



**MARLIES BOOSTER
CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

charity • community • spirit

"The Broken Stick" Challenge

In the 4th game of "The Broken Stick" challenge Hamilton finally got on the board with 16 Growlers making the 50 min trip to Ricoh.

Growl fans were treated to a solid 2-1 Marlies win handed out by re-called goalie Todd Ford.

The Growl have 4 games to keep pace and try to beat us in the Broken Stick challenge.



Current Scoreboard

Marlies Booster Club	The Growl
48/2	16/2

Games Upcoming within the series:

@ Ricoh

@ Cops

🚩 Sat. Feb. 9th 4PM

🚩 Wed. Feb. 13th 7:30PM

🚩 Sun. Feb. 24th 4PM

🚩 Fri. Feb. 15th 7:30PM

🚩 Sat. Mar. 15th 4PM

🚩 Fri. Mar. 21st 7:30PM

🚩 Sat. Mar. 22nd 7PM

🚩 Fri. Apr. 11th 7:30PM

Marlies By The #s

Over the past 3 years 79 players have played in at least 1 game wearing the Marlies' Blue, White & Silver jersey. 5 players have been on the official team but have never seen game action with us. 35 of the 79 players have had NHL experience before, after or during their time with us (44%).

Insight From The Bench

Guest Columnist: Greg Gilbert

MARLIES UPDATE DECEMBER THROUGH MID-JANUARY

This part of the season has brought with it a few different kinds of challenges for the club. As a team we have faced some key injuries; early in this segment, three of our experienced defensemen, Muir, Harrison and Kronwall, were out at the same time but this gave us the opportunity to let some of younger players to gain some key experience and playing time.

Up front we also had a couple of key players, Murphy and Foster, out of the line-up for an extended period of time with injuries.

However, in the long run, this challenge has given us the opportunity to face some adversity and battle our way through this challenge. We feel our players have proven their commitment, unity and drive through this challenging time.

Our next challenge, and probably one of the toughest, was the extended road trip through the Mid-West and Texas. Seven games in Eleven days is quite a grind on every player. Not only having to face the intensity and demands of the games, but having to travel most nights after games to get to the next city.

We got off to a slow start on the trip even though we played pretty well but not as consistently as we had played prior to the trip. 0 – 3 to start, but the 4-3-1 finish shows the resiliency and determination this group has.

Lastly, with all the games and travel the team had faced it finally caught up to us physically. A large number of players battled through the infamous flu bug. Many continued to play and this All-Star break came at a great time for our guys to get some well deserved rest and recuperation time.

A couple of younger call-up players have done an admirable job stepping in to the line-up. Phil Oreskovic has fit in well on the blue-line paired up most of the time with Derrick Walser, our All-Star representative, and has played a simple and effective game. Todd Ford was recalled when Scott Clemmensen was taken up by the Leafs and played well in the one game he did play and got the win vs. Hamilton.

Bates Battaglia has elevated his game and is playing with more assertiveness than he did since his re-assignment. Bates is using his size and speed to give opposition players a tough time trying to contain him and his numbers are starting to show the success he can have when he plays this way. He is showing the positive signs of why he has played 580 games in the National league.

Greg Gilbert
Head Coach, Toronto Marlies

Team Roster

WILLIAMS	MITCHELL	LING
MURPHY	EARL	BATTAGLIA
AUBIN	FOSTER	DOIG
LEVEILLE	TSIMIKALIS	BOYCE
HARRISON	SIFERS	
WALSER	ORESKOVIC	
MUIR	KRONWALL	
HARRINGTON		
	POGGE	
	CLEMMENSEN	

Marlies in February

- Feb. 1st 7:35pm @ Rochester
- Feb. 2nd 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Rochester
- Feb. 6th 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. San Antonio
- Feb. 9th 3pm @ Ricoh vs. Hamilton
 - 5th of the "Broken Stick" series
 - Toronto Zoo Day
- Feb. 10th 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Houston
 - Nickelodeon Family Day (3/4)
- Feb. 13th 7:30pm @ Hamilton
 - 6th of the "Broken Stick" Series
- Feb. 15th 7:30pm @ Hamilton
 - 7th of the "Broken Stick" Series
- Feb. 16th 7:30pm @ Manitoba
- Feb. 17th 2pm @ Mantioba
- Feb. 20th 7:05pm @ Binghamton
- Feb. 23rd 3pm @ Ricoh vs. Binghamton
 - Toronto Raptors Day
- Feb. 24th 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Hamilton
 - 8th of the "Broken Stick" Series
 - Tomas Kaberle Bobble Head
- Feb. 26th "Community Practice" in North York
- Feb. 29th 7:30pm @ Syracuse

Final Notes

January included 5 calls to the Marlies from the Leafs. Justin Pogge, Darryl Boyce, Kris Newbury & Ben Ondrus all made trips up to the Leafs. For Pogge, it was his 1st Official NHL recall, while Boyce (who was signed to an NHL contract late last month) was recalled twice and played his 1st NHL Game.

Scott Clemmensen, who spent a week and a half with the Leafs, was returned after seeing 2 games of action.

Marlies also made several transactions of their own. Tyler Doig was signed to a Standard Player Contract (SPC) and was called up, sent down and back up around the AHL all star break. Todd Perry was sent back to Columbia and Patrick Weller was recalled to see games in Todd's place. Todd Ford was assigned back to Columbia after an extended 3 week stay. Finally, Peter Tsimikalis has been recalled to finish the month with us.



Simon Gamache unfortunately has been given his release by the Maple Leafs and has gone to finish the campaign in Switzerland with HC Bern, where he signed a 3 year deal with them.

Ridin` The Pine:



With Staffan Kronwall

▶ **Okay, I'm here with Staffan Kronwall of the Toronto Marlies. Staffan, I appreciate you taking the time to do this interview with us.**

▶ **When did you first start playing hockey?**

▶ *I believe I was four years old. I started back home in Stockholm, where I grew up. I started off with playing kids two years older with my brother and have been going ever since.*

▶ **What is minor hockey like in Stockholm? How does that differ from minor hockey that we'd be used to here in North America?**

▶ *It's pretty similar to Canadian junior hockey, I'd say. It's not like you go to the local team playing. It's not like you play with your school team. You just go with your local team and you move up the ladder, pretty much.*

▶ **Would there be a lot of teams in Stockholm, a lot of different organizations, or is it like club teams?**

▶ *It's pretty much four or five really big clubs and then there's a bunch of smaller clubs, just local, but it's a good way of developing players and in the end they usually end up with the big clubs.*

▶ **What's your favourite memory of playing minor hockey?**

▶ *That's a good question. I think my favourite memory is just I remember just having fun, you know, it's back in the days when you don't really think about your performance or anything, you just go out there and have fun, and in the end that's all that matters.*

▶ **Now you mentioned playing with your brother Niklas, did you get to play much with him growing up?**

▶ *I played with him maybe four years when I just started off, and then we kind of went our separate ways for a couple of years and then went to play a year and a half in the Swedish league together.*

▶ **And what was that like playing in that Swedish Elite League with him?**

▶ *It was pretty cool actually. It's something that most people don't have the opportunity to do, and I've been fortunate enough to do that, and I actually partnered with him, too, so it's pretty special.*



▶ **You've probably had several coaches through your time in minor hockey, junior hockey, and right up into the professional level. Has there been a coach that stuck out for you and helped your development, and how?**

▶ *I'd like to think that all the coaches I've had has a little bit of impact on me. I've kind of taken what I feel they've helped me with the most.*

I don't know how to put it, but I had great coaches all the way from junior until now, so I can just say that I've been taking good stuff from all those coaches I've had and not a single one of them has made me a worse player than I expected to be.

▶ **Now growing up in Sweden, who would have been your heroes or stars that you looked up to in the game of hockey?**

▶ *I would say probably Borje Salming was one of my big favourites growing up, Nik Lidstrom, obviously, and Mats (Sundin) and Peter Forsberg. I mean, it's big names, and they've made such a difference for Swedish hockey, so I've got to mention them.*

▶ **I guess Salming was the catalyst that started it all for the NHL drive, and you probably owe a lot to him.**

▶ *Yeah, I mean it's been quite a journey, I mean, it's really amazing to play in the same organization that he was probably king, you*

can almost name him king here for those decades he played here, but it's pretty special to play for the same organization and watching his jersey go up in the rafters last year was really special.

▶ **You were with the Leafs when that happened, so that night must have really meant a lot to you.**

▶ *Yeah, it was really, really special. I met Borje a couple of times so I know him a little bit, I'd say, but it was really special to see all the fans' reactions to his jersey being retired.*

▶ **When did you know that you'd play pro hockey?**

▶ *You know what? I was kind of a late bloomer. I've always been a big guy and kind of took time to grow into my body, I think, so when I was about 17, maybe, 16, 17 years old, I figured okay I've got some skill doing this, and it wasn't until I think I was 18 years old I managed to get into the World's junior team and ever since it's just been going, going really well for me, so I would say 16, 17 years old.*

▶ **So you'd say that tournament was a real turning point for you as far as the way scouts looked at you?**

▶ *Yeah, I'd say so. I mean I learned a lot about myself, I think. I put a lot of pressure on myself when I was younger because I always had Nik who was really, really good from a really young age, so I kind of always put a lot of pressure wanting to be just as good as him and kind of put too much pressure on myself instead of just having fun and using my skills.*



▶ **Now, as I said, you played with the Leafs, you played 44 games in the NHL. What was that experience like the first time you stepped out on an NHL rink?**

▶ *Not so much stepping onto an NHL ice I'd say was special, but just to put on the Maple Leaf's jersey was really special. I mean, it's the hockey's Mecca and not a lot of guys are that fortunate to put that jersey on, it was... I almost got chills, yeah.*

▶ **You talk about the Swedish Elite League, here in North America we don't really know what the fan experience is like there. What is the size of the crowds? What's the fan experience like in that league?**

▶ *It's kind of different. People are actually getting together and almost throw a party during the games. It's not as much crowd over there, it's maybe around 10,000 and here it's 20, or something, but they get together and throw a big party, singing together, drink a lot, obviously, but it's just a big party and they love to sing, and it's really loud in the building.*

▶ **I've noticed in your game you love to rush with the puck, you love to be that offensive force going up. Has that always been a part of your game, or is that something you're developing here in North America?**

▶ *I think it's always been there. I'm trying to use it as much as I can cause I think it's a skill I have, and that differs me from other players, so, as I said, I'm trying to use it as much as I can, and whatever's best for the team I'm trying to do.*

▶ **In North America here you have a lot of long bus rides, how do you pass the time on those?**

▶ *My iPod is obviously, that's the key to every bus ride, I think everybody's got their own iPod, listening to music, watching movies, or*

whatever it is, but that's definitely the key for me, but I try to get a book or two with me, but that's about it. Otherwise, it's just sleeping and eating, I guess.

There are some kids out there that are going to want to know, what music do you listen to on your iPod?

Music? I'm a big fan of U2, is probably my favourite band, and I love old-school rock like Iron Maiden, and Kiss, all those old-school bands, Alice Cooper, I've always liked them and always will.

In the AHL here you get to visit a lot of cities.

What city stands out for you, what rink that you just love to play in, maybe because of the atmosphere of the fans, or the rink itself?

It's always special to play in your home building, I'd say, so I'd say the Ricoh, I think. It's always something special to play in your own building in front of your own crowd especially when you can get a good crowd going here, it feels real special.

And we've had some bigger crowds as of late, as the team is doing well, How does that really affect the team?

Obviously we need them. We need the fans to come out here and watch us play, and, as you mentioned, we're doing really well, and I think they could get us a long way in the playoffs, if we could get a good crowd going here.

How has the room changed a little bit because we've had quite a few call-ups now to the Maple Leafs. We've got some young guys who've come in from the ECHL and everybody's in every night, there's no one sitting. How has that changed in the dressing room?

I think it's just changed in the fact that other guys just have to step up it gives other guys opportunities to play more and show what they can bring to the table, so it's good in every aspect. Of course we will eventually need the guys who are up top, and I wish them all the best when they're up there, but we will eventually need them, I think.

Staffan, let's take it away from hockey. Your hockey career is over, what do you plan to do, or what do you see yourself doing if you weren't playing hockey?

I would definitely work. I hope to be working somehow with hockey. I'm a huge fan of the game. I love playing the game, but, unfortunately, when you are 45, 50 years old you can't play anymore. I can't play for my profession, I mean. I'll always play the game, obviously, but I'll somehow work with the game on a professional level, whatever it is, coaching. Coach I probably won't do, but scouting, or something to do with the game of hockey.

Again, we appreciate your time for this. All the best of luck the rest of the year, and we hope to see you up with the big club, even though we'd miss you.

Thanks. I appreciate it.

