



The Tailgunners

The Houston Aeros Booster Club

Volume 7 Issue 3

January 2005

7th Annual Appreciation Banquet

This year's Aeros Booster Club Banquet has been set for Monday, March 28 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow, located at 3000 North Loop West, Houston, TX 77092, 713-688-0100.

We want to encourage everyone to attend this year's event. Even if you're not a member of the Houston Aeros Booster Club, you can still attend. Ticket prices are \$75 for members, \$90 for non-members, and \$800 for a table. You may sign up to sit at a table with the Aeros player or staff of your choice (subject to availability). Seats are sold on a first come, first served basis. To sign up, complete the order form at the Aeros Booster Club table located behind Section 101 at each home game at the Toyota Center. (Sorry, only cash or checks will be accepted.) Don't worry if there are no seats left at your favorite player's table, there will be plenty of time to mingle and visit with the players before and after the dinner and awards ceremony.

All proceeds from the banquet will go to the **Kids Unlimited Foundation**. The Kids Unlimited Foundation, which benefits children with cancer, was incorporated in November, 1994. Their primary focus is to provide events and activities that are family oriented, with the main focus being on the child with cancer. This allows children who are ill, along with their siblings and parents, an opportunity to gain support from other families enduring the same situation. They believe the entire family should be included because each member is affected by the illness. Houston Aeros Booster Club has supported this organization for many years and wants to continue to help them raise money to benefit their ranch home. A silent auction will be held during the banquet and all proceeds from the auction will go directly to Kids Unlimited Foundation. There will be many items to choose from including a lot of Aeros memorabilia.

The banquet is also the time for us as fans to let the Aeros players and staffs know just how much we appreciate them. Be sure to cast your votes for your favorite Aeros player. Ballots will be available at the Booster Club Table during home games and may be returned to the

table or emailed to ogren_melanie@sbcglobal.net by March 7th. Winners will be announced and awarded at the banquet.

Proper business attire (coat and tie) is required. A cash bar will be open during the entire event. If you have any other questions, contact either Melanie Ogren (ogren_melanie@sbcglobal.net) or Erika Kusjanovic (ekusjano@hotmail.com). We are also looking for more volunteers to help make the evening a success.

HELP SEND A CHILD TO AN AEROS GAME

The Booster Club is once again helping Houston Aeros Charities with the Chronicle in Education Game on February 8th against the Utah Grizzlies. If you are a season ticket holder and will not be able to attend the game, please consider donating your tickets to the Houston Aeros Charities to use to bring a child to the game. If you aren't a season ticket holder or will be attending the game, you can still help by making a donation to sponsor a child. For \$8, a child can attend the game and for only \$5 more, a box lunch will be provided to the child. You can give any amount. Last year, we were able to raise money and ticket donations so that over 70 children were introduced to the sport we all love. Many schools would like to participate but are unable to because of lack of funding. This is just a small way that we as a Booster Club can help someone attend and possibly

become a fan for life. Bring your tickets and/or donations to the Booster Club table at the next home games (Jan. 11, 14, 16, and 19). Checks are to be made out to Houston Aeros or Houston Aeros Charities. All donations will be turned in to Janna Brown of Aeros Charities by January 21st.

All-Star Balloting Underway

AHL Weekly Release #11

From now until January 23, American Hockey League fans logging on to theahl.com will be able to help decide which players will earn a trip to the **2005 Dodge AHL All-Star Classic**, to be held in Manchester on February 13-14.

Fan balloting will determine the starting lineups for both the Canadian and PlanetUSA AHL All-Star teams, and a committee of AHL coaches will help complete the rosters, which will be announced in early January. By virtue of leading Milwaukee to the Calder Cup 2004 championship, Admirals head coach Claude Noel will guide one team; the coach whose club owns the best points percentage in the AHL after play on Jan. 30 will lead the other.

The Canadian AHL All-Stars will bring a five-game winning streak into the 2005 event, and have a plethora of worthy players to choose from, as 27 of the top 30 scorers in the AHL (through Sunday) are from Canada. Leading the group are Manchester's Yanick Lehoux and

Mike Cammalleri, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's Michel Ouellet and Kris Beech, Binghamton's Jason Spezza, Milwaukee's Simon Gamache and Lowell's Eric Staal and Chuck Kobasew. Canadian-born goaltenders include Hartford's Jason LaBarbera, who leads the AHL in GAA and save percentage, as well as Grand Rapids' Joey MacDonald, Manchester's Mathieu Garon, Edmonton's Tyler Moss and Wilkes-Barre's Marc-Andre Fleury.

The PlanetUSA AHL All-Stars, made up of players born outside Canada, appear to be strongest on defense heading into this year's Classic. Eligible blueliners include Niklas Kronwall of Grand Rapids, Brian Pothier of Binghamton, Denis Grebeshkov of Manchester, Andrew Hutchinson of Milwaukee and Dennis Seidenberg and Joni Pitkanen of Philadelphia. Among the goaltenders in the running for the three PlanetUSA roster spots are Kari Lehtonen of Chicago, Hannu Toivonen of Providence, Antero Niittymaki of Philadelphia, Adam Hauser of Manchester and Ryan Miller of Rochester. Forwards available for PlanetUSA include Providence's Andy Hilbert, Manchester's Dustin Brown, Philadelphia's Mark Murphy, Edmonton's Tony Salmelainen, Syracuse's Alexander Svitov and Albany rookie Zach Parise.

More than 92 percent of the players to appear in the AHL All-Star Game since 1995 have played in the National Hockey League, including Martin St. Louis, Miikka Kiprusoff, Patrik Elias, Marc Savard, Pavol

Demitra, Ladislav Nagy, Steve Sullivan and Rick DiPietro.

So, got to theahl.com and vote for your favorite player today!

Feed the Team – Big Success

On January 15th the Booster Club held its first 2004-2005 season feed the Team at the Sugar Land Aerodrome.

Lead by Helen Brown, the forty booster club attendees served up a feast fit for a king. The players were treated to the likes of Beef Brisket, Pork Roast, both Fried and Roasted Chicken, Lasagna, King Ranch Chicken, Cornbread Casserole, Tortellini Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Twice Baked Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Texas chili, Deviled Eggs, Bread, Rolls, Cookies, Fruit Salad, Fudge, Brownies, bottled water, and various sodas.

Comments heard were “Man, there is just so much food”... “Where do I start first?”... “As always, the food was just great!”

If you were not able to participate in this Feed the Team, keep checking the booster club table for the next one.

