Blubber Magazine - Season 7 - Pulling Back The Skin With Dick Head - Episode 32

As the rumors swirl about whether or not this could be the last season of the immensely popular WN95HL, active Coaches and GMs are more worried about the doors being locked than their playoff push. Although we said there wasn’t going to be an article today, I’ve gone rogue and am squeezing something out of the back end anyway.

Paranoia Everywhere

While it would be impossible to argue that engagement in the World National is at an all time low, the fact that there remains a passionate group of digital GMs cannot be argued. For every \_\_ (you know who you are), there’s 4-5 Wolfies and Adolfs. So from that perspective, the league is quite strong. The engaged die-hard 95ers certainly outnumber those who are always busy, sick, stranded, reffing, or just don’t care.

Regardless, although the good outweighs the bad, it only takes a small few to disrupt what is an otherwise incredible experience. This league was an unstoppable freight train of fun and excitement….until Season 5. The 1999 season saw the World National open its geeky arms and welcome a number of new players. At the time, it was impossible to imagine anyone joining and not playing their games. Even though the originals were a year in, the league was still getting better and better. In the end, with regards to welcoming anyone that wanted in, the league got burned. We talked about vetting teams after the likes of JNC and Coach Mike weren’t willing or able to play, but as an open community, we welcomed the new blood.

The 99 season also saw some incredible community members join, so it wasn’t all bad, but the effects of non-participation are obvious. Blog articles are becoming less and less frequent because they have nothing to write about. Reporting on the major races and trade deadline analysis has become difficult because the gap in games is too much. Remember when there were videos that were released every once in awhile highlighting things in the league? Those have vanished. Even the Wolf N Cline podcast skipped some of their popular segments because there’s too many teams 30-40-50 games behind. I think many would agree, that the reason we are here is to play 95, and we are spoiled beyond belief in this league, but these “extra” things really took everything to the next level. Perhaps one or two of you that have played less than 15 games are reading this right now thinking “shit, that’s me”. If you are, there’s a SUPER good chance that you are also guilty of never communicating anything. Hopefully these words will have a positive impact and motivate “you” to find it in yourself to do the unthinkable. The near impossible! On par with scaling K2 without a rope. Actually carving out 22 minutes once or twice a week to play. I know it’s hard. 22 whole minutes, but just imagine yourself not stealing anymore joy.

— Note, at this point just listened to the DS Weekly Video —

After hearing the DS095 video, we can perhaps take a deep breath knowing our fearless leader said “the WN95HL isn’t going anywhere”. I couldn’t be happier to hear the news! Wolfy probably just came. This is great! Nonetheless, the ancillary stuff that we are missing will probably remain so until there’s more consistency.

Back To Things On and Around the Digital Ice

- How fast is this season, ON THE ICE? Everyone is flying and the speed is borderline too much and hard to control. But, it’s fun as balls!

- Highland Stat Update: #102points #99points

- There’s a handful of teams playing lights out hockey right now. Over their last 10, Taipei (9-0-1-0), Thunder Bay (9-0-0-1), Pitt (9-0-0-1), and Tegucigalpa (9-1-0-0) have each won 9 of their last 10. Those 4 teams are comfortably in the Brule however, but there’s only a few “bubble” teams that are playing above their initial pace. San Diego (7-2-0-1), North Bay (7-3-0-0), and Italy (6-2-2-0). Sunnyvale has just 6 wins in 10, but with only 1 regulation loss over that time, they are collecting important points. There’s some other outliers, but it seems like just about every other team that would be considered on the bubble is at or below .500 over their last 10. The last 10-15 games is going to be quite a treat!

Contenders or Pretenders?

- Renfrew (17-11-0-2): At .600 the Dairy Kings are likely to get a spot in the big boy tourney, but they have been less than impressive this season. Will Fat Keith be the answer, or is this team just going to melt in the heat?

- Rome (18-13-1-2): Although a .574 isn’t terrible, the +2 goal differential is troublesome. When the going gets tough, with Club Legion be able to score enough to win games?

- Maryhill (33-18-0-1): History shows a .644 is more than enough for a Brule ticket, but this team has fallen off their blistering early pace quite a bit. Considering they’ve never been in the postseason, is it even plausible they can go on a deep run?

Hamilton (29-24-2-1): The .545 feels like it’s right on the breaking point of the Brule. Although the Stangs don’t have to worry about a T4 team stealing a spot this season, they likely need to pick up the pace jut a bit to solidify their spot. If they do get in, what type of run can we expect from this team? They’ve had tournament success in some of the scab leagues, and have a solid roster (even with Gomez).

- Richfield (13-10-0-6): It’s early in the Oracle season but the stats don’t lie. 83 GA and a -4 diff through 29 games isn’t going to do it. It’s possible Coach Blair has the Florida sunshine and European backpacking on the brain a bit too much, but this has the feelings of a team that’s pretending.

Two Teams to Watch Down The Stretch

With some of the aforeskin mentioned teams struggling, the door is wide open for teams to get hot and sneak on through. We’ve already talked about San Diego and North bay quietly making a push, but who else has a punchers chance?

- Autobahn (13-15-2-2): A perennial contender that’s currently on the outside looking in, but with an (some would say unacceptable) number of games left, this is a team that can win 30+ of their last 40+.

- Uganda(n) (18-21-2-1): Less runway than Autobahn, but the Giants have proven before they can get hot and stay hot

If anyone doesn’t like it, take it up they can hold Dicks dick….

— Dick Head is the lead writer for Blubber Magazine, and comes from a long line of Dicks