

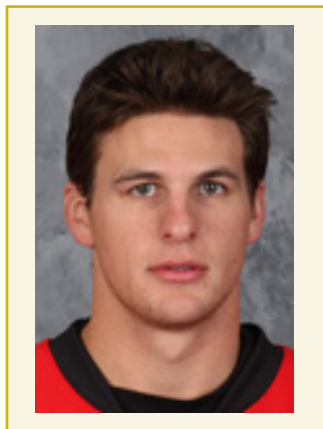


Hockey Zones

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For the LOVE of the GAME!



Adam Pardy A Rising Star

By Rex Tucker

It is quite an accomplishment, for any young hockey player to fulfill his childhood dream of playing in the

NHL. This accomplishment is far from easy if you grew up in the rural parts of Newfoundland. The odds are definitely stacked against anyone ever playing in the big show. The provincial population of Newfoundland is less than 600,000 - roughly half the size of the City of Calgary.

Current players Dan Cleary of the Detroit Red Wings from Harbour Grace, Michael Ryder of the Boston Bruins from Bonavista and Ryane Clowe of the San Jose Sharks from Fermeuse and this season Calgary Flames rookie Adam Pardy from Bonavista as well are current examples of Newfoundlanders, who have beaten the incredible odds.

These favorite native hockey sons are keeping the locals up to the early morning hours during this year's Stanley Cup playoff run. Due to the time zone, many games are not finishing up until

2am local time on the Rock! Many loyal supporters are wishing the games do not go into overtime so they can get a little more sleep! There's lots of local talk, anyone and everyone is following the pride of Newfoundland and their progress on the ice.

Fellow Newfoundlander 25 year old rookie blue liner Adam Pardy received his first playoff point, an assist on the winning goal, against the Chicago Blackhawks in game 3 of the western conference quarter final game on April 20th, 2009.

Quite an accomplishment for the young man from Bonavista, NL. town of 4,000. Bonavista is the site on the island of Newfoundland discovered by the first European, John Cabot in 1497. It has been more famous for its icebergs over the years than hockey development. However, Adam Pardy is following in the foot steps of fellow Bonavista minor hockey player Michael Ryder to the NHL.

Pardy was drafted in the 6th round, 173rd overall in the 2004 entry draft by the Calgary Flames. Pardy was a long shot to play in the NHL. However, the young man has worked diligently on his craft over the last 4 to 5 years.

cont. p. 3

What's Inside:

Teaching vs. Training	4
A Photographer's Perspective .	8
A Viewpoint	10
Skating, the Foundation of Checking	15
Upcoming Programs	16-22
Kids Hockey Advancement Society Golf Tournament	5, 33-36

**Look Inside for
More Great Sports Tips**

**“Anyone can support a team that is
winning – it takes no courage.
But to stand behind a team to defend
a team when it is down and really
needs you, that takes a lot of courage”**

–Bart Starr

A Rising Star (cont'd. from cover)

The six foot four and 220 pound defenseman is gradually finding a home on the Flames blue line. After starting his professional career in the minors and this season as a 7th defenseman at best on the Flames blue line depth chart his career is taking shape. It's a combination of Flames injuries, experience and confidence coming to the forefront.

He has been compared on occasion to Robin Regehr. Regehr has played for Team Canada at both the 2004 World Cup of Hockey and the 2006 Olympics. Regehr is a great role model for Pardy. Currently, Pardy is no Robin Regehr. However, the young blue liner has made great strides this season. He is adjusting to the speed of the NHL game and elite skill level. Pardy has a quite the challenge to continue to improve and not level off in his hockey development.

When analyzing the young man's play on the blue line, I foreseen the following strengths and areas needed for improvement.

He is incorporating more of a physical presents on the ice using his size and reach, getting stronger on the puck along the boards, patrolling the net zone well and making good decisions on outlet passes from the Flames zone. He

appears to even have more of a future offensive upside than teammate and mentor Regehr, showing flashes of offensive upside on occasion.

Pardy will have to work on his skating mobility, agility and quickness to the puck, and improve his gap control on 1 on 1 plays. With more games under his belt, increased confidence and honing his defenseman skills, there is no reason according to this writer why Pardy cannot be a solid top 4 playing defenseman for the Flames in the very near future.

With the positive role models and ongoing success of players like Pardy, Ryder, Cowe and Cleary etc I believe we will see more Newfoundlanders in the NHL down the road. Young local players are looking up to their local heroes and more believe they too can play in the NHL.

Last year Dan Cleary became the first Newfoundlander ever to have his name engraved on the Stanley Cup. It was a very proud and jubilant time when Cleary brought the cup back to the Rock! Will other Newfoundlanders duplicate the same feat? I guess time will tell.

Good luck Adam on establishing your self in the NHL and your ultimate goal of winning Lord Stanley's trophy! Cheers to "Rocking the Rock" someday!!