

Athletic abuse

Trey Salacki

Can you remember the last time the Gryphon varsity football team was 5-0 and ranked sixth in the state? Only the old timers of Rocky Mount have memories of that time, because it was in 1962!

When we hear the Gryphs have added another tally mark to the win column, we will more than likely think of standouts Terrell Hudgins and Marcus Jenkins, but whom have we forgotten? Without this extremely important factor, the Gryphs wouldn't even be where they are today.

That's right, the single most important part of the game. He makes all of the breakout plays and gets the most playing time of any member of the team.

Gerald Football is the one forgotten member on the Gryphon squad. "I think I deserve more recognition", says Football. "Why not? I mean, I can make or break the team and nobody realizes. When a big play does come or a touchdown is scored, I never receive a "good job, baby", or I never get to dance, my butt is never slapped, and I'm always thrown to the ground and left for the referees. I won't even go the subject of pain, just try to imagine getting kicked in the rear by Jonathon Edwards."

"Think of me sitting on the tee, getting ready to begin the game, and taking

a boot right to the rear end. Make sure to not only account for the pain of the cleat to the butt, but also the turning and flipping over and over again. If you would like to relate, go to an amusement park and eat about three hotdogs loaded with all the good stuff and slurp your cola. Then go on the roller coaster that has the most upside down loops and goes the fastest, and ride it 20 times over. Hello! Can we say motion sickness? I'm not allowed to take any sickness pills and I can't just hurl it in the middle of a make-or-break play. I am forced to hold it all in!"

"Now you may ask yourself, 'Why does he do this to himself?'" "Well, I didn't make it all the way through pee wee, through J.V ball and finally to Varsity to stop now. I'm going all the way to the NFL, baby! I'll just have to visit the weight room with Coach Hammett a little bit longer before I head up to college and the pros. I know at the Fike game I saw a Notre Dame scout checking me out" says Football.

"Remember me the next time you are sitting in the standing stuffing your face with pizza; don't always concentrate on who is playing or who's injured. Just remember me and say a prayer for me because I'm about to take the ride of my life."

'Canes burning up the ice

Justin Oswalt

The Carolina Hurricanes had always been thought of as a little southern hockey team that never made it past the second round of playoffs. The little southern hockey team proved the world wrong.

The Hurricanes, who were the underdogs in every round, rocketed past the New Jersey Devils, who were recent Stanley Cup Champions and a favorite for the final match up, with a 4-2 win in the series. The next match up was against the Montreal Canadiens. Once again, the 'Canes won the series 4-2. The Eastern Conference Championship match was next where the Toronto Maple Leafs came to Raleigh. Important overtime wins and key plays made by the offensive lines led the 'Canes to a 4-2 series.

All of North Carolina got hockey fever and snatched up as much Hurricane merchandise as was available. The little southern hockey team that never was a worry was now in the Stanley Cup Final with the Detroit Red Wings. Commentators from ESPN and other news agencies scrutinized the 'Canes saying that they were not supposed to be in the finals and that the Red Wings would win easily in a 4-0 sweep.

The first game, held in Detroit's Joe Louis Arena, was a sell out. Approximately 2000 'Canes fans filled the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh to watch the game on the Jumbotron at home ice, even if the team wasn't there. After three periods, the game was tied at two. Overtime was a category that the Hurricanes were very comfortable in. With only 59 seconds gone off the clock in the overtime period, Hurricanes captain Ron Francis (#10) made the game-winning goal to bring the house down at the ESA. For the first time in history, the Carolina Hurricanes/Hartford Whaler franchise had one a Stanley Cup Final game.

Even with stellar performance by the 'Canes, the Red Wings were able to win the next four games, including a heartbreak-

ing game 3 in Raleigh which went well into the third overtime period. For game 5 in Detroit, the 'Canes said their final farewells for the Cinderella season with a 1-3 loss to the Wings, and a 4-1 loss in the series.

Even if the Hurricanes did not become Stanley Cup Champs, the Caniac followers they have gained never gave up on their team. In a packed Fayetteville Street Mall following the team's return to Raleigh, the Caniacs cheered and shouted to the team in a standing ovation to salute their hard work and magnificent achievement.

The success of the Carolina Hurricanes could not have been possible if it wasn't for the work of the Hurricanes two goalies, Arturs Irbe and Kevin Weekes. Weekes came into the game as a replacement for Irbe while they were down 4-0 in game 3 against New Jersey. Weekes was replaced by Irbe then in game 3 of the Montreal series when the 'Canes were down 3-0 in the first period. Weekes, who had only played back-up goaltender for most of his career, left the post-season with three career playoff wins, and two career playoff shutouts. Irbe proved amazing by making save after save, especially during the common overtime periods which the 'Canes encountered constantly. In game 3, the 'Canes were down 3-0 in the second period and were able to get 3 goals in the third to tie it up and win the game in overtime.

The Carolina Hurricanes are currently in preseason, and have been breaking in new rookies by putting them against other veterans. The season opener is on October 9th at the RBC Center against the New York Rangers. The game will also be televised on ESPN.

The Hurricanes only lost one regular team member, Martin Gelinias (#23), who left for Calgary in a free-agent agreement. That means the basic same team will exist this year, as did last year. This year, hopefully the 'Canes will continue their amazing success to show Raleigh is the new "Hockey town".

Gryphon Trivia!

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| 1. Which of the following famous people did not go to Rocky Mount Senior High? | 2. What year was the current library added on? |
| A. Gov. Mike Easley | A. 1900 |
| B. Former NBA player Phil Ford | B. 1968 |
| C. TV-5 Sportscaster Tom Suiter | C. 1993 |
| D. Math teacher Diane Dixon | D. 1952 |

Bonus! Take the number of US states. Add 5 to that number. Take your new number and divide by 11. A new number is 4 less than the last. What is the final number?

Check your answers on page 3! Good luck!!!



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Fans of both the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Carolina Hurricanes file out of the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh after the 'Canes overtime victory in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup playoffs. -Photo by Justin Oswalt