

Hockey? Isn't this May 2-4?

There are times I really question my role in my home. With the recent hoopla about the Toronto Maple Leafs in their quest for the Stanley Cup, I feel it even more.

You see, unlike most guys out there, I'm really not a hockey fan. Matter of fact, I haven't seriously followed the NHL since they expanded from the original six teams.

And I realize that one tends to date me.

But I'm certainly in the minority around my house. In fact, lately my wife and eldest daughter have camped out on the couch in the den, glued to the TV set for every damned hockey game televised.

The rest of the world is on hold for them.

I really feel like there's been something of a role reversal in my house.

Now, my eldest daughter gets the hockey bug bite naturally, since her boyfriend is an equally obsessed fan. (Hell, he wore black for a full week after Gretzky announced his retirement.)

And back in the days when she was a teenager (and the Raiders played Senior A) my wife used to be an avid Georgetown Raider fan, religiously attending every home game (and many away games) with a passion.

Adding fuel to the fire, her employers are equally obsessed with the sport in the Brampton area, so she feeds on it daily at work.

Unfortunately, hockey for me is something cold and noisy that I'm assigned to shoot occasionally when our sports guy isn't available.

And I shake my head as I look at all those hockey fans in a state of arousal as they make their way through the NHL conference quarter finals, followed by the conference semifinals, then to and behold, the conference finals.

Then they get to do it all over again as they head into the Stanley Cup finals.

I have one point to make—this is the long weekend in May, affectionately referred to as May 2-4.

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

And they're still playing hockey? I heard a joke the other day how the hockey players now have a longer season than kids are in school. Or teachers for that matter.

Sorry, but it just ain't natural.

Hockey is supposed to be played in cold, snowy weather, with sleet, snow, and ice all over the place. And not with the fans attending the games in muscle shirts and shorts.

Back on the home front, wife and daughter are enthusiastic as they discuss how so and so was robbed of a scoring opportunity, how that was a close call, or how some player I haven't even heard of isn't getting enough ice time.

But that's just fine and dandy with me.

I'm happy to let them delve into their sport, as I pick up my book, and wander to the relative comfort and silence of the living room to escape for a bit.

But it was this past Monday night, when the two of them were glued to the TV set to see the Leafs win the conference semifinals, it suddenly occurred to me how pronounced this role reversal has become.

You see, while they sat cheering this good hit, or booing and throwing their hands up in disgust at the refs' calls, I was ensconced in the quiet warmth of my bedroom, relaxing on the bed, tuned in with the 12-inch portable.

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Julie Pomeroy

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Alexander Trenton, D.D., F.C.A.D. (A)
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