor in the recent Harrison injury setback. Phil has been very serviceable and strong in his 5 games with us. He may stay the rest of the year with us after showing ECHL was below his defensive abilities!

## **AHL Head Offices To You!**

*Guest Columnist: David Andrews*

Dear Toronto Marlies Booster Club,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the loyal fans of AHL hockey in Toronto on the establishment of the Toronto Marlies Booster Club.

The American Hockey League is very cognizant and proud of the important role that booster clubs play in cultivating and maintaining fan support in our member cities. From promoting our teams amongst family and friends, to organizing charitable events and donations, to setting up bus trips to support our teams on the road, AHL booster clubs represent the most committed of our millions of fans.

We are proud to welcome the Marlies Booster Club to the league's growing list. In a short time, the hockey-rich city of Toronto has certainly made its mark on the AHL. The 2007 Rbk/AHL All-Star Classic at Ricoh Coliseum was a tremendous success for the city and our league, and this season's Marlies are out to the best start of their three-year existence.

I wish you all the best of luck with the inaugural Marlies Booster Club, and I look forward to watching the tradition of AHL hockey in Toronto continue to build and prosper in the coming years.

Sincerely,

David A. Andrews  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
American Hockey League



## **Insight From The Bench**

*Guest Columnist: Greg Gilbert*

### **MARLIES UPDATE OCTOBER THROUGH NOVEMBER**

The season opened with a strong start each and every night. Our attention to the details of our game style was a very positive sign. As a group we were executing very well at both ends of the ice.

The start we had was a confidence booster for the players. However, with success comes challenges. Being one of the top teams at the early stages of the season every team we faced were well prepared and were bringing their "A GAME."

Going through this part of the process is, and will be, a continuing challenge for our players.

From our perspective as coaches we feel the better the teams play against us the better it will make us as a team. The higher the level of competition the higher we have to push our level of play.

As seen by our most recent games the results have not always been there. With teams playing us hard every game brings both physical and mental challenges for our club. This too will only make us a mentally tougher and stronger club down the road.

Every team will face some type of adversity throughout the course of an 80 game season, whether it be injuries, call ups or loses. It is how we will respond to these challenges that will show the direction the team will be heading.

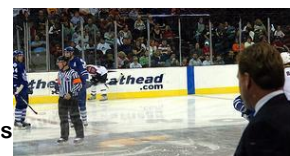
We had some strong starts individually early with Derrick Walser grabbing "Player of the month" honours along with leading defensemen in scoring.

David Ling also had a strong point production start. Scott Clemmensen has had an outstanding start for our club. The second and third year players have also shown tremendous strides in their games and are well on their way to becoming solid pro players that will be responsible with and without the puck at both ends of the ice.

Thank you for your continued and undying support.

We'll see you at the rink.

Greg Gilbert  
Head Coach, Toronto Marlies



## **Ridin` The Pine:**



### ***With Ben Ondrus***

**A** I'm here with Ben Ondrus of the Toronto Marlies. Ben, I appreciate you taking the time to do this interview with us. When did you first start to play hockey?

**A** *Well, I started organized hockey when I was 8. We lived probably 45 minutes east of Edmonton, but before that I just skated on our pond we had in the back yard. Not quite sure what age I started skating, but I remember it was 8 when I started to playing organized hockey.*

**A** **What minor hockey association was that?**

**A** *It was Tofield Minor Hockey Association. We lived about 15 minutes outside of that town, and it was probably 1400 people in our town. Now my parents did a good job, they had to drive me quite a ways into town everyday even when they worked in the city, so I really appreciate that and everything they did for me.*

**A** **What's your favourite minor hockey memory?**

**A** *There is probably quite a few. The first year that I actually left Tofield to go play some rep hockey. My parent were driving me out to Vegreville, which was an extra half hour the other way from the city, and we ended up having a really good team that year in Atom and ended up winning the provincials. I just remember winning that championship and making a whole bunch of friends that I still have today. After that, and through my bantam years, it was just all the friends you make and the people that you meet. Every year has its special thing, and there are a lot of*



*coaches and players that are my best friends still today.*

**A** **Now you would have had a lot of coaches over the years. Which coach had the biggest impact on your development, and how?**

**A** *Minor hockey is a little bit different than when you start playing junior. In minor hockey I would have to say it was a guy named Dave Romenko. He really taught us a lot and taught me a lot about the maturity level, of playing at the next level. When I got to junior, my first two years in junior, Todd McLellan was my head coach. He was really demanding and really opened my eyes to what it took to becoming a pro.*

**A** **When did you know you would play pro hockey?**

**A** *Well, after my 20 year-old year in Swift Current I was going to go to camp, but I also enrolled at the University of Alberta, just in case things didn't work out with the Leafs. I ended up breaking my jaw in camp and I sort of thought that it might have been it. I didn't have a contract, and I was going back to Edmonton after I broke my jaw. It just ended up that they signed me to a pro contract, and I quite going to school. I ended up going to St. John's and having a fairly good first year. After that year I signed a pro contract.*

**A** **So you would say it would be a surprise right up until the time you signed your contract that you would make it?**

**A** *Ya, you always know you can play at that level. It's a lot to do with getting an opportunity to play and making the best of every opportunity that you do get. Fortunately a team saw that maybe they wanted me in their plans for the future, and I'm really happy that they did.*

**A** **What was your first memory of turning pro?**

**A** *Probably not a good one the first time it really sunk in that I wasn't going to be going home for Christmas my first year. It was kind of disappointing. Living out in St. John's it's probably a 7 ½ hour flight back to Edmonton, and I couldn't do it with the*

*schedule. It was a bad one sitting home Christmas morning, plus there are a few other guys who didn't go home, so guys invited us over for supper, and stuff like that, but it's one of those things that really woke me up and said well this is part of the real world now. I make a point now to either have someone come for Christmas or go home, if the schedule allows it.*

**A** You were named this year as captain of the Marlies. Did that come as a big surprise to you?

**B** *Ya, I was a little surprised. I've been in the organization for a while, and I like*

*to think of myself as a leader on and off the ice. It was a nice surprise at that, but there are probably a bunch of guys in the room that it could have gone to them. It's just a nice feeling to be recognized.*

**A** How has this changed your game so far, and do you see your role being different this year?

**B** *Not really. Greg had mentioned that he didn't really want it to change my game at all, but it's just responsibility off the ice, before games and stuff, making sure everybody is ready to go every night, and, if there is something to be said between periods or after a game about a performance, that I'd have to come up with something to say and, hopefully, the guys listen. I think for the most part everybody in there has done a pretty good job at keeping each other in check.*

**A** Now in the dressing room, where none of us get to see, are you an outspoken leader, or are you one of those guys that quietly pulls a guy aside and talks to him there?

**B** *No, I'm not really an outspoken person. I sort of like things to work themselves out. But if something has to be said, there is myself and the other captains in there that will let guys know. If something that*



*has to be said out loud, then that's the way it will be done, but I think, for the most part, there are not too many outspoken guys in the room.*

**A** Now, how did your time with the Leafs last prepare you for this role?

**B** *I don't know if it was really that, it's just my fifth year of professional hockey, and there are guys in there that have played ten plus years. You see a few things in your years, and I'm just trying to draw from those experiences. You see guys around the Leafs' room and how they prepare themselves and how they take care of their bodies off the ice, and I just tried to learn from them.*

**A** Now, Ben, something that all of us dream, you got to live, what was it like the first time you stepped on the ice in front of 19,000?

**B** *Well, I played in front of 19,000 before, not in the NHL, but it's really something different. Actually my first game was against the Canadians here in Toronto, so it was quite the atmosphere to live. I didn't really know until the morning of the game that I was going to be playing, so it*

*was kind of rush, and I didn't get too much sleep in the afternoon. It was really incredible. You can just feel it when you skate on the ice at the beginning of the game, and it's definitely an experience that I'll never forget.*



**A** Now, is it a lot different playing in the NHL from the AHL, other than the fans and size of the arenas?

**B** *Ya, obviously the rinks are bigger, and there is generally a few more people there watching. Just the skill level of the players is a lot better, but I'd almost have to say that there is a little bit more time in the NHL. Guys are playing their positions, and everybody's not running around*

*everywhere, but, if you make a mistake, there are guys that can make you pay, and the puck movement is a lot better up there, I'd say.*

**▲ You've had lots of long road trips, and you've had lots of bus trips, how do you pass the time on the bus?**

**♣** *Well, I think it all started in junior. I would always sleep on the bus. I don't know, anytime we get on a bus or plane, I seem to fall asleep quite a bit. I usually just watch a movie. If there is no movie, I'll just go to sleep.*



**▲ Is it dangerous falling asleep on the bus? You got some pranksters on the team?**

**♣** *No, not really. I think guys are pretty good. If a guy is sleeping not too many guys are going to mess with him. If there was a prankster, he might get a punch in the face.*

**▲ Now nicknames, what's your nickname?**

**♣** *I think just Benny, no one's really come up with something new here.*

**▲ Well, we appreciate the time you've given us today Ben. Is there anything the Booster Club can do for you?**

**♣** *Keep supporting us. Actually, the one thing I noticed, I don't know if it was the Syracuse Booster Club that was here last*

*game, support that the fans gave them, and the Booster Club gives us, people see it, and it's really noticed by the players, and we really appreciate it. Hope it continues.*

**▲ It's really good to see those fans when you travel on the road then?**

**♣** *Ya, any support you can get, especially in a visiting team's rink, it's just a bonus, and you know some rinks it's tough to play in, and that feeling of being at home and that you have fans is really comforting and definitely helps the players when there is fan support.*

**▲ What's the toughest rink to play in?**

**♣** *I think Syracuse is one of the tougher ones to play at. It's a smaller, older building, and it always seems to be that we play them on a special night there. Maybe because their fans don't like David Ling, but it's always a pretty intense game, and I don't know if it's just the size of the rink, but it's a tough one.*

**▲ They were all looking for Ling, the other night, and he was out of the line-up and they were disappointed, so I think they still have a fondness for him.**

**♣** *Ya, he's a character out there, and the game we had in there this year they were all over him, and I think they found him pretty exciting, so, hopefully, that will continue, as long as we keep getting wins there.*

**▲ Well, this year you guys are off to a great start and you're making this building a tough building to play in. All the best and keep it up.**

**♣** *Thank you.*

