



Jan./Feb.  
2002

# The Tailgunners

## The Houston Aeros Booster Club

VOLUME 5  
ISSUE 3

### DAVID CULLEN

by John Shaw

On January 18 after practice I had a chance to talk to David Cullen, one of the newest players to the Houston Aeros.



His first game with the Aeros was on January 6 after the Minnesota Wild assigned him to Houston on January 4. David was originally signed as a free agent by the Phoenix Coyotes on April 16, 1999. On January 4, 2002, Minnesota acquired him from Phoenix in exchange for Sebastien Bordeleau. Just shortly after coming to Houston, he scored his first multi-point game with 2 assists against the Chicago Wolves. He was

David grew up less than 50 miles from where I did, though there were many years difference. He grew up in St. Cath-

erine's, Ontario just north of the border from Buffalo, New York. David began his career playing junior hockey with the Thorold Black Hawks in 1992. From 1995-1999, David attended the University of Maine and played for the Maine Blackbears hockey team. During his senior year he was a co-captain and that year the Blackbears won the NCAA Championship. While playing for the Blackbears he teamed up with Cory Larose for 3 years. In 1999 David was selected to the NCAA East First All-American team, Hockey East First All-Star team, the NCAA Championship All-Tournament team, and was a First Team Titan All-American.



### Booster Club Meeting

**Monday  
February 26, 2001**

Time: 7pm

Location: SRO at Northwest Mall  
Near Foley's

#### Guest Speakers:

Kevin Bolibruck  
Brendan Yarema  
Jason Shmyr  
(subject to change)

Free to members. \$5.00 for non-members (applied to membership if joining that evening)

For more information contact  
John Shaw  
at [john@cruiselife.com](mailto:john@cruiselife.com)  
713-628-3143

**See You There!!**

#### IN THIS ISSUE

David Cullen	1
Brian Wiseman Visits	2
January 8th Meeting	6
January 24th Meeting	7

## 2001-2002 Tailgunners Booster Club Officers

### President

John Shaw  
john@cruiselife.com

### Vice-President

Al Whitney  
alw02@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Suzanne Marshall  
do\_lolly@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

Vicki Johnson  
johnsontrk@yahoo.com

### Board Members

Helen Brown

Dale Humphrey  
patrick@io.com

Ivan Kusjanovic  
ivank@mail.ev1.net

John Peper  
jcpeper@houston.rr.com

Melanie Ogren  
mswogren@ix.netcom.com

### Membership

Darren Chumbley  
DChumbley@tmh.tmc.edu

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Wiley  
karenw@insync.net

### Booster Club Table

Mike Denham  
mikejdenham@msn.com

### Appreciation Banquet

Kat Kelly  
kinetickids@ev1.net

### Auction Donation

Carol Shaw  
carol9@ev1.net

### Past President

Ken Mire  
texascajn@aol.com

### Webmaster

Patrick Humphrey  
patrick@io.com

David played the last 2 years for the Springfield Falcons where he was a teammate of Trent Cull. When asked what one of the big differences for other teams in the AHL and playing in Houston is, David replied "The travel, we fly everywhere as compared to a lot of bus trips where we return home after the game."

The NHL has many great players and many of them have been role models for young players. Growing up some of David's favorite players were Paul Coffee, Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemaux.

We look forward to the rest of the season watching David Cullen on the ice. He has been a great asset to the team so far.

## BRIAN WISEMAN

by Karen Wiley

Another friendly face returned to the Compaq Center on Dec. 16. Brian Wiseman, member and captain of the Aeros hockey team from 1997-2000, returned to Houston for a visit.

What a surprise it was to see Wiseman sitting in the stands. Wiseman has been working at the University of Michigan as an assistant hockey coach since retiring from the Houston Aeros after the 1999-2000 season. He has been getting his feet wet in coaching. "I would like to pursue a coaching career and start a new

chapter in my life" replied Wiseman. It seems natural that he'd return to the University of Michigan to start his coaching career since that is where he played hockey in college and graduated in 1994.

While with the Aeros, Wiseman became very popular with the fans. In 1998-1999, he helped win the Turner Cup scoring 109 points during the season. What does Wiseman miss the most about playing hockey? "Miss the guys a lot and also the competition" replied Wiseman. He also misses Houston as well. Since he still owns a house here in Houston, he tries to come visit as much as he can.

Wiseman is pretty much back to feeling at 100% from a concussion he had to retire from playing hockey with. There are still a few things that bother him but the day to day activities is fine.

We all wish Brian the best for the future! Come back to Houston often Brian!



Photos taken in 1999 by: Karen Wiley



Photos by: Karen Wiley

## Player Profile



**Kevin Bolibruck**

**Defenseman**

**6'1 - 200**

**DOB: February 8, 1977**

**Shoots:** Left

**Birthplace:** Peterborough, ONT

**Offseason home:** Thorold,  
Ontario

**Personal:** Single

**Greatest Hockey Memory:**

Playing for the Canadian National team and winning the OHL Championship with the Peterborough Petes.

**Greatest Influence:** His Mother

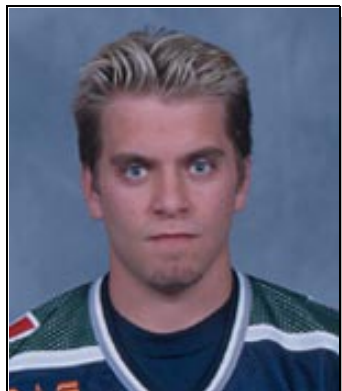
**Hockey Hero:** Wayne Gretzky

**Hobbies:** Baseball, Basketball, volleyball, and golf.

**Favorite Vacation Spot:**

Cancun

## Player Profile



**Derek Gustafson**  
**Goalie**  
**5'11 - 185**  
**DOB: June 21, 1979**

**Catches:** Left

**Birthplace:** Portland, Oregon

**Personal:** Married: Wife, Emily

**College:** St. Lawrence University

**Greatest Hockey Memory:** Winning the Royal Bank Cup, the ECAC Championship (2000) and playing in his first NHL game for Minnesota.

**All-Time Hockey Idol:** Byron Dafoe

**Greatest Influence:** His parents

**Favorite Movie:** American Pie

**Favorite AHL City:** Houston

**Favorite AHL Arena:** The Compaq Center

**Hobbies:** Golf

**If I Was Not Playing Hockey:**  
Would be a student.

## Around The Boards

### Upcoming Events

**December 28, 2000 - March 15, 2002**

Jerseys Off Their Backs  
Benefiting: The Muscular  
Dystrophy Association

**May 10, 2002**

Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show  
Benefiting: Women Helping Women

**March 15, 2002**

Kiss a Pig  
Don't miss Houston Aeros center,  
Shawn Carter, Kiss a Pig  
Benefiting: The American Cancer Society  
Money will be collected for ACS from  
Feb. 27-March 15.

## HOCKEY TRIVIA

What is the NHL  
record for the fastest  
hat trick?

Answer is on page 7

# Booster Club Banquet Awards Ballot

It's time for you to vote for your favorite Aero. At the banquet there will be several awards given to your favorite players. This year we'd like you to vote on two awards; the Tailgunner's Award (Favorite Player) and the Sportsmanship award. Turn in your ballot to the booster club table (behind section 102) or you can email your ballot to Karen Wiley at karenw@insync.net before March 4. These awards will be given to the players at the Booster Club Banquet on March 11.

If you are emailing your ballot please include your name, the award title and the player's name. Only list one name per award and you can only vote once.

## Defenseman

Kevin Bolibruck	Trent Cull	David Cullen	Mike Matteucci
Curtis Murphy	Lawrence Nycholat	Travis Roche	

## Forward

Mark Beaufait	Bobby Brown	Shawn Carter
Dan Cavanaugh	Darryl Laplante	Cory Larose
Brett McLean	Jason Shmyr	Roman Simicek
Stephane Veilleux	Tony Virta	Kyle Wanvig
Brendan Yarema		

## Tailgunner's Award (Favorite Player)

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(Don't forget the goalies ... Jamie McLennan and Derek Gustafson)

## Sportsmanship Award

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Player Profile



**Kyle Wanvig**

**Right Wing**

**6'2 - 210**

**DOB: January 29, 1981**

**Shoots:** Right

**Birthplace:** Calgary, ALTA

**Offseason home:** Calgary, ALTA

**Personal:** Single

**Greatest Memory:** Winning the Memorial Cup in 2000-2001.

**Greating Influence:** His Father

**Hobbies:** Golf and Baseball

**All-Time Hockey Idol:** Wayne Gretzky

**If I Was Not Playing Hockey:**

Would be a fire fighter

# Ice Pics



Cory Larose, Travis Roche and Kyle Wanvig  
Photos by: Janet Stratton

Photos by: Karen Wiley

## JAN. 8TH MEETING

Pappa LaRosa was filled with the sounds of laughter during the first of two booster club meetings for the month of January. Speakers Cory Larose, Travis Roche, and Kyle Wanvig gave insights to the first year affiliated Aeros, as well as giving insights to players that no one really expected.

Before the players spoke, representatives from Coastal Banc came to talk about their promotion involving Houston area sports, which include the Aeros. Starting this month through March, anyone can "Get In The Game" by going to Coastal Banc, and register to win Aeros tickets. Also, if a new customer opens up a checking account with Coastal, they can receive their first order of checks free. With these checks, they can have the Aeros logo imprinted on them.

Tom Stallings came to talk about the Houston Marathon that is held on January 20. He, Amy Boenker, and Dave Barr plan to run the 26.2 mile marathon. Both Dave and Amy have sisters afflicted with Crohn's Disease. The Tailgunners approved to donate money to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation for all three runners in the marathon.

Cory, Travis, and Kyle took their turns talking to the club. Each of the players gave a little background about themselves and how they came to the Wild and the Aeros. After each spoke, they gave time for questions.

It took very little prodding to get them to spill some embarrassing stories on a few of their teammates, and though some stories were a bit more odd than others, they kept the room laughing.

At the end of the meeting, a Richard Park stick was raffled off, and the guys stuck around for pictures and autographs. The Booster club graciously thanks Coastal Banc, Tom, Cory, Travis, and Kyle for coming and speaking to a very attentive group.

## JAN. 24TH MEETING

Pappa LaRosa was filled with laughter again for the second booster club meeting in January but with one change. This time the meeting was at Pappa LaRosa Pizza at the Sugar Land Aerodrome. What an exciting evening it was with special guests Mike Matteucci (center & Aeros captain), Derek Gustafson (goalie), and Jose (equipment manager).

Everyone was anxious to hear from Mike since it was a rival of the Aeros for several years playing on with the Los Angeles Ice Dogs and then with the Cleveland Lumberjacks. He talked about the differences between Cleveland and Houston and about the AHL. The crowd had many questions for Mike and he was happy to answer them all.

Next up to the mic was Derek who briefly told us about his background and then answered questions. He shared with us some of his little quirks like how many times he wraps tape around his waist and around the hockey stick.

Karlyn Keuter, VP of Ticket Sales, stopped by to update us on the Booster Club contest.

The evening ended with Jose. This part of the evening was very enjoyable because he gave us some of the locker room stories. Like who the practical joker is and who causes the most problems for Jose. We all enjoyed his stories.

At the end of the evening a Mike Matteucci stick was raffled off and Cheri Peper was the winner. A big thank you to Mike, Derek and Jose for joining us and sharing their stories.

Mike Matteucci, Jose, and Derek Gustafson  
Photo by: Karen Wiley



## TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER

21 seconds by Bill Mosienko of the Chicago Black Hawks on March 23, 1952 vs. the New York Rangers. The goals were all at even strength and were scored at 6:09, 6:20, and 6:30 of the third period. The unfortunate goalie was Lorne Anderson.

## Mark Your Calendars!!

Annual Appreciation Banquet  
will now be on March 11, 2001  
at The Warwick.

Tickets are now on sale!

## Booster Club Table Volunteers Needed

The Booster Club will have a table on the concourse at every game this year. Barbara Pride is looking for volunteers to work the table which gives you FREE admission to game. Call Barbara at 713-861-1986 if you are interested or email her at [barbpride@aol.com](mailto:barbpride@aol.com). If you volunteer you would only work one period.

# VP's Corner

*A few random thoughts from the VP..*

I posed the question in a previous newsletter of what kind of a team and league we were going to be with the NHL affiliation and I think we have some answers.

Our coaching staff strikes me as very professional and excellent hockey teachers. Maybe some of the very newest players need to know more about winning and getting prepared for life. As a matter of fact the entire on ice staff, from Jose to Todd, strikes me as excellent hockey professionals who reflect their broad experience base.

The players are, as a whole, faster and more exciting skaters. The mix between veterans and young hockey players give the young guys the chance to learn by observation from veterans who have been there and done that. The group of players that we have this year is a great group of nice people. If you are like me you hope for the best for the kids even if it means that you will occasionally loose them to the Wild.

As for the Wild they need to learn that we are the Aeros not just that minor league franchise in Houston. The relationship sounds a little one way so far.

As far as the AHL well maybe next year they will be able to write articles that mention the Houston Aeros. The American Hockey League seems to be in transition as far as integrating the IHL teams and does not seem to have noticed some of the IHL teams as much as they are familiar with the older league members. That is kind of natural but it should have improved through out the year.

As far as to what kind of team and game.....well the skating is faster, the shots seem like more, more and more things are happening on purpose during a game, goaltending is harder than the NHL with less defense in front of the goalie, and the consistency of the club is not very consistent. The league is full of teams that hover around .500 or a little over or under. As an owner of an AHL team it must be frustrating to not be able to do more to win. My hockey mentor keeps telling me that it will always be like this in a developmental league but I suspect as the NHL playoff picture finalizes that some AHL teams will begin pulling their win percentage up. All in all being affiliated and in a new league has definitely made a change in the hockey played at the Laptop (Compaq Center) and the general consensus seems to be that it is o.k. but could be better with more wins.

Al Whitney  
VP, Aeros Booster Club

## Booster Club Members

# 10% Off

at **Pappa LaRosa**  
(on Westheimer)

or

**Pappa LaRosa Pizza**  
(located at SugarLand  
Aerodrome)

Just present your membership  
card at either location.

## 2001-2002 Memebership

57 Renewal

59 New

116 Total



## THE TAILGUNNERS

Houston Aeros Booster Club  
c/o John Shaw  
11999 Katy Frwy, Suite 392  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 531-7799

web address:  
[www.aerosboosterclub.com](http://www.aerosboosterclub.com)

