

Hi Y'All,

There's nothing like a win to start the season, and what a good win it was. Everyone chipped in with good performances. Special praise must go to the second and third lines for holding out under some intense pressure from the Nottingham first line. Yet again Vesa was.... well, Vesa! Also Jari had a promising debut, but I think for the majority of last week's game it was our British stars who really shone, Alastair Rodger in particular was good in defence and Eddie Joseph looking very sharp on the puck. So we sit on top of our group above Panthers and tonight's opponents the Big Bad Barons from Brum. So far they have had an indifferent start to the season, they have been obliterated outta sight by big spending rivals Telford Tigers home and away to the tune of 16-2 and 8-2. They were humbled too, but this one a bit more to be expected by Dave Stoyanovich inspired Fife 14-3 but the Barons have bounced back with two wins in succession, both one-goal wins, 7-6 over Peterborough and 8-7 against some team from over the water.. what's their bleedin' name.. oh! Streffam! (How do you feel Redskins.. Did you see us lose to the Barons at their place last season - No!'nuff said!) The Barons are reported to be having problems with their defence and are trying to strengthen it with the signings of two extremely talented British players as Alan Weeks would put it- Tony's brother Paul Hand and Paul Heavey both from Murrayfield.

Taking a look at the other teams we will be matched up against in the coming weeks, starting with Telford, they have signed up Dean "The Entertainer" Vogelgesang and pulled off a major coup by signing now-registered-as-British-Canuck.. Cal Land. I must admit looking at their import line-up scares me to death. They are our MAJOR threats in the race for the Premier Division.

On to Slough, who have the look of a fairly good first line but will the strength in depth carry them through- I think not, but they are no Sheffield and Zinger, Stefan, Howell, Rapley and Charlie Colon should do enough to win them quite a few points. Oxford too have signed an ex-Premier star in Mike Urquhart who threatened to take us apart when he last played against us in the Walker Cup match against the Panthers two years ago. My feeling about this is, a very good signing but unless the other two imports they eventually sign are up the same standard Oxford will do no better than occupy a mid-table position. For Medway this too will be a year for learning and feeling their way in the division very much like our first year in the division. They have quality imports who I think will do enough to ensure them a top five position. Peterborough too have signed two classy players in Garry Unger and Todd Bidner both ex-Premier and ex-NHL stars who both have excellent records for scoring hatfuls of goals, only a lack of a decent minder could stop them from from being right there in the shake-up for honours at the end of the season. I see them being real dangers along with Telford.

O.K. head on the block time. I know I said it's not my style to start making predictions but here goes with my six for the top: 1:Telford 2:Lee Valley 3:Peterborough 4:Kirkcaldy Kestrels 5:Medway Bears 6:Glasgow Eagles

Damn runners-up again but as I said that import line-up for the Tigers is so strong- I think too strong for any of the teams to match- we shall have to see!

Well tonight's game should be another cracker.. I wouldn't read too much into the Barons early results or our shallow win over them in the Division Trophy at the tail end of last season. I see another close game with no more than 2 or 3 goals between either team, hopefully it's us with our noses out in front.

Bye Y'All

Ronnie Cee.