



Welcome to the first ever issue of the NHL3 Player Newsletter, which I'll hopefully get round to producing on a semi-regular basis in the future. This issue features previews of the conference semi-finals and features an exclusive interview with Troy Dilworth, coach of Pacific Conference favourites Anaheim (no pressure Troy!). If you'd like to talk about Slapshot than drop me a note at the addresses on the left. Alternatively drop in at the Yahoo! Slapshot Group:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/slapshotpbm/>

### Conference Semi-Finals Preview

#### Buffalo Sabres v Boston Bruins

Regular Season:  
Buffalo 2 wins,  
Boston 0 wins, 3  
tied games.



Buffalo won the division ahead of Boston rather comfortably, mainly thanks to a stronger overall defense than their rivals. Both have good forward lines and both are coming off reasonably comfortable wins in the previous series so should be well rested. The Bruins couldn't win a game in the regular season and with the Sabres at full strength it seems unlikely that they'll drastically improve on their record here. TIP : BUFFALO 4-1

#### New York Rangers v Philadelphia Flyers

Regular Season: New York 3 wins, Philadelphia 1 win, 1 tied game.



Another matchup between divisional rivals, and another clear favourite. The Rangers were clearly the better team in the regular season and had a decidedly better time of it in the last round of the playoffs. The Flyers players will be fatigued after their tough series with Carolina and their only real hope is to somehow snatch the first two games in New York, because as the series wears on the Rangers will

have a distinct advantage. If New York win their first two home games then this series could get embarrassing very quickly. TIP : RANGERS 4-1

#### Los Angeles Kings v The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim

Regular season: Los Angeles 0 wins, Anaheim 3 wins, 2 tied games.



The Mighty Ducks had much the better of the regular season meetings and, while the Kings were struggling past Western Conference favourites Minnesota Anaheim were cruising to a four game series sweep of Nashville. Los Angeles have caused one upset, but another one may be beyond their tired players.

Anaheim coach Troy Dilworth had this to say:

"When the teams for the Playoffs were decided this was the matchup we wanted in the 2nd Round of the



Playoffs. This had nothing to do with the fact that this would have meant that the Kings had knocked out the top ranked side (honest!). I only joined this league so that I could play against Rob (he was the one that got me inter-

ested in Slapshot to begin with). Now we have the chance to do battle in the Playoffs, I better win though, as I might not hear the end of it!! What of my Mighty Ducks and their chances? To win the division, at my first attempt, was very satisfying especially as at one stage we trailed Dallas by quite a few points. During the season, we have picked up 3 very important free agents. ARDF,

CEN and RWG as well as other players but Brisebois (RDF), Nedved (CEN) and Nolan (RWG) have

made a huge difference to my team. Therefore, I go into this matchup full of confidence (and on the back of beating the Kings 5-1 in our last encounter) and my side currently have no fatigue at all to talk about so if we lose it will simply be down to losing to the better side. I hope, of course, that we go sailing on... "



we felt like we were better than our record suggested, but after our victory over Minnesota it's not like we're a surprise package anymore. Our players are

tired but I feel like we have it in us for one more big effort. We'll be hoping to pick up wins in the early games to level the playing field a bit."



Dallas Stars v Vancouver Canucks

Regular season:

Dallas 1 win, Vancouver 2 wins.

Both finished poorly in the regular season but look to have worked the cobwebs out in comfortable series in the last round. Vancouver finished with more points in the regular season but the Stars got more wins, and it's wins that count in the playoffs. Probably the toughest of the four series to call. TIP : STARS 4-3

In response, LA manager Rob Crowther had this to say:

"We're glad just to be in the playoffs this year, after last season's debacle when defending our championship. We've brought in a number of solid players over the last few weeks and

Well that's it for the first issue. A little light on the content side, perhaps, but to change that I need your help. Send your contributions to me at

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or email at robert@crowther.info. Next edition will hopefully come out in a couple of turns in time for the Stanley Cup, but may be earlier if I get bucketloads of contributions!

