

**Game 8 Recap, Chiefs vs. Ducks,
5/01/05, 9:45 p.m., Columbia Ice Rink**

The following is a transcript of last night's Washington Chiefs' wrap-up show.....

(Cue splashy music and cut in play-by-play footage).....

Walker with the puck now at center ice.....skating over blue line, moves to the slot now and un-LEASHES a laser over the goalie's left shoulder and the Chiefs SCOOOOOOOOOOORE!

Rabin.....always a threat with the puck on his stick. Threads it around the lone defenseman, picks it up on the other side. SKATING TO THE OPEN ICE NOW, THERE'S NO ONE BETWEEN HIM AND THE GOALIE! RABIN FADES TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE NET, HOLDS.....HOLDS....THE GOALIE GOES DOWN EARLY, RABIN FIRESand....A GOALLLLLLLLLLLLL! What a shot by "the Ice Doctor!"

Leib collects the rebound, and FIRES the puck on goal. BIG SAVE! And Leib gets absolutely DEVASTATED by a brutal check at the side of the net. He is very slow to get up and is clearly not happy about the situation. What's this? Leib is going off for 2 minutes? What an unbelievable turn of events.....

Good evening and welcome to tonight's edition of "Tribe Trails", your weekly radio feature on Washington's best hockey team, the Washington Chiefs! From the Washington Chiefs' Hockey Network studios in Anacostia, we'll break from our usual mix of sitar hits to bring you all that's new on the Chiefs. As has been our custom of late here on AM 300, we're pleased to be joined by another special guest. Tonight, alongside our own crack analyst Angus "Bump" McCracken, we'll have former coach of the Los Angeles Kings and current EPSN analyst, Barry Melrose. Good evening and welcome, I'm your host Gaston Clouseau! Well, another great game for the Chiefs tonight, eh guys?

Hey Gaston, although the Chiefs had dare' share of some questionable defensive shifts tonight, overall day' really are playin' well, and are peakin' for da' playoffs at exactly the right time.

Ok, joining us now from his home in Squirrels Fooths, Saskatchewan is ESPN's own Barry Melrose! Welcome, Barry!

Thanks, Gaston, it's great to be here. With the NHL under lockout, I might be saying it's great to be here as always before too long, eh?

We'd love to have you on board and we really enjoy your expert breakdown of the NHL nightly on ESPN2's "NHL 2Nite". So, having watched the Chiefs via satellite tonight, what do you have for us?

Well, Gaston their season was eight games and while that doesn't appear to be much time; this team improves every single time they lace up their skates. They've always had their share of individual talent, but when you have a game like tonight where Maria Cecil takes a dramatic break from her enforcer role and is putting the puck in the net, well you have a hockey team that is really firing on all cylinders. She had a great, great game tonight and won a very much deserved MVP game puck.

In a lot of cases at this level, most teams can put one solid line on the ice, but the Chiefs can really do what they want, when they want. If it's the rough stuff or the finesse game, there's always someone on the ice who's up to the task.

So, Barry, the Chiefs have beaten the Ducks in their last two outings. How does this affect Thursday's playoff opener?

Gaston, the Chiefs have to come out and keep coming out every game, every period and every shift with the same amount of intensity. The Ducks are really frustrated because they had their eye on the Unknowns for the league's top spot. Then they were decimated by some injuries and now they've got a real goaltending crisis on their hands. I mean I don't have the stats in front of me but, I think the Chiefs have more goals on him, then he has saves on them. Goalies are good for one win all by themselves in the playoffs. You know the Chiefs' Bretschneider will rise to the call, but I'm not so sure the Ducks' netminder has it in him. Regardless, the Chiefs need to continue to take care of their own end, move up the ice as a unit, and put multiple HIGH shots on the goalie.

My old friend Jim Schonfeld used to say that the hardest game to win is the one where by winning the game you eliminate the opposition. Although Thursday's game is a one off semi-final with the winner to face the

Unknowns next Wednesday, if the Chiefs can treat this like an elimination game and control the flow, they can beat these guys again and advance.

Barry, this is a rough game, played by tough people. This beginner level of HNA is no different from other forms of hockey in that injuries are a part of the game. What is the status of the Chiefs roster after tonight?

That is a bit of an area of concern because the more people you can have at your disposal, the more options you have offensively and defensively. With a reduced lineup, you are limited as to what you can do. Rabin is still healing from a bruising of the shoulder and you can put Leib down for the same after that hard hit he took last game. Curtis McCormick, a rock for the Chiefs defense this season, missed tonight's game with a hugely inflamed elbow that he suffered late in game 7. And you just hate to see that because when the Chiefs were pressing late in the game, McCormick is a guy you definitely want out there whenever possible. I mean, knowing Curtis the way I do, I know he'll be dressed for Thursday's game with so much on the line. And that should be a great source of inspiration for the Chiefs watching one of their own gut it out as he plays through a lot of pain. And, regardless of his injury, he did a great job tonight, coming down to the bench, helping out with the shifts and cheering on his mates. John Walker's back is of course always a concern, but he's another one who will tough it out with a trip to the finals at stake.

And what about one of the Chiefs other defensemen Brandon Bertsch?

Bertsch has been fun to watch this season and it's always great to see someone so eager to learn the intricacies of our game. He had a shaky start to the season as he was unsure what position suited him best, but since being moved to the blueline, his play has improved by leaps and bounds. Having said that, he is dealing with an undisclosed illness and will not only miss Thursday's playoff, but is out for the remainder of the season.

That is unfortunate Barry, and he will be missed. Any news on the Ducks' sniper Schultze? He was a scratch again tonight.

Well, Gaston there is in fact no word on Schulze's progress or status. Clearly, he has the potential to be one of the keys to Thursday's match up.

And let's not forget the most exciting Chiefs news of the season, the announcement from Ann Hendrix-Jenkins that she and her husband are expecting, and now that she has passed her first trimester, she'll be watching the rest of the games from the stands with her pickles and ice cream.

Indeed Gaston, I had our research staff check the sources on that three times before reporting on it, but it is indeed true. This will be a loss for the Chiefs as this will shorten their bench and Hendrix-Jenkins like Cecil, was really starting to put the puck in the net. She will absolutely be back next season, and the Chiefs will have their first draft prospect.

So what about the specific lineup for Thursday?

Well, Gaston, the Chiefs will skate 9 forwards and 6 defensemen. Look for the usual suspects Fobian with Rabin and Schopf, Kobernick with Chan and Cecil and Fayhee with Wood and Johnson. And Gaston, I'd say look for that Fayhee, Wood, Johnson line to have a breakout game. Fayhee has been stymied since netting his second goal of the season in the Chiefs' first trip to the Columbia Ice Rink and he will be looking to score and score often.

On defense, John Walker will drop back to help out on the blueline with Bertsch the aforementioned scratch. Pairings aren't set because it'll be situational for those guys.

Also, should the Chiefs find themselves down late in the game, you can expect that they will stack the lines in order to win the game.

Back to tonight's game against these same Ducks. Tell us about the other goals.

Gaston I had a poor feed throughout most of the night, so I missed the other goals. Walker netted a second goal after his over the shoulder laser as he tipped in a shot by Kobernick. Kobernick himself got a goal adding to his season total and Cecil's goal was a real beauty. And finally, Rabin's goal was spectacular. As if scoring weren't enough, he actually clanged the shot off of the goalie's face mask!

That's great Barry and thanks so much for helping us cover the game tonight. Hopefully, the NHL will be back soon and you'll be back to work as usual on ESPN and the Deuce!

Thanks again to you and Bump, Gaston. It's not so much work as it is a pleasure covering a great team like the Chiefs, and working with you, and all the gang there at AM 300.

Ok, Chiefs fans, that's going to do it for this edition of "Tribe Trails." In case you missed it, the Chiefs won 5-3 tonight over the Baltimore Ducks and will return to action on Thursday night May 5th for the opening of the 2005 HNA Beginner League Washington, DC/Baltimore playoffs. Game time is 9:45pm so that all of our Hawaiian affiliates will be able to run the game live. Come on down to Rockville Blades Ice Rink in Rockville, MD to see the Chiefs take on the Baltimore Ducks in a single elimination playoff game.

The promotion on Thursday is "Action Figure Night"! All fans in attendance will receive an action figure of their favorite Chief, and you can pose them in any crazy position you want! Collect the whole set! Good seats are still available at this neutral site game, and we look forward to seeing you out there. From all of us here at AM 300 WCHN, good night and we'll be right back on the frequency after Thursday night's game.