

„ Déjà – vú on Ice”

As a matter of fact, historical events are going to repeat once in a life-time. This might be true for two players of the Tigers who have recently prolonged their contract to the delight of the local fans and the officials.

I am talking about *Erich Chouinard* and *Eric Meloche* both Canadians and most beloved actors on ice at the Pulverturm.

At first glance, it seems as if they only have their first name in common, but if you take a closer look, there's something astounding at least from my perspective in terms of sportsmanship.

I bet, all of you remember the time when the famous Laycock brothers *Robin* and *Bob* incited the audience at the Pulverturm. Those were exactly the years in the late 70's which remain unforgettable in terms of terrific ice hockey games. I must honestly admit that I did not omit a single match with these two great outstanding players. The similarity with the current protagonists Eric C. and Erich M. comes along with their congenial attitude and smart behaviour during each game.

In particular, almost blind understanding plus strategic anticipation are the most valuable characteristics of them. Though comparisons are always tough to make I would say Eric Chouinard plays pretty like Bob Laycock whereas Eric Meloche is well comparable to Robin Laycock.

However, in terms of body size it should be the other way round. It might have become even more exciting when the cousin of Eric Chouinard, Mark would have been drafted to the Straubing Tigers according to popular belief. Mark's presently signed up for a Swiss team in Fribourg where he's collecting valuable experience in their Premier league.

So, big geographical barriers wouldn't have to be mastered for a potential prospective engagement in Lower Bavaria.

Unfortunately, this hasn't worked out in the end, especially because now it is time for fostering and forging new contracts becoming effective next season.

Due to the fact that next year nearly every game happens to be vital regarding the survival within the league, the policy of getting excellent players in time will be even more important. Since the Tigers don't belong to the financially omnipotent clubs they have to critically pay attention what's left on the market, i.e. also looking at the ASSTEL 2nd Bundesliga and scouting talented players who are keen on convincing their head coach.

Nevertheless, there's no guarantee recruiting obviously good players who turn out to be *not* eager enough for the DEL adventure and its requirements.

In fact, the Tigers have already made a few experiences of such kind in the last two years.

In the long run, you simply need to have luck too finding the appropriate mixture of leading figures and gifted workers making up a balanced team ready for the tough job to do.

Hermann Graßl