



# Sports

## Stars trade Eaves for Flames' Christoff



Steve Christoff

By Dennis Brackin  
Staff Writer

Mike Eaves and Steve Christoff felt like two ships passing in the night Monday after learning that the Minnesota North Stars had traded Eaves and minor league defenseman Keith Hanson to the Calgary Flames for Christoff and a second-round draft choice.

Eaves and Christoff have been close friends since they were North Stars teammates between 1982-83. On Saturday, just two days before the trade, Mike and Beth Eaves and Steve and Tami Christoff rekindled their friendship with an evening of bowling and light conversation.

"The whole situation is pretty ironic," Eaves said yesterday. "Saturday night I was telling Steve about Cal-

ry, and talking about different areas, because I've got a lot of relatives there. I talked to him (Monday) after the trade. We just laughed. It seemed so comical."

The trade is laced with interesting sidelights, revealing Christoff, 25, with the North Stars and Eaves, 26, with his college coach, ex-University of Wisconsin mentor Bob Johnson. Christoff was Minnesota's second-round draft choice in 1978 and signed professionally after helping the U.S. to a gold medal in the 1980 Olympic Games.

The former Richfield High School and University of Minnesota star totaled 69 goals and 49 assists in 145 games for the North Stars between 1980 and 1982. Minnesota traded Christoff, Bill Nyrop and a second-round draft choice last year for Will



Mike Eaves

Plett and Calgary's No. 4 choice.

"Last year, when I was traded, I was confused," Christoff, who still makes his off-season home in Minneapolis, said. "I kept wondering why they'd trade me. But this (being traded back to Minnesota) is sure a confidence builder. It shows the people at North Stars continued on page 3D

## Minneapolis Star and Tribune

Tuesday  
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1D.

## Twins' choice looks for bonus

By Tom Brere  
Staff Writer

Right-handed pitcher Tim Belcher, the No. 1 draft choice in the country, indicated Monday that it would take upward of a \$100,000 bonus for the Minnesota Twins to sign him.

"I'm happy to be drafted No. 1 and I know with the Twins they have a history of moving players up through their farm system rapidly," said Belcher, 21, a junior at Nazarene College in Mount Vernon, Ohio. "I want to sign right now and get on with my baseball career. I also want to finish my schooling (business administration major) between baseball seasons."

"Sure, I'm expecting to be compensated with a signing bonus commensurate with other No. 1s and I'm thinking in terms of a six-figure contract."



Tim Belcher

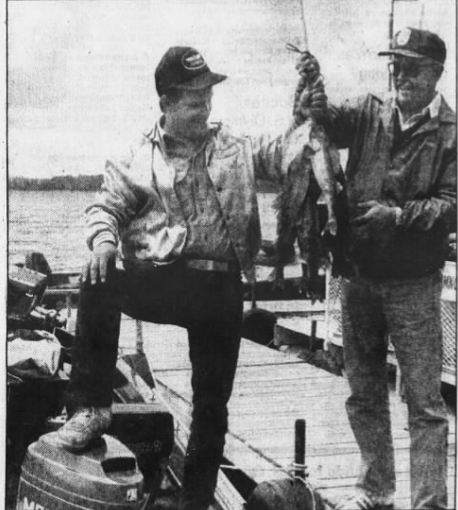
Brophy saw Belcher pitch last week and was smitten with his 93 m.p.h. fast ball.

"He's got a good arm," Brophy said. "He throws a Bruce Sutter spin-pitcher pitch for his changeup. We'll start him at Ellensburg in the Appalachian Rookie League and move him up to an A or AA club as fast as it's warranted."

"Normally you can figure a four-year development process in the minors. About 2-of-3 No. 1 choices eventually make the major-league level. From the start of the draft in 1965, 12 No. 1s have made it to the majors and five have fallen by the wayside."

Of Belcher, the "Baseball America" scouting report read: "He's the only pitcher in the draft who can really throw the ball by a hitter."

Twins continued on page 4D



Staff Photo by Bob Schwank

## Promoting the area

Tom Zeno (left) handed a stringer of fish — Correll, president of the Fairbault Area Chamber of Commerce. (Details on Page 8D).

## A winner might just make hard-core fans of all

There's been talk of late that Minnesotans are nothing but a bunch of fair-weather fans, which is an ironic way of saying we're bad people because we don't go out and watch the hometown baseball team drop pop flies.

Some of that talk has come from Twin owner Calvin Griffith, who suggests he gives the region a lot more than the region's given him. Calvin can make it sound as if it's a civic responsibility to support his product — and family — although it should be pointed out that Calvin didn't buy an Edie just because he thought it his duty to support the Ford Motor Co.

Still, what if it's true? What if we are fair-weather spectators? Should we hang our heads or simply enjoy fans in fairer sporting climates?

With all the overlap in contemporary professional sports, it's hard to say where the sports calendar begins and where it ends. But the end of the NBA playoffs last week seems as neat a place as any to draw a line and say a sports year has come to an end.

The place you should have been in the last year if you wanted to cheer winners? New York, home of the Stanley Cup champion Islanders, playoff teams in basketball and football, not to mention the under-achieving Yankees.

Based on a formula that makes figuring earned-run averages seem simple, the Twin Cities were only partly munny for fair-weather fans.

The Twin Cities were the 15th-best place in North America for those who like winners, trailing such places as Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Boston and St. Louis but ahead of



such places as Pittsburgh, Dallas and Houston.

The formula is biased toward major league baseball because only in baseball do the regular-season standings have real meaning. Despite the bias, cities such as Edmonton and Washington fared well even though they don't have baseball franchises.

The formula considers only the four major North American sports: Major league baseball, the National Hockey League, the National Basketball Association and the National Football League. Canadian cities were given credit for Canadian football and five additional bonus points for each step forward in the playoffs. The North Stars, for example, received 10 participation points and 10 bonus points for reaching the second round of the playoffs. The New York Islanders received a total of 20 points for winning the Stanley Cup title.

The point of all this? There was quite a stir in the sports world last week when 1.7 million people lined the streets of Philadelphia in a parade honoring the 76ers. Fair-weather fans all.

You want hard-core fans? Show up at the Metrodome late in September when the Twins are playing the Texas Rangers.

## Boston six goalie tops all-star vote

Associated Press

Montreal, Quebec  
Boston Bruins goaltender Pete Peeters led vote-getters for the National Hockey League All-Star team with 206 of 613 first-place votes.

Joining Peeters on the squad, which was announced Monday at the NHL's annual congress, were Edmonton Oilers center Wayne Gretzky, 307 points, right wing Mike Bossy of the New York Islanders, left wing Marc Messier of Edmonton, and defenseman Ron Langway of the Washington Capitals. Rezaul Karim of the Philadelphia Flyers.

The league's all-rookie team announced yesterday included defenseman Paul Houley, of South St. Paul, who plays for the Buffalo Sabres. He collected 61 of 613 first-place votes.

The second team featured goalie Roland Melanson of the Islanders, who is backup goaltender behind playoff most valuable player Billy Smith for the four-time Stanley Cup champion Canadiens. Other members of the second team were Boston and Paul Coffey of Edmonton, center Denis Savard of the Chicago Black Hawks, left wing Michel Goulet of the Quebec Nordiques, and right wing Lanny McDonald of the Calgary Flames.

Peeters, an All-Star for the first time, was selected for the first team on 61 of the 613 ballots cast by members of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association. New Jersey Devils goalie Glenn Resch got the other two first-place votes.

Peeters led all NHL goalies this season with a 2.36 goals-against average, a 49-1-8 record and eight shutouts.

All-Stars continued on page 3D

## Brewers trade Thomas to Indians

Associated Press

Milwaukee, Wis.  
Harry Dalton knew he wasn't the most-popular man in Milwaukee Monday, but he said he couldn't worry about that.

"I know there are a lot of very special Gorman Thomas fans who are very upset with me because I traded him," said Dalton, the Milwaukee Brewers' general manager. "But my overall responsibility is to put the best team on the field. I feel this move is consistent with that."

Thomas, a center fielder who had been one of the most-popular players in Milwaukee baseball history, was the central figure in a five-player trade with the Cleveland Indians.

Dalton swapped Thomas, pitcher Jamie Easterly and minor league pitcher Ernie Canachio to the Indians for center fielder Rick Manning and left-handed pitcher Rick Waits.

The Brewers' switchboard was deluged with telephone calls, and most of the callers criticized the trade.

"We look at it this way," Dalton said. "Manning is a very, very good defensive center fielder. This will help tighten our overall defense and add more speed."

"Manning is a left-handed hitter, which we need, and he is three years, nine months younger than Gorman," he said. "You know this team has an age factor. We didn't want to get sand-bagged with it all at once."

"And what Waits has, and Jamie doesn't have, is major league experience as a starting pitcher. He has 187 starts in the major leagues. That will give us more flexibility."

Thomas, 32, joined the Brewers in 1975. He was traded briefly to Texas in 1977, but rejoined Milwaukee in 1978. He led the American League in home runs with 45 in 1979 and shared the title with Reggie Jackson of California with 39 last year.

However, he batted only .181 after Sept. 1 last year. He had one hit in 15 times at bat in the American League championship series against California and was 3-for-16 against the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. He is batting .183 with five homers and 13 runs batted in this season. He has been loudly booed in recent weeks.

"The trade is a case that Milwaukee doesn't think I can play anymore," he said. "I don't buy that. It hurts my pride more than it does. I've got nothing against Cleveland."

Easterly, 30, had an .01 record and 3.96 earned-run average in 12 games. He also has been booed lately.

Brewers continued on page 4D

## Doug Grow's index for fair-weather fans

(See column for explanation.)

	Baseball	NFL	NHL	NBA	Total
1/ New York	21	25	35	20	101
2/ Los Angeles	39	20	10	30	99
3/ Milwaukee	46	20	—	25	91
(tie) Philadelphia	31	15	25	20	91
(tie) Boston	31	15	25	20	91
6/ St. Louis	48	15	15	—	78
7/ Chicago	27	10	25	10	72
8/ Atlanta	36	15	—	15	66
9/ Edmonton	—	30	35	—	65
10/ Washington	—	35	15	10	60
(tie) Toronto	20	25	15	—	60
12/ Detroit	23	15	10	10	58
13/ Kansas City	32	10	—	10	52
(tie) San Diego	22	20	—	10	52
15/ Minnesota	11	20	20	—	51
16/ Montreal	25	10	15	—	50
17/ Pittsburgh	24	15	10	—	49
18/ Dallas	15	25	—	10	45
19/ Cleveland	20	15	—	10	45
(tie) Baltimore	35	10	—	—	45
21/ Seattle	17	10	—	15	42
22/ Houston	20	10	—	10	40
23/ San Francisco	27	10	—	—	37
24/ Calgary	—	15	20	—	35
(tie) Winnipeg	—	20	15	—	35
28/ Buffalo	—	10	20	—	30
(tie) Denver	—	10	20	—	30
29/ Cincinnati	12	15	—	—	27
29/ Oakland	15	—	—	10	25
(tie) Vancouver	—	10	15	—	25