

# SPORTS

## PSU Sports Glance

# Hockey deadlines leave fans scratching heads

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With the deadline come and gone, the only way the Penguins can now get players is through waiver moves or the IR list.

One player Pittsburgh is hoping will recover soon is Gary Roberts,

who has been out since December 29 of last year with a broken fibula, but is expected to be back in the lineup before the playoffs.

And of course there is Crosby, who has missed 4 weeks so far with a high ankle sprain he received on

January 21; his return is up in the air.

If these players return sooner rather than later it will put even more of a punch into an already surging Penguins team, who currently has the 2<sup>nd</sup> most points in the Eastern Conference with 79.

Evgeni Malkin has really stepped up as team leader with Crosby out, and has led the Penguins to a 9-4-2 record without the league superstar.

In an effort to bolster the team until then, on February 26 Pittsburgh traded Colby Armstrong (Crosby's close friend and line mate), Erik Christensen (shootout and face-off specialist), Angelo Esposito (a 2007 1<sup>st</sup> round draft pick) and their 2008 1<sup>st</sup> round draft pick for Marian Hossa and Pascal Dupuis of the Atlanta Thrashers.

Also, in a second trade, Pittsburgh acquired Hal Gill from Toronto

Maple Leafs for a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> round draft pick. The Penguins now have the stay-at-home physical defenseman to fill in for Mark Eaton, who has been missing from the lineup since he went down with a season ending ACL injury. At 6'7" and 250 pounds Gill is easily one of the biggest players in the NHL.

The Pens already had two enforcer

the 5<sup>th</sup> leading scorer in the NHL at the time of the trade. The trade turned out to be a good one, as the new players played key roles in the Penguins back-to-back Stanley Cup wins.

And now from the Pittsburgh and their Stanley Cup worthy moves we can turn our attention to what the playoff and conference contention

teams did. Mainly focusing on Dallas and the Penguins. This was one of the busiest NHL trade deadline days in recent years.



Photo courtesy of google.

types on the team in Jarkko Ruutu and Georges Laraque; with one more Crosby could be as untouchable as Gretzky was in Edmonton.

The Penguins may have quite possibly put the missing pieces in their lineup to compete for their first Stanley Cup since 1992 (details below).

The Penguins, according to many fans and critics, were missing a goal-scoring winger to play with Sidney Crosby. This present deal could rival the March 4, 1991 deal that sent John Cullen, Jeff Parker, and Zarek Zalapski to the Hartford Whalers in exchange for Ron Francis, Ulf Samuelsson, and Grant Jennings.

The move was risky, as some wondered if it was going to interrupt team chemistry and bemoaned losing Cullen, who was

Forty-four players moved teams on February 26 alone. Twenty draft picks changed hands as well. Overall, the teams that were busiest improved, with the exception of a few.

Some wonder if Tampa Bay, clearly the busiest team during the trade deadline, actually made mistakes and became worse. Though they acquired Lecavalier and St. Louis, they lost 2 defenders, 1 goal tender and Brad Richards, who was arguably the best center on the team.

Many in the media have applauded the moves that the Dallas Stars and

Pittsburgh Penguins made before the trade deadline; both teams are now heavily favored to make it to the finals. The two teams picked up some of the biggest stars in the league available before the deadline.

The Dallas Stars picked up Brad Richards and a strong backup net minder in Johann Holmqvist. The Stars added a high scoring threat in Brad Richards, to a line up already deep with goal scorers and talent. In addition, giving Marty Turco a talented back up in Johann Homqvist basically solidified the Stars as the team to beat in the west.

They only gave up older players in Jeff Halpern, and Jussi Jokinen. It seems as if the Stars were "keeping with the Jones", as both

York Rangers, making Pittsburgh the team to beat in the East. One can only imagine how good the Penguins will be when Crosby and Roberts return.

Many in Pittsburgh are dreaming of the Stanley Cup.

Where as most of the other teams in the Atlantic Division were not as busy. The Flyers were the only team to make an impact during the trade deadline. They taded for journeyman winger Vaclav Prospal. A nice addition to a depleted team but no Peter Forsberg.

Forsberg is the hope the Flyers were expecting but that hope turned out to be a false one.

Forsberg, who was taking some time off from the NHL to play in Sweden under his father and a

chance to rehab that foot of his. Philadelphia was under the impression that he was going to return to the Flyers and help them in their playoff hunt.

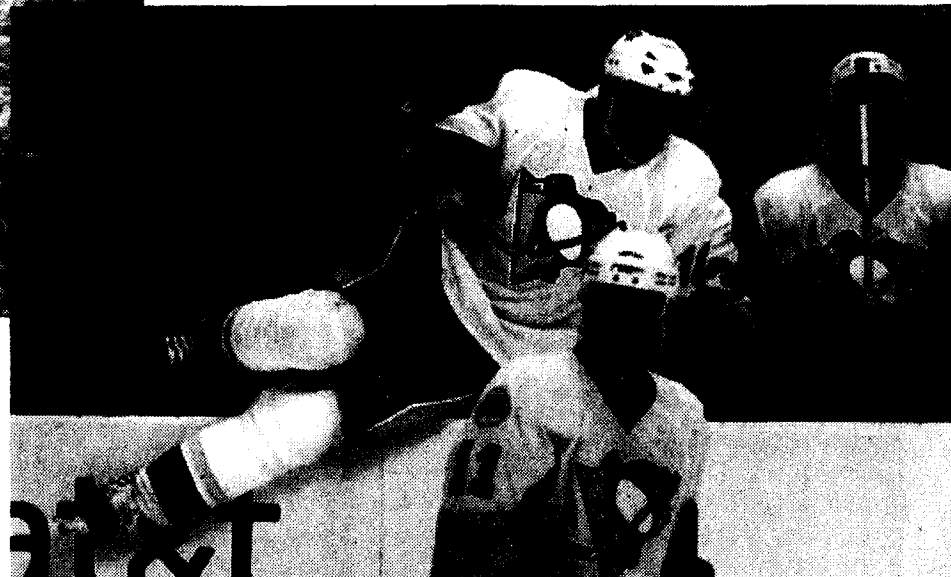
With the Flyers being depleted by injury and in many peoples' opinions realizing he would need to save the season for the most part

in Philly opted for an easier time in Colorado.

Even if it doesn't work, the worst Colorado is out in \$1 million. This gives a chance to bring back that nostalgia from the late 90's and early 2000's of Colorado winning and this could prove to be the reuniting of the best forward combination since Lemieux and Jagr.

Based on past player performance and recent trends it would seem that Dallas acquired the most from the NHL deadline deals.

Only time will tell who is the best and benefited the most.



It was a bad week for the Penn State Harrisburg basketball teams. The men's team lost their conference finale to D'Youville. The Spartans held off a furious second half start by the Lions to win 92-82.

The PSH men's team finished out the season at 6-8 in the NEAC and 7-18 in overall season play. The Lions' season may be over by this point, but they did a good job fighting it out to the end.

Now all they have to do is to watch video and prepare for next year's season.

The Lady Lions did not fair any better in their last game of the year. While playing the Lady Spartans of D'Youville, the Lady Lions lost a tough game. They put up 39 points to the Lady Spartans 75.

The Lady Lions were 2-14 in the NEAC and 4-20 in overall season play. Though they were hampered by losses all year, they still fought right to the end and gave great effort.

Now its time to take some time off and get ready for next year's season. Congrats to all the winter athletes.

In other NEAC news: Abe Hitz was named athlete of the week of February 24. Hitz, a 5'10" junior guard, was selected for his outstanding offensive performance for the week.

He racked up 31 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist and 4 steals. He also went 12-for-13 from the free throw line and had a .500 shooting percentage.

Everybody should be gearing up for the spring! Pitchers and catchers reported for Spring Training two weeks ago.

This means that Penn State Harrisburg baseball and softball teams are gearing up for the start of the season.

In the majors we will hear the crack of the bat and the cheer of the crowd; here on this campus we are going to hear the "tink" of the aluminum bat and the cheering fans as they support the Lions and Lady Lions teams.

I do not know how many of you are as excited as I happen to be, but Spring Training time is the best time of the year for me.

The Lions baseball team will have their first big test of the season coming up as they are entered in the Pitt Bradford Tournament held in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Lions will be down in Virginia March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>; let's see if the men can come away with the tournament championship.

In the meantime, the Lady Lions softball team is getting ready for their first match up of the season, as they are headed to Shenandoah University.

After that the Lady Lions will be headed for some fun in the sun; they are going to Myrtle Beach from March 3 to March 19 for the Snowbird Softball Tournament.

The Lady Lions should enjoy their time down at Myrtle Beach; hopefully they will bring back the tournament championship when they return to campus.

There still has not been much more information on the "Joe Paterno vs Graham Spanier" front. We are still waiting for the meeting to see if Paterno's contract will be extended, because if it is not he will retire after the upcoming season.

# Barry Bonds testimony released Eagles make trade

By **PAUL ELIAS**  
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Friday unsealed Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony, an order that would make public what the home run king said under oath about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Federal prosecutors accused Bonds of lying under oath during his December 2003 testimony to a grand jury investigating steroid use in professional sports, and a separate grand jury indicted on him on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston signed an order Friday making Bonds' testimony public after ordering prosecutors to amend Bonds' indictment so each of the five counts against him don't cite multiple allegedly false statements. Prosecutors originally accused Bonds of lying 19 different times during his grand jury appearance.

The indictment, unsealed last November, cites snippets of testimony in which Bonds denies ever ingesting steroids or human growth hormone. It quotes Bonds denying his personal trainer Greg Anderson ever injected him with steroids, which prosecutors alleged was a lie.

Illston agreed with Bonds' attorney Dennis Riordan on Friday that prosecutors must edit out many of the alleged lies or seek a new indictment, which could contain more charges.

Although Bonds is technically no longer under indictment, the practical effect of the ruling was to delay the

case until prosecutors address the problems. Prosecutors are expected to decide whether to seek a new indictment before Bonds' next court date on March 21. They declined comment outside court.

Bonds was not required to attend

steroids result for a player they called "Barry B." Bonds said he had never seen those test results.

Investigators said they seized other evidence against Bonds, including an alleged "doping calendar" maintained by Anderson, who spent about a year in jail for refusing to help investigators.

Anderson, who was released after Bonds was indicted, is expected to be called to testify if Bonds' case goes to trial. Anderson maintains he will refuse to testify if ordered, meaning he could return to prison.

Bonds, who has not signed with a team for the 2008 season, posted a message on his Web site Thursday, but did not mention his criminal case.

"I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking what I've been up to this past offseason. This winter has been the first time in my career that I've had the chance to take time for myself and really enjoy the time off. While at home with my family I have been able to work out of my office concentrating on my various companies, attending meetings as well as making a few business trips," Bonds said in a posting on [barrybonds.com](http://barrybonds.com).

"I continue to work out and feel in great shape. Thank you again for your continued support for me and my family; it truly helps keep me strong."



Photo courtesy of google.com

By **DAN GELSTON**  
Associated Press Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles got the defensive playmaker they desperately needed, signing free-agent cornerback Asante Samuel to a six-year contract on Friday.

Samuel, an All-Pro and Pro Bowl selection this past season, spent the last five seasons with the New England Patriots and had 16 interceptions the last two seasons. The Eagles wasted little time making an offer, reportedly worth up to \$60 million, on the first day of free agency.

"We regarded Asante as the No. 1 available free agent in the NFL," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said.

The Eagles badly needed a shutdown corner like Samuel. Philadelphia had only 11 interceptions last year and failed to score a defensive touchdown. Its defense had an NFL-worst 19 takeaways.

Samuel, a fourth-round draft pick in 2003, also tied the NFL career playoff record with three interceptions returned for TDs.

Samuel, who won two Super Bowl rings, has 22 career interceptions. He was protected by New England last year by the franchise player tag.

"I just want a chance to be able to win and get back to the Super Bowl," Samuel said.

Samuel tied Denver's Champ Bailey for the NFL lead with 10 interceptions in 2006 and returned two more picks for touchdowns in the postseason against the Jets and Colts. His

12 total interceptions in the 2006 regular season and playoffs were the highest combined single-season total in Patriots history.

The move means the Eagles will likely trade or shift positions for either Lito Sheppard or Sheldon Brown.

Sheppard, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, is reportedly unhappy with his contract. The Eagles denied a report earlier this month that Sheppard had asked for or been given permission to seek a trade. He signed a five-year extension in November 2004.

Eagles coach Andy Reid said Samuel will be the starting left cornerback, or what was Sheppard's starting job.

"When you have an opportunity to get the best one in the business, then you need to look at that," Reid said.

Samuel hoped Sheppard and Brown would be on the roster and felt the trio could give the Eagles perhaps the best secondary in the NFL.

When asked if he felt underappreciated in New England, Samuel declined to comment.

He said the Eagles were on the top of a list of four teams he considered visiting. After the Eagles gave him a hard sell on the first day free agents could sign, Samuel decided to stay in Philly.

"When you come to one that makes you happy, why wait around?" Samuel said.

Samuel is the latest in a line of former New England Super Bowl winners who have moved on, joining Deion Branch, Adam Vinatieri, David Givens and Daniel Graham.