



Big salaries take fun out of hockey

BY PHILIPPE LAVIGNE, THE GAZETTE OCTOBER 16, 2010

In Red Fisher's Red Line last Saturday ("Hockey legend Orr remembers the laughs"), both Fisher and Bobby Orr lament the lack of priceless fun in today's hockey world, asking "Where has it gone?" Well, it seems to me that it started to go with the beginning of the inflated salaries and was further exacerbated with the introduction of the salary cap. In Orr's playing days, teams maintained their nucleus of great players for extended periods. While keeping their lines intact, victories and defeats were respectively celebrated and commiserated as a team, and in between they developed a family-like camaraderie that precipitated good-natured fun in the form of pranks and hijinks. Contrast this with the prevailing Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks, who barely had a chance to collectively savour their great victory when a number of the players were unceremoniously dispatched because they couldn't fit under the salary cap.

Philippe Lavigne Kirkland

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