



Welcome to the second issue of the NHL3 Player Newsletter, a special Stanley Cup preview edition. As well as the preview of the big series this issue features a review of the previous two rounds of the playoffs and some words on the draft. 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 Review**

**of Anaheim**

**Buffalo Sabres v Boston Bruins**

Buffalo got off to a good start, taking better advantage of their shooting opportunities to edge the opening game 4-2.



Boston got right back in it in game two, dominating for most of the game before three goals in the third period made the score look a bit more respectable for the Sabres. Game three turned out to be pivotal, an overtime victory for Buffalo seemed to take the edge off the Bruins for the rest of the series as the Sabres won out in two close games.

**New York Rangers v Philadelphia Flyers**

The unfancied Flyers leapt out to a three game lead in this series. They weren't close games either, for the most part Philadelphia had significantly more opportunities and shots. The Rangers redressed the balance somewhat in games four and five but, after the start they made, were always going to be facing an uphill struggle. The Flyers closed out the series with a fairly comfortable win in game six. New York never lived up to their regular season form.



**Los Angeles Kings v The Mighty Ducks**

This much anticipated series more than live up to it's billing. The Kings snuck game one in a tense double overtime, the Mighty Ducks struck back in games two and three,



winning a defensive battle and an overtime game of their own. The tiring Kings needed a win in game four and got some luck, grabbing three early goals and then holding on for dear life in the face of a concerted Anaheim attack. Game five wasn't even close as Anaheim were all over LA for a comfortable victory but the Kings fought back in game six, two third period goals securing victory and forcing game seven. Game seven was tied going into the third period before the Mighty Ducks hit a goal in the final minutes to advance.

**Dallas Stars v Vancouver Canucks**

Vancouver strolled to a two game lead, outscoring the Stars 10-2 in the opening two games. Dallas fought back in games three and four with a couple of one run victories before the Canucks took the series lead again with a comfortable win in game five. Dallas fought back again, playing their best game of the series in game six. In a tense and low scoring game seven Vancouver



took the lead in the second period and then preserved it with another goal in the third.

## Conference Finals Review

### Buffalo Sabres v Philadelphia Flyers

The Flyers looked set for an upset when they snatched a low scoring game one and then snatched game three after being thrashed in game two. Buffalo kept their composure and didn't look seriously challenged over the remaining three games, winning each by at least 2 runs.

### The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim v Vancouver Canucks

This was a series of blow-outs as both teams looked tired at times after the exertions of seven game series in the previous round. The Mighty Ducks got off to a strong start, winning the first two games by large margins. The Canucks repaid the favour in game three but were ruing missed opportunities in game four: despite outshooting Anaheim they gave up two powerplay goals. At 3-1 down Vancouver were facing an uphill battle, they managed to keep the series alive in game five with another good win but couldn't prevent the

Mighty Ducks winning a close game six to advance to the Stanley Cup finals.

## Stanley Cup Preview

This from Mighty Duck Troy Dilworth on the eve of the big series:

"At the start of the season, my first in NHL3, if you'd said that my Anaheim team would reach the Stanley Cup Final I would have thought you were all mad! In reality, we've actually had a very enjoyable season up 'til now so I'm hoping it all doesn't end in anticlimax. To win our division was a real boost for the playoffs and at one stage during the season we were double figure points behind Dallas, so getting the division was a surprise in itself. Free agent acquisitions have made a real difference to my team, all areas of my team have been improved. The slightly worrying thing for me going into our biggest test so far is that our defensive players (including goaltenders) aren't really the greatest. It's lucky that I don't have any injury or fatigue worries coming into the game because our backups in these positions aren't good enough to be contesting a Stanley Cup. Here's hoping that my 2 star players in attack, Kariya and Nolan can get the necessary goals in order to start the party of all parties in Anaheim..."



Well that's it for another issue. A little light on the content side still, but you can change that by sending your contributions to me at:

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