

2007-2008 Season Review
by Blake Johnston

The most notable rules changes included MM swap days were increased to two days, and the trade board was removed. There were too many teams crying about deals be denied, or some not being denied, so the best solution to the problem was to remove the trade board entirely. After close to 10 years, I had hoped GMs had figured it out.

The defending Champs from 2007, in a thrilling finals against the Kilts where they almost blew a colossal lead, headed in this campaign with only one draft pick. The run at the championship had taken a toll on their squad.



The summer trading season started off with a JR. The Goldminers somehow convinced the Brahmas to trade their 1st round pick and Ryan Miller for Emery and a career minor leaguer Robbie Schremp. (As we all know Emery has just signed a deal in Russia. So, talk about taking the real deal and flushing.) It appears the old Platinum Pros are back.

Some other deals of note during the off season included:

- Mark Recchi, a Gryphon for life, moved to the Tycoons;
- The Bullets loaded up with some NHL players for once, grabbing Langkow and Koivu for the 5th overall;
- The Goldminers shipped their precious Pominville to the Heartbreakers for Naslund;
- The Horses traded their '08 1st rounder (which would be 3rd overall) and another later 1st for Nagy;
- The Horses then dealt Visnovsky to the Goldminers for four 1st rounders!

The draft this year was held on Saturday, September 27, 2008, at the home of the Tarpan Horses. And it was quite literally the longest draft yet. All attending GMs were crammed into his 2-bedroom apartment in New Westminster. Parking was scarce, it was raining, and we ordered pizza. In addition we watch the Ducks play the Kings in London.

The Korp (more below) picked 1st overall and took Kyle Turris. Turris had an incredible showing at the super series and his stock was on the rise. The Bullets, rewarded for tanking, went 2nd and took Patrick Kane from the Hawks. Price went to the Barracudas at 3. But what really made headlines was the deal that sent Iginla to the Bullets for Angelo Esposito and Brule.



The crowd was stunned. A long time Millionaire was traded for peanuts!! The draft also saw the Tycoons trade the 5th overall pick for Sheldon Souray, in a package.

The season was another solid campaign. There was loads of involvement, arguments, trades, and jettisoning. Additional to the Korp's ownership change, the Riggs also experienced an ownership change (more below).

To get a better analysis of the season, here's a review of the SCHL teams:

BELLAMY BARRACUDAS:



The Barracudas made the post season after one year off with a DNO. They picked up Brad Richards from the 79ers for Simone Gagne, and drafted 3rd overall taking Carey Price. Overall, however, it was more of the same for the 'Cudas; decent team, never in the hunt, and were tubed first round by the Vanguard.

In Nathan's own words: The Barracudas walked out of the draft in September of 2007 with their first legitimate franchise goaltender in team history. That, coupled with a solid 2nd round pickup of the young promising talent, Cogliano, the rebuilding Cudas were starting to look respectable. The year had its ups and downs with a few solid moves including picking up Koivu from the Bullets and in turn flipping him for Elias. That trade was made possible by an earlier deal where Biron was traded to the Shrubdogs for Huet and a 1st.

The only questionable deal made was the Staal for Cogliano trade. This one will take a few years to identify a clear winner. Will Staal's amazing defensive game translate into offensive numbers? Will Cogliano be just another Lombardi?

Making the playoffs for the 3rd time in 5 years was great, but unfortunately the Vanguard were just too strong. The season overall was a success for the club and with virtually every player on the team young and improving, things are looking up in Bellamyville.

DIAMANTAKOS SPARTANS:

In their 2nd year of existence, the Spartans entered the season with one main objective – show improvement. An already young team, the Spartans continued the trend at the draft by picking up Letang (12th), Hanzal (23rd), Sheppard (28th) and Vermette (52nd); all under the age of 25. Letang, a player considered to go as high as 5th overall, provided glimpses of being a main offensive cog for years to come. Nilsson -



with high expectations attached when drafted in '06 - entered the season in the dog-house, but ended off the season strong. While each player had his ups-and-downs, the one constant was franchise-goalie Cam

Ward. Coming off a sub-par '06-'07 campaign, with doubts creeping into the minds of the Spartans brass, Ward proved that he can be "the Man" in trying to lead the Spartans to great things in the future.

While wins were few and far between, knocking off the mighty Tycoons in Week 10 provided the greatest win in franchise history to date. As a team who has a long way to go before becoming a playoff team, let alone a competitive team, any progress is viewed as good progress. Goal achieved as the Spartans posted one extra win (and a tie) and finished 19th in the WG race, compared to 21st the year before. Heading into the '08-'09 season, the objective will continue to be what it has been in the previous two seasons -- show improvement. It seems as though things will continue to head in that direction.

DENROCHE REGIME:

Entering their 4th campaign the Regime were looking to make the post season for the first time in their SCHL career. The Regime did nothing to help their team on draft day. They puttered along and it became apparent to them the only way they were going to win is with a major rebuild. So, they took the face of their franchise, Olli Jokinen, and sent it to the Heartbreakers for prospect Cherapanov and goaltender Bryzgalov. Then they moved stud dman Rafalski to the Shrubdogs for Radulov in a package. The team then actually started to do a bit better, but in the end the Regime DNO'd. At least the team had some direction.

FRANSON SHRUBDOGS:

Fresh off two straight DNOs, the Shrubdogs entered this season wanting more. They couldn't back up their trash talk. The Shrubdogs went into the draft and picked up nobody really, but made a mid season deal with the Regime and picked up Rafalski and Pominville, which really rounded out their skaters nicely. The Shrubs quietly took the Bronze Division, as much of the talk was about the Heartbreakers, Assassins and Goldminers, and cruised into the post season narrowly missing a bye seed. The Shrubs took out long time foe, the Heartbreakers, in round 1 and then upset the Tycoons 31-26 in round 2. Entering the Frozen Four, the Shrubdogs were getting dangerously close to what they wanted...but it all came down to a sub. You see, Tim Connolly, "Glass Joe", was on and off for the Sabres...deciding it was better to roll the dice on this guy, the Shrubs let their only option on the pine, Stoll, rot. The Shrubs took the Bullets right to the edge of the cliff, they had mounted a 6 point lead going into the final game, when Jarome Iginla scored what would be the hat trick heard around the world, and gave the Bullets a tie with the Shrubs. Up by 6 and the Bullets tie it up with stick of one man. Un-fucking-believable. The week was tied and the Shrubs lost because they had lost to the Bullets in the regular season match. The Shrubs would have moved on to their 2nd finals appearance if only they subbed out injured Connolly for a healthy Stoll. Only the Shrubs would start a suspect 50 to 60 point, hospital-bill flake over a healthy player in the biggest week in their franchise in 9 years.



In Adam's own words: 2007/08 was a return to the elite for the Franson Shrubdogs. The Shrubs went 6-0-1 against their division this year including the playoffs, upset the mighty Tycoons twice along the way and returned to the semi-finals for the first time since the 98/99 season. Predicted to finish outside the top ten, the upstart Shrubs led by captain and super stud Jason Spezza left little to the imagination as they conquered opponent after opponent on their way to the postseason for the first time in three seasons. Spezza, the eventual winner of the SCHL's POW award was magnificent and thus after missing three weeks along the way still lived up to the promise he made GM Adam Franson at his roast earlier that season " The Shrubdogs franchise will be a force to be reckoned with, mark my words". Not only were the Shrubs a force they were also a pain in the side of many a GM's. The midseason acquisition of Brian Rafalski and Jason Pominville from the Regime was a turning point as the team was nearly unstoppable

after that point. Only an out of body experience from the Wilson Bullets Jarome Iginla could stop these Shrubs, as they fell in the semi-finals to a lesser team. None the less, with the past behind them the future appears bright in Shrubtown and it appears that a return to greatness for the Shrubs at this point, is merely a formality.

GRIFFITHS RIGGS:

The expansion Riggs really didn't amount to much in their second season and it took a toll on GM, Jason Griffiths. He pulled the plug and left the SCHL. Steve Dedrick was brought in to the SCHL to take over this team. It wasn't much long after that Mike Green went ape shit, racking up the most NHL Dman goals and manning the point on the Caps PP. Finally, there was hope, but it wouldn't be with Jason; Steve would enjoy this. Steve also came in and made a block buster deal with the Assassins, picking up injured Patrice Bergeron. With too many mediocre forwards and bad MM, the Riggs season was another DNO and they were never a factor. Some good news came when the franchise won the lottery for the 08 draft. The team will be called the Devils in the 08-09 season.



GROSSMAN FLASH:

Always a top team, 2008-2009 was no different. The Flash won the Prime Minister Award and took home the Premier Division crown. They also battled for much of the season for the WG Trophy, finishing second to the Tycoons. During the draft, they acquired some long term help. Mid-season, they acquired Kyle Okposo from the Korp/Express. In the playoffs, they cruised to the Frozen Four only to lose to the Vanguard, and failed to capture their second Snipers Cup. The Flash are always a constant and made the post season for the 6th straight season.

HESKETH GOLDMINERS:

Another expansion team, the Goldminers enter their second season keen on making the post season. They made a splash in the 2007 summer acquiring Miller and Visnovsky. During the draft they picked up their best dman to date, Brett Burns. The Goldminers came out of the gates hot and racked up the Ws. They went to a 9-4 record and were poised to make the post season until things took a turn for the worse when they went 1 and 7 in their last 8 to miss the post season by three points. The Goldminers mortgaged some of their future for their expansion success, but have also made some great trades and killer draft picks. The future looks bright, for this expansion team; solid goalie, decent skaters. They've already passed some of the long established SCHL teams.

JOHNSTON TYCOONS:

The Tycoons entered the 08-09 season after two straight seasons of making it to the Frozen Four. This campaign was more of the same ol', as they won the Gold Crown and were a top team securing a bye seed entering their 8th post season. The Tycoons were upset by the Shrubdogs in round 2 of the post season. The season was still a success as they won their second Wayne Gretzky Trophy as the top team in the SCHL with the most points. The Tycoons only note worthy addition was Sheldon Souray, who missed the entire season with shoulder problems. Souray came at the expense of one Sam Gagner.



Also, rookie Nicklas Backstrom piled up the points on the high flying Caps...making Ovy/Backy the deadliest combo in the SCHL.

KLANN KORP:



The Korp entered their second season in the SCHL with the first overall choice and they skipped over NHL 1st overall, Patrick Kane, and took Kyle Turris. But that's about all the good news that the Korp would enjoy, as they were dropped out/booted from the SCHL in favour of the Derek Day. Klann's tank-at-all-cost approach to building a team wasn't welcomed in these here parts, and it was made clear on the board. Derek Day changed the team name to the Day Express and began shaping the team for the 2008-2009 season. The Express have said they want to change people's minds about this problem franchise. "There will be winning here, we do have pride." At season's end the Korp finished last place again, capping off the two seasons under Klann with two consecutive last place finishes. The Express debut in 2008-2009.

LEE TRIADS:

The Triads capped of their third season in the SCHL with another DNQ, while also being relegated to the Bronze division. The Triads made a splash during the season picking up long time Kilt Marian Hossa for Pavel Datsyuk. Perhaps this season can still be considered a success long term for the Triads as they acquired Jakub Voracek and Sam Gagner (for Souray) on draft day. The Triads have the pieces in place for a solid future; however the 07-08 season will go down as another uneventful DNQ.

MA BAY TORNADOES:

After finishing 7th place in the WG race in 06-07, the Tornadoes were poised to take it a step further. However, the Tornadoes started off this campaign badly and began to pull the plug. Straka, Schneider, Shanahan were all moved out for picks and pick upgrades. But probably the capper was dealing Mark Streit (who would later become the Snipe of the Draft) to the Jawas for another first rounder. Injuries also struck to Boucher, Nylander and others, but some of their top players, such as Luongo and Redden, barely showed up. The Tornadoes plummeted to 18th in the WG race and captured their 1st DNQ.

MITCHELL VANGUARD:

No more Coyotes; Hello Vanguard! Picking up Jon Bernier, while watching him play in London, the Vanguard thought they had a steal on draft day...him and Cherpanov were some first round pickups. The Coyotes/Vanguard for the better part of 5 years were compiling young guns and it was time to put the likes of Dion, Staal and Getzlaf to work. But once again goalie issues began to hamper the Vanguard. Not wanting to flush another season down the toilet the Vanguard moved Cherpanov and Bryzgalov to the Heartbreakers for the Wild's starting goalie, Niklas Backstrom. While he wasn't as dominate as he was for the Heartbreakers, he provided stable goalie tending the team was lacking. Long time Coyote, Kolzig, his days were numbered. The Vanguard, even with this stable of young guns, were on the verge of missing the post season, but rattled off 6 straight wins to push themselves into the post season. The Vanguard then proceeded to knock off the Barracudas in round 1, Gryphons in round 2, the Flash in the semis, to only lose to the eventual Snipers Cup Champions, the Bullets, in the finals. The Vanguard, after storming into the playoffs kept the mojo going and became, I think, the lowest seeded team to make the finals. They ran out of steam, however, as their MM did not come to play. In addition, they finished 6th in the WG race their highest in their SCHL career.



In Griffin's own words: Armed with a new logo and name the Vanguard went into 07-08 with high hopes and although it was a bumpy ride the team took its first real step towards being a legitimate SCHL threat by storming into the Frozen 4 and then into a coveted finals berth. Flash back to earlier though and it wasn't always looking so nice, the potential of another so-so year and possible DNO were a real possibility. Having spent future assets to obtain the likes

of Niklas Backstrom, Eddy Jovanovski and Marty Straka to add to the already high priced core the losing record began to cause a furor on the airwaves and papers. The media and fans were calling for heads to roll and season ticket holders were starting to complain. Things were coming to a boil till on week 15 Captain Vinny Lecavalier pulled the team together with a closed door players only meeting. With spirits back on high the Vanguard then went on to rattle off 6 straight victories into the playoffs where things really started to pick up. Easily dispatched were the Barracudas in round 1 followed by huge victories over cup favourites in the Gryphons and Ferrari Flash. Unfortunately by the end with an injured Ryan Getzlaf the team just didn't have the horses to get to the promised land and lost to the Wilson Bullets for the cup. All in all though a good season and a stepping stone to a lot more great moments for the future.

MORAN ASSASSINS:

After finishing 6th in the WG face and making it to the second round in '06-'07, big things were expected for the Assassins '07-'08 season. Unfortunately, the 07-08 was anything but good for the Assassins who, once again, DNO'd and also failed to get promoted from the Bronze Division. Throughout the season, the Assassins used up all their resources to capture the success they had the year prior. Havlat and beloved Bergeron were shipped outta town for healthy vets and a starting goalie. They even went out and pulled off a great trade with the Millionaires to get Alfredsson and Kariya. Their team went under the knife, but it still didn't matter; lack of consistency and a slow start spelt disaster. The Assassins now enter the 08-09 season short of picks and an identity. Spotty drafting and erratic trades have left this team with loads of question marks.

NORTH SHORE SCREAMIN' JAWAS:

In Cameron's own words: In 2007-08, the Screamin' Jawas continued jumping halfway to the wall. After finishing 18th, then 9th, then 5th in the Wayne Gretzky Standings, the Jawas were looking to get to where the money was; they wanted a top 3 finish. Ryan Hesketh's 6th place prediction, although positive, was not as high as Cameron would have liked. In the end, the Jawas finally made some money from the pool, and jumped halfway to the wall again, finishing in 3rd place. Unfortunately, they were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round. (Odd Fact: it was the 2nd consecutive year where the Jawas had the most points during the Finals.)



The season didn't start off very well, at all. Through Week 9, the Jawas would alternate between producing and winning (averaging 30.5 points per game), and not producing and losing (avg. 17.0 ppg). It was so

noticeable a trend that the Jawas even publicly predicted their Week 9 loss to the Tycoons before the week even began. During the first 12 weeks of the year, the Jawas were 5-7-0, and averaging only 23.3 ppg. Then they tied the eventual Snipers Cup Champions, the Wilson Bullets, 24-24. This would be the turning point in the season. Over the last 8 weeks of the regular season, the Jawas would go undefeated and average just over 37 points per week (the equivalent of ending the year with close to 1000 points); no team was hotter. Twice scoring over 50 points, the lowest output during the streak was 27 points in Week 21. To put that in perspective, 16 of the 22 SCHL franchises averaged less than 27 points per week over the season. As previously mentioned, however, the first round of the playoffs was a disaster; 19 points in a week where 26 would have won it. The Jawas had the second highest number of man-games in Round 1, but both Ribeiro and Turco (irony! – see below) were blanked, and everybody else had substandard weeks.

The super-breakout of Eugene Malkin played a big part in the Jawas success, but so did three significant trades; two of them very well timed. First, Malkin was already having a very good sophomore season when Sidney Crosby (79ers) went down for an extended period of time. In pool terms, "Huge" had 54 (NHL) points by the end of Week 12; the week Crosby was injured. For the next 12 weeks Malkin had 63 points. Second, trading for Marty Turco early in the year relieved the Jawas from the injury concerns of Kari Lehtonen (now with the Horses). Turco had an off year, finishing 11th in SCHL goalie scoring, but it was still more points than Lehtonen would get. Third, getting Mike Ribeiro from Derek Day's Express, during an apparent breakout year, helped in forward scoring, and, once again, relieved the Jawas of the injury woes of yet another Finn in Joni Pitkanen (the emergence of Dustin Byfuglien didn't hurt, either). Ribeiro was just over a point a game for the first 6 weeks of the season, but then, once traded, was just over half a point per game. Things were not looking good. This all changed, however in Week 11, when Ribeiro went on to score 50 points in his next 39 games, bringing that to the end of the SCHL regular season. Last, obtaining Mark Streit from the Tornados, to replace the departed Pitkanen, was probably the best timed. As a Tornado, Streit had scored 13 points in 26 games. Starting in Week 10, as the newest Jawa, Streit scored 49 points in 55 games. One hopes for that kind of production from most forwards, not just from their blueline players.

In the end, the Jawas finished 3rd in the Wayne Gretzky race, collected their first monetary reward since joining the pool in 1998, and have a very bright future to look forward to.

PAIK GRYPHONS:

Gryphons had a quiet draft day, with no high picks, but were happy to get a good prospect in Giroux, who they almost took the previous year instead of snipe of the draft winner Stastny. The team was supposed to be ready to rock without the draft, though. There were injury troubles early, with Demitra, Semin, and Gaborik all going down for periods, but the Gryphons had great depth at forward and were able to weather the injury storm. The season started out great. By the middle of the year, the Gryphons were first in points and in the standings. Then disaster struck, a series of long-term injuries to key players Heatley, Stastny and Zubov, crippling the team down the stretch and into the playoffs. In round 2, in the final night, after playing catch up the whole week the Gryphons were looking like they could actually beat the Vanguard, but a final night shutout by Vanguard goalie Backstrom killed the Gryphons' season. In addition, in just the last month or so, the Gryphons fell out of the top 3 in WG finishers and lost the Premium division and PM award to the Flash. A shitty end to what looked like a season that was going to be their best ever.

RATTRAY ROWDY KILTS:

In Tanner's own words: The Kilts were cursed before the season even started as superstar defenseman Dan Boyle's tendons were sliced in a freak accident during the Kilts summer training camp. Franchise

staple Marian Hossa was also sluggish coming out of the gates as his groin kept on flaring up thus giving us no other option then [sic] to trade him. It was an emotional day in Glasgow to say the least, but business was business and we are quite confident we received the better player in the deal as Pavel Datsyuk went on a tear to finish the season thus forming one of the SCHL's deadliest combo's alongside newly named Kilts Captain Henrik Zetterberg. Daniel Briere, Brian Gionta and Keith Ballard had disappointing seasons as expectations were much higher going into the year. Bryan McCabe was brought in on a controversial deal to help relieve some of the pressure off the defensive core [sic]. Drafted in the late rounds youngster David Perron blossomed into a very promising prospect and heading into next year the future looks bright with possibly the opportunity to earn some ice for his first start in the starting rotation.

2007/2008 would mark the first year in recent memory that the Kilts would not have their name engraved on some sort of trophy or banner leaving a very sour taste in GM Tanner Rattray's mouth and a larger desire more than ever to get the Kilts back to where they belong, alone on top miles ahead of the next best team, no questions asked.



SAMPSON BRAHMAS:

Another year, another middle-of-the-pack finish. On draft day, the Brahmas shipped out Peter Mueller for Hejduk, in a move that they would regret. (Or not. No one can tell what Daryl is thinking.) Then, mid-season, they shipped out star Dman, Bryan McCabe, for Shillicky and two other drops. Then they'd toss another pick away for Satan, when no one else wanted him. The Brahmas would make the post season as they finished 3rd in Gold and would beat the Jawas in the opening round. However, they met their fate in round 2 against a much tough opponent in the Flash. Another year with no money won and nothing to brag about. I've seen this movie before. The Platinum Pros are back!

STEIER 79ERS:

The defending champs came into the '07-'08 season a hurting unit. They spent nearly every last asset for the cup win in 2007. With only one pick in the draft, they only had 13 players on their roster. Injuries struck to notable players such as Crosby, Sakic, Gagne (who they got from the Barracudas in the Richards deal) and their entire D corps outside of Lidstrom. Without players to sub in and the fact Kozlov, Guerin and others stunk it up, the 79ers were just a husk of the 2006-2007 squad. They limped into the post season, finished 9th in the WG race (after 2nd place the year prior) and were lucky not to be relegated to the Gold Division. Their eventual loss to the Kilts in round 1 was no surprise.

And GM Ashley Steier was kidnapped by the Al Qaeda.

TARPAN HORSES:

The 2007-2008 Season was a rough one for the Horses in the Standings (finishing 20th in the WG and DNOing), but, after dealing off most of their veteran talent, the result was not a surprise to anyone. A lot of positives were found during the season with the emergence of number young NHL talents in Mike Richards, Peter Mueller, and David Krejci. Meanwhile prospects Jame van Riemsdyk, Karl Alzner, and Cory Schneider all finished up great performances in their developmental leagues.

UPTOWN HEARTBREAKERS:

The Heartbreakers entered the 2007-2008 season a team in the gutter. After two consecutive DNOs, GM Roy's patience was wearing thin. The Heartbreakers weren't used to being SCHL fodder. The Heartbreakers owned the 7th overall choice in the 2007 draft and took Wild goalie, Niklas Backstrom. At the

time it was a widely criticized move, as the HB already had Giguere between the pipes. At 14th overall they picked up TJ Hensick, a promising young Avs prospect. The Heartbreakers plotted along racking up a 10-8-3 record and saw themselves back in the post season for the first time since 2004. To help them make the post season the Heartbreakers pulled off two monster deals during the season. First, they moved recently drafted Nik Backstrom to the Vanguard for Cherepanov and Bryzgalov. Cherepanov was originally the player the Heartbreakers targeted on draft day; however they got greedy and wanted to make the Vanguard pay. The Vanguard opted not to on draft day, but as the season went along and goal tending became an issue the Vanguard succumbed to the Heartbreakers. Now the HB had the tandem in Anaheim with Giguere and Brzy and had a top prospect. Then, on December 19, 2007, the Heartbreakers shipped, new Phoenix Coyotes, Brzygalov to the Regime in a deal to get Ollie Jokinen. The Heartbreakers were finally putting the puzzle together for a competitive team and a team that will shape up nicely for the 2008-2009 season. In the end, the Heartbreakers lost in the 1st round to the Shrubdogs, and finished 11th in the WG race.

VANCOUVER MILLIONAIRES:

Millionaires were coming of a mediocre season in '06-'07, finishing 12th in the WG race. Prior to that, they were always a contender, in the hunt, and had the horses to run with anyone. They felt a 12th place showing was a sign of things to come and, as such, they moved Iginla to the Bullets on draft in what would be a lopsided deal in favour of the Bullets. On top of that, they moved Alfie to the Assassins, and piled up young guns and prospects. All this happened whilst running up a 6-0 record at the beginning of the season. The Millionaires' rebuild was on, like it or not. They ended up crapping out down the stretch, DNO'ing, and were relegated. This season will be regretted by Millionaire fans. Iggy and Alfie were gone and the rebuild was underway.

WILSON BULLETS:

After two seasons near the bottom of the SCHL stockpiling youth, and two straight relegations, the Bullets made it their mission in the summer of 2007 to fall no further. In a midsummer deal, the Bullets added some much needed scoring acquiring Saku Koivu and Daymond Langkow for three draft picks (including the much heralded fifth overall). Then came draft day...when Team Klann selected Kyle Turris with the first pick, the door was open to select the first overall draft pick in the 2007 entry draft in Patrick Kane, who would be skating alongside Bullet rookie Jon Toews for the Blackhawks that season. The Bullets picked again at eight overall, and selected the much hyped Angelo Esposito, but much to 20 other GM's surprise, quickly moved Espo in the blockbuster of the year. Early in the second round of the draft, the Bullets worked out a deal that would change the look for the franchise for years to come, sending Espo, Brule, and a first rounder to the Millionaires for Jarome Iginla and some peripheral picks. After finishing 19th in overall scoring for two consecutive seasons, the Bullets were now starting a premier goal man in Iginla, an up-and-coming assist man in Kopitar, with solid offensive support with the likes of Langkow, Koivu, Smyth, Zherdev, Kane, and Toews. The Bullets were no longer going to be the whipping boys of the SCHL. The SCHL regular season concluded with the Bullets finishing first in the Silver Division with 29 points, and earning themselves a first round bye in the Playoffs.



The quarter-finals had the Bullets playing a Juggernaut in the Rattray Rowdy Kilts, downing the former champs 31-27. It was on to the semi's to play the Franson Shrubdogs. This semi-finals match proved to be one for the ages and one where the Bullets single point head-start and ownership of the tie-breaker would prove critical. More on that match, below. The Bullets came out of the gates in a blaze in the finals, versus the Mitchell Vanguard, and opened a wide lead, and from that point cruised to a 37-29 victory for the teams first ever Snipers Cup Championship!

To the SCHL Playoffs:

This year the Flash, Gryphons, Bullets and Tycoons all occupied bye team spaces. Round 1 saw the Jawas faceoff against the Brahmas, the Shrubs duel with the HB Sauce, last years finals rematch Kilts v the 79ers, and the Barracudas against the Vanguard. The only real upset to note was the Brahmas taking out the Jawas. This is the third straight post season appearance for the Jawas and they've failed to make it out of the first round every year.

The second round saw the bye teams enter the equation. The Flash took on and beat the Brahmas handily. The Gryphons went up against the Vanguard. This week seemed like a lock for the Vanguard, but the Gryphons came steaming back and nearly won the week, but it was Nik Backstrom's Saturday goose that sealed the deal for a Vanguard win. The Bullets took on the Rowdy Kilts and knocked out the Kilts, breaking a 5 year final appearance streak by the Kilts. And finally the Tycoons faced off against the Shrubdogs. The Tycoons couldn't get their MM going and fell flat and the Shrubs upset the WG Champs.

After two years of the same old same old Frozen Four, this year things were different. The Flash, Bullets, Vanguard and Shrubdogs all squared off. Only two wins away now, gentleman! The Flash and Vanguard squared off. The Flash, probably the most consistent team all season long, were the odds on favourite to win it all. They took home the PM award and the Premier Division. But too bad they had to play the Vanguard. The Vanguard, as noted above, won 6 straight down the stretch to just squeak into the post season and cut up the Flash 41-23. It was over by Thursday.



The other match proved to be one for the ages, and one where the Bullets single point head-start and ownership of the tie-breaker would prove critical. Down by six points going into the late games on Saturday, it was up to Iginla, Langkow, and Schneider to outscore Chris Kunitz by six. With the season on the line, Captain Iginla threw the Bullets on his back potting a hat-trick! With Langkow, Schneider, and Kunitz all going pointless, the "Iginla Hatty", as it will go down in history, was enough for the Bullets to advance with a 28-28 victory.

The 2007-2008 finals, dubbed 'Battle of the Uglies', matched two upstart teams in the Vanguard and Bullets. The Vanguard were flanked by the likes of Lecavs, Getzy and Staal, while the Bullets had Kopitar, Iggy and Kane. It's not often you see two young buck teams in the finals. Anyway, the finals kicked off slowly...both teams were starving for points...everything had dried up. The first major strike came when MAF shutout the pathetic Devils and the Bullets took the big lead. To make matters worse the Vanguard lost their assist man Getzlaf to injury and the Bullet piled on more points. The lead was mounting, but

Backstrom, on the back of a successful trot, gave the Vanguard a much needed 7 points to close the gap. In the end however, the Vanguard just didn't have the firepower, it had been spent over the last 2 months racing to the finals and they were tapped out.

The Bullets took a lot of flack for their strategy over the past couple of years, but he's getting the last laugh now. Two years of basement dwelling and he's gone and turned it around for a championship the first year.

What's even more worrisome is the fact the Bullets are young and years away from entering their prime. Yikes.