

**NHL All-Star Game**  
**Fantasy draft a reality**



As hoped,  
draft proves  
entertaining

**NHL ALL-STAR GAME**

## WEEKEND GUIDE!

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# YOUNG FANS FLOCK TO THE NHL FAIR



Mobbed by hundreds of adoring fans, Stormy, the Carolina Hurricanes mascot, makes his grand entrance like a rock star at the NHL Fan Fair at the convention center in downtown Raleigh.

COREY LOWENSTEIN • clowenst@newsobserver.com

By MATT EHLERS  
STAFF WRITER

**RALEIGH** — In the midst of the loud, frenzied hockey-filled spectacle that is NHL Fan Fair, Heather Ribar sat quietly with her 2-year-old son, Alex, and attempted to explain to him an important nuance of the game.

"We don't do a puck drop until a stoppage in play," she said gently, plucking from his tiny hands an even tinier plas-

### DOWNTOWN EVENTS

All-Star Wide Open street events at City Plaza and RBC Plaza and Raleigh Amphitheater are free; NHL Fan Fair at Raleigh Convention Center, adult and children both \$10 at the door; children under the age of 2 are admitted free.

and sent the disc flying.

Then, he yelled. "Ooooooh!"

"He loves hockey," Ribar said, as her

little of everything hockey.

As part of an entire weekend's worth of activities in downtown Raleigh to celebrate the NHL All-Star Game, the fair fills the entire building. Fans are able to meet hockey players, see Lord Stanley's Cup, and work through an entire cycle of hands-on exercises to show off their hockey skills. Adults were in the lines, too, but the majority of the people lined up for the coolest activities were too young to drive.

**Egypt**  
**President Hosni Mubarak pacify country threatens aid if**

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
AND HADEEL AL-SHAAR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CAIRO** — Embattled President Hosni Mubarak fired his Cabinet early today and announced reforms after protesters engulfed his country in a battle with police and firebombs, burning the ruling party headquarters and defying a night curfew enforced by a military government.

It was the peak of a day posing the most dire threat to Mubarak in his three decades of authoritarian rule.

Many protesters were enraged further by Mubarak's nationally televised speech just after midnight, in which he defended a police



**Egyptian anti-government protests in Cairo**



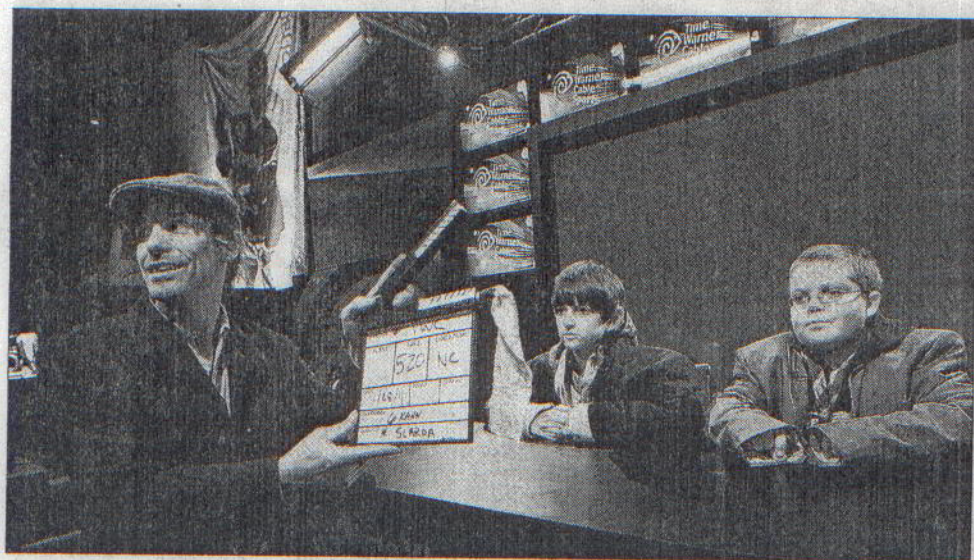
zon.com, because these sites allow a user to create a profile and to share information and photos with other members. "That could include sharing a recipe on BettyCrock.com, exchanging information about heart disease on Med-Help.com, or speculating about the University of North Carolina Tar Heels sports

spokeswoman said Attorney General Roy Cooper backs the law but can't comment on individual cases. The Durham County Superior Court is scheduled to hear the motions in mid-February. jesse.deconto@newsobserver.com or 919-932-8760

Security officials said there were protests in at least 11 of the country's 28 provinces, and unrest roiled major cities like Alexandria, Suez, Assiut and Port Said. At least one protester was killed, bringing the official death toll for the week of protest to eight. No official number of wounded was immediately

calling the protests "part of a bigger plot to shake the stability and destroy the legitimacy" of the political system. "I will not shy away from taking any decision that maintains the security of every Egyptian," he vowed. Mubarak's decision to dismiss Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif and the rest of the Cabi-

"Mubarak did of the demands and they will demonstrate," Hendawi, a 36-year-old nationalist. "He thinks by us he will calm it, he doesn't understand this is a revolution."



Nicholas David, 9, of Wake Forest, center, and Patrick Cariss, 11, of Raleigh don jackets and ties to give sportscasting a try. Director Marc Scarpa marks the scene. COREY LOWENSTEIN • clowenst@newsobserver.com

## FAIR

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jersey, hold a stick and have your picture taken and printed on a genuine-looking hockey card, complete with a super-imposed hockey-rink backdrop.

### 'Pretty cool to see'

Kids played hockey video games, lined up to meet Carolina Hurricanes All-Star Jeff Skinner and took practice slap shots in front of a slow-motion camera, and then watched a replay of themselves on a video screen.

Holden Techet of Raleigh is only 7, but he's already played two seasons of ice hockey. He watched in awe as his shot was shown almost instantly on a large screen, in extraordinarily slow motion. Pro players use a similar system to look for flaws in their own shots.

"It was pretty cool to see," Holden said, noting that he generally practices his slap shots in the family's basement.

The kid-friendly aspects of

Fan Fair are designed to serve a couple of purposes, said Don Renzulli, the NHL's senior vice president for events. Some activities, including the tabletop game, hockey-themed coloring pages and Mr. Potato Heads, are designed to keep kids engaged and out of the long lines that form at some of the more popular attractions.

Older children enjoy shooting pucks, playing the video games and dressing in the hockey equipment. Kids who perhaps have not been on the ice before will want to give hockey a try after visiting the Fan Fair.

"It's like any sport. If you get interested at a very young age, you typically follow it for life," Renzulli said. "Maybe the next Eric Staal will come out of this."

Jennifer Miller and her husband drove from their home in Cleveland to enjoy the All-Star weekend.

"We love hockey," she said, and that was evident as she watched her 2-year-old son, Cody, run around a tiny, padded rink with a small hockey stick. Mother and son wore Buffalo Sabres jerseys

with their last name stitched across the back — by happy coincidence the Sabres goaltender is Ryan Miller.

### His first stick

As more than a dozen young kids ran around the rink in an unorganized manner, Cody wandered into the goal net. He wandered off to the side, more than 20 feet from the center of the action. At one point, demonstrating what must be an irresistible urge for fans his age, he picked up the oversized foam hockey puck.

"This is probably the first time he's had his own stick," his mom said, laughing. "Lord help us all."

After a few minutes, Cody put down the stick in mid-stride and walked over to his mother, stretching out his arms so she could pick him up.

Time to find the potty. Game over.

He'll have the rest of his life to refine those puck-handling skills.

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NHL alumni Grant Fuhr, left, Willie O'Ree and... dedication of the NHL Legacy Classroom at

SHAWN ROCCO • srocco@r

## Still chipping at N

BY MARTHA QUILLIN  
STAFF WRITER

**CHAPEL HILL** — The biggest moments in Willie O'Ree's life are when he first stepped onto the ice of the Montreal Forum, the first goal he scored as a National Hockey League player, and every time he sees the face of a minority kid who has just discovered the joy of the game O'Ree has loved for 70 years.

"There's something about this job that makes you feel good," said O'Ree, who in January 1958 became the first black player in the NHL. Now an ambassador of sorts, O'Ree travels the country as director of diversity programs for the NHL, bringing onto the ice boys and girls whose feet are far more accustomed to concrete.

O'Ree is in the Triangle this weekend attending NHL All-Star Weekend events. Along with other luminaries from present and past eras of the game, he attended the Friday morning opening of a high-tech computer classroom for patients of the N.C. Children's

### LEGACY CLAS

A hockey charity tents and other sports big Friday with the classroom for patient Children's Hospital.

The lab, to be called Legacy Classroom, young patients a way by computer with friends and classmates in similar labs at hospitals across the country. Company, a charity founded by Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine, is rolling in and timed its opening with the All-Star Weekend. "They're really little centers," LaFontaine computer rooms.

Hospital, part of Hospitals system.

At 76, he said, he's down a bit, leaving in San Diego for just events a month now.

"If there are kids I'm going to do my there," he said.

When he learned O'Ree was a 2-year