

# THE SWAMP GAZETTE



Official Newsletter of the Florida Everblades Fan Club

**October 2011**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hockey Is Back!!!

Hockey is back and for some of us it's about time. I know a lot of us are going a little stir crazy this time of the year. I'm glad that we can get back to normal, forget about all the chores and projects around the house, get to having fun and watching hockey.

The fan club has been very busy over the summer getting ready for the new team and staff. I would like to thank Bubba Devan, Louise Festa and all the other members who have worked so hard over the summer getting things ready.

We even have a new newsletter editor. His name is Charlie and he is a transplant from the Cincinnati Cyclones. Let's help him in every way we can by getting our submissions in on time and we will be able to meet our commitment to all our corporate sponsors.

Our first team function is fast approaching and if you have not already joined, remember you cannot attend if your dues are not paid on time. We will be accepting applications at the 2 preseason games, so don't miss out.

I would like to wish our team the best for the upcoming season. I would also like to remind everyone that we will never turn down any request to help, so no matter how small your help might be, it is needed and appreciated.

Let's make this the best season ever for both the team and the club.

Go Blades

Doug Byington, President

Florida Everblades Fan Club

## Everblades Fan Club - Board &amp; Committee Chairs

\*10/14/11\*

Season 2011-2012

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## 2011-2012 ECHL Affiliations

		
Team	NHL Affiliate	AHL Affiliate
Alaska Aces	TBA	TBA
Bakersfield Condors	TBA	TBA
Chicago Express	Columbus	Springfield
Cincinnati Cyclones	Florida	San Antonio
	Nashville	Milwaukee
Colorado Eagles	TBA	TBA
Elmira Jackals	Anaheim	Syracuse
	Ottawa	Binghamton
Florida Everblades	Carolina	Charlotte
	Tampa Bay	Norfolk
Greenville Road Warriors	N.Y. Rangers	Connecticut
Gwinnett Gladiators	Phoenix	Portland
	Buffalo	Rochester
Idaho Steelheads	Dallas	Texas
Kalamazoo Wings	Vancouver	Chicago
	New Jersey	Albany
Las Vegas Wranglers	TBA	TBA
Ontario Reign	Los Angeles	Manchester
Reading Royals	Toronto	Toronto
	Boston	
South Carolina Stingrays	Washington	Hershey
Stockton Thunder	Edmonton	Oklahoma City

	San Jose	Worcester
Toledo Walleye	Chicago	Rockford
	Detroit	Grand Rapids
Trenton Titans	Philadelphia	Adirondack
Utah Grizzlies	Calgary	Abbotsford
Wheeling Nailers	Montreal	Hamilton
	Pittsburgh	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton

### **1988-89**

East Coast Hockey League formed with the Carolina Thunderbirds, Erie Panthers, Johnstown Chiefs, Knoxville Cherokees and Virginia Lancers.

Johnstown Chiefs and Virginia Lancers, both owned by Henry Brabham, and the Carolina Thunderbirds, owned by Bill Coffey, came from the All-American Hockey League which had four teams disband before playoffs in spring of 1988.

Bill Coffey sold Carolina Thunderbirds to John Baker.

Henry Brabham secured team in Erie and Brabham with Bill Coffey established team in Knoxville.

Official logo has the letters ECHL and five hockey sticks to represent the original five members.

Patrick J. Kelly is named first Commissioner of East Coast Hockey League. Kelly is also manager of the Lancerlot Sports Complex in Vinton, Va., home of the Virginia Lancers.

Commissioner Patrick J. Kelly suspends three Carolina Thunderbirds players prior to Game 7 of the Riley Cup Finals.

Teams played 60-game schedule.

Henry Brabham Cup presented to regular season champion.

Jack Riley Cup presented to postseason champion.

### **1989-90**

Greensboro Monarchs, Hampton Roads Admirals and Nashville Knights added, making the ECHL an eight-team league.

Carolina Thunderbirds renamed Winston-Salem Thunderbirds.

Teams played 60-game schedule.

Scott Gordon becomes first player to play in the National Hockey League after playing in the ECHL taking the ice for the Quebec Nordiques on Jan. 30, 1990.

Brian Martin of Hampton Roads becomes first player in professional hockey history to score three goals in three consecutive games.

### **1990-91**

Cincinnati Cyclones, Louisville IceHawks and Richmond Renegades added, making the ECHL an 11-team league.

Virginia Lancers renamed Roanoke Valley Rebels.

Teams divided into two divisions. East Division has Cincinnati, Greensboro, Knoxville, Louisville, Nashville and Winston-Salem. West Division has Erie, Hampton Roads, Johnstown, Richmond and Roanoke Valley.

League surpasses one million in attendance for first time.

Teams played 64-game schedule.

### **1991-92**

Columbus (Ohio) Chill, Dayton Bombers, Raleigh IceCaps and Toledo Storm added, making the ECHL a 15-team league. These teams join the East Division.

Teams played a 64-game schedule.

### **1992-93**

Cincinnati Cyclones transferred to Birmingham and renamed Birmingham Bulls. Winston-Salem Thunderbirds transferred to Wheeling and renamed Wheeling Thunderbirds. Roanoke Valley Rebels changed named to Roanoke Valley Rampage.

Teams played a 64-game schedule.

Birmingham and Hampton Roads play the longest shootout game in ECHL history on Oct. 16, 1992. Birmingham's 21st shooter scores to give Bulls 7-6 win.

First All-Star Game is played on Feb. 2, 1993 in Wheeling, W.Va.

Columbus (Ohio) Chill sells out all 32 home games and will sell out all 32 home games in 1993-94 en route to minor league hockey record streak of 83 consecutive sellouts.

### **1993-94**

Charlotte Checkers, Huntington Blizzard, Roanoke Express and South Carolina Stingrays added, making the ECHL a 19-team league. Roanoke Valley transferred to Huntsville and named Huntsville Blast.

Teams divided into three divisions. East Division has Charlotte, Greensboro, Hampton Roads, Raleigh, Richmond, Roanoke and South Carolina. North Division has Columbus, Dayton, Erie, Johnstown, Toledo and Wheeling. West Division has Birmingham, Huntington, Huntsville, Knoxville, Louisville and Nashville.

Teams played a 68-game schedule.

### **1994-95**

Huntsville transferred to Tallahassee and renamed Tallahassee Tiger Sharks. Louisville is granted a voluntary suspension for 1994-95, making ECHL an 18-team league.

Teams divided into three divisions. East Division has Charlotte, Greensboro, Hampton Roads, Raleigh, Richmond and Roanoke. North Division has Columbus, Dayton, Erie, Johnstown, Toledo and Wheeling. South Division has Birmingham, Huntington, Knoxville, Nashville, South Carolina and Tallahassee.

Teams played a 68-game schedule.

Goaltenders Manon Rheaume and Erin Whitten, the first two women in professional hockey, record their first wins.

Former Cincinnati defenseman Kevin Dean became first ECHL player to have name engraved on Stanley Cup as member of New Jersey Devils.

### **1995-96**

Louisville IceHawks transferred to Jacksonville and renamed Jacksonville Lizard Kings. Greensboro Monarchs return ECHL membership and join American Hockey League. Louisiana IceGators, Louisville RiverFrogs and Mobile Mysticks added, making ECHL a 21-team league.

Louisiana, Jacksonville and Mobile join South Division and Louisville joins North Division.

Teams played 70-game schedule.

Pat Pylypuik named general manager in Toledo, becoming the youngest GM in professional hockey history at 25 years old.

League web site launched.

League office relocated from Charlotte, N.C. to Princeton, N.J.

League launches ECHL Properties, the licensing and marketing arm of the ECHL.

League unveils new logo designed by NHL Enterprises, Inc. and announces national licensing program with NHL.

League executes its first Collective Bargaining Agreement with Professional Hockey Players' Association.

Richard W. Adams named President/CEO on June 1, 1996.

### **1996-97**

Erie transferred to Baton Rouge and renamed Baton Rouge Kingfish. Nashville transferred to Pensacola and renamed Pensacola Ice Pilots. Mississippi Sea Wolves and Peoria Rivermen added, making ECHL a 23-team league. Wheeling Thunderbirds change name to Wheeling Nailers.

Baton Rouge, Mississippi and Pensacola join South Division and Peoria joins North Division.

Teams played 70-game schedule.

Louisiana IceGators become first team in league history to draw more than 400,000 fans with 400,185.

ECHL surpasses four million mark in attendance for first time with 4,244,656.

South Carolina Stingrays become first team in league history to win regular season championship and postseason championship in same season.

Patrick J. Kelly Cup replaces Jack Riley Cup as trophy awarded to postseason champion.

Patrick J. Kelly named Commissioner Emeritus.

### **1997-98**

Knoxville transferred to Florence and renamed Pee Dee Pride. Chesapeake Icebreakers and New Orleans Brass added, making ECHL a 25-team league.

Teams divided into two conferences with two divisions in each conference. Northern Conference has Northeast Division and Northwest Division and Southern Conference has Southeast Division and Southwest Division. Northeast Division has Chesapeake, Hampton Roads, Johnstown, Richmond, Roanoke and Wheeling. Northwest Division has Columbus, Dayton, Huntington, Louisville, Peoria and Toledo. Southeast Division has Charlotte, Jacksonville, Pee Dee, Raleigh, South Carolina and Tallahassee. Southwest Division has Baton Rouge, Birmingham, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mobile, New Orleans and Pensacola.

Teams played a 70-game schedule.

Rookie of the Year will receive the John A. Daley Memorial Trophy.

NHL awards former Richmond goaltender Jamie McLennan the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy.

### **1998-99**

Raleigh transferred to Augusta and renamed Augusta Lynx. Louisville transferred to Miami and renamed Miami Matadors. Florida Everblades and Greenville Grrrowl added, making ECHL a 27-team league.

Augusta, Florida, Greenville and Miami join Southeast Division.

All-Star Game played in Biloxi, Mississippi and televised nationally on ESPN2.

Teams played a 70-game schedule.

### **1999-2000**

Chesapeake transferred to Jackson and renamed Jackson Bandits. Columbus and Miami granted voluntary suspension. Arkansas RiverBlades, Greensboro Generals and Trenton Titans added, making ECHL a 28-team league.

Arkansas and Jackson join Southwest Division. Greensboro and Trenton join Northeast Division. Charlotte moved from Southeast Division to Northeast Division. Johnstown moved from Northeast Division to Northwest Division. Tallahassee moved from Southwest Division to Southeast Division.

Teams played 70-game schedule.

Former Raleigh left wing Krzysztof Oliwa becomes second former ECHL player to have name engraved on Stanley Cup as member of New Jersey Devils.

NHL awards former Hampton Roads goaltender Olaf Kolzig the Vezina Trophy.

### **2000-01**

Hampton Roads, Huntington and Jacksonville granted voluntary suspension, making ECHL a 25-team league.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

Former Chesapeake and Wheeling goaltender David Aebischer and Richmond defenseman Nolan Pratt become third and fourth former ECHL players to have name engraved on Stanley Cup as members of Colorado Avalanche. First time multiple ECHL players have been on Stanley Cup champion.

### **2001-02**

Birmingham transferred to Atlantic City and renamed Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies. Miami transferred to Cincinnati and renamed Cincinnati Cyclones. Hampton Roads transferred to Columbus, Georgia and renamed Columbus Cottonmouths. Tallahassee relocated to Macon and renamed Macon Whoopee. Columbus, Ohio transferred to Reading and renamed Reading Royals. Columbia Inferno added, making ECHL a 29-team league.

Atlantic City and Reading join Northeast Division. Cincinnati joins Northwest Division. Columbia, Columbus and Macon join the Southeast Division.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

Former Richmond goaltender Manny Legace becomes fifth former ECHL player to have name engraved on Stanley Cup as member of Detroit Red Wings.

### **2002-03**

Macon transferred to Lexington and renamed Lexington Men O' War. Mobile and New Orleans granted voluntary suspension, making ECHL a 27-team league. Lexington joins Northwest Division.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

Brian McKenna named President/CEO.

Former Johnstown center Brett McLean becomes 200th player to play in the National Hockey League after playing in the ECHL when he made his debut with the Chicago Blackhawks on Dec. 10.

League name changed from East Coast Hockey League to ECHL on May 19.

Former Cincinnati goaltender Corey Schwab becomes sixth former ECHL player to have name engraved on Stanley Cup as member of New Jersey Devils.

### **2003-04**

Huntington transferred to Beaumont and renamed Texas Wildcatters and Mobile transferred to Duluth and renamed Gwinnett Gladiators. Pee Dee Pride changed name to Florence Pride. Arkansas and Jacksonville returned their ECHL memberships.

ECHL expands into western United States with the addition of expansion members Alaska Aces, Bakersfield Condors, Fresno Falcons, Idaho Steelheads, Las Vegas Wranglers, Long Beach Ice Dogs and San Diego Gulls, making ECHL a 31-team league that has a national presence.

Teams are divided into Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Eastern Conference has Northern Division and Southern Division. Western Conference has Central Division and Pacific Division. Northern Division has Atlantic City, Cincinnati, Dayton, Johnstown, Peoria, Reading, Toledo, Trenton and Wheeling. Southern Division has Charlotte, Columbia, Florence, Florida, Greensboro, Greenville, Roanoke and South Carolina. Central Division has Augusta, Columbus, Gwinnett, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pensacola and Texas. Pacific Division has Alaska, Bakersfield, Fresno, Idaho, Las Vegas, Long Beach and San Diego.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

ECHL is first professional league in North America to mandate protective visors.

Eastern Conference champion will receive E.A. "Bud" Gingher Memorial Trophy.

Western Conference champion will receive Bruce Taylor Trophy.

ECHL Coach of the Year will receive the John Brophy Award.

Las Vegas Wranglers host Bakersfield Condors in first-ever "Midnight Madness" game in professional hockey history.

League announces that, beginning in 2004-05, The Hockey Company will be the primary equipment supplier for players and officials.

Former Atlantic City goaltender Matt Yeats becomes 250th player to play in the National Hockey League after playing in the ECHL when he made his debut with the Washington Capitals on Mar. 23.

Former Trenton left wing Ruslan Fedotenko, former Richmond defenseman Nolan Pratt and former Charlotte left wing Andre Roy bring the number of former ECHL players who have their name engraved on the Stanley Cup to nine as members of Tampa Bay Lightning. Pratt becomes first former ECHL player to have his name engraved twice. Former Johnstown radio announcer Dave Mishkin and former Johnstown equipment manager Dana Heinze also get names engraved.

### **2004-05**

Baton Rouge transferred to Victoria and renamed Victoria Salmon Kings. Florence Pride changed name to Pee Dee Pride. Cincinnati and Columbus granted voluntary suspension and memberships in Greensboro, Louisiana and Roanoke are terminated while Richmond voluntarily returns its membership, making ECHL a 28-team league.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has East Division and South Division. National Conference has North Division and West Division. East Division has Augusta, Charlotte, Columbia, Greenville, Pee Dee and South Carolina. South Division has Florida, Gwinnett, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pensacola and Texas. North Division has Atlantic City, Dayton, Johnstown, Peoria, Reading, Toledo, Trenton and Wheeling. West Division has Alaska, Bakersfield, Fresno, Idaho, Las Vegas, Long Beach, San Diego and Victoria.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

American Conference champion will receive E.A. "Bud" Gingher Memorial Trophy.

National Conference champion will receive Bruce Taylor Trophy.

League announces referees and linesmen will wear numbers.

League welcomed 50 millionth fan on Mar. 11 when Carol Stewart of Biloxi, Miss. attended her first hockey game ever at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

Scott Gomez played for the Alaska Aces in his hometown of Anchorage during the NHL lockout and won league scoring title and was named Most Valuable Player.

### **2005-06**

Atlantic City transferred to Stockton and renamed Stockton Thunder, Bloomington transferred to Phoenix and renamed Phoenix RoadRunners and Lexington transferred to West Valley City and renamed Utah Grizzlies. Pee Dee granted voluntary suspension while Peoria joins American Hockey

League. Mississippi forced to cancel season because of Hurricane Katrina and Texas forced to cancel season because of Hurricane Rita, making ECHL a 25-team league.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has North Division and South Division. National Conference has Pacific Division and West Division. North Division has Dayton, Johnstown, Reading, Toledo, Trenton and Wheeling. South Division has Augusta, Charlotte, Columbia, Florida, Greenville, Gwinnett, Pensacola and South Carolina. Pacific Division has Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, San Diego and Stockton. West Division has Alaska, Idaho, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Utah and Victoria.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

All-Star Game played in Fresno, Calif. and broadcast nationally on OLN.

Former Charlotte defenseman David Liffiton becomes 300th player to play in the National Hockey League after playing in the ECHL when he made his debut with the New York Rangers on Apr. 11.

Alaska Aces become second team in league history to win regular season championship and postseason championship in same season.

Former Wheeling coach Peter Laviolette becomes first ECHL coach to have his name engraved on Stanley Cup as head coach of Carolina Hurricanes while Chad LaRose and Andrew Hutchinson bring total number of former ECHL players on historic trophy to 11. Former Johnstown athletic trainer Chris Stewart also has name engraved.

## **2006-07**

Greenville membership terminated and San Diego voluntarily returns membership. Cincinnati and Texas return from voluntary suspension, making ECHL a 25-team league.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has North Division and South Division. National Conference has Pacific Division and West Division. North Division has Cincinnati, Dayton, Johnstown, Reading, Toledo, Trenton and Wheeling. South Division has Augusta, Charlotte, Columbia, Florida, Gwinnett, Pensacola, South Carolina and Texas. Pacific Division has Bakersfield, Fresno, Las Vegas, Long Beach and Stockton. West Division has Alaska, Idaho, Phoenix, Utah and Victoria.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

All-Star Game played in Boise, Idaho and televised in over 31 million homes including being shown live for sixth year in a row on The NHL Network and NHL Center Ice.

For the seventh consecutive year the ECHL is represented on the Stanley Cup Champion with Anaheim assistant coach Dave Farrish, players Francois Beauchemin and George Parros and broadcasters John Ahlers and Steve Carroll. It is the second year in a row that a former ECHL coach is part of the NHL champion and the third consecutive year that there is more than one former ECHL player on the winning team. Farrish becomes the second former ECHL coach to have his name engraved on the historic trophy while Beauchemin and Parros are the 12th and 13th former ECHL players to have their name on the Stanley Cup.

## **2007-08**

Elmira granted expansion membership and Toledo granted voluntary suspension while new arena is built. Long Beach membership is terminated. Mississippi returns after missing two seasons in aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, making ECHL a 25-team league.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has North Division and South Division. National Conference has Pacific Division and West Division. North Division has Cincinnati, Dayton, Elmira, Johnstown, Reading, Trenton and Wheeling. South Division has Augusta, Charlotte, Columbia, Florida, Gwinnett, Mississippi, Pensacola, South Carolina and Texas. Pacific Division has Bakersfield, Fresno, Las Vegas and Stockton. West Division has Alaska, Idaho, Phoenix, Utah and Victoria.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

ECHL celebrated 20th Anniversary and is the third-longest tenured professional hockey league behind only the National Hockey League and the American Hockey League.

ECHL All-Star Game played in Stockton, Calif. and televised live nationally on NHL Network for seventh season in a row.

ECHL represented on Stanley Cup champion for eighth year in a row by Aaron Downey, who becomes the 14th former ECHL player to be a member of the Stanley Cup winner.

Former Mississippi and current Washington Capitals coach Bruce Boudreau is named the NHL Coach of the Year.

Twenty-six former ECHL players made their NHL debut, including six who played in both the ECHL and the NHL, raising the total number of players who have played in the NHL after the ECHL to 355, including 210 in the last seven seasons.

ECHL averaged over 4,000 for the fourth year in a row and the 16th time in the last 18 years while welcoming more than 3.75 million fans for the fifth straight season and the 11th time in the last 12 years.

Cincinnati won the Kelly Cup in front of an ECHL postseason record crowd of 12,722 at the 12,056-seat U.S. Bank Arena.

ECHL teams donated almost \$4 million to charitable organizations, including almost \$2 million in monetary contributions.

## **2008-09**

Texas transferred to Ontario and renamed Ontario Reign and Columbia granted a voluntary suspension. Pensacola membership is terminated.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has North Division and South Division. National Conference has Pacific Division and West Division. North

Division has Cincinnati, Dayton, Elmira, Johnstown, Reading, Trenton and Wheeling. South Division has Augusta, Charlotte, Florida, Gwinnett, Mississippi and South Carolina. Pacific Division has Bakersfield, Fresno, Las Vegas, Ontario and Stockton. West Division has Alaska, Idaho, Phoenix, Utah and Victoria.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

ECHL All-Star Game played in Reading, Pa. and televised live nationally for eighth season in a row.

ECHL represented on Stanley Cup champion for ninth year in a row by Pittsburgh Penguins head coach Dan Bylsma, player Ruslan Fedotenko, equipment managers Dana Heinze and Dave Zeigler, athletic trainers Chris Stewart and Scott Adams and scout Derek Clancey.

Former ECHL and current Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas received the Vezina Trophy as the top goaltender in the National Hockey League and was also presented the William Jennings Trophy with teammate Manny Fernandez as the goaltenders finishing the season having surrendered the fewest goals.

Record 52 former ECHL players played their first NHL game, including eight who played in both the ECHL and the NHL, raising the total number of players who have played in the NHL after the ECHL to 407 including 151 in the last four seasons.

For the second year in a row the ECHL was the only minor professional hockey league to increase its attendance averaging 4,258 per game which is the highest average since 2005-06 and the second-highest average in the last eight seasons. ECHL averaged over 4,000 fans for fifth consecutive season and the 17th time in the last 19 years and drew more than 3 million fans for the 16th year in a row and reached the 3 million mark in the fewest number of games since 2005-06.

South Carolina won record third Kelly Cup championship beating the Alaska Aces 4-2 in Game 7 in front of a standing-room-only crowd of 6,610 at Sullivan Arena in Anchorage, Alaska. Stingrays won the coveted trophy the first time it was presented in 1997 and again in 2001 when they became the first two-time winner. South Carolina coach Jared Bednar is first player or coach to have his name engraved on the trophy three times as he was a player in 1997 and 2001. Games 5 and 7 of the Finals were televised live on B2 Television and available in 33 million households in over 125 markets.

ECHL teams donated more than \$3.4 million to charitable organizations including over \$1.7 in monetary contributions. Teams have contributed over \$12.5 million to charity in the last four seasons.

### **2009-10**

Toledo returned after a two-year voluntary suspension while the Lucas County Downtown Arena was built and Kalamazoo was granted an expansion membership. Dayton, Mississippi, Myrtle Beach and Phoenix relinquish their memberships.

Teams are divided into American Conference and National Conference. American Conference has East Division, North Division and South Division. National Conference has Pacific Division and West Division. East Division has Elmira Jackals, Johnstown Chiefs, Reading Royals and Trenton Devils. North Division has Cincinnati Cyclones, Kalamazoo Wings, Toledo Walleye and Wheeling Nailers.

South Division has Charlotte Checkers, Florida Everblades, Gwinnett Gladiators and South Carolina Stingrays. Pacific Division has Bakersfield Condors, Las Vegas Wranglers, Ontario Reign and Stockton Thunder. West Division has Alaska Aces, Idaho Steelheads, Utah Grizzlies and Victoria Salmon Kings.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

All-Star Game played in Ontario, Calif. and televised live nationally for the ninth season in a row.

ECHL represented on Stanley Cup champion for 10th year in a row by Chicago Blackhawks assistant coaches Mike Haviland and John Torchetti, developmental goaltending coach Wade Flaherty, senior director of hockey administration Al MacIsaac, general manager of minor league affiliations Mark Bernard and scout Ryan Stewart.

Thirty-five former ECHL players played their first NHL game, including five who played in both the ECHL and the NHL, raising the total number of players who have played in the NHL after the ECHL to 443 including 186 in the last five seasons.

For the third year in a row, the ECHL increased its attendance averaging 4,485 per game which is the highest average since the 1999-2000 season and the second-highest average in the last 11 years. The ECHL averaged over 4,000 fans for the sixth consecutive season and the 18th time in the last 20 years and drew more than 3 million fans for the 17th year in a row.

Cincinnati won its second Kelly Cup championship in three years, beating the Idaho Steelheads 2-1 in Game 5 in front of a standing-room only 13,438 fans at U.S. Bank Arena in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cyclones made history during the American Conference Finals, becoming the first team in ECHL history to come back from a 3-0 series deficit to take the American Conference title from the Reading Royals.

ECHL teams donated more than \$3.6 million to charitable organizations including over \$1 million in monetary contributions. Teams have contributed over \$16.1 million to charity in the last five seasons.

## **2010-11**

Johnstown relocated to Greenville and renamed the Greenville Road Warriors while Charlotte joins American Hockey League.

Teams are divided into Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Eastern Conference has Atlantic Division, North Division and South Division. Western Conference has Pacific Division and Mountain Division. Atlantic Division has Elmira Jackals, Reading Royals and Trenton Devils. North Division has Cincinnati Cyclones, Kalamazoo Wings, Toledo Walleye and Wheeling Nailers. South Division has Florida Everblades, Greenville Road Warriors, Gwinnett Gladiators and South Carolina Stingrays. Pacific Division has Bakersfield Condors, Las Vegas Wranglers, Ontario Reign and Stockton Thunder. Mountain Division has Alaska Aces, Idaho Steelheads, Utah Grizzlies and Victoria Salmon Kings.

Teams played a 72-game schedule.

All-Star Game played in Bakersfield, Calif. and televised nationally for the tenth season in a row.

Former Hampton Roads left wing Andrew Brunette became the first ECHL alum to play in 1,000 NHL games when he reached the milestone with the Minnesota Wild on Feb. 1.

Alaska Aces right wing Wes Goldie becomes just seventh player in ECHL history to reach 300-goal plateau and the fifth player to play in at least 600 games.

ECHL represented on the Stanley Cup champion for 11th year in a row by Boston Bruins assistant coach Geoff Ward, players Rich Peverley, Michel Ryder and Tim Thomas, scout Tom McVie and radio broadcaster Dave Goucher. Thomas becomes first ECHL alum to win Conn Smythe Award as Most Valuable Player of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Thomas also was awarded the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender marking the second time he has won the award in the last three seasons.

Former ECHL player and current Pittsburgh Penguins head coach Dan Bylsma wins Jack Adams Award as NHL Coach of the Year.

Twenty-three former ECHL players played their first NHL game, including three who played in both the ECHL and NHL, bringing the total number of players who have played in the NHL after the ECHL to 467, including 211 in the last five seasons.

The ECHL averages 4,339 fans per game, marking the seventh consecutive season and the 19th time in the last 21 years that the ECHL has averaged more than 4,000 per game.

Alaska won its second Kelly Cup championship beating the Kalamazoo Wings 4 games to 1. The Aces become the fourth team in ECHL history to win the Brabham Cup and Kelly Cup in the same season.

ECHL teams donated more than \$3.6 million to charitable organizations including over \$1.3 million in monetary contributions. Teams have contributed over \$20 million in the last six seasons.

## **2011-12**

Chicago and Colorado granted expansion memberships while Victoria withdraws from the league making ECHL a 20-team league.

Teams are divided into Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Eastern Conference has Atlantic Division, North Division and South Division. Western Conference has Pacific Division and Mountain Division. Atlantic Division has Elmira Jackals, Reading Royals, Trenton Titans and Wheeling Nailers. North Division has Chicago Express, Cincinnati Cyclones, Kalamazoo Wings and Toledo Walleye. South Division has Florida Everblades, Greenville Road Warriors, Gwinnett Gladiators and South Carolina Stingrays. Pacific Division has Bakersfield Condors, Las Vegas Wranglers, Ontario Reign and Stockton Thunder. Mountain Division has Alaska Aces, Colorado Eagles, Idaho Steelheads and Utah Grizzlies.

Teams will play a 72-game schedule.

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## Florida Everblades Fan Club Mission Statement

“We, the members of the Florida Everblades Fan Club, are committed to act in a professional manner, as a booster organization, in supporting all efforts for the promotion of professional hockey in Southwest Florida. The objectives of the Fan Club are to have fun, along with providing a forum for hockey enthusiasts to exchange ideas and have opportunities to enjoy the game of hockey. Furthermore, the Fan Club will provide support for the members of the Florida Everblades hockey team and their families.”

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# YOUR FAN CLUB (BEHIND THE SCENES)

Every year we make up Welcome Baskets. These are given to the players after the Pre-Season games. They help the players with staple food expenses till they get settled into their apartments.

Below is just an example of what is put into each basket. A majority of these items are donated by Fan Club Members and Fan Club Corporate Sponsors.

**We will be making 16 baskets this year. Items to be collected:**

Slim Jims – 6 per basket, total of 96

Macaroni & Cheese – 3 per, total 48

Popcorn – 4 bags per, total 64

Tuna fish, canned – 3 cans per, total 48

Chicken, canned – 2 cans per, total 32

Spaghetti – 2 boxes per, total 32

Spaghetti sauce – 1 jar per, total 16

Rice – small packages, 1 per, total 16

Peanut butter – 1 jar per, total 16

Jelly/Jam – 1 jar per, total 16

Peanut Butter crackers – 6 per, total 96

Ketchup, mustard, relish (Costco has “3pack”) 1 pkg per, total 16 pkgs

(make a “joint effort”, as they are costly)

Mayo – 1 jar per, total 16

Crackers (ex: club, triskets, town house, or saltines) 1 box per, total 16

Ramen noodles – 6 per, total 96 –

Fruit cups – 6 per, total 96 –

Salt & pepper – 1 set per, total 16 –

Canned Soup – 2 each per basket (chicken noodle, tomato)

    Total 32 per kind:    chicken noodle

tomato

Cooking spray – 1 can per, total 16

Canned veggies – 2 each per basket (green beans, corn, peas, baked beans)

Total 32 per kind: Green Beans

Peas

Corn

Baked Beans

Dish soap – 1 bottle per, total 16 –

Dishwasher detergent – 2 tabs per, total 32

Laundry soap – 1 bottle per, total 16

Paper towels – 2 rolls per, total 32 –

Toilet tissue – 4 rolls per, total 64 –

Bottled water – unlimited amount needed

**By others:**

Sports drinks – unlimited amount needed - WILL PURCHASE w/DONATION \$\$

Toilet bowl cleaner tabs & Tub/bathroom cleaner –will purchase w/donation \$

**Monetary donations:**

**If you would like to donate items please reply via email to**

**both Bubba ([bdevan6044@hotmail.com](mailto:bdevan6044@hotmail.com)) & Louise ([louisef@nec247.com](mailto:louisef@nec247.com))**

**or phone Louise @ 825-4205. THANK YOU for your support. ☺**

## *Q&A With : Gary MacNeil.....*

I recently had a chat with Gary MacNeil; here's what he had to say:

Q- How long have you been doing a fan bus trip to away games?

A- STARTED DOING BUS TRIPS IN TOLEDO OHIO, BACK IN THE 70'S. MOVED TO FLORIDA IN 83, NO HOCKEY UNTIL 98, FROM THERE TO THE PRESENT HAVE DONE 10 TRIPS. MISSED A COUPLE OF YEARS DUE TO THE ECONOMY. WENT TO MISSISSIPPI TWICE, GWINNETT TWICE, SC. ONCE. WENT TO TALLAHASSEE, JACKSONVILLE, PENSACOLA AND MIAMI .

Q- What is the most difficult task in planning a road trip to an away ECHL barn?

A- GETTING FANS TO SIGN UP AND COMMITTING ON GOING. IT WAS A TASK IN FLORIDA IN THE BEGINNING. I REMEMBER IN OUR SECOND YEAR, HAD 50 PEOPLE SIGNED UP THROUGH THE BOOSTER CLUB IN FLORIDA. ORDERED BUS AND THEN FANS DROPPED OUT. HAD A 52 PASSENGER BUS, AND ONLY 14 WENT. SO FROM THAT POINT I TOOK OVER DOING THE TRIPS ON MY OWN.

I HAD TO PUT IN A NON-DEPOSIT REFUND, AS I PAID FOR BUS, TICKETS, ECT.

Q- What is your favorite thing about the sport of ice hockey?

A- MY FAVORITE PART OF ICE HOCKEY IS THE EXCITEMENT THAT IT BRINGS TO THE FANS AND TO MYSELF, IT IS THE BEST SPORT TODAY. I'M NOT A BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL FAN. MY FRIEND IN TOLEDO INTRODUCED ME TO HOCKEY, THE NEXT DAY I WAS A SEASON TICKET HOLDER AND GOT INVOLVED IN THE BOOSTER CLUB, AND THAT CARRIED ON TO DO BUS TRIPS.

Q- You went to all 36 away games during the 2010-2011 regular season. What was that like as a fan?

A- IT WAS AMAZING AND WONDERFUL. LIVING OUT OF A SUIT CASE FOR 7 MONTHS. GOING FROM WARM WEATHER TO THE ELEMENTS OF ICE STORM, SNOW IN KALAMAZOO AND FREEZING TEMPS IN CINCINNATI. MEETING GREAT FANS IN ALL THE ARENA'S, AND EVERY ARENA HAS A GARYGOBLADES IN HIS/HER ATTIRE.

ICE STORM IN ATLANTA WAS THE CRAZIEST AS CHUCK AND I FOLLOWED THREE SNOWPLOWS OR SAND TRUCKS TO THE ARENA. MOVED THE GAME FROM 7PM TO 5PM THAT DAY. 100 FANS IN THE STAND AND TWO OF THOSE WAS CHUCK AND MYSELF. KEVIN REITER SAYING CHUCK AND GARYGOBLADES ARE IN THE STANDS.

FANS OF MANY ARENAS BUYING MY TICKETS TO THE GAMES, AND A KALAMAZOO EMPLOYEE BUYING MY SUPPER THAT NIGHT IN THERE SPORTS BAR. WHEN I WENT TO PAY MY BILL, WAITRESS SAID IT WAS PAID FOR.

Q- Where is the bus trip to this year?

A- THIS YEAR THE TRIP TAKES US TO NORTH CHARLESTON, FEB 10-13TH. WE WERE SCHEDULED TO GO TO GWINNETT ON FRIDAY. THAT GAME WAS CHANGED TO THURSDAY. SO WE ARE GOING INTO CHARLESTON ON FRIDAY NIGHT. SOME FANS ARE GOING TO THE GHOST WALK IN CHARLESTON, AND OTHERS ARE GOING TO SEE THE NEW FRANCHISE, CHICAGO EXPRESS AND STINGGRAYS ON FRI. NIGHT.

SAT. THE GROUP WILL BE GOING DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON, AND SUNDAY LOOKING INTO A BBQ WITH THE BOOSTERS OF THE STRINGGRAYS.

I HAVE 2 POSSIBLE, 3 SEATS AVAILABLE ON BUS. SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED SEE GARYGOBLADES TO SIGN UP.

Thank you for taking the time to complete a chat for the Florida Everblades Fan Club Newsletter!!!!

**Fan Club Events: 2011-2012**

**1. Meet N Greet - Sunday 10/16/11 afternoon, usually from 2pm – 5pm**

**Place: Fountain Lakes Community Center off Rt41 near Coconut Point Mall**

**Time: 2 – 5 pm for players, setup @ 12:30 (approx), and cleanup immediately after**

**Chairperson: Carol Grubbs & Joyce Rakoski**

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> player event will be the MEET N GREET, a spaghetti dinner .....**

**WHEN: Sunday 10/16/11 2pm – 5pm**

**WHERE: Fountain Lakes Community Center**

**Fountain Lakes Blvd off Rt. 41, Estero (on the west side of Rt 41)**

**Just north of Coconut Point Mall and south of Corkscrew Rd**

**TIME: 2 – 5 pm for the players,**

**Setup @ 12:30 (approx), and cleanup immediately after**

**Chairperson: Carol Grubbs & Joyce Rakoski**

**You will need to RSVP**

**If you are attending the event we ask that you either bring a food dish or drinks, or if you prefer a monetary donation to cover costs incurred for plates, napkins, utensils, garlic bread, and drinks that are not supplied.**

**Carol & Joyce will be keeping the food list and overseeing this event ... the sauces (meatless, beef & turkey) are being donated by Bubba & Karen and Bubba's Pressure Washing, one of our corporate sponsors.**

**As always we will need plenty of salads w/dressings, appetizers, and desserts.**

**Please RSVP to Bubba ([bdevan6044@hotmail.com](mailto:bdevan6044@hotmail.com)) with attendance information and food contribution.**

**Monetary donations need to go direct to Bubba (994-4499) as he will purchase noted items. We will need members to help set-up and clean-up..... get with Carol or Joyce if you are able to help.**

**NOTE:** *Our events are for current members only.*

*If you have not renewed your membership prior to the Meet N Greet you need to do so now so you can attend our events and be a part of “the team behind the team” !!!*

**Christmas Party** – Sun 12/11 place to be determined, time to be confirmed ... should be approx 2-6 PM

Chairs: Suzanna Navarro [ocraluvr24@aol.com](mailto:ocraluvr24@aol.com) 404-1997 cell  
Louise Festa [louisef@nec247.com](mailto:louisef@nec247.com) 825-4205 cell

Need location .... Anyone with ideas for “clubhouse” “community center” etc, etc that has kitchen facilities & can bring “own” food, please contact Louise or Suzanna!!

**Children’s Christmas Party** - Monday 12/19 at “Pump It Up” Ft Myers 5:30-8:30pm

Chairs: Belinda Hanley [starkeaton@aol.com](mailto:starkeaton@aol.com) 567-2095 – H ;  
851-0871 cell

Stephanie Spagnuolo [paci48@hotmail.com](mailto:paci48@hotmail.com) 671-1738 cell

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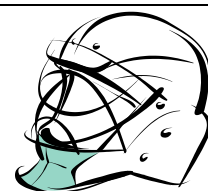
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Look for news coming on new and improved attendance and assistance contest. The more you help the more you may win.

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The Florida Everblades Fan Club would like to thank all of our sponsors for their assistance in helping us provide for the team. To show our appreciation we highly encourage all members to patronize these outstanding sponsors for the 2011-2012 Florida Everblades Hockey season.

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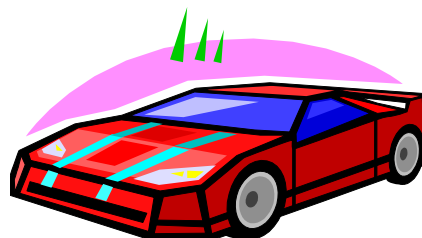
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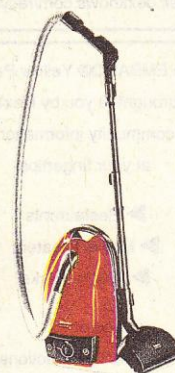
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If anyone has any suggestion on helping make this Florida Everblades Fan Club Newsletter EVEN BETTER; shoot an email to Charlie:

[everbladesnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:everbladesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

### About Charlie

I am excited to be in SW Florida. I am attending Edison State College in Ft. Myers, studying business administration and management and working at JC Penney! I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a Cyclones and Blades fan. I think the Blades can win the Kelly Cup this year with all of the on-ice and off-ice support team we have here!! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make this newsletter better.....GO BLADES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DROP THE PUCK ALREADY,

Charlie Vonderhaar