

CELEBRATING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COCA-COLA BOTTLERS' CUP

The Washington Capitals and Kansas City Scouts' Captivating, Long-Forgotten Foray into the Land of Sake, Sumo and Swimming Pool Skating Rinks

By Steve Currier

Quirky ideas are not always foolhardy, as you will soon discover. In fact, quirky ideas often lead to wonderful, unexpected results. Some things just don't need to make sense as long as the outcome puts a smile on everyone's face. When the National Hockey League announced in March 1976 that its two worst teams, the Washington Capitals and Kansas City Scouts, would be traveling to Japan to play a four-game exhibition series for something called the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Cup, almost everyone was baffled. "I think [the NHL] just wanted to float a trial balloon and just see, because some people said that Japanese hockey was starting to come on," said Scouts winger Robin Burns. The decision to send the dregs of the NHL to Japan for the purpose of stirring interest in hockey was met with snickers. The Medicine Hat News' Pete Mossey had this amusing take on the tour:

The U.S. State Department hasn't always received top marks for intelligence, so it's not surprising they are sending Kansas City Scouts and Washington Capitals to Japan for a series of exhibition games... sending these two clubs on a Japan tour, to build up the image of the NHL, makes as much sense as having the Broad Street Bullies... represent the NHL at a meeting of the Mothers For Clean Hockey Society.(1)

In the end, the Scouts and Caps enthralled an entire nation with their gap-toothed smiles, bone-shattering body checks and deafening slap shots, but the media's scepticism was justified. After all, the Capitals and Scouts had stumbled to a cumulative 46-236-38 record their first two seasons. Surely, the league could have sent better ambassadors to Japan, but the NHL's reasoning made sense. Everyone knew the cellar-dwellers would be mathematically eliminated from playoff contention by Christmas, so it gave tournament organizers plenty of time to plan and promote the trip.

While expansion drafts are notorious for stocking new teams with minor-leaguers and washed-up veterans, the

1974 draft had a particularly shallow talent pool due to the fact that, by then, the NHL and WHA had swollen to a combined 32 teams. With the Iron Curtain still closed, a dearth of American talent, and a slow willingness to accept European players, the Capitals and Scouts had little choice but to dress the dregs of professional hockey. The giddy NHL pocketed a tidy \$12-million in expansion fees, but the league's two newest members suffered immensely. The Capitals set all kinds of futility records in their first year: 8 wins (including just one on the road), 67 losses, and 446 goals against. Most players had plus-minus marks that resembled the average winter temperature of Antarctica. The Scouts performed marginally better, finishing 15-54-11 with 184 goals scored and 328 against.



The following season, the Scouts were led by high-scoring centre Guy Charron (27 goals, 71 points) and All-Star left winger Wilf Paiement (43 points in 57 games). Veteran Gary Bergman was brought in to steady the blue line and finished with a decent 38 points. Denis Herron's 4.03 goals-against average in 64 games was more a reflection of the Scouts' porous defence than his talent. Steve Durbano was acquired in mid-season and led the league with 370 penalty minutes.

Kansas City started the 1975/76 season 11-21-4, and were poised to make a run at the playoffs in the weak Smythe Division, but they then went into a 1-35-8 tailspin, including a 27-game winless skid to cap off the season.



Although the Capitals were worse at 11-59-10, eight of their wins came in the 44 games coached by Tom McVie, who had replaced Milt Schmidt in mid-season. "He believed that our theme for the Caps was 'hard work gets it done,'" remembered player Ron "Newsy" Lalonde. "He put us through two-a-day practices and took away the country club atmosphere [of] the first year." Nelson Pyatt led the way with 26 goals and 49 points while Hartland Monahan scored 46 points and Tony White had 25 goals and 42 points. Gerry Meehan was acquired in mid-season and scored 31 points in 32 games. Ron Low (6-31-2) split the goaltending duties with Bernie Wolfe (5-23-7).

The Caps and Scouts may have been laughing stocks back home, but in Japan, they were treated like champions. "Yes, they are the two bottom teams in the league," said Jack Sakazaki, a Tokyo advertising executive promoting the exhibition tour, "but it doesn't matter because they are so much above the standards of everyone else playing here." (2) Homer Simpson was right: default was indeed "the two sweetest words in the English language," because for once, being futile would lead to more benefits than being successful. (3)

Bernie Wolfe remembers the warm reception that awaited when the Caps' plane touched down in Japan. "When we got off the plane, it said, 'Welcome Washington Capitals: Team of beautiful women and brave men,' and my wife laughed because here she's almost seven months pregnant, and after 15 hours on a plane, she said she looked anything but beautiful." Players from both the winning and losing squads would receive \$1,250 for their efforts plus a \$45 per diem, and all expenses would be paid. The players'

wives and girlfriends were also invited along. Everyone stayed in a first-rate hotel that was prominently featured in the James Bond movie *You Only Live Twice*. During their stay, the players took in some sumo wrestling, a traditional dinner at a grill house and watched a Kabuki theatre production. The wives and girlfriends were taken on a tour of Kyoto and also passed the time shopping and getting manicures at the hotel. The tournament itself cost a reported \$400,000 and the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Japan reportedly forked over about 75 per cent of that total. Tickets weren't cheap, costing up to \$26 apiece.

McVie expected his players to capture the Coca-Cola Cup. Before the series began, he admitted he would be "very, very unhappy if we don't win all four with the Scouts." (4) Despite the wonderful accommodations and the holiday atmosphere, the Capitals were going to work hard every day. "Right up until we left from Washington," said player Ron Lalonde, "we continued to practise even though our season was over. We flew out to L.A. the night before and practised in the L.A. Forum before flying from L.A. to Japan."

On their way to Japan, the Capitals had a three-hour layover in Hawaii because the plane just ahead of them had blown a wheel on the runway. Wolfe remembered the team got "a little bit wasted" at the bar. McVie was livid. As soon as the Caps landed in Japan, McVie called a practice. "I'm not sure if Tommy was trying to impress anybody," Wolfe said, "but there were just a whole bunch of Japanese reporters and fans leaning over the boards with their cameras, and I remember the workout was so hard, a couple of our players actually puked right over the boards on cameras the Japanese reporters were holding."

The atmosphere in the Scouts' camp was far different. While Henry Boucha did not go to Japan with the rest of the team due to the impending birth of his son, he remembered the weeks leading up to the series. "I really don't think anyone was that pumped about playing the games and certainly not performing to the best of their ability," he explained. "It was a vacation to most. However, once on the ice I am sure the pride took over and most hockey players want to play to win."

While the energized Capitals were building momentum, the Scouts ended their season on a 27-game

winless streak and were feeling somewhat demoralized. Henry Boucha remembered the terrible conclusion to the Scouts' regular season:

Most players went through the motions of trying but we didn't have the leadership or talent to win many games. Some players took pride in their work, but were there only to achieve their personal goals and not the team goals. We were a cast of characters, and most were on their way out of the game and didn't have much of a future. I think [coach] Eddy Bush was in the same frame of mind as most of the players. He knew he was going after the season and had that mind set. Toward the end of the season [we] all knew we were going to be sold or maybe even fold... It was hard to play and get motivated under those circumstances.



Robin Burns

While the Scouts may not have made themselves throw up over winning an exhibition series like the Capitals did, they did not coast through the games. "We played with intensity," said Robin Burns. "It wasn't like an All-Star game, you know what I mean? There was hitting. There was fights. It was excellent hockey." The Scouts simply viewed this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity differently than their Washington counterparts. "The Capitals, it was like they were going for the Stanley Cup," Burns remembered. "We went one day to visit a beer factory the day of a game, but the Washington players were not allowed to go; they were in to have an afternoon nap and ready for the game. We took advantage of sight-seeing as well as socializing with the people." Would the Scouts' relaxed attitude rouse them from their funk and lead them to victory? Or would the Caps' intense training regimen pay off? It was time for Bush and McVie's opposing philosophies to collide.

Game One: Wednesday, April 14, 1976

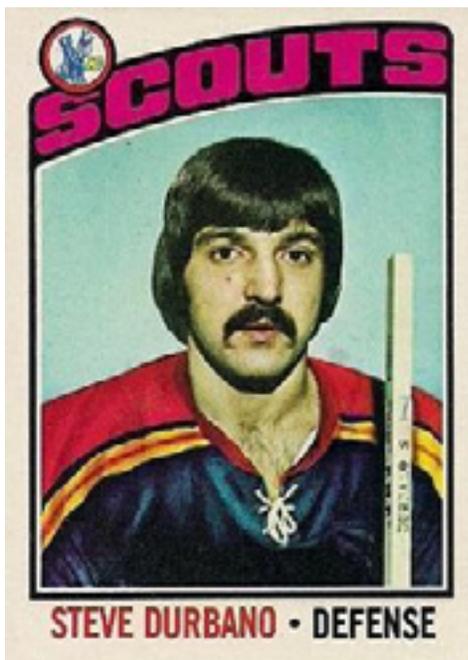
The series opened at the Tsukisamu ice rink in Sapporo, the site of the 1972 Winter Olympics, in front of 4,500 fans. "The arena was really chilly," remembered the Caps' Mike Lampman. "It almost reminded you of your childhood days in some of the old arenas." In the first period, during a scramble in front of Denis Herron, the Caps took a 2-1 lead on a goal by Mike Marson. At 12:17, Bob Sirois made it 3-1 on an assist from Pete Scamurra. Washington beat Herron twice more in the second frame, while Charron scored once on Wolfe. The Caps sat back on their 5-2 lead in the third, boring the fans and disappointing McVie. With 23 seconds left in the game, one Caps' player yelled out, "Pearly gates!" referring to the string of pearls each player on the winning team would receive.(5)

According to a game description in the Washington Post, both teams looked groggy and listless, leaving many fans disappointed. "I expected more fighting and blood," lamented 47-year-old Keisuke Atarashi, likely because promoters had promised fans violence in order to draw a larger crowd.(6) One Japanese reporter explained that NHL players' "business is kicking, fighting and bloodshed," leading many naïve fans to believe hockey was essentially Rollerball on ice.(7) Later in the series, a flustered television commentator had to explain to viewers why no one had been badly injured yet, a comment that would surely lead to a firestorm of criticism on Twitter nowadays.

The Japanese were not your typical hockey fanatics and Sapporo's crowds were anything but ordinary. McVie described the atmosphere in Sapporo as if "they'd put 5,000 mannequins in the seats."(8) Hartland Monahan compared the Sapporo crowd to "a morgue"(9). According to Ron Lalonde, the fans in Sapporo "were really quiet. They were almost polite. You'd hear clapping like here at a play or something... polite applause." Fans also had trouble grasping the subtleties of the game. "I remember, on occasion," remembered Mike Lampman, "when the puck would go into the stands, they would politely throw it back." While Japanese spectators may have craved blood like the animals that populated the Philadelphia Spectrum, they had much more sophisticated culinary tastes than the average fan, choosing sake and noodle soup over beer and hot dogs. Welcome to Japan!

Game Two: Thursday, April 15, 1976

Game One had been a relative disappointment, so promoters and club officials were relieved when both teams brought their 'A' game for the second contest. Kansas City's Steve Durbano, in particular, made quite an impression on those in attendance. The Scouts' resident goon skated through the Caps' defence to make it 3-2 for Washington. Durbano later drew a hooking penalty, then picked up another two minutes for angrily slapping the puck, breaking his stick, and hurling it at the referee. The crowd stood silent until a Kansas City wife yelled out, "You stupid referee!" which made everyone laugh.(10)



In the third period, the Caps scored three times, including two powerplay goals in 42 seconds, to give them a 6-2 win and extend the Scouts' miserable winless streak to 29 games. Washington also managed to do something they had never done in regular season competition: win two in a row! For the win, the Caps skated off with cassette tape recorders. Meehan scored twice for the victors, while Sirois, White, Lampman, and Jean Lemieux scored singles. Defenceman Jean-Guy Lagace scored the other Kansas City goal. The Scouts knew their backs were against the wall, but they still talked tough. "We have 24 hours to rest our aches and pains and we haven't started to fight yet," said Gary Croteau. "We're going to win that third game in Tokyo."(11)

The players put on a great show. Young boys crowded the glass hoping to get a stick or an autograph. Fans also witnessed their first NHL fight, courtesy of Washington's Blair Stewart and Kansas City's Larry Johnston, which left many spectators dead silent, but as one woman pointed out, "We are not accustomed to seeing the foreigners fighting in public."(12) Were fans suddenly offended now that the promise of violence had been delivered? On the contrary, according to Ron Lalonde. "They would giggle. It was funny to them to see hockey players fighting on the ice." For ornery Canadians to fight on the ice should not have been surprising to anyone who read the press releases leading up to the series. In fact, in one poorly translated Japanese press release, it was claimed Canadians often "learn to fight on the ice before they fight on the street, when they are little."

These burly professional hockey players could not have looked more alien to the average Japanese spectator. "One of the other funny things was the Japanese people were enthralled with the fact that hockey players had no teeth," said Lalonde. "The reporters, after the game, they'd come in with their cameras and they wanted the players to take their teeth out and get a picture taken, and they thought that was hilarious." Reporters were also fascinated by how two teams could beat the hell out of each other on the ice, yet could stay in the same hotel and even socialize. "A lot of us have played together on other teams and are good friends," explained Gary Croteau, "but if you let friendship affect your game on the ice, you're letting the other man take money out of your pockets. There's no friendship on the ice."(13)

Game Three: Saturday, April 17, 1976

After a one-day layoff, the series resumed at Tokyo's Yoyogi Olympic Stadium. A crowd of 9,200, bolstered by a few North American fans, attended the 6 p.m. contest. The atmosphere at the rink was far different than in Sapporo; there were American cheerleaders on the sidelines, and a U.S. Army brass band played in the stands, but playing conditions were beyond farcical. The rink contained all sorts of hazards and quirks that today's NHLPA would never accept. "The arena was built on top of the Olympic swimming pool," remembered Wolfe, "so right above

my net there were about two or three high-diving boards. There were puddles everywhere on the ice, and in other spots, it was quite slushy, making it an ordeal to carry or pass the puck. "It was wet," said Washington captain Yvon Labre after the game. "Swimming pool ice. That kind of soft ice slows down the game. You just can't carry the puck." When Labre was told there was a swimming pool under the rink floor, he responded, "Thank God we didn't fall through. It was wet enough on the ice."(14)

The poor lighting created another nightmare for goaltenders, who could barely see the puck speeding at their heads. Making matters worse, there was no glass or screen behind the net, but rather fishing nets, to protect fans. Wolfe remembers it as being "sort of like a boomerang... The net would go back and then throw the puck forward again, so you also had to be careful on a high shot that you didn't get hit in the back of the head on a rebound."

The boards themselves were much too short, meaning players risked flying overboard if they were checked just right, but that wasn't the players' only issue. "There was nothing really holding them back other than some cement blocks all around," explained Lalonde, "so when you hit it, there's lots of give to it, but beyond the boards there was more ice." Some players took advantage of the abnormal playing conditions to entertain others. Notorious prankster Garnet "Ace" Bailey was once benched for half a period, so to prove to McVie that he wanted to get back into the game, Bailey started doing starts-and-stops behind the bench. "Tom McVie was going crazy; he was so upset," remembers Robin Burns. "We yelled over to Ace and said, 'What are you doing?' and he said, 'I'm trying to work up a two-beer thirst!'"



Garnet 'Ace' Bailey

Tokyo got a glimpse of North American hockey as Blair Stewart squared off with Durbano in the first period. Stewart dropped the mitts again later in the period, this time with Jean-Guy Lagace. After the game, Durbano delivered the best quote of the night: "Ah, really, we're all lovers, not fighters."(15)

Greg Joly put Washington up 1-0 early on assists from Sirois and White, and Lampman scored at 9:30 to give the Caps a two-goal lead. The Scouts rebounded with a goal before the end of the first period to make it 2-1. At 1:06 of the second stanza, Randy Rota made it 2-2, but the Scouts then followed the pattern of games one and two. "They get a lead, we catch up and then they score again," said Durbano. "We can't keep coming back. Psychologically we slow down."(16) McVie's intense training schedule was paying off. Washington scored three more times in the second to take a commanding 5-2 lead. Lampman scored his second goal of the game at 18:22 of the third to give the Capitals another 6-2 victory. The prize for the winners on this night was Japanese geisha dolls.

These strange looking North American athletes were making quite an impression on Japan, and many odd questions were directed their way. Wolfe, who won his second game of the series and who had gained a bit of a following by this time, was taken aback by one local reporter who asked, "They say you used to be a big playboy?" Wolfe, who admittedly has never been anything of the sort, smartly dodged the dicey situation. "I am married and my wife is with me. It must be a misprint."(17)



Bernie Wolfe

Game Three Summary:

Washington	2	3	1 — 6
Kansas City	1	1	0 — 2

First period — 1. WSH, Joly (White, Sirois) 6:30; 2. WSH, Lampman (Lalonde) 9:08; 3. KC, Burns (Roberto, Dupere) 16:15. Penalties: Bergman 2:16, Stewart 3:25, Burns 4:30, Durbano (major) 8:15, Stewart (major) 8:15, Bennett 9:02, Burns 17:21, Lagace (major) 17:21, Stewart (major) 17:21, Bennett 17:21.

Second period — 4. KC, Rota (Charron, Patterson) 1:06; 5. WSH, White (Lynch) 8:21; 6. WSH, Bennett (Lemieux, Stewart) 10:03; 7. WSH, Stewart (Lynch, Lemieux) 14:46. Penalties: Stewart 5:17, Lampman 15:19.

Third period — 8. WSH, Lampman (unassisted) 18:21. Penalties: Stewart 8:04.

Shots on goal:

Washington	8	11	10 — 29
Kansas City	11	6	8 — 25

Goaltenders: WSH, Wolfe; KC, Herron

Attendance: 9,200

Game Four: Sunday, April 18, 1976

After losing the first three games of the series, the Scouts entered Game Four shrouded in uncertainty. Due to dismal attendance figures in Kansas City, rumours suggested the team would be contracted if a new owner couldn't be found. The Scouts needed to win the series-closer if they wanted to end what had become a 30-game winless skid, but there were other reasons to be motivated. "The wives were getting a little pissed off because all the Washington wives were getting the gifts," joked Burns. On a more serious note, the players also learned that defenceman Gary Bergman planned on retiring. "We were on the ice the day of the game, the warm-up," Burns said, "and someone said something to Bergy, and he said, 'Well, this is it. This is my last NHL game,' and everybody was a little bit shocked, but I think everybody that night said, 'We've got to put in an unbelievable effort.'"

Game Four began at 1:30 p.m. Tokyo time and was broadcast throughout Japan. Rota opened the scoring

at 18:55 of the first period on assists from Croteau and Charron. Craig Patrick then put Kansas City up by two at 7:19 of the second period. Lampman responded for Washington with his series-leading fourth goal at 10:37, but the Scouts' Jim McElmury followed that up with his first goal at 13:16. Croteau beat Low at 18:12 on assists from Rota and Charron to give the Scouts a 4-1 lead. The Washington Post's John Saar described the Caps' play as "lethargic" and similar to being "pushed around the ice like a car with a dead battery." (18)

Washington came out strong in the final period as Lemieux beat Herron just 3:15 in. Otherwise, Herron performed marvellously, "making diving, kicking saves that brought roars from the Japanese and American fans," wrote Lee Kavetski of Pacific Stars and Stripes, Herron was particularly strong during the final two minutes when the Scouts had two players in the penalty box, but in the end, the Capitals' efforts were futile. (19) With the 4-2 series-closing win, the Scouts not only salvaged some pride, but they ended their 30-game losing streak, and took home ladies wrist watches.

McVie chalked up the Caps' dismal performance to being "hockeyed out," and he believed the Scouts had extra incentive in trying to avoid the embarrassment of a series sweep. (20) Overall, however, the series had been an overwhelming success for Washington, and players were quick to credit McVie for the Capitals' sudden improvement. "McVie has made the difference," said Lampman, "and for next season, winning this series is important. It's given us a touch of success." (21)

Game Four Summary:

Kansas City	1	3	0 — 4
Washington	0	1	1 — 2

First period — 1. KC, Rota (Patrick, Charron) 18:55. Penalties: Johnston 5:31, Durbano 6:04, Sirois 9:16, Lalonde 12:40, Labre 17:58.

Second period — 2. KC, Patrick (Rota, Charron) 7:19; 3. WSH, Lampman (Meehan, Lalonde) 10:37; 4. KC, McElmury (Roberto, Hudson) 13:16; 5. KC, Croteau (Bergman, Charron) 18:12. Penalties: Bennett 0:45, Bergman 0:45, Johnston 4:15, Bragnalo 4:48, Labre 16:38, Scamurra 17:20.

Third period — 6. WSH, Lemieux (Bragnalo) 3:15.
 Penalties: Bennett 0:13, Durbano 2:54, White 15:36, Rota 17:54, Johnston 17:54, Patterson 18:03.

Shots on goal:

Kansas City	14	11	8 — 33
Washington	8	6	9 — 23

Goaltenders: KC, Herron; WSH, Low.

Attendance: 9,300.



Coca-Cola Bottlers' Cup

Whatever happened to the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Cup?

At the conclusion of Game Four, the teams lined up and shook hands, and there was a short on-ice ceremony where the Capitals received the Coca-Cola Cup. “What I remember of it,” remembered Lampman, “was this... almost old-fashioned ‘B’-type cup that was decorated with ribbons that dangled below the trophy, but it was nothing of great note. Brass, nothing fancy, maybe a little wooden base to it.” The teams then retired to their dressing rooms to indulge in some complimentary bottles of Coke. When a Japanese reporter asked Blair Stewart what he planned on doing during the summer, he answered, “Drinking.” Stewart then corrected himself, and said, “I mean... traveling and relaxing.”(22) The Capitals and Scouts then spent five days in Hawaii at the NHL’s expense, capping an already extraordinary journey.

A Capitals press release announcing the team’s triumph stated the Coca-Cola Bottlers’ Cup would be an annual event. The success of the series prompted Eddie Bush to envisage a bright future for hockey in Japan. “They sure go for baseball here. I imagine in time, the Japanese will go for pro hockey. This tour... this is how it all starts.” (23) While Bush’s prediction has yet to come true, the ground-work was laid in 1976 for the NHL’s forays into Japan for regular season games in 1997, 1998 and 2000, not to mention the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, which featured dozens of NHL stars.

While the Coca-Cola Cup never became an annual event, its story does not end with the Caps’ victory. The monetary value of the Coca-Cola Cup may be negligible, but the trophy’s 40-year journey is a priceless tale. During the interview process for this article, it dawned on me that not one Washington player had the foggiest idea what happened to the cup. It wasn’t until decades after the Caps brought the Cup back to D.C. that Mike Vogel, a senior writer for the Capitals, stumbled upon it. “Found that trophy in a storage closet years ago,” he explained. “For a while, I believe it was awarded to our annual Bubble Hockey champ around the office. I’m sure it’s still around somewhere, but I have no idea where. In hockey, if it’s not the Stanley Cup it’s pretty worthless... It’s probably in an office or a closet somewhere, or maybe someone took it home to use as a flower pot.” He snapped a few pictures of it at the time, proving the cup’s existence, but its current whereabouts remains a mystery.

Compared to the Stanley Cup playoffs, the Coca-Cola Cup tournament seems trivial, yet the players interviewed for this article were all delighted to reminisce about their adventure. For the Scouts, the tournament was significant, even though they lost. “I think we were trailblazers,” said Burns. “You look back at it and you go ‘Wow, that was a unique trip, a one-of-a-kind trip,’ It was an incredible adventure for everybody... little did we know it would be the last game the Scouts would play.” The club was relocated to Denver for the 1976/77 season where it continued to struggle until moving to New Jersey to become the Devils six years later.

For the triumphant Capitals, the Coca-Cola Cup became a symbol of legitimacy in a sport that had thoroughly embarrassed them since Day One. The trophy

itself was inconsequential; the real prize was the pride the players had gained and the memories they had made. "It was an incredible once-in-a-lifetime trip... Wonderful memories," defenceman Jack Lynch wrote to me. He has saved "tons of memorabilia" from the series, while his teammates, Lampman, and Lalonde provided many of the articles I consulted to research this series. If the Coca-Cola Cup's fate rests in existing solely as a flower pot at the offices of the Washington Capitals, it will forever remain a noteworthy plant holder. If anything, the obscure trophy is a delightful memento commemorating a bizarre, but unforgettable chapter in international hockey history.

Note: Game summaries for games 1 and 2 could not be located. All quotes were taken from personal interviews and e-mails with Bernie Wolfe, Ron Lalonde, Mike Lampman, Jack Lynch, Mike Vogel, Henry Boucha, and Robin Burns unless otherwise noted. Thanks to all of them for their help.

- (1) Mossey, Pete. "Only On Monday," *Medicine Hat News* (Apr. 19, 1976), p. 3.
- (2) Saar, John. "Caps, Scouts love Japan," (originally published in *Washington Post*) *Winnipeg Free Press* (Apr. 15, 1976), p. 56. prerequisite
- (3) *The Simpsons*, "Deep Space Homer," Season 5, Episode 15, originally aired Feb. 24, 1994.
- (4) Weber, Ron. "Caps Ended Campaign With Close Games," *The Hockey News* (Apr. 30, 1976), p. 21.
- (5) "Caps Open Japan Tour With Win," *Pacific Stars and Stripes* (Apr. 16, 1976), p. 20.
- (6) Saar, John. "Caps Palm Pearls," *Washington Post* (Apr. 14, 1976), p. D1.
- (7) Saar, John. "Capitals Bow in Japanese Finale," *Washington Post* (Apr. 18, 1976), p. D3.
- (8) *Ibid.*
- (9) Kavetski, Lee. "Capitals Pound Scouts 6-2," *Pacific Stars and Stripes* (Apr. 19, 1976), p. 17.
- (10) Saar, John. "Caps Win 6-2, as Fists Fly," *Washington Post* (Apr. 15, 1976), p. D6.

- (11) Saar, John. "Caps Win 6-2, as Fists Fly," p. D1.
- (12) *Ibid.*
- (13) Saar, John. "Caps Win 6-2, as Fists Fly," p. D1.
- (14) Kavetski, Lee. "Capitals Pound Scouts 6-2," *Pacific Stars and Stripes* (Apr. 19, 1976), p. 17.
- (15) *Ibid.*
- (16) Saar, John. "Capitals Go 3-0 in Japan," *Washington Post* (Apr. 17, 1976), p. C8.
- (17) *Ibid.*
- (18) Saar, John. "Capitals Bow in Japanese Finale," *Washington Post* (Apr. 20, 1976), p. D1.
- (19) Kavetski, Lee. "Scouts Top Caps 4-2 in Finale," *Pacific Stars and Stripes* (Apr. 20, 1976), p. 17.
- (20) Saar, John. "Capitals Bow in Japanese Finale," p. D3.
- (21) *Ibid.*
- (22) Weber, Ron. "Caps Ended Campaign With Close Games," *The Hockey News* (Apr. 30, 1976), p. 21.
- (23) Kavetski, Lee. "Capitals Pound Scouts 6-2."