

Panthers down wrong way street

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

The woes are continuing into February for the Erie Panthers. The Panthers are 0-9-2 over their last eleven games.

Last week on a three-game road stand the Panthers played well but dropped all three games.

On Thursday, the Panthers lost to the Hampton Roads Admirals 5-3. Friday they lost to the Richmond Renegades 5-4, and Saturday, they fell behind early and dropped a tough one to the Roanoke Express 6-2.

The Panthers former center and ECHL leading scorer Scott Burfoot saw his chance and left the team early this month to expand his horizons with Fort Wayne of the IHL. While with Erie this year, Burfoot had 28 goals and 60 assists for 90 points. So far with Fort Wayne, the Mercyhurst star has 3 goals in 5 games.

The good news for the team is that right-winger Stephane Charbonneau scored two goals giving him 37 for the year and tying him for first place in the ECHL with Wheeling's Vadim Slivchenko. His 70 points tie him with teammate LW Kevin McKinnon (33 goals, 37 assists) for third on the overall points list. McKinnon is first on the

list with power play goals with 18 and netminder Francis Ouellette is fifth in the league with 1,059 saves.

The Panthers (14-37-3) took on the archrival Johnstown Chiefs last night in the first of three home games at the Erie Civic Center.

Despite a 2-0 lead with 5:30 to go in the third period, the Panthers ended up on the short end of a 3-2 shootout loss. Netminder Paul Krake had 32 saves in a losing cause for the Panthers. Despite the loss Erie picked up one point

and improved their record to 14-37-4.

They will be in the friendly confines of the Civic Center Saturday for a game against Richmond. Face-off is at 7:30.



Catch the Erie Panthers at their next game...

**Feb. 18 Richmond
Feb. 19 Columbus**

*The Panthers' games are played at the Erie Civic Center
Game Time: 7:30pm*

but if you need any Advil, Icy Hot or Ben Gay pick some up soon because Senior, I mean Major League Baseball camps open today in Florida and Arizona. Normally, this a joyous time for me, but now I just feel sick.

Last year at this time my Phillies were coming off an incredible season and were getting ready to defend their National League crown. I was upset that a former basketball star was stealing all the attention away from a season that introduced new divisions and a new playoff format.

In retrospect, I would gladly hear about Michael Jordan than about this strike. The owners and players are doing something that 10 miserable losing seasons (Phillies 1983-1993) could not do. I am completely uninterested in baseball.

The Phillies have announced that Jeff Stone, 34, Ken Oberkfell, 38, Marty Bystrom, 36, Todd Cruz, 39, and many other less than household names will be suiting up for the reigning National League Champions.

Anyone who is excited about that roster compared to Lenny Dykstra, Darren Daulton, Gregg Jefferies and Kevin Stocker was excited when Cheers went off the air.

Baseball fans stop reading...The strike will not end soon.

The owners have made a commitment to see what fans' reaction to the replacement players will be. They will not settle because they don't have to. They lost their money last season.

The players had the advantage until last November. Now, they have nothing.

They have absolutely no leverage until the owners realize that fans will not settle for washed-up, never were second-rate athletes.

It is really sad that the majority of baseball teams from places like Omaha, Des Moines, Nantuckett or Erie will have more talent than places like New York (actually, the Mets might be better), St. Louis, Los Angeles or Boston.

Sure George Foreman may be happy that the average age of major league rosters will be increased by 10 or 15 years and that he won't be the only grandfather making a joke out of his sport.

My only problem is that boxing has been a joke for a long time, baseball is just starting to get funny.

Another top-ten list: Due to the response I got to my last top-10, my editors have asked me to print it again. Just kidding, here are my top ten reasons that I refuse to watch the replacement players.

10. If I want to watch old, fat guys in suits I'd go to a faculty council meeting.

9. Famous Behrend graduate Tom Lawless (in 1986, '87 and '90 was the last player on a major league roster to get a hit) will play.

8. Famous Behrend graduate Joe Mycka may play.

7. There was more talent up for grabs yesterday during the NFL replacement draft than all the replacement rosters will have combined.

6. Mathematic formula- Replacement Players: Professionals = AFC:NFC.

5. Dr. Reber turned down an offer to play on the Pirates replacement team.

4. Madonna would rather sleep with Newt Gingrich than a replacement player.

3. After watching replacement players, I might actually find soccer interesting.

2. Prune juice is the official drink of replacement players.

1. Brian Gregory hates replacement players.

Thumbs up!:

--To Sacramento guard Mitch Richmond who shot 10-for-13 from the floor and scored 23 points to lead the West to a 139-112 dismantling of the East in Sunday's all-star game.

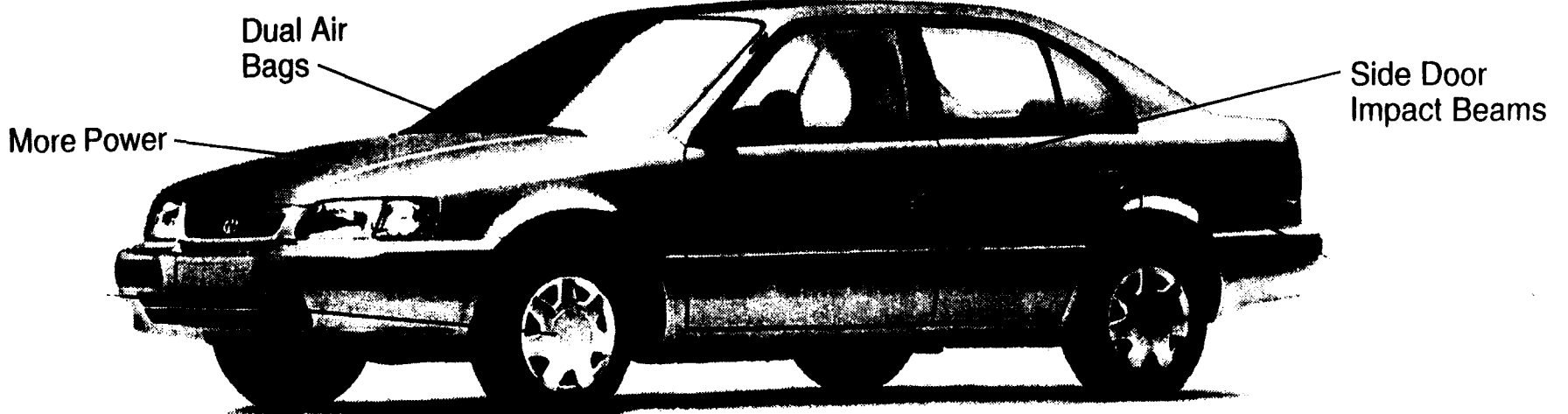
Richmond's performance was enough to earn him MVP honors.

--To the Washington area college basketball teams who have made life rough for number one-ranked basketball teams. First, George Washington knocked off UMass. Then, Maryland shocked North Carolina. Tuesday night, Georgetown almost performed the trifecta, but faltered in the final minutes and fell to No. 1 UConn 91-85.

-- To the Behrend men's basketball team who are currently on a six game win streak that has raised their to 12-10. The Lions are being led by point guard Brandon George and forward Steve Berger. Come out and root for the Lions as they look for number seven against Hilbert College Saturday at 7:30 in Erie Hall.

by Matthew D. Cissne
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