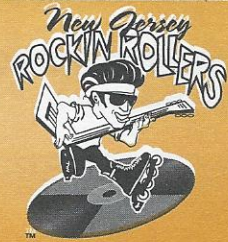


# The Wheel Deal



The Official Game Program Of The New Jersey Rockin Rollers

\$2.00

## TONIGHT'S MATCHUP

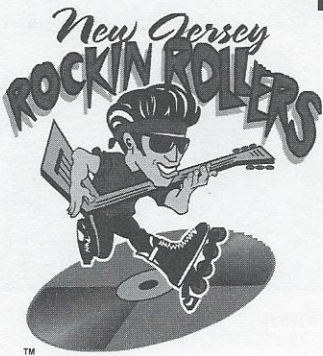
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

New Jersey Rockin Rollers

vs

Anaheim Bullfrogs

GAME TWO OF MURPHY CUP FINALS



### Tonight's the night ...

The World Championship will be decided this evening when the New Jersey Rockin Rollers face the Anaheim Bullfrogs in Game Two of Roller Hockey International's Murphy Cup Finals ... it's been two years since any hockey hardware was hoisted at the Meadowlands, but this time red horns and fiery pitchforks aren't the story ... it's the Rollers, who are after the first title in the four-year history of the franchise ... while New Jersey is a newcomer on Roller Hockey's biggest stage, the Bullfrogs' have been here before ... Anaheim won

the inaugural Murphy Cup in 1993, and returned to the finals last year, only to fall to Orlando ... the battle lines have been drawn; and one way or the other, Roller Hockey history will be made tonight.

### ROLLERS-JACKALS: A DUEL FOR THE AGES ...

In the Eastern Conference Finals, the Rockin Rollers were pitted against the Orlando Jackals, easily one of the finest Roller Hockey teams ever assembled ... the Jackals took the Cup in '96, steamrolled to a 20-4-0 regular-season record in '97, and easily disposed of the Ottawa Wheels in the first round merely a few weeks ago ... but with seven-straight wins coming into the series, the Rollers had every reason to believe they could alter a script that included five losses in six prior meetings with Jackals.

**Game One:** In Game One, Fri., August 22, at the Continental Airlines Arena, goaltender Nick Vitucci quickly let the Jackals know it would not be their night ... Vitucci stopped 12 of 13 first-half shots, as the Rollers took a 2-1 lead into the locker room .. in the third, Doug Lawrence and Chris Palmer scored just 14 seconds apart to extend New Jersey's lead to three .... and when Daniel Shank brought Orlando to within two, Lawrence tallied again just 15 seconds later ... as the Rollers added to their lead, Vitucci continued to frustrate the Jackals ... the end result: an 8-2 Rollers' win and a 1-0 lead in the series.

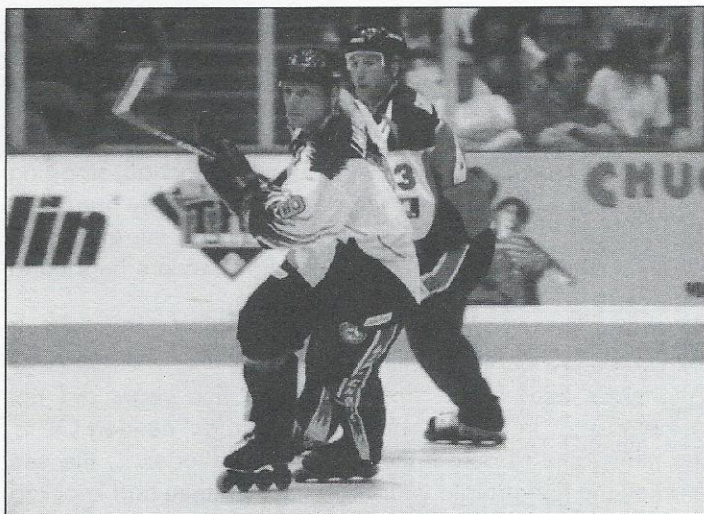


Photo by Michelle Barnes

Doug Lawrence

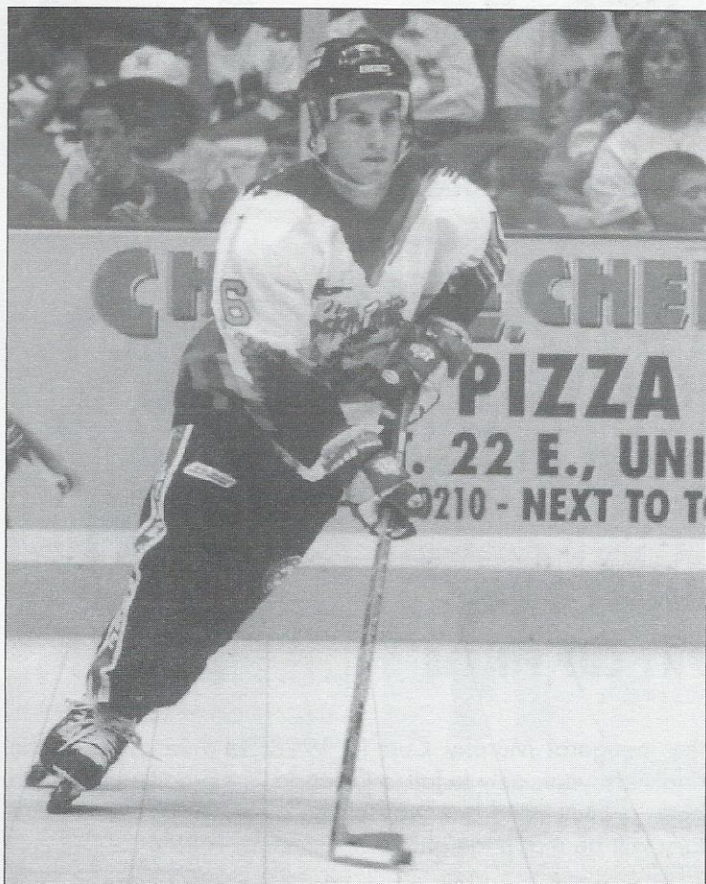
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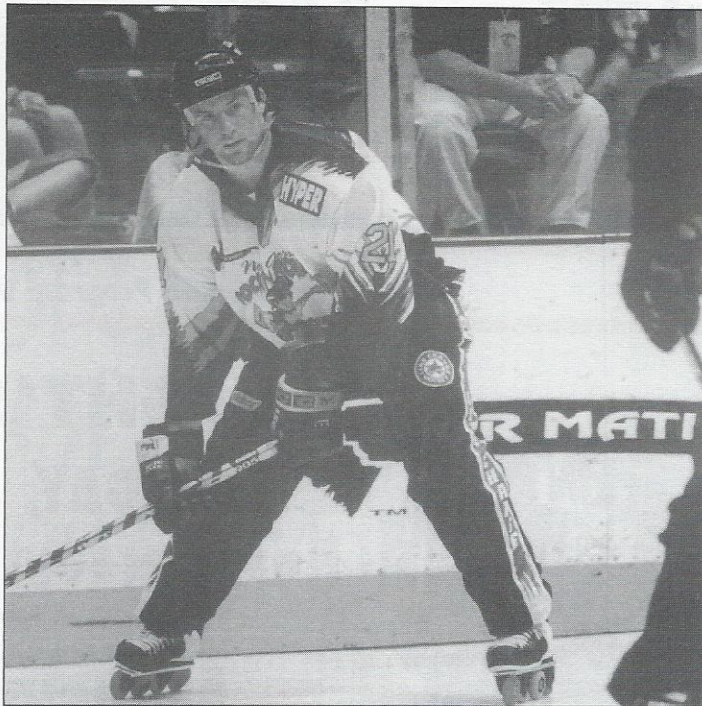
## TONIGHT'S MATCHUP

(Continued from page 1)



Chris Palmer

Photo by Andy Marlin



Ryan Mulhern

Photo by Andy Marlin

**Game Two:** The Rollers headed to Orlando last Sunday knowing that the task of clinching their first ever berth in the Finals would not be easy ... the Rollers had not won in the "O-Rena" all year ... Game Two was a hard fought, back-and-forth battle which remained close throughout 48 minutes of hockey .... although the Rollers held a 4-3 halftime lead, Orlando tied the game, strengthened by a Taj Melson hat trick ... New Jersey, helped by two goals from Ryan Mulhern and three assists from John Vecchiarelli, headed to overtime tied at six ... just over two minutes into OT, Orlando forced a decisive mini-game, with Shank netting the game winner, making the final 7-6.

**Mini-Game:** The teams returned ten minutes later to decide the issue ... a 12-minute mini-game to decide the Eastern Conference crown ... and with a little help from their late season acquisitions, the Rollers proved themselves to be one goal better than Orlando ... Vitucci again sparkled, stopping 13 shots, as Glenn Stewart tallied the game's only goal on a power play, to give New Jersey the win and the trip to the finals ... Goliath had been slain, the Rollers were headed to California.

### BULLFROGS LEAP INTO FINALS ...

Anaheim's third finals' appearance in five years did not come easy ... in the first round, the Bullfrogs' needed OT in the mini-game to defeat the Los Angeles Blades ... the win marked the fifth-straight year in which Anaheim had knocked their cross-Freeway rivals out of the playoffs ... in the Western Conference Finals, Anaheim again went to the mini-game,



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Photo by Michelle Barnes

John Vecchiarelli

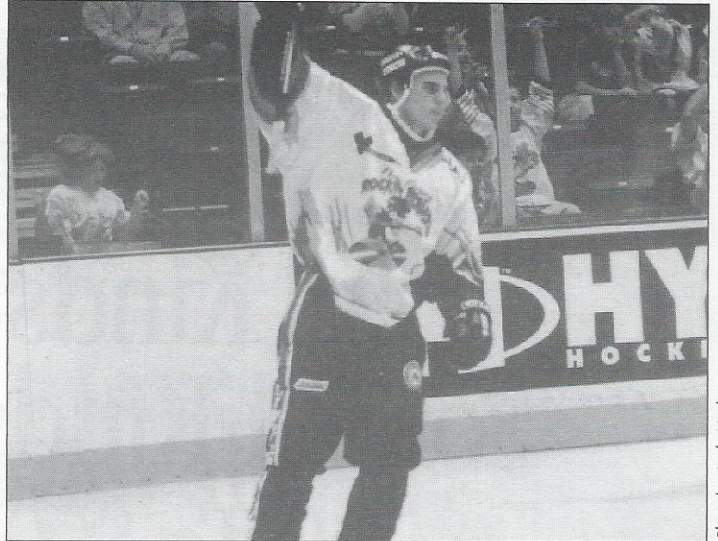


Photo by Andy Marlin

Travis Rigg

this time against the top-seeded San Jose Rhinos .... the Frogs prevailed 2-0, to set-up a date with the Rollers.

**JERSEY-ANAHEIM:  
CROSS-COUNTRY CONNECTION ...**

Although the Rollers' and Bullfrogs make their homes on opposite sides of the country, many familiar faces will meet when these two teams decide the title ... New Jersey's Glenn Stewart was acquired from Anaheim in a mid-season trade ... at the time of the deal, Stewart was the Bullfrogs' leading scorer ... in the trade, Anaheim added Hugo P. Belanger and Glen Metropolit ... although the two spent most of '97 on the Rollers' taxi squad, they both played with the Long Island Jawz in '96, where they hit the court with the likes of

John Vecchiarelli and Tony Szabo ... in addition, current Rollers' Director of Player Personnel Chris McSorley was the 'Frogs first head coach and led them to the RHI title in the league's inaugural season of 1993.

**ROLLER HOCKEY MAGAZINE:  
A PROPHETIC PUBLICATION ...**

The gurus at Roller Hockey Magazine certainly seem to know their stuff ... at the beginning of the year, the publication predicted that New Jersey and Anaheim would meet in the Murphy Cup Finals ... and where did RHM see the title heading ... the Rollers' were the pick to win it all, triumphing in the mini-game .... fans should look for a piece RHM will be doing on the RHI Finals next month.



Photo by Michelle Barnes

Rob Weingartner

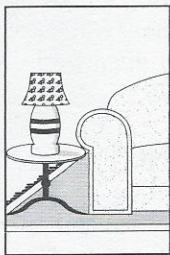




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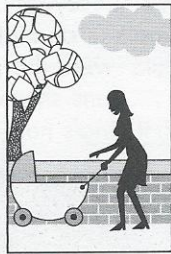
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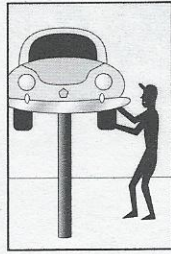
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## **GAME ONE WRAP-UP**

### **BULLFROGS DOMINATE ROLLERS, 12-4**

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** -- The Rollers' first ever-trip to Disneyland did not have the happy ending they had hoped for. Former Roller Hugo Belanger and Brent Thurston both registered hat tricks and goaltender David Goverde made 30 saves as the Anaheim Bullfrogs mauled the Rockin Rollers 12-4 in Game One of the RHI Murphy Cup Finals Thursday night in front of 7,233 at the Arrowhead Pond. The Rollers, who suffered their worst playoff-loss ever, must win both Game Two and the mini-game tonight if they are to capture the franchise's first-ever Murphy Cup.

"We've gotta' go back and win two," said New Jersey Head Coach Doug Shedden.

Anaheim, in search of their second title in five years, was bolstered by a goal and three assists each from former Roller Glen Metropolit, Victor Gervais and Doug McCarthy. The Bullfrogs set the record for the largest margin of victory in a Murphy Cup Finals game, three goals more than their 9-4 win over Oakland in 1993.

Both teams got acquainted in a tight-checking first quarter. New Jersey got on the board first on an odd-angle goal from Rob Weingartner 2:30 into the game; but with Weingartner in the box for roughing, Anaheim tied the score on Victor Gervais' tally at the 4:03 mark.

The Bullfrogs took a 4-2 lead into the half, scoring three goals the first four minutes of the quarter. Belanger, who had four points on the night, netted a pair just 23 seconds apart, and Thurston pushed Anaheim's lead to 4-1 3:28 into the second. The Rollers cut the lead to two on Don Parsons power-play goal at 8:15.

Anaheim put a stranglehold on the game in third, scoring the first five goals of the quarter to take a 9-2 lead. Metropolit netted the Bullfrogs' second power-play goal at 1:55 and McCarthy extended the advantage to four just 11 seconds later. Thurston's second goal of the game -- 3:21 into the third -- marked the end of the evening for Jersey goaltender Nick Vitucci. Tom Mennicci greeted Vitucci's replacement Mark Richards with Anaheim's eighth goal at the six-minute mark and Belanger capped-off his hat trick with his sixth goal of the post-season at 7:19. The Rollers put a halt to the onslaught when Stewart scored 8:05 into the quarter and Weingartner added his second with 1:52 remaining. However, Goverde prevented the Rollers from getting any closer, making 11 saves in the third.

The 'Frogs added three more in the fourth. Thurston's third of the evening came 4:18 into the final period and Anaheim scored a pair of power-play goals during a four-minute penalty assessed to the Rollers' Dennis Maxwell. Darren Perkins put Anaheim up 11-4 at the 9:16 mark and Jim Fecenic closed the scoring with 1:03 remaining.

## **SHEDDEN HONORED AS COACH OF THE YEAR**

**GRASS VALLEY, Calif.** -- Rockin Rollers' Head Coach Doug Shedden was named RHI Eastern Conference Coach of the Year last week by the league. In his first season at the helm in New Jersey, Shedden's Rollers rebounded from a 7-17-4 record a year ago, to post a mark of 16-8-0 -- the best record in the four-year history of the club. The Rollers swept Montreal in the first-round of the playoffs before upsetting the defending-champion Orlando Jackals en route to their first-ever trip to the Murphy Cup Finals. Shedden is no stranger to winning awards as he was named Central Hockey League Coach of the Year in 1994-95 with the Wichita Thunder.





# TEAM ROSTERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1997

## GAME TWO -- RHI MURPHY CUP FINALS NEW JERSEY ROCKIN ROLLERS

VS.

## ANAHEIM BULLFROGS



### NEW JERSEY ROCKIN ROLLERS ACTIVE ROSTER

#### Playoff Totals

No.	Pos.	Player	G	A	+/-
7	D	Rob MacInnis	1	3	3
9	F (C)	Doug Lawrence	3	8	4
10	F	Mark Major	0	1	-2
11	F	Glenn Stewart	4	6	2
14	F	Travis Riggan	0	0	0
15	F	Rob Weingartner	4	1	0
16	F	Chris Palmer	2	6	1
19	F	John Vecchiarelli	4	6	3
21	F	Ryan Mulhern	5	2	4
22	F	Dean Shmyr	0	0	0
24	F	Dennis Maxwell	2	2	1
25	F	Tony Szabo	0	0	0
26	D	Arturs Kupacs	0	2	3
28	F	John Splotore	2	6	0
31	F	Don Parsons	4	4	1
34	G	Mark Richards	0	0	--
35	G	Nick Vitucci	0	1	--
72	D	Don Martin	0	3	-2
77	F	Justin Cardwell	0	0	0

Goaltender	GPI	AVG	REC	SVPCT	GA
Richards	3	6.28	1-0-0	0.830	9
Vitucci	5	5.48	1-0-0	0.853	21

Dir. of Player Personnel **Chris McSorley**  
 Head Coach **Doug Shedden**  
 Dir., Hockey Ops./Assistant Coach **Bob Antolos**  
 Trainer **Barry Cahmi**  
 Staff Coordinator **Paul Lombardi**  
 Equipment Manager **Andy Schwartz**

### ANAHEIM BULLFROGS ACTIVE ROSTER

#### Playoff Totals

No.	Pos.	Player	G	A	+/-
1	G	Rob Laurie	0	0	--
4	D	Doug McCarthy	1	6	4
6	F	Danny Brooks	0	0	0
9	F	Sean Whyte	2	8	2
10	D	Tom Menicci	2	2	3
14	F	Bob Woods	1	3	0
17	F	B.J. MacPhearson	0	0	0
19	F	Hugo Belanger	6	6	0
21	D	Darren Perkins	6	4	2
22	F	Jim Ficenic	1	2	3
35	G	David Goverde	0	1	--
51	F	Marty Yewchuk	3	5	9
61	F	Victor Gervais	5	12	2
74	F	Glen Metropolit	6	8	3
77	F	Brent Thurston	3	2	0
97	D	Chris Newans	0	0	-1

Goaltender	GPI	AVG	REC	SVPCT	GA
Laurie	0	0.00	0-0-0	0.000	0
Goverde	7	2.83	5-2-0	0.911	18

Head Coach **Brad McCaughey**  
 Director of Player Personnel **Grant Sonier**  
 Athletic Trainer **Mark Burgess**  
 Equipment Manager **Rich Van Patten**  
 Assistant Trainer **Jennifer Waggoner**