



MANITOBA HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011



Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame to induct 15 individuals and honour six championship teams on Oct. 1 in Winnipeg

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame will induct seven players, four builders, two officials and two members of the media in 2011. Six championship teams also will be honoured. The class of 2011 was announced April 12 at a media conference in Winnipeg.

Two forwards with impressive credentials, Mike Keane and Theoren Fleury, will enter the Hall at its induction banquet on Oct. 1 at the Canada Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. Keane won Stanley Cups with the Montreal Canadiens, Colorado Avalanche and Dallas Stars. Fleury from Russell, Man. spent 15 seasons in the NHL primarily with the Calgary Flames where he won a Stanley Cup.



Inductees (l-r): Bud Ulrich, Laura Loeppky, Bob Picken, Curt Keilback, Karl Friesen, Ted Foreman, Don Dietrich

Four defensemen will be inducted. Terry Ball, a small but hard-hitting defenseman from Fort Garry, played in the NHL with Philadelphia Flyers and Buffalo Sabres plus five seasons in the WHA. After helping his hometown Flin Flon Bombers win the Canadian junior championship in 1957, George Konik played for two NCAA championship teams at the University of Denver. Jayson More from Deloraine played 406 games in the NHL with six teams. A member of the Winnipeg Jets during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons, Selkirk's Neil Wilkinson played 460 games in the NHL with five teams. Goalie Karl Friesen spent most of his career in Germany and competed in three Winter Olympics and six world championships.

Builders Bob Cornell, Glen Lawson and Don Dietrich have made major contributions to hockey in the province's Westman region. The fourth, Ted Foreman, spent 18 years on the board of the Winnipeg South (Fort Garry) Blues of the MJHL including eight as president and was a director of the Winnipeg Jets. Laura (Vanderhorst) Loeppky was a pioneer in women's officiating in Manitoba. She was the first woman to officiate men's junior hockey in our province and her ability earned her assignments at world championships and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Bud Ulrich's refereeing resume includes the MJHL, the Western Canada Junior Hockey League, the Memorial Cup playdowns, and the World Junior Championship. The media section of the Hall of Fame will welcome two broadcasters, Curt Keilback and Bob Picken. The teams to be honoured are the 1955-56 Western Hockey League and Edinburgh Cup champion Winnipeg Warriors, two Canadian intermediate champions, the 1974 Warroad Lakers and the 1983 North End Flyers, and the Warroad Lakers teams that won a record three consecutive Canadian senior championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996. (See detailed bios on pages 3-6.)

Buy Your 2011 Induction Banquet Tickets Early

The 2009 induction dinner was sold out so don't wait to order your tickets. Tickets for the 2011 induction banquet cost \$110 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$1000. A \$65 charitable tax receipt is included as part of the ticket. Reception at 5 p.m., Oct. 1, with dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets can be ordered from dinner chair Jerry Kruk, c/o 987 Milt Stegall Drive, Winnipeg R3C 2Z3 or phone 204-668-0900 or email: JerryKruk@shaw.ca.



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Mission Statement

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is an incorporated, non-profit organization dedicated to Manitoba's hockey heritage, past, present and future.

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This newsletter is published by the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame.

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Printed by: Docuprint

Submissions should be sent via e-mail to tkmorgan@mts.net, by fax to (204)-489-6641 or mailed to the above address.

Hockey Hall of Fame News

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have supported the mandate and activities of the Hall of Fame in 2011 by becoming patrons through a \$100 donation: Gil Goodman, Ed Belfour, Bill Toothill, Ed Merriam, Larry Evans, Frank Clark, Wayne Wiste, Gary Whyte, Joe West, Bruce Unfried and Hockey Winnipeg. Membership chair Len Morrow asks present patrons to encourage other people to support the HOF in this manner. If you can provide names and addresses of individuals who might be approached, please call Len at 261-5366.

President Gary Cribbs reported that to date 24 honoured members have ordered HOF rings. Any honoured member or their families that wish to order this precious keepsake should contact the HOF through the President. See page 6 for information.

In a letter to the editor, the President applauded the provincial government for its plan to introduce legislation that will require that automated external defibrillator (AED) units be available in public facilities such as arenas and recreation centres. Cribbs then asked why it has taken so long and reminded readers that back in 2008 the Hall of Fame had undertaken an initiative that resulted in units going into most Winnipeg rinks and several across the province. The letter was published in both Winnipeg dailies and the Canstar weeklies.

Planning is now underway for the 2011 induction dinner. Committee chair Jerry Kruk is once again anticipating a large crowd and doesn't want to turn anyone away. That's why he's requesting that you order your tickets at the earliest possible time. Ticket information can be found on page 1.

Research chair Kent Morgan is still recruiting people to undertake research on various topics related to Manitoba hockey. In order to facilitate research, the HOF is purchasing a subscription to the newspaper archives internet site. This will give researchers access to numerous Manitoba newspapers and allow them to do research from their home. If you will like to talk about possible research topics or offer your services, please call Kent at 489-6641. Donation or loan of scrapbooks, photographs, etc. is always welcomed. Recent donations include a photo of the 1943-44 West End Orioles juveniles coached by Hoss Nicholson, a photo of the 1938-39 Flin Flon juvenile champions and the lineups for the midget and juvenile teams that played in the 1958-59 all-star games at the Olympic rink.

Hockey Hall of Fame Inductee Bios

PLAYERS

Terry Ball – Defense



Born in Selkirk, Terry Ball was a junior with Winnipeg Rangers. For two consecutive years he was picked up by the MJHL champion Brandon Wheat Kings for the play-offs. The second year, Edmonton Oil Kings, who had beaten Brandon, also wanted Ball for the Memorial Cup final. He chose instead to play for the eventual Allan Cup winning, Winnipeg Maroons. Ball played 15 pro seasons including 74 NHL games and 305 in the WHA. He finished his career in Finland. He didn't weigh much more than 160 pounds but was a ferocious body checker. Ball lives in Parma, Ohio.

Theoren Fleury – Right Wing

A native of Russell, Man., although born in Oxbow Sask., Theoren Fleury played one season of junior with St. James Canadians and four with Moose Jaw Warriors. He also played for Canada in two world junior tournaments. Fleury suited up for 1084 NHL games, mostly with Calgary Flames where he won the Stanley Cup in 1988-89, but also saw action with Colorado, Chicago and New York Rangers. He finished his pro career with Belfast Giants of the EIHL and played with Steinbach in the 2009 Allan Cup tournament. Fleury lives in Calgary.

Karl Friesen – Goal

Winnipeg-born Karl Friesen won the MJHL championship with West Kildonan North Stars, coached by Manitoba Hall of Famer Greg Lacomy. He played briefly with Maine Mariners of the AHL and New Jersey Devils, but had an outstanding career in Germany. His teams won the German championship four times, and he was named goalie of the year and player of the year four times. Friesen played 14 years of pro hockey and represented Germany in six world championships, three Winter Olympic Games, the Spengler Cup and the Canada Cup. Friesen lives in Winnipeg and coaches goalies with Hockey Ministries International.

Mike Keane - Right Wing

A Winnipegger who played junior for Winnipeg Monarchs, Moose Jaw Warriors and the Canadian Junior team, Mike Keane went on to play 1161 NHL games and was a member of three Stanley Cup winning teams, Montreal in 1992-93, Colorado in 1995-96 and Dallas in 1998-99. He also played for New York Rangers and Vancouver Canucks. He finished his career as captain of Manitoba Moose. Keane was a great leader, penalty killer and shot blocker. He lives in Winnipeg.

George Konik - Defense



Born in Flin Flon, George Konik was the SJHL most valuable player in the 1956-57 season when his hometown Bombers went on to win the Canadian junior championship. Choosing education over pro hockey with the New York Rangers organization, he earned an engineering degree at the University of Denver while helping the Pioneers win two NCAA championships. At Denver, he earned All-America honours and later was selected as one of the top players in NCAA hockey history. In 1970 when the US National team won the World B Championship, he was named top defenseman. Konik lives in Eagan, Minn.

Jason More – Defense

A native of Deloraine, Jason More played with Notre Dame Hounds and then junior with Lethbridge, later Swift Current Broncos, Brandon Wheat Kings and New Westminster Bruins. He was a WHL all-star in 1987. More played 406 NHL games with New York Rangers, Minnesota, San Jose, Phoenix, Chicago and Nashville. He was often used as a penalty killing blueliner. Not a big scorer, he had 18 goals and 72 points. After joining Nashville in 1998 as a free agent, he suffered a concussion in December of that year. He tried but was never able to play again. More lives in Brentwood, Tenn.

Neil Wilkinson – Defense

Born in Selkirk, Neil Wilkinson began with Selkirk Steelers, played a year at Michigan State and junior with Medicine Hat Tigers. He went on to play 460 NHL contests and appeared in a Stanley Cup final with Minnesota. He also played for San Jose, Chicago, Winnipeg Jets and Pittsburgh. A defensive rearguard, he scored just 16 goals and had 83 points. After 10 NHL seasons, he played a few games in lesser leagues, but serious problems with his abdomen and groin forced him to retire. Wilkinson lives in Sherwood, Ore.

BUILDERS

Bob Cornell

Bob Cornell received the prestigious WHL Governor's Award for 2006-07 recognizing his more than three decades of service to the Brandon Wheat Kings and to the league. At that time James Shewaga of the Brandon Sun wrote, "perhaps no one has done more to ensure the Wheat Kings have remained in Brandon for the past 40 years." Cornell, born and raised in Brandon, twice was involved in helping prop up the financially troubled franchise and twice negotiated lease agreements with the Keystone Centre. He sold one third of the club to Kelly McCrimmon in 1993 and eventually sold him his remaining shares, confident that the team would remain in the Wheat City.

Don Dietrich

Don Dietrich of Deloraine, a former defenseman and captain of the Brandon Wheat Kings, soaked up a lot of knowledge as a player in the AHL, NHL, East Coast League, with Team Canada and in Germany and Switzerland. He has passed on this knowledge as an assistant coach in Switzerland and after returning home, as a coach with the Southwest Cougar midgets, the SWHL Deloraine Royals and as a scout for the Spokane Chiefs. Dietrich has been an active member of Canada's national coach mentorship program, doing "one-on-one" mentoring as well as clinics. Despite personal health problems, he was instrumental in developing the Breakfast Club where young players have come out twice a week to practice their skill development.

Ted Foreman

A Memorial Cup finalist with the St. Boniface Canadiens in 1952-53, Ted Foreman turned to coaching the following year after breaking his leg in three places. He coached midget hockey and eventually was one of a group of ten people who took over the Fort Garry Blues, (later changed to the Winnipeg South Blues) of the MJHL. Foreman's vocation was in financial planning with Investor's Group. Pro hockey players were beginning to sign large contracts and they needed guidance in handling their money. He eventually acted as a financial advisor to almost 100 players. He also was a longtime director of the Winnipeg Jets.

Glen Lawson

Glen Lawson was born in Brandon. He played junior for the Wheat Kings in 1953-54 after which he played for the Fort Williams Hurricanes when the Wheat Kings ceased to operate. Lawson coached a group of juveniles and entered them in the Senior Big Six League in 1956-57 and in the Riding Mountain League, where they became champs the next year. Both teams also won the provincial juvenile championship. He also coached provincial bantam and intermediate champions. Based on the juvenile teams' success, Brandon returned to junior hockey. In 1967-68, Brandon became part of the Western Canada Junior Hockey League. On three different occasions Lawson took over coaching the team. In 1968-69, he had been the team manager, in 1969-70 a team director and in 1970-71 part owner when he became the coach partway through the season. He continued to coach youngsters as well as play intermediate hockey.

OFFICIALS

Laura (Vanderhorst) Loeppky

Laura (Vanderhorst) Loeppky grew up in Charleswood and started officiating minor hockey in Assiniboine Park. She worked her way up through the AAA bantam and midget levels and became the first female to officiate men's junior hockey in Manitoba. In 1998 she officiated the first of five consecutive national women's championships. She represented Canada in Finland in 1999, in Latvia in 2000 and in 2001 at the Women's Pool A World Championship in Minneapolis. The highlight of her career took place in 2002 when she was selected to referee at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. There her ability earned her the distinction of refereeing the bronze medal game. She also conducted clinics for Hockey Manitoba and acted as a mentor to young female officials.

Bud Ulrich

Bud Ulrich started refereeing in the Greater Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association in 1961 and spent two years as a referee-in-chief. He quickly moved up through the officiating ranks in the province working in the Manitoba junior and senior leagues, GPAC university hockey and MAHA intermediate playdowns. When the Western Canada Junior Hockey League came to Winnipeg in 1967-68, he started refereeing Winnipeg Jets home games. Later as a head referee for the league, he spent several years travelling across Western Canada working games in league centres. He also officiated in Memorial Cup playdowns and in 1974-75 was selected by the CAHA as Canada's referee for the World Junior Championship and officiated games in Minneapolis and Winnipeg.

MEDIA

Curt Keilback

Curt (Sod) Keilback did his first hockey play-by-play when he was 11 years old and his father, Jim Keilback, had him do a period of a Saskatchewan Senior Hockey League game as part of minor hockey week. He must have liked it. His father broadcast MJHL and pro Winnipeg Warrior games, and like his dad, Curt decided to make it a career. He began in Yorkton and Regina and was hired by CJOB Winnipeg in 1979. He did radio at CJOB and CKY and television at CKY and CKND, becoming the voice of the Winnipeg Jets and following them to Phoenix. He called more than 2400 NHL games.

Bob Picken

Bob Picken began writing sports for the *Winnipeg Citizen* when in high school. The short-lived paper appeared while the *Free Press* and the *Tribune* were on strike in the 1940s. He has been on the sports scene for more than half a century and covered hockey from minor and junior to the Warriors of the WHL pro league, the Jets and the Moose during his career at CJOB and CBC. We aren't the first to recognize Pick. He is in the following Halls: Manitoba Baseball, Manitoba Curling, Blue Bomber, Football Reporters of Canada, Canadian Curling, plus the Manitoba Sportswriters and Sportscasters Wall of Honour. He has been the MC for several Hockey Hall of Fame induction dinners. This year, however, he will be on the other side of the stage.

TEAMS

1955-56 Winnipeg Warriors

See Skating Down Memory Lane (page 8)

1974 Warroad Lakers

During the 1973-74 season, the Warroad (Minn.) Lakers won the Manitoba intermediate AA championship and went on to win the Edmonton Journal Trophy emblematic of the Western Canada intermediate A championship. In the 1974 Canadian intermediate best-of-five final for the Hardy Cup played in Roseau, Minn., Lakers swept Embrun Panthers from the Ottawa District Hockey Association three straight by scores of 7-3, 4-3 and 9-1. A majority of the Warroad players were from Manitoba.

1983 North End Flyers

The North End Flyers were a team of players and management most of whom grew up and played sports in the North End of Winnipeg. In the 1980-81 season, the Flyers reached the Canadian intermediate championship, but lost the Hardy Cup to the Charlottetown Islanders from PEI. Two years later, they won the western intermediate A title again. That set up a Canadian final at home against the Timmins North Stars. The tough but skilled Flyers had very little trouble with the team from northern Ontario winning the best-of-seven series in four straight by the scores of 7-2, 4-2, 4-1 and 7-6. The victory brought the Hardy Cup to Winnipeg for the first and only time.



North End Flyers at the Media Conference, April 12

1994, 1995, 1996 Warroad Lakers

During the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96, the Warroad (Minn.) Lakers accomplished a unique triple by winning the Canadian senior hockey championship and the Allan Cup three years in a row. The 1994 championship among four teams was played in a new arena in Warroad. Lakers finished the round-robin with a 2-1 record after losing 7-5 to their CASH League rivals, the St. Boniface Mohawks. Lakers then shut out Stony Plain, Alta. 4-0 to get another shot at the undefeated Mohawks, a team they had beaten 12 of 13 times during the season. Using a completely US-born lineup, the Lakers won the Allan Cup with a 5-2 victory.

In 1994-95, Warroad played in the Southeastern Manitoba Hockey League. The Allan Cup was played in Stony Plain and the Lakers won their first two games over Powell River, B.C. and the host hometown Eagles. The victories put Lakers into the championship so a 9-5 loss to Truro, N.S. didn't hurt. In the final against Stony Plain, Lakers led 3-0 in the third period and managed to hold off the Eagles for a 3-2 win. It was only the sixth time in the history of the Allan Cup that a team won back-to-back championships.

The following season saw the Lakers given "the pink slip" by the Southeastern Manitoba League so the team played an exhibition schedule until the Manitoba playdowns. The team won a fifth straight provincial title. By beating Lloydminster Border Kings in the Manitoba/Saskatchewan playoff, Warroad earned a spot in the Canadian final to be played in nearby Unity, Sask. Lakers won three straight in the round-robin and then beat Stony Plain 6-1 in the final for Canadian senior title number three.

Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Rings

A Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame ring is available to all honoured members or their families. Rings must be ordered through the Hall of Fame in care of President Gary Cribbs, 23 Carlyle Bay, Winnipeg R3K 0H2, telephone: 204-837-4159. Information should include name, year of induction, number and ring size. Each ring will be personalized with the inductee's name raised on the outside and engraved on the inside. Only one ring per honoured member will be produced by Jostens. The price for a gold ring is \$759.00 and for a lustrum (silver colour) \$282.25. There is a shipping and handling charge of \$14.95 plus PST and GST. A cheque for full payment is to be made out to Jostens.



Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Awards Presented

On May 9, two \$1,000 Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame scholarships were presented at the annual Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association hockey awards luncheon. Andrew Miskiewicz from Stonewall Collegiate received the Ken "Friar" Nicolson Award while Nikki Bell from Sanford Collegiate was the Sami-Jo Small Award winner. In addition to serving as assistant captain of his hockey team, Miskiewicz has achieved an academic average of 96% and been an academic gold medalist the past three years. He's also a hockey official and even operates the Zamboni at the Stony Mountain arena. In grade 12, Bell has participated in 10 varsity-level teams including hockey where she was an all-star. A four-year honour roll student, she has maintained a 91% average. Both recipients plan to attend university in the Fall. The winners were selected by the HOF awards committee headed by Jan Brown. The committee also had the task of selecting the winner of the D'Arcy Bain/Fred Stevenson Award and chose Addison Cullen from Glenboro School. President Gary Cribbs (below) was on hand to present the awards to Miskiewicz and Bell.



Hockey Manitoba held its awards luncheon as part of the 97th annual general meeting, May 6-8. Each year the HOF presents awards to the most promising, most improved and most deserving officials in 10 districts across the province. Andrew Miskiewicz was named the most promising in the Interlake region. This year 30 officials were honoured. Greg Lacomy, who was inducted into the HOF as a builder in 2009, was named as Hockey Manitoba's volunteer of the year. It was a busy weekend for Greg as the St. Nicholas Men's Club honoured him as its Ukrainian Sportsman of the Year at its annual dinner the evening of May 6th.

2010 Grey Cup Pool Winners

Final Score (E21 W18) \$1,000—Janet Alsip, 157 Linacre Rd, Winnipeg
Other Prize Winners: Garth White and Mike Kelly, Neepawa; Neil Thoroughgood, Grande Point; Matt Kotowicz, St. Anne; R. Hoffman, Matlock; Jeff Hnatiuk, Selkirk; Mike Heckl, Dave Brown, Lloyd Rigey, Bill Hoffman, Gina Grobber, Donald Steele, all from Winnipeg; Gayle Corrie.

Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets in support of the Hall of Fame and Museum and to director Jeep Woolley, who was in charge of the pool once again.

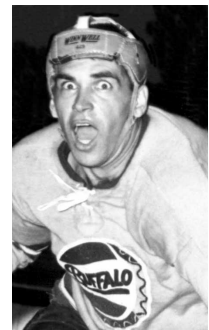
Skating Down Memory Lane With Ted Holland

The Year the Pros Came Home

In hockey as well as football, where you play is determined by the annual draft. It's not like earlier times when you rounded up the best athletes in your area and formed a team. They were "your boys." Cities and towns still have "their boys" because they are dressed in local colours. It doesn't matter where they came from. In pro hockey, in fact even in junior hockey, they could be from towns and cities throughout North America or they could be from any of 15 European countries. As soon as these players don your uniform they become local heroes while hometowners playing for visiting teams are the enemy. The term often used in sport is the fans are "cheering for laundry."

In 1955-56 playing in a new arena, the Winnipeg Warriors joined the minor pro Western Hockey League. The Perrin family owned and operated the team and wanted to do things first class. J.D. Perrin Sr. was the club president and J.D. Perrin Jr. the general manager. They consistently asked staff members, "How do they do it in the NHL because that's how we want to do things?" With joint sponsorship from the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs, they tried to fill the roster with as many local players as possible. Winnipeg native and former New York Ranger Alf Pike was named coach.

The Manitobans began to arrive. Fred "The Fog" Shero came from the Cleveland Barons to captain the team. Veteran minor league defensemen Danny Summers and Mickey Keating plus aggressive youngster "Wild Bill" Burega also signed on. After an exhibition game at Winnipeg's Olympic Rink, New York Rangers coach Phil Watson commented, "Burega isn't wild, he's crazy." Burega finished the season in third place with 151 penalty minutes behind former NHL tough guys Pat Egan of Vancouver and Brandon's "Red Eye" Hay. Bill Mosienko retired from the Chicago Black Hawks and brought his speed home. Montreal sent Eddie Mazur and the Leafs farmed out Gary Aldcorn. Like Burega and goalkeeper Don Collins, they were former Winnipeg Monarch juniors. Garry "Boomer" Blaine played half the season with the Warriors, but Montreal moved him to Trois Rivières. In his place another Winnipegger, Cec Hoekstra, came West from Montreal Royals.



Bill Burega

To fill out the squad, Toronto sent non-Manitobans goalie Ed Chadwick, the high-scoring former St. Catherine's Tee Pee line of Brian and Barry Cullen and Hugh Barlow plus Toronto Marlboro grad Mike Nykoluk. From the Montreal camp came Skip Burchell. When the Leafs brought Brian Cullen up to the big club, they sent down Eric Nesterenko who, although he didn't learn the game here, was born in Flin Flon. Local players Chuck Lumsden, Len Thomson, Murray Couch and Al Johnson and Quebec's Dick Bouchard, who was born in Letellier, played a few games. Grizzled NHL vet Bill "The Beast" Juzda, who because he had obtained his amateur card, could only play three games on an amateur "try-out" basis. Winnipeg had its own pro team and fans could cheer for players they knew, not just laundry.

The Warriors started slowly but picked up enough steam to edge out Calgary Stampeders for first place in the Prairie Division. In the play-offs they downed Saskatoon in three straight games, Calgary four games to one and Vancouver four to two. Winnipeg then faced Montreal Royals, the Quebec League champs, for the Edinburgh Trophy. In anticipation of a number of large gates, the series was a best-of-nine affair. The Warriors, now playing like a well-oiled machine, had little trouble winning in six games. How good were the Warriors? Sponsors Toronto and Montreal were so impressed they moved the bulk of the team East and started a new AHL club in Rochester the following season. They left a few of the older players on Winnipeg.

In a recent edition of *The Hockey Research Journal*, published by the Society for International Hockey Research, a Minor League Committee selected teams which had the greatest minor league seasons ever. Using criteria that included the team's regular season record, their lead margin, individual awards and all-star selections, they selected the 1955-56 Providence Reds as having the best minor league season of all time. Winnipeg would not have scored well in many of the categories. For example, only Eddie Mazur was selected as an all-star and he was on the third WHL team. Vancouver journalist Leo Ornest writing in *The Hockey News* at the time did say, "Without making a detailed research of all minor professional hockey teams, we feel safe in stating the Warriors have more scoring threats than any other minor club." We don't think the 1955-56 Warriors had the greatest minor league season or even close, but we do think they would have had a good chance of taking the Reds that year in a best-of-seven series. They seemed to be getting stronger as the season went along. There was no chance for another series then, it was almost summer. It remains one of those arguments nobody can win.