

HOCKEY NOTES

They gain by adding Weight



By Kevin Paul Dupont Boston Globe February 5, 2006

Yandle has high Q score

Looks as if the Coyotes hit paydirt with their third pick, 105th overall, in last year's draft. **Keith Yandle (*MASTP)**, ex- of **Milton and Cushing Academy**, opted for the Quebec Junior League instead of college, and last week stood as the No. 1 scoring defenseman in the league with 73 points -- a 20-point lead over the next best in the pack.

"Some thought he was a wild horse on the ice who couldn't be contained," said **Steve Lyons**, the New England-based scout who oversees the US amateurs for Phoenix. "They thought he couldn't play defense. It just wasn't true then, and it's not true now -- his plus/minus has been at the top of the 'Q' all year."

An '05 Cushing grad, Yandle chose the Quebec League after initial plans to attend the University of New Hampshire didn't work out, said Lyons, and then not choosing to pursue an opportunity at the University of Maine.

"He reminds me a little of **Jeremy Roenick**," added Lyons. "You know, sort of an old-fashioned athletic rink rat, and if you're playing, all he wants to know is, 'When's the game? Where is it? . . . and let me put on a show.' There are some kids with talent who don't execute it on the ice -- but this kid just loves to show it on the ice."

Steady as he goes

Chris Bourque (*MASTP, Cushing Academy) remains with Hershey (AHL) while the Capitals continue to plug along slightly better than expected this season -- in large part because of the budding legend that is **Alexander Ovechkin**.

"Bourque's coming along just fine," said Washington general manager **George McPhee**. "He's like a lot of kids -- he has to shape his pro game a bit. He's got a few elements of pond hockey in his game." Bourque, who turned 20 years old last week, bolted **Boston University** last spring after only one season. The 33d pick in the '04 draft, Bourque entered yesterday with marks of 7-16--23 in 33 games with the Bears.

*Massachusetts Hockey Satellite Training Program

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