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Former President’s Message by Rick McDonald

The regular season is winding down and as of this writing it is uncertain as to whether the Falcons will be going to the playoffs. The Falcons have been a very exciting team to watch this year despite their position in the standings. This was a year of injuries with over a half a dozen season ending injuries between the Edmonton Oilers and the Falcons. Nevertheless, both of these teams are currently competing for the last playoff spot through hard work and determination.

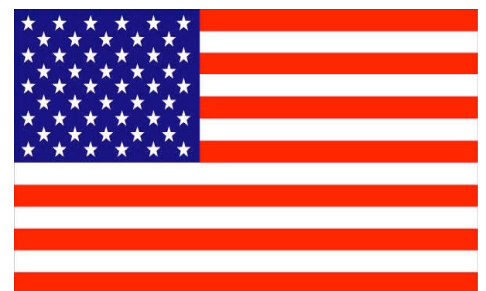
We are still looking for nominations for the positions of President and Secretary of the Booster Club. If any is interested in either of these positions, please see any of the executive board members. Nominations will be accepted until the close of the April membership meeting.

One more note, On behalf of the Booster Club Executive Board, I want to thank everyone who marched in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, the people who made the pizza party such a success, and to Carole Appleton who took time to speak at last month’s Booster Club meeting. Thanks again, and see you at the games!

“Let us not forget”

April Meeting

Our March general membership meeting will be held at the Mass Mutual Center Club Room on Saturday **April 12, 2007 at 5:00 PM**. We hope to see you all there!



2007 – 2008 Executive Board

If you would like to contact any member of the Executive Board, you can by the following telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses:

President: Rick McDonald	mcdonro@charter.net
Vice President: Ruth Atwell	jdatwell@snet.net
Treasurer: Mickey Kober	spfldblkdog@verizon.net
Secretary: Dan Zglobicki	danzyl@charter.net
Social: Ann Harter	qharter@hotmail.com
Sunshine: Lorraine Bell	No Email address
Trips: Les Kimball	Sportsdad1715@msn.com
Broomball: Scott Mixer	mixterboyz@yahoo.com
Ways and Means: Ron Brault	Falcon490@aol.com
Membership: Ruth Atwell	jdatwell@snet.net
Trophies and Awards: Ron Brault	Falcon490@aol.com
Newsletter: Rick McDonald	mcdonro@charter.net
Webmaster: Rick Josefek	rjosefek@charter.net
Scholarship: TBD	No Email address

April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Booster Club Members:

4/3 John Bober	4/12 Mark Haryasz Jr.	4/19 Dan Zglobicki	4/25 Steve Krupczak
4/10 Barbara Meunier	4/14 Deb Bourque	4/20 Rodney Hager	4/28 Andrea Kimball
4/11 Dave Laczynski	4/14 James Taylor	4/23 Steve Martin	4/29 Jessica Kaeding

Happy Birthday to Springfield Falcons Players

4/10 Tyler Spurgeon (Springfield Falcons)
4/24 Geoff Paukovich (Stockton Thunder)
4/25 Glenn Fisher (Stockton Thunder)
4/29 Jean Francois-Jacques (Springfield Falcons)

**Please visit the Springfield Falcons
Web site for information at
<http://www.spfldfalconsboosters.com>.**



Newsletter Information

Do you have a message you would like put in the newsletter? If you know of someone who is suffering from illness or has experienced a death in the family, engagement/wedding, or has a new birth to report, or if you would like to write an article for the newsletter regarding a Booster Club event (such as trips, parties, conventions, etc) or something related to the Springfield Falcons, please email your information to Rick McDonald. His email address is mcdonro@charter.net.

Hockey Happenings

From one month to another there always seems to be many plays, incidents, or goals that are met, and the month of March was without a doubt a month where some very extraordinary events took place in the world of hockey both on and off the ice. Let's start with NHL playoff races. The Edmonton Oilers were all but written off two months ago as few believed they had a chance to make the playoffs. That was before they went 13 – 4 – 1 over the past 18 games and open the eyes of all opposing teams along the way. As of press time, they need to win both of their games that remain, Vancouver would have to lose one of their games, and the Nashville Predators would have to lose two of their remaining four games. It is a tight race and they certainly cannot be counted out. Another playoff race is by the Washington Capitals. They started out the year with a dismal record of 6 – 14 – 1 under head coach Glen Hanlon before he was fired and in came Bruce Boudreau, who this writer has called “the Scotty Bowman of the AHL” for years. Under Boudreau, the Caps have a record 34 – 17 – 7 and are currently only three points out of a playoff spot with three games remaining. The topic in the bizarre category this past month occurred on March 4th in a WHL game where the Seattle Thunderbirds were visiting the Prince George. In this game Los Angeles Kings prospect Bud Holloway went in on a breakaway and when the Prince George goaltender stopped the puck he slid into the goal with the puck and after the two referees and two linesmen got together with the goal judge, the play was correctly ruled a goal...or at least some thought it was a correct ruling. The goal judge apparently did not and left his place as the goal judge. The rest of the game (over 15 minutes of play) was played with no goal judge and a child sitting in the seat for some of the time. Speaking of junior hockey another bizarre event took place when Quebec Remparts goaltender Jonathan Roy (son of Patrick Roy) beat on Chicoutimi Saguenéens goaltender Bobby Nadeau. Nadeau was a non-willing participant and Roy continued to beat on him while Nadeau was down. Roy was suspended for seven games as a result of his actions and the elder Roy was suspended for five for encouraging the fight to occur. In a more serious issue that occurred with the Stockton Thunder of the ECHL left winger Pat Bateman, who was signed by the Edmonton Oilers to an AHL contract last August, attacked one of his four roommates resulting in defenseman Ryan Geris sustaining a season ending concussion. Bateman was immediately suspended (officially by the Springfield Falcons since he was under AHL contract) for the remainder of the season. Edmonton Oilers first round draft pick Andrew Cogliano set an NHL record earlier this month when he scored overtime goals in three consecutive games. He has donated the hockey stick and gloves that were used in that game. Newsflash courtesy of boltsprospects.com: “Here's something you might not know: Norfolk (Admirals) has a winning record at home this season at 15-13-1-2 on the season. Unfortunately, they happen to be 14 games under .500 on the road. In any event, the point is clear: even in a down year The Scope is not a hospitable place to visit if you're an opposing team.”

Falcons News

The most important thing to talk about this month is TICKETS, TICKETS, AND TICKETS! The Falcons are currently trying to increase their season ticket base By 500 and as of press time they were between 260 and 300 tickets sold. This is A critical time in Springfield hockey and if people are interested in keeping the Team here in Springfield, they need to show their support. Below is a chart Indicating prices for the upcoming season. If you or you know anyone interested in purchasing one of the packages, please call the Falcons office at 413-739-3344.



Season Tickets

The 2008 – 2009 season ticket packages have been recently announced. Deposits of \$50.00 are required prior to May 1st to reserve seat location for the upcoming season. If you know of anyone who might be interested in purchasing a season ticket, please make a copy of this newsletter or they can contact the Falcons office at (413) 739-3344 and they would be happy to assist and answer any questions. Season tickets must be paid in full by August 29, 2008. The following table provides prices for the 2007 – 2008 season.

2008 – 2009 Season Ticket Packages			
Ticket Package	Adults	Seniors (62 and over)	Youth (17 and under) and Students with I.D.
Full Season	\$440	\$370	\$300
Half Season	\$240	\$195	\$165
12 Game Plan	\$156	\$120	\$105
6 Game Plan	\$81	\$61.50	\$56
40 Game Flex Pack	\$470	\$380	\$310
10 Game Flex Pack	\$140	\$105	\$92.50
Grand Plan	\$1000 Plan includes 100 Flex vouchers		
Premium Seat	Call Springfield Falcons office at 413-739-3344		
Premium Pass	Call Springfield Falcons office at 413-739-3344		

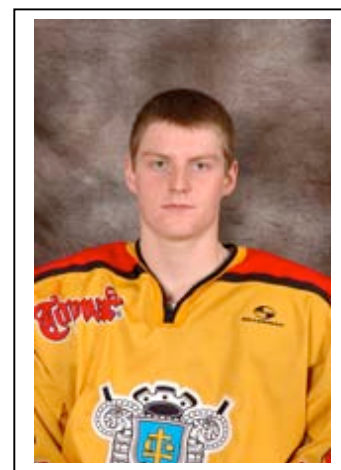
Transaction Report:

3/5 Edmonton Oilers recalled Center Marc Pouliott from Springfield.

- 3/6** Edmonton Oilers recalled Defenseman Theo Peckham from Springfield.
- 3/8** Edmonton Oilers assigned Defenseman Theo Peckham to Springfield.
- 3/10** Springfield Falcons signed Center Ryan Garlock to a Professional Try Out.
- 3/13** Springfield Falcons signed Forward Tommy Goebel to an Amateur Try Out.
- 3/13** Springfield Falcons assigned Center Les Reaney to the Stockton Thunder of the ECHL.
- 3/18** Springfield Falcons signed Cody Wild to an Amateur Try Out.
- 3/20** Springfield Falcons released Forward Tommy Goebel from his Amateur Try Out.
- 3/24** Springfield Falcons released Center Ryan Garlock from his Professional Try Out.
- 3/24** Springfield Falcons released Defenseman Kenny Smith from his Professional Try Out.
- 3/25** Edmonton Oilers recalled Goaltender Jeff Deslauriers from Springfield.
- 3/26** Springfield Falcons signed Defenseman Harlan Anderson to an Amateur Try Out.
- 3/26** Springfield Falcons signed Forward Bryan Ewing to an Amateur Try Out.
- 3/27** Springfield Falcons recalled Goaltender Glenn Fisher from Stockton of the ECHL.

Within the Organization

This month's focus for the "Within the Organization" section of this newsletter turns to the Western Hockey League. On June 25th it was reported through a Springfield Falcons Newsletter Extra that the Edmonton Oilers had selected Milan Kytnár in the 5th round 127th overall. The report indicated Kytnar was a two way center with scoring ability and could be very physical whereas Hockey Future indicated he could be more aggressive. After personally observing Kytnar in one regular season game and three playoff games, and with the help of former Springfield Indians defenseman and current assistant coach of the Kelowna Rockets Jeff Finley where Kytnar played this season, the following update can be reported. Kytnar has been playing on the third line at the center position. He did not particularly show the scoring ability mentioned last June netting nine goals and adding 13 helpers, but he definitely shows hard work, two way play, and is very tough for a European rookie. One of the facts Finley pointed out prior to game five of the first round playoff series with the Seattle Thunderbirds was he is a good face off man. The proved to be very true in game five as he won eight out of nine face offs. Kytnar was one of five rookies this season for the Kelowna Rockets and if he continues to develop as he did this season, he should come to be a strong contributor in a Springfield Falcons uniform.



Booster Club News

Booster Club Logo Embroidery

Ann Harter has reported recently that she has found a contact enabling Booster Club members to have the garment of their choice embroidered with our Springfield Falcons Booster Club logo for only \$15.00. If you are interested in this opportunity, simply contact Ann Harter via email at gharter@hotmail.com and she will be happy to provide necessary information.

Pizza Party Pictures Posted On Web Site

Have you taken time to visit our web site recently? Rick Josefek continues to do an outstanding job posting information up as he receives it and recent updates include pictures from the pizza party with the players that was held on March 16th. One can easily see that everyone had a good time by looking at these pictures. For those of you who may not be familiar with our web site, here is the link: <http://www.spfldfalconsboosters.com>. Many thanks go out to Rick for taking on the responsibility of Webmaster of the site.

Nominations Being Accepted

There are two positions opening up on the Springfield Falcons Booster Club Executive Board. These are the positions of the President and Secretary. Some may be thinking about how we recently elected a new President, but the election of Kim Mathieu was an interim position taking over for Rick McDonald who was moved out of state. If you are interested in these important positions, please see Ruth Atwell at the Booster Club tables.

Westfield High School Wins State Championship With Late Goal

People who follow high school hockey often try to predict what teams might come out on top by season end. This season was no different as there were differing thoughts as to who would finish at the top of the Berry Division, the Western Mass Division III Championship and also who would win the Division III State Title. Some believed Minnechaug would be the ones to beat whereas others though this could be the year for East Longmeadow, but most believed it would be a fight between Longmeadow and Westfield. As it turned out, Westfield would win not only the Berry Division, but also took home the Western Mass. as well as the state titles. Throughout the season Westfield had produced a lot of points by Rich Asselin, Corey Bellamy, and Sean Frere who combined for a total of 77 points throughout the season and were three of the top seven scorers in the Berry Division. That was the regular season and when it comes to tournament time, things often turn out quite differently. This season Ryan Leonard and Dan Ross, who combined for 20 points during the regular season would come to make a significant difference. It all started with Leonard getting the game winner when the Westfield Bombers knocked off the Longmeadow Lancers by a 2 – 1 count. The bombers then went on to the state semi-final competition facing Gardner. In this match up it was Dan Ross connecting for two goals before feeding Sean Frere, son of former Springfield Indians forward Marcel Frere, for a break away goal as the Bombers overpowered the Gardner Wildcats by a score of 3 – 2. This would set up a rematch between the Bombers and the Scituate Sailors who lost to the Sailors 1 – 0 last year.

This game was tight throughout the contest with Westfield getting off to an early lead just 29 seconds into the game. Scituate then tied the game with under a minute remaining in the second period setting the stage for a very exciting finish. The two teams traded goals during the third period and it looked as if they were heading to overtime, but with about a minute remaining in regulation, the Bombers broke up a Sailors attack. The Bombers defenseman spotted Ryan Leonard along the defensive boards getting the puck to him who shuffled the disk on to Sean Frere. Frere and Leonard raced up the ice with impressive speed and as Frere took the puck into the offensive corner, he had fallen. This is when he saw Leonard streaking for the net and he managed to center the puck. Leonard then took the centering pass and buried it with 50.8 seconds remaining in the game. This was a play that could have made the top play on ESPN and clearly showed the hustle, speed, and transition ability of Leonard and Frere. Interestingly, after Westfield's Western Mass win a week prior to this game, Westfield coach "Moose" Mathews was quoted in the Republican stating, "Ryan has come a long way, and he is playing physical, aggressive hockey. Now he has a nose for the net and that sure was a pretty goal" (in reference to the game winner against Longmeadow). There is no question that Leonard not only exhibited his "nose for the net" in that 170 foot streak to the Scituate net, but also his speed. For a look at this goal the Boston Globe web site has a link and can be found at:

http://multimedia.boston.com/pub/tn/22/high_school_sports.htm?bctid=1459160520

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTIRE WESTFIELD BOMBERS TEAM!!

* Editors note: **Ryan Leonard** was a Booster Club member last season.

Springfield Falcons Booster Club

P.O. Box 1285

Springfield, Ma. 01101



Membership Meetings for 2007/2008 Season

All of the meetings throughout the 2007/2008 season will be held at the Mass Mutual Center in the Club Room at 5:00.

April 12, 2008

May: TBD

June: Time and place TBD

Mario Cantallini from the Plantation Inn located at the end of Interstate 291 in Chicopee, has graciously allowed us to use the parking lot of the Plantation Inn for our bus trips. Please try to patronize his establishment as much as possible whenever you need to find lodging for friends and relatives coming into town.



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For Reservations Only
1-800-248-8495

Phone: (413) 592-8200
Fax: (413) 592-9671
plantationinn@aol.com

295 Burnett Road
Chicopee, MA 01020
www.plantation-inn.com
