

# 1111 Echoes

Winter 2004/05

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

## Important Notice for Members

**Paid members:** For those who already have paid their \$20 membership dues for the current 2004/05 season, your new membership card is enclosed. The new card contains the password to the exclusive "Box Seats" section of our up and running Internet web site: [www.rireds.org](http://www.rireds.org)

**Unpaid members to date:** For those who haven't paid their membership renewal as yet, enclosed is another renewal flyer. Please renew as soon as possible. As a non-profit group with limited resources, it is expensive and time consuming for your Society to send out past due reminders. Thank you. We value your membership and appreciate your cooperation.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Reminder

- Sunday, July 31, 2005, 12 noon until dusk
- Goddard State Park, Warwick, RI
- More players and Reds memorabilia
- 300 or more players and fans expected
- Great food, music and laughter
- Dozens of raffle prizes

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## What's Inside?

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## Reds Heritage Society to hold its 2nd Annual "Lunch & Crunch Day"

### Lunch followed by a P-Bruins game

**Sunday, March 13, 2005**



**12:15 PM "Lunch":** Lancellotta's Restaurant, 1113 Charles St., North Prov., RI. Lunch menu: Family-style, all you can eat – soup, salad, pasta, oven-roasted potatoes, and both roasted chicken and ham, plus coffee. Liquor purchases not included. There also will be a brief speaking program featuring Paul Stewart, the colorful former NHL referee. This year we'll eat first...and talk later!

**4:05 PM "Crunch":** Dunkin' Donuts Center, Providence, RI. Crunch menu: an AHL game between the Providence Bruins and Albany River Rats, farm team of the New Jersey Devils, whose general manager is Rhode Island's own Lou Lamoriello, a Society member. This contest features two of the best teams in the league in a game that will offer skillful play, fast skating, and some "Crunch" hitting by many future stars. The Society is also hoping to have members of the River Rats as after-game guests at the Center.



**Total cost for the March 13<sup>th</sup>  
"Lunch & Crunch" event:**

**Only \$30 per adult**

**Just \$15 for children 12 and under**

**Reservations limited to 120 persons**

**Please make check payable to:**

**R. I. Reds Heritage Society  
and mail to P. O. Box 167, Barrington, RI  
02806**

**Deadline for reservations: February 24, 2005**

Note: Both Luncheon passes and Game tickets will be distributed at the restaurant. Everyone is responsible for their own transportation and parking at the game.

**For further information call 401-247-2666  
or E-mail [UNH1959@aol.com](mailto:UNH1959@aol.com)**



# Ethics and respect are keys to hockey players being best!

by Joe McDonald

*(Editor's foreword: Joe McDonald, Providence Journal hockey writer, wrote the following article over one year ago for his newspaper. It is reprinted here with the author's permission because the Society feels that it is worthy of broader exposure. His story characterizes the true fabric of the men who play the game we all love.)*

BOSTON (November 2, 2003): The question has been asked and discussed time and again. But the conclusion is always the same.

Hockey players are the best athletes to deal with.



Joe at the mike, telling his story to Society members.

Unlike other professional sports where certain players can't, or won't, accept the team concept and act as individuals on and off the playing field, hockey players are down to earth. For the most part, they are blue-collar athletes who get it.

The discussion was brought up again this week when the Boston Red Sox decided to place slugger Manny Ramirez on waivers. His childish attitude toward a game in which he gets paid an exorbitant amount of money finally became old in the clubhouse and with the organization.

Not to relive all of his questionable decisions, but let's take a look at one of his most recent incidents involving Roger Clemens and the New York Yankees. In Game 3 of the ALCS, Ramirez exploded when he thought Clemens was throwing at him and Ramirez started a bench-clearing debacle.

After the game, his teammates were forced to answer for Ramirez and it was quite obvious certain players were getting fed up with his no-comment, I-plead-the-fifth antics. During the regular season, the attitude around the baseball world was that it was just Manny being Manny. But, when it counted and a World Series berth was on the line, his teammates deserved to have Manny explain his actions.

This is just one example.

The fact is professional hockey players would not put themselves or their teammates in a bad situation. If they did, they wouldn't be around too long.

So, what is it about hockey players? Why do 99 percent of them get it?

They respect themselves. They respect their teams. And, most of all they respect the paying customers - the fans.

"I think there are a lot of guys," said Boston Bruins forward Mike Knuble, "especially the Canadians and North Americans who come from similar backgrounds. It's inbred and developed from when you're a younger kid and start playing junior hockey

and college hockey on how to behave and how to talk and how to treat your teammates.

"It's sort of like peer pressure. It starts at the top and trickles down. You learn pretty quickly that if you're going to be your own type of person you are going to have a tough time being successful in the league, and being accepted in your locker room."

In baseball, particularly with the Red Sox, there are certain players who don't talk to the media. Ramirez never does and won't take responsibility for his actions. Pedro Martinez will only talk to a certain few at his convenience. Nomar is the same way.

You'll never find a hockey player with this type of attitude.

Win, lose or draw, hockey players usually take responsibility for their actions on and off the ice.

Here's a perfect example: Two seasons ago, when the Bruins were playing the Montreal Canadiens in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs, Boston assistant captain Marty Lapointe was bombarded by both the local and Canadian press. At the time, Lapointe was one of only two Bruin players who spoke both languages and had to deal with both press corps.

When asked about the time-consuming adventure prior to a playoff game, Lapointe said wholeheartedly: "Hey. I get paid enough money to spend 45 minutes with the media each day."

What! Forty-five minutes! That would be unheard of in the tight confines of the Red Sox clubhouse. Oh, speaking of the clubhouse, how about the line of red carpet that was installed near the end of the regular season in front of the players' lockers, which nobody could cross.

The conversation turned to Martinez and the fact he doesn't like showing up for the Red Sox team picture. How would that sit in a hockey locker room?

"That kind of stuff is inexcusable," said Knuble. "I think if something like that did happen [around hockey] you would hear so much grief in the locker room that you just wouldn't be able to stand it. If you did have a problem with the team picture, it's just easier to just do it instead of hearing about it for the next six months from everybody."

Maybe it's a financial thing. Hockey is a very expensive sport, and kids are taught at a young age to respect what their parents go through to properly equip young hockey players. With the amount of money it costs for hockey equipment for one player, an entire CYO basketball league could buy brand new balls for a season.

Sure, Major League Baseball is loaded with players from different types of ethnic backgrounds. But if you look at the National Hockey League over the past 15 years, there are similarities between the two. Where a lot of ball players are

*(continued on page 5)*



# Backchecking and Forechecking

“Backchecking and Forechecking” is a regular feature of *1111 Echoes*. It is intended to bring readers up-to-date on the “whereabouts and goings on” of former R.I. Reds players and associates. In four years we have already published 36 profiles. This edition features profiles of individuals who took a few minutes to fill out and return the questionnaire sent to all players. These updates are published as they are received and as space allows. If you have not already submitted yours, please do so and you will be featured in a future newsletter.

## Backchecking

**Dave Hrechkosy** played only briefly with the Reds at the old R. I. Auditorium in 1971-72. The “Wrecker,” as he was known, went on to serve parts of four seasons in the NHL as property of the California Golden Seals and the St. Louis Blues. A 6-foot-two, 210-pound left wing, his best NHL season came when he scored 29 goals for the Seals in 75-76. In all, he spent 9 years in pro hockey.



## Forechecking

Dave and his wife Terri have been married 25 years and have a daughter Maci (21) and son (Garry (17). After hockey he worked in management for Coca-Cola for 18 years. Then he became concessions manager at the University of Utah. Today he serves as Director of Concessions at Texas A&M University where he oversees 700 employees. His hobbies are golf and fishing. *For golfballs, Dave?*

**George Ranieri** played 5 seasons with the R. I. Reds before a serious on-ice head injury ended his career. A left-winger who was very popular with Reds’ fans, George was known for having a very hard snap (wrist) shot. In his rookie year (1960-61) in Providence he scored 30 goals. George scored 20 or more goals three other times here. Prior to the Reds, he led the IHL in scoring with 124 points (60-64) with Louisville in 1958-59.



George and his wife Sylvia have been married 17 years and live in Mitchell, Ontario. He has four stepchildren and 7 grandchildren. After hockey, George worked 26 years as a representative for Molson Brewery and 5 years as a civilian constable for the Hamilton, Ontario, police department. He states these hobbies: Golf, exercising and “taking it easy at he pool... with a cold beer.” *Hope it’s a Molson.*

## “The Chicken Wire”...with “Red Rooster”



Welcome to back to “The Chicken Wire,” the column in your *1111 Echoes* newsletter that invites questions and recollections about the old Rhode Island Reds from our members. Please submit your queries or memories and **Red Rooster** will try to fill in some details.

Remember the old chicken wire around the boards at R. I. Auditorium? We hope this column will bring back memories. Fact is, the old **Red Rooster** hates Plexiglas, but is in this 21<sup>st</sup> century with satellite television and Internet cable “wire” service we have to keep up with the times. So “wire” us.

**Dave Cokin, Las Vegas, Nevada:** I’ll be looking forward to the next issue of *1111 Echoes*. I really enjoy catching up with what’s going on back home...just wish I was able to be there to get together with the fans and former players involved with the activities. Meanwhile, I continue to be astonished at how large the society is getting. I believe that when I joined earlier this year, the membership roster numbered a little more than 400. Now I see there’s 515 as of the most recent newsletter. The fact that so many people showed up for event in Warwick this summer is just staggering. It’s a pretty impressive testament to how much this franchise meant to so many.

**Red Rooster:** Thank, you Dave. We all have fond memories of the Reds and the old Auditorium that will never leave us. Let’s tell our stories to our kids and grandkids.

**Dave Falls, Hamden, CT:** Thought you may be interested in this site: [www.stallanddean.com](http://www.stallanddean.com). The company makes replica jerseys. Go under the hockey collection. There’s a 1934 R. I. Reds jersey. I grew up in Smithfield, RI and played at the Mount and graduated in 87. I live in CT and appreciate what you’ve done with the Reds. I have my 50th year puck next to my desk. I can remember the day they passed it out. You have a great website.



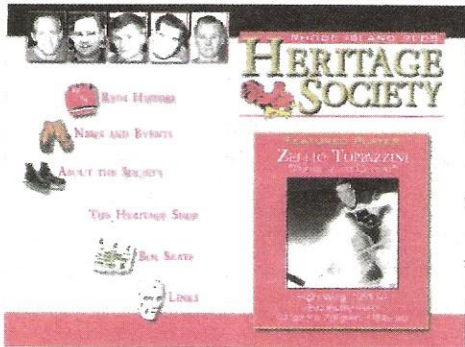
**Red Rooster:** Wow! See the picture to your right. The inset reveals the player’s uniform number on back. You know, I’m positive that my great, great grandfather posed for the Rooster logo. At least that’s the legend Mother Hen tells me.

**Lee Greene, Cranston, RI:** Just a note to say how much my son-in-law and I enjoyed the 2004 reunion at Goddard Park. We gathered with a lot of people we otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. Great conversations with and autographs

*(continued on page 5)*



## How to best use our new Internet website: [www.rireds.org](http://www.rireds.org)



All paid members for 2004/05 of the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society now have access to the exclusive “Box Seats” section at our new website, [www.rireds.org](http://www.rireds.org).

To enter, click on the Box Seats link on the home page. Enter your name and password – the password printed on your membership card – and you’re in!

Inside Box Seats, you’ll find the Press Box, the Locker Room, and the Bench.

The Press Box is a growing archive of vintage photos, a video with a profile of Louis A. R. Pieri; and sound clips, such as the Reds’ legendary theme song, “Roll Out the Barrel,” from the Beer Barrel Polka.

The Locker Room is a bulletin board, also called an “e-group,” where you can read and respond to messages and anecdotes left by other Heritage Society members. “Yahoo! Groups” powers the Locker Room! Before you can use the bulletin board, you’ll have to register and select your own user name and password.

To register, just click on the “Yahoo! Groups” link on the Locker Room page.

The Bench is a live chat room. When you enter, you can send text messages instantly to everyone else who’s in the chat room. For example, if you and a bunch of buddies want to chat, arrange a time to sign on. The chat room window has three areas: A list of people signed in to the chat room appears on the left; an area where you type and send your messages is on the bottom; and a larger area where messages are displayed is on the left.

The main difference between the Locker Room and the Bench is time. On the Bench, messages appear as soon as they are sent, and they last only as long as the conversation is going on. When you and your buddies leave the chat room, your conversation disappears, too.

In the Locker Room, messages remain posted forever, so someone can read and respond to them days, weeks and months later.

If you have any questions about the website, don’t call Red Rooster. He’s an Internet chicken. Please contact Mike Bailey, Webmaster, at [baileys@ctol.net](mailto:baileys@ctol.net).

### In Memoriam: Harvey Bennett

Harvey Bennett, a local hockey icon recognized by many as the sport’s patriarch in Rhode Island, died unexpectedly in his sleep at his residence in Warwick, RI, on Sunday, November 21. He was 79.

Aside from his intense job as professional goaltender (mainly with the Reds), Harvey was a pioneer in the development of Rhode Island’s youth hockey programs.

Jim Bennett, one of his five surviving sons, said his father used to round up kids in their Cranston neighborhood for “hockey school” at the old R. I. Auditorium.

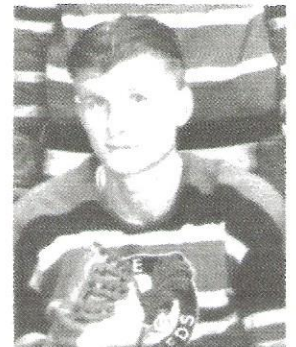
Harvey played goal for the R. I. Reds from 1946 through 1959. During his tenure here the Reds finished first four times, capturing two Calder Cups. He was pivotal in the team’s conquest of the cherished title in 1948-49.

“We never would have won the cup without Harvey’s brilliance in those playoffs against St. Louis and Hershey,” said George Patrick Duffy, the team’s PR director then.

“It was the greatest performance of his career,” Duffy went on. “Unbelievably, he stopped breakaway after breakaway. What a job he did in holding the team together for its victory.” When the Reds won their last Calder trophy in 1955-56, he served as backup to the great Johnny Bower, later named to the Hockey

Hall of Fame.

During 14 years in pro hockey Harvey played for the NHL Boston Bruins, in the AHL with the Hershey Bears and Reds, then with the Three Rivers Reds (QHL) to finish his wonderful career. He was a rare right-hand shooting goalie, holding the stick in his left hand and catching glove in his right.



After hockey Harvey ran a sports shop locally, then later he and his wife, Dianna, moved to Florida. She died there in 1996 and he returned to Rhode Island in 2003 and became an active member of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society.

Five sons survive him: Curt of Hawaii, John of Florida, and Harvey, Jr., Bill and Jim – all of Rhode Island. As a father, Harvey always stressed the importance of education to his sons. The result was that three graduated from Brown University and one from Boston College and four even played professional hockey. All five today are successful businessmen and run their own companies.



## A fowl but true story!

(Honest)

Scientists at NASA recently built a gun specifically to launch standard 4-pound dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea was to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high-speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two, and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits immediately sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the US scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo, "Defrost the chicken."

## Ethics and respect (continued from page 2)

coming from Latin countries and even from Asia, European hockey players have invaded North America as well.

"Some of the ball players and where ever they come from and their different backgrounds, I'll never experience and I've never seen," said Knuble. "Maybe that explains some of their quirks and behavior you sometimes see. Some of them come from awful places in the world and have made great things out of themselves. So [success] affects people in different ways."

No matter what part of the world hockey players originate from, they all have the same, strong work ethic, which is not always found in other professional sports.

"It takes all types to make a team, and make a locker room," said Knuble. "I don't know what it is, but kids just seem to get it. It's ingrained when you're younger that this is how you behave and there's a code of ethics of how you are as a hockey player."

Other professional athletes should take notice.

## Who the heck are these guys, anyway?



Player A



Player B

OK, members. It's test time. Both these ex-Reds were pictured recently in their "new lives." Try hard. Answers are given on Page 6 of this edition of *IIII Echoes*.

**No cheating!**

Here are two special, challenging hints:

**Player A:** "By George, I love your Yankees. OK if I drive in the left lane?"

**Player B:** I catch more fish in my net today than pucks I ever stopped in hockey!"

## "The Chicken Wire" (continued from page 3)

from ex-players. We were impressed that there were so many fans and players there who were so enthusiastic after all these years. Got a grandson coming along. Maybe we can bring him to a reunion in the near future. Looking forward to next year.

**Red Rooster:** Great idea, Lee. In fact, we're now getting a lot of "Second Generation" folks as new members. These are guys and gals who remember going to the old Auditorium and/or Providence Civic Center with their parents on Sunday nights. In fact, we have about a dozen "Third Generation" youngsters (in their teens and younger) who have joined us.

### Next Issue

The next issue of *IIII Echoes*, will be published in mid-April to early May 2005. That edition will announce plans for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, to be held once again at Goddard State Park in Warwick, RI, on Sunday, July 31. You can also count on more "Forechecking and Backchecking" news, fresh items from "The Chicken Wire," and a report on our March 13<sup>th</sup> "Lunch & Crunch" event. Please stay tuned.



## Paul Stewart to be guest speaker at “Lunch & Crunch”



Paul Stewart, hockey man and humanitarian, will honor the R. I. Reds Heritage Society as guest speaker at the luncheon portion of our 2nd Annual “Lunch & Crunch” event at Lancelotta’s Restaurant in North Providence on Sunday, March 13.

For those who may not know, Stewart has multi-dimensional talents. As a player he was a “bad boy” type, ready to duke it out with anyone. Later, as an NHL referee

he became one of the best: competent, fair, even-tempered and respected by players and coaches.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Stewart is an articulate after-dinner speaker, known for the mountain of humorous and motivational stories he shares with his audiences. Because of his enormous talents and energy, he is one of the most sought-after raconteurs in New England.

A native of the Boston area, Stewart served as an NHL referee for 17 years before retiring at the conclusion of the 2002-03 regular season, earning distinction as the first American-born referee to work 1,000 regular season games. Stewart reached that milestone at the FleetCenter on March 15, 2003 when the Bruins defeated

the Florida Panthers.

In February 1998, Stewart was diagnosed with stage-three colon cancer, but he battled the disease and returned to the ice just nine months later in November 1998 while still receiving chemotherapy treatments.

Since his personal encounter with cancer, Stewart has served as a spokesperson for the National Colon Cancer Alliance and the NHL’s Hockey Fights Cancer Campaign. He has been a guest on numerous television programs including “*The Today Show*” on NBC and “*Hockey Night in Canada*.”

An avid golfer and ardent student of history, Stewart has also appeared in the classic hockey movie “*Slapshot*” as well as “*Kennedy*,” and a recent World War II independent film, “*Letters from the Dead*.”

In October 2003, Stewart was named Director of Development for the Boston Bruins Foundation, the position he holds today. A non-profit entity, the Foundation’s mission is to assist charitable organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to enhancing the quality of life for children within the Bruins’ community.

The R. I. Reds Heritage Society is truly fortunate and honored to have Paul Stewart as our guest speaker on March 13. Please use the enclosed “Lunch & Crunch” reservation form to sign up now. Seating is limited to 120 persons.

### Answers to...

#### “Who the heck are these guys, anyway?”

**Player “A” hints:** Left lane—left wing. By George—his boss...N. Y. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. Well, it’s **Jimmy Bartlett**, the colorful former left wing for the R. I. Reds who today is chief chauffeur for “The Boss” in Tampa Bay, Florida. Can you imagine the conversations they must have on their drives to and from the airport? After the Reds Sox playoff series, that must have been a fun trip!

**Player “B” hint:** “I catch more in my net today than pucks I ever stopped in hockey.” It’s **Rod McGarry**, Brown University’s goaltending star who played briefly with the Reds. He recently was named “Maine Guide of the Year” for 2004 in the fly fishing category. Rod also teaches his skills to L. L. Bean enthusiasts. He started at age 59 after a successful career in insurance. Congrats, you old “twine-tender.”



### R. I. Reds Heritage Society

P. O. Box 167

Barrington, RI 02806

(401) 247-2666

e-mail: UNH1959@aol.com

website: www.rireds.org

### Canada’s proud 25-cent “Poppy Coin”



It’s important for a nation to remember those who helped preserve that country’s future. That’s why the Royal Canadian Mint introduced the world’s first-ever “colored” circulation coin—the 25-cent Poppy—a few months ago.

The 25-cent coin features a red poppy, Canada’s symbol of remembrance, which pays homage to the 117,000 brave Canadians that have died while in the service of their country.

Tim Hortons (no apostrophe) was named by the mint to be the exclusive introductory distributor of the 25-cent Poppy and began circulating the pieces throughout its 1,500 locations in Canada on October 21, 2004. Of course, the restaurant chain now has a strong presence in southern New England, recently having opened 42 stores in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Bob Robertson, a Society member and defenseman on the last R. I. Reds Calder Cup championship team (1955-56), provided us with an original coin and the info contained in this article.

Many thanks, Robbie!