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### LINE CHANGES: A CELEBRATION OF HOCKEY

1 COMMENTS

21 FEBRUARY 2011

Posted by Dickie-Dunn

By Tony Khing

*First of all, hope you celebrated Hockey Weekend Across America. Whatever you did to celebrate is greatly appreciated. In the meantime, get ready for a Line Change as we have some quick thoughts on a few things.*

#### HOCKEY DAY IN AMERICA

Kudos to NBC for carrying four great games yesterday. Seeing games in Buffalo, New York City, Minnesota and Chicago was fantastic. What was really neat was having different play-by-play announcers from the various teams call the action. But to be honest, to hear Chicago's Pat Foley calling a Detroit-Minnesota game, while Ken Daniels of Detroit was at Madison Square Garden for the Rangers-Flyers match and then to have Philadelphia's Jim Jackson in Buffalo for the Sabres-Caps contest was a bit strange.

Teams are identified by their play-by-play announcers. For example, when you think of the Sharks on radio, you think of our good friend Dan Rusanowsky. When it comes to the Sharks on television, our pal Randy Hahn is the connection. If you get the NHL Center Ice package (either for television or the computer), you'll know what we're talking about. Anyway, that's just one person's opinion.

But the most important thing was getting more people in the United States exposed to hockey. The features NBC ran on women's professional hockey and hockey in the inner cities and seeing the kids skating outdoors in Chicago was good stuff. And how ingenious was it of NBC to show Jim Cornelison singing the national anthem from the United Center? That's like hearing Robert Merrill sing the national anthem at Yankee Stadium.

Bottom line: if you're not hooked on hockey after yesterday, better check to see if you have a pulse.

#### HERITAGE CLASSIC

One of the hockey muckrakers in Canada was wondering today if the National Hockey League should 86 outdoor games. He was lamenting that the novelty of this event left the building long ago.

Freedom of the press is a good thing. This scribe had his chance...now here's our take.

Did you see how the fans in Calgary reacted to the game? Man, you have to love the game THAT MUCH to be one of more than 40,000 people who sat in genuine winter-like conditions (try minus-8.6 degrees Celsius, or 16.5 degrees Fahrenheit, yesterday at opening faceoff). Calgary's McMahon Stadium was filled to capacity and if more tickets could've been sold to Saturday's legends game between the Canadiens and the Flames (sales were capped at 10,000), the stadium would've been filled again.

Maybe playing outdoors is a bit of a novelty. But the NHL and its ice boss, Dan Craig, made sure the playing conditions were good. And besides, unique games like these get everyone's attention. Okay, so the game was in Canada, but it was televised on Versus in the United States. That means people who didn't want to watch golf, the NBA All-Star Game or "2012" for the umpteenth time on one of those movie channels could've tuned in to something cool.

Time for a Line Change! Thanks for reading and catch you later this week.

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**sky1597vw**

06 December 2011 - 01:00 AM

When it comes to the Sharks on television, our pal Randy Hahn is the connection. If you get the NHL Center Ice package , you'll know what we're talking about.**personalized hockey jerseys**

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