Blubber Magazine Investigates - The Curious Case Of Bob Bond

The World National 95 hockey league has had its interesting story lines over the years. Some on the ice, others off. Way back in 1995, none of the nerds that took ownership of a digital hockey team knew just what they were getting into. Things were different back then, but one thing that has remained constant has been the never-ending flow of characters joining what’s been called “the best place on the internet”.

OG members will likely recall that even during that first ever draft, Chalky was the constant hold up. It was a sign of things to come. Fellas like Bombjack and Atonsir were around, and are still referenced every once in awhile in passing. Raise your digital hand if Bombjack tried to trade you Darren Puppa because “the pros don’t need a good goalie, so you will need the last one that’s any good by himself”. Atonsir played exactly 1 game before bailing out. Some say that’s a record that will stand forever.

So many interesting characters, with most still here. In the league today, we have a seemingly unbeatable ice fishing lawyer, a bull riding ranch owning 95 maniac, a licensed pilot, at least 3 published authors, and we are all lead by a casket salesman. What a crew!

This league has streaming, digital magazines, videos, and podcasts that are watched by 1000s of people, although nobody can explain that. So why then, would anyone leave you ask? I think those who left before us have each had their different reasons. A large portion of them undoubtedly left because they can’t handle losing. In talking with other coaches, off the record, it seems like a strange personality quirk. Pure speculation in many cases, but coaches like Coach Mike and Comical Font almost certainly left for that reason. Why? Well, nobody knows for sure. Everyone in this league losses except for Big Belly. Why can some handle it, while others cannot? Is it because they were always the best in the “group” or “tribe” or whatever you call it? Perhaps. I believe Coach Mike even posted that once. And yes, I’m sure there are other reasons as well, but losing is likely the biggest reason.

Up until this year, 2001, the strangest league exit was Heinz. Most know the story, at least to a certain extent, but at the time the entire sequence of events was really wild. I won’t get into the nitty gritty here, but Coach Heinz sent a text to someone in the league, allegedly from his Sister on his behalf, stating that Heinz had passed away after being run over by a truck. It took less than a few hours for some internet sleuths to figure out that this was made up because he was still posting on social media. Right or wrong, there’s no denying that’s a pretty bold way to exit a digital hockey league. Given the magnitude of that story, how are we sitting here today, with a more curious WN95 exit than a faked death?

Enter, Mr. Bob Bond. What can we say about Mr. Bond? Throughout the 2001 season, our own good friend Wolfy of HAI was working on Bob behind the scenes to bring him into the league. There was a lot to do. The Wolf, aka Shock Jr., had to help him purchase a PC, get him set up with Discord, get him set up with RA, ROMs, the whole kit and caboodle. Bob was coming in like many of us back in 1995, which is to say, completely blind. Believe it or not, but our own Adolf Oliver Nipples almost didn’t join season 1 because he didn’t think he could get everything set up correctly. He joined so late, he missed the entire draft and had to fill his roster with the best free agents available. I believe Michel Goulet was his #1 player. Anyway, with the help of Shock Jr., Bob was able to jump through all the technological hoops and get to the point where he was playing digital hockey.

Next, the stars seemingly aligned at the perfect time for Bob Bond, as word spread that Comical Font was going to leave the league. The reason for her departure isn’t important, but most of us know why. While it’s usually sad when someone steps away, especially someone who was as engaged as CF was, this time was different. We had a nerd in waiting and chomping at the bit to roll.

Mr. Bob Bond, at the behest of his handler The Wolf, had a team fall into his lap, and everything seemed to be well and good. Things looked so good, that Mr. Bond actually appeared on the popular Wolf N Cline podcast to be introduced to the league. No other Coach in W history got this kind of treatment. Sure Bob looked like a deer in headlights during that episode, but that was totally expected. The guy signed up to join an online league to play the game he loves, and all of a sudden he was on camera in a garage with 3 other nerds, dogs barking, people asking live questions….It’s a lot.

The World National was horny with excitement. We were seemingly gaining a geek that had that same enthusiasm we all had back in 1995. Bob looked right at the camera and referenced both his short and long term strategies, and admitted it will take him awhile to get his feet under him. Completely understandable, but he was in the perfect situation as he had a team to just finish out the season with and have fun, learn the ropes, etc.

I believe within the next 2 days, on 3/10/2023, Mr. Bob Bond joined the Discord channel. As expected, he was welcomed with open arms. After all, this guy was live on Wolf N Cline. On 3/25, Coach Bob asked for his first exhibition game. It was the beginning of anew! Here’s how that looked live:

Image

Over the next 2 days, Bob Bond was off and running. Discord receipts show games versus Hoth and Taipei on 3/27. The quest to join the league was complete. Coach Bob came from not having a computer, to playing some exis, to now playing real live sanctioned hockey. On top of all this, what some may not know, is Bob was also going to take over Comical Font’s Q team. Yes, Comical Font not only bailed on 1 league, but 2 at the same time, which was a first. Oh well, it didn’t matter, because we had Mr. Bob Bond waiting in the wings. Bobby B also had the luxury of starting the Q season fresh, since Comical decided she would whimper away before even playing a single game. This was great news!

On 3/29, we all got the news we were waiting for over on the Q server:

Something else great happened on 3/29. Coach Bob Bond played 2 sanctioned Q games, the first 2 of the season for the newly formed Snowden Skeletons. According to the Q sheets, the results weren’t good, but it’s a new team with a new pace. The data shows that Bob Bond was in fact anal beaded by his good friend, Wolfy:

What happens next is the biggest mystery in the history of the World National. Nothing…. Nothing happens next. Bob Bond 007 apparently decided to shut his computer and hang up his digital skates, presumably for good? Why would a player with years of pedigree and so much talent, decide to walk away from the league after less than a month?

The answer is we don’t know. We hope he’s ok, and some coaches off the record have confirmed that’s the case. We hope he’s decided to set the paddle down to get laid, and there’s some speculation that’s also true. So why? This reporter can ask Bob Bond personally next February at the annual HAI tournament (make your plans now). I’ve actually met Bob and he’s a great guy. He may be more likable than Ed Juarez. Class act, clearly loves the game of NHL 95. But why leave? This is a mystery that cannot go unsolved. Not only that, but there’s still a nice warm seat for Bob Bond to jump back in and finish what he started. Don’t be a Comical or a Leviathan, instead be a Red! Get yourself a team, and play digital hockey!

22 minutes per series. That’s all it takes. Dump the Q team if you don’t have time. As an investigative journalist, I know I’m not supposed to show emotion, but I’d like to ask on behalf of the league, to come back to us Bob Bond 007!

To be continued.....Maybe....

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