

ROAR



OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB 1989/90 NEWSLETTER

IN THE BEGINING

Welcome to this month's edition of ROAR, there have been many changes since the last issue, not only in player personnel but also in league formations. It looks like there will be no relegation as of yet from our division, as so many teams within the top two divisions, seem to be running into financial difficulties, STREATHAM, TRAFFORD, and PETERBOROUGH ARE all in troubles. It has been nice to see over the past few weeks the concern and involvement, of all supporters club member's, Toward's the team's fortunes for this season and next, not only in 50/50 and raffles, but also in the genuine involvement in meetings that have been held and you will see by the enclosed sheet that another meeting is to be held next week. This issue of ROAR include's a much requested look at former LIONS import's, and an interesting report from Toronto, I hope that you enjoy this issue and any contribution's are greatly welcomed. Enjoy your hockey and until next time.
THAT'S ALL FOLKS.!!!!!!

PETER COOK



LEE VALLEY ICE RINK A RING-A-ROUND SERVICE

KEEP IN TOUCH!

RING NOW FOR
LIVE MATCH REPORTS
FEATURES-INTERVIEWS

24 HOURS

Lions Call

0898 664 831

BRING ON THE IMPORTS !!!!!!!
=====

This season has certainly been a record for Lions imports with Mike Fafard being our 10th of the season, but many have followed before and since the first game back in 1984 on the 5th February. The Lee Valley Lions have used a total of 40 different imports during competitive league, cup and friendly games, there have been plenty of others who did not get past training sessions. For those of you who do or do not remember here is a brief resume on them all with a goals only total, as all the other info. is not available especially on early games.

1984/85 - friendlies only season
=====

JOHN GORDON - 60 GOALS

Worked for 2 seasons in Britain as an accountant, had brief spell with London All-Stars after coming over from the University of Saskatchewan.

DAVE WURTHMAN - 24 GOALS

Plucky player who went on to coach Lions jointly with Will Fish, originated from Hamilton, Ontario - set up home with his British wife, Jan in Westcliff on Sea. Worked for British Telecom.

LOU SHIPLEY - 22 GOALS

Studying in Britain at London School of Economics. Born in Connecticut, left Lions two-thirds through season, was the provider for Gordon's goals.

DAN SHEPPARD - 0 GOALS

Was going to become a Lions regular import but moved on after a sturdy game against Southampton Vikings.

WILL DESJARDIN - 3 GOALS

Desjardin guested for Lions in an exciting 12-12 draw with Richmond, was playing in Holland at the time, previously played with Gordon in Saskatchewan.

BILLY DOUGLAS - 0 GOALS

Another one-gamer for the Lions, Douglas terrorised the Lions during that first season whilst starring for Bournemouth Stags.

1984/85 - League & Friendlies
=====

JUKKA KORHONEN - 8 GOALS

The first of the 'flying Finns', was a star for top league side Richmond, guested several times for the Lions including a 9-8 win for the Boswell Shield over Deeside.

RICHARD STEEVES - 0 GOALS

The first of 3 import netminders Lions have used, starred against the Lions when playing for Cambridge University then tried out in the 9-8 win over Deeside.

WILL FISH - 26 GOALS

Was Lions import defenceman in their first league season, the nomadic Fish was a crowd favourite & went on to be a successful coach for the Lions, from Minnesota - Duluth.

Was nicknamed 'Thumper'

BILL WATSON - 52 GOALS

The first of Lions 'great' imports, Watson received large offers from premier sides during his stay, was christened 'King of the Deke' for his superb one-on-one exploits. Had his season cut short on 27th January by a 'butt-end' from Shannon Hope, then of Peterborough. This left him with a broken jaw in 3 places, four teeth missing & needing 35 stitches. Perhaps that's why Hope is not too popular with Lions fans - he did not receive a penalty for the incident!!

STEVE McCORMACK - 8 GOALS

Replaced Watson, the speedy skater from Minnesota never lived up to Watson's goalscoring exploits but saw Lions thru to the end of the season.

VESA PENNANEN - 0 GOALS

Will be remembered wherever his name is mentioned, spent the first season here playing without a wage & became part of the first 'Finnish Connection'. His outstanding play in the Lions nets won many games and followers singlehandedly recorded 2 shutouts and still holds the sequence league record. Memorable victories for the former IFK HELSINKI player were 3-2 & 7-6 over Nottingham Panthers and a 4-0 victory at Altrincham.

MARK STANCAMPIANO - 1 GOAL

Guested for Lions in the 7-6 victory at Nottingham after playing for part of the season at Altrincham, won the fans hearts with his 'Joe Cool' style, went on to work and get arrested in New York as a 'Rambo-Gram' - making 'News at ten' here!!!

1985/86

=====

JANNE LEHTI - 280 GOALS

Probably not one of the best 'defensive' defencemen, but could score goals at will, including 21 points in one game v Swindon. Signed from Finnish first division side Korhu Kissat, managed to score in every Lions game the second season he was here. Will be long remembered as simply 'the best'.

ARI ARVILA - 161 GOALS

Lightning quick forward, part of the Finnish Connection. Got all these goals in just 1 season, played for Finnish premier side Jokerit, another 'score at will' player who would play through injury to score goals. Returned to Finland and was last heard playing for Laki-Vantaa in Finland's third division.

1986/87

=====

JARI VIRTA 15 GOALS

Smiling Finn Virta came to replace Arvila but besides a first match thriller, never came good with the Lions, was released and transformed a lacking Oxford side, came back and guested for 1 game.

NEIL SHEA - 21 GOALS

Shea & Barron transformed the Lions, Shea who formerley played at Boston College, tried out for the New York Rangers and came to Britain after being sent down to Newhaven, they swept all before them until Shea was given a gross misconduct against Southampton and suspended for 8 games. He possessed a 7 inch skate scar across the back of his neck.

MIKE BARRON - 25 GOALS

Barron transformed from defender to attacker, found the net with ease, he went home when Shea was dismissed and after going into insurance went back to his former International League side in Indianapolis.

CHUCK SULLIVAN - 1 GOAL

Sullivan was a little small and played over 1 weekend as the Lions were left in a crisis, the likeable American returned home with a knee injury.

CHUCK BROOKS - 2 GOALS

Brooks played 2 games after coming over from Babson College in Boston, he was a defenceman trying to play forward and mustered 5 points from the two games.

BILL KIRK - 29 GOALS

After formerly starring with Glasgow he stepped in at short notice to show he could still find the net, he set up a record breaking partnership with Jak Bestle. The fiery Canadian had been involved in the infamous Glasgow walk-off at Lee Valley.

CORY GELMON - 1 GOAL

Former Richmond import and coach Gelmon slipped in to help Lions win a game v Blackpool. He went on to be Lions bench coach for a short time.

1987/88
=====

BARRY SMITH - 3 GOALS

Tough guy Smith popped in the goals for everybody but the Lions but certainly left his mark on people's noses! coming over here after playing for Erie and Mohawk Valley in the Atlantic Coast Hockey League.

DAVE HARDIE - 11 GOALS

Expert defensive - defenceman Hardie was good at the back and formed a good partnership with Jaro Lycka, but the former Colorado College Tigers defender had to return home injured after just a handful of games.

LOWELL McDONALD - 11 GOALS

McDonald was another hard worker but slightly small, his brother Lane was starring at the same time with the U.S. Olympic team and his father was a former N.H.L. player.

JAROSLAV LYCKA - 100 GOALS

A stalwart who personified dedication, having played at every level for his country, and premier side Dundee, Lycka showed excellent defensive skills as well as a devastating shot, well liked by all supporters a testimonial was held at Dundee before he returned home to Czechoslovakia to coach children.

TOMMI KIISKI - 4 GOALS

Kiiski played over 1 weekend, a former junior international in Finland, was sent over on loan until Jamalainen entered the scene. Kiiski had a great goalscoring ritual of shooting his glove that he threw up in the air.

JARMO JAMALAINEN - 13 GOALS

Another player who never lived to expectations, never settled and eventually went to France and then back to a top Finnish league side.

DOUG McEWEN - 216 GOALS

McEwen made a bad start to his Lions career by breaking his wrist, the flashy skater formerly with the Elliott Lake Vikings became Lions second highest goalscorer over 2 seasons after coming from Peterborough and then going on to Cardiff. His most memorable performance being his 9+2 against league champions Cardiff.

DAVE DUCHARME - 137 GOALS

Hard worker Ducharme came in at a crucial time to help the Lions and stayed the next season after things not working out at Nottingham, the Thunder Bay native became a prolific goalscorer after coming over with fine references from Colgate University.

CURRENT SEASON

=====

BRAD PRIEST - 0 GOALS

Priest had glowing credentials from USHL side in Sioux City but could never cope with the ice time and failed to score in his 2 games.

MIKE MOREE - 17 GOALS

Moree, whose family were of Hawaii origin impressed early on but tailed off, he had formerly played for the Penticton Knights.

KEVIN GRIFFIN - 16 GOALS

Tall sniper Griffin had previously been drafted by Chicago, he managed to pop in some goals but injury cut short his Lions career.

MARK BUDZ - 11 GOALS

Budz was hoping to become reclassified and the gritty forward's form deserted him in his 5th season in Britain.

GREG BISKUP - 3 GOALS

Biskup with his high work rate impressed but could not score enough, but has helped Trafford since moving north. Joined Lions from a spell in Holland.

DARRIN ZINGER - STILL CURRENT

Canadian defender Zinger had spells in this country with Slough & Streatham, but opted to go to Sweden, is still working hard on the Lions' blue line.

KURT WICKENHEISER - 63 GOALS

After playing in the IHL came to Britain and rescued Streatham, went on to rescue Richmond managed to keep them up before folding, left Lions in a blaze of publicity to play for Medway Bears.

LLOYD CLIFFORD - 0 GOALS

Clifford had played a friendly for the Lions before this season, and held Richmond in the league for many years, was close to Pennanen standard and excelled himself in the nets for his Lions games, as well as doing bench coach duties.

MARK HARDING - STILL CURRENT

Harding has played for Peterborough Titans, Streatham and Deeside before joining the Lions and has been putting the goals away with some regularity.

MIKE FAFARD - UP TO THIS SPELL WITH LIONS - 86 GOALS

French-Canadian, Fafard had a future in Montreal after trying out with the Canadiens opted to come to Britain and went to Dundee. Lions snatched him to play alongside Bill Kirk, then moved onto Solihull and Oxford, rejoined Lions with average of 9 points per game in Lions' colours.

NOTE :: If there are any other imports that you may know of that I have not mentioned, please let me know....

GOALIES EXPOSED AT MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

There seems to have been a spate of occurrences where the first shot of the game has gone in at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens this season. Wednesday 27th December saw the first three shots of the game go in as neither Peter Ing (Toronto) nor Greg Hanlon (Detroit) managed a save. Detroit thus went into a 2-1 lead by 4.42, the Leafs went 7-3 ahead by 35.28 but the Red Wings came back to force a 7-7 tie. Hanlon made the first save of the game.

When Montreal Canadiens visited on 9th December they gave rookie goalie Andre Racicot late notice that he would get the start and gave him very little cover. Racicot was beaten with the first two shots he faced and was pulled after the Habs went 3-0 down. Habs fans in the crowd roared their approval as Patrick Roy was sent on as replacement and he let in the first two shots he faced !

Philadelphia Flyers' Ron Hextall was forced to miss the first 12 games of the season arising from a suspension due his antics in a play-off game with Montreal last season. Hextall was also in dispute with his club and stayed away from training camp. He made his first appearance of the season in Toronto and was beaten by the first two shots he faced. Some luck was with him as after letting in the first shot, the second hit the inside of the post and rebounded out safely.

Dynamo Moscow - dare I say well remembered in London ice hockey circles for their games with the London Lions - played the Leafs on the last day of 1989. International Vladimir Mishkin did not get the start, instead it was Andrei Karpin who nearly fell down in trying to set up the puck behind his own net. He fell down, metaphorically speaking, when he let in the first two shots he faced but Dynamo skated off 7-4 winners.

I am sure a search through my files of game sheets would reveal a few more instances where at least one of the goalies got off to an undesired start. There lurks a suspicion of at least three more occurrences and I may end up checking up with the Leafs if the disease remains to get the definitive figures !