

# ARE CANADIANS DIRTY HOCKEY PLAYERS?

(AN EXAMINATION)

**Mark Fraser's rugged play could make  
him a Maple Leaf**



He's nasty and a punishing body checker, and with the NHL lockout possibly soon ending rugged Toronto Marlies defenceman [Mark Fraser](#) couldn't have picked a better time to show he deserves a shot with the Maple Leafs.

"Hopefully, that's everyone's plan down here. We want to play hard every game but all of our goals is to at least get a chance with the big club," said Fraser, who was acquired in a [trade with the Anaheim Ducks last February](#).

Partnered with Leafs prospect Korbinian Holzer, the two became the Marlies top shutdown blueliners during the team's Calder Cup run and they've continued their solid play this season.

Fraser had two fights and was a tower of strength all game on Saturday as the Marlies beat the Rockford IceHogs 5-2 before an announced crowd of 8,017, the largest regular season crowd in franchise history at the Ricoh Coliseum. It was Toronto's 13th win in 15 home games and extended their [Western Conference leading record to 21-9-1-2](#).

"Being (nasty) is my game. It's what I bring to the table," said Fraser, who played 61 games with the New Jersey Devils during the 2009-10 season and another 21 the following season. "Everyone contributes in different ways, but I like playing that style."

Besides being a "great leader, who plays against the other team's top line," Toronto coach Dallas Eakins said Fraser is "as tough as they come" and an inspiration to his teammates.

“When we picked him up last year, I couldn’t believe that we hadn’t had a defenceman like this,” Eakins said



MARK BLINCH/REUTERS Canada's Anthony Camara ((left) checks Slovakia's Patrik Luza during the second period of their preliminary round game during the 2013 IIHF U20 World Junior Hockey Championship in Ufa December 28, 2012. Luza left the game with an injury after the play and was carried off on a stretcher by medical personnel.

Anthony Camara, the junior national team grit guy, is asked where he got his toughness.

“I had an older sister that always beat me up,” he says. “And my mom was pretty tough. I got it from the girls’ side.”

NHL scouts will tell you that Camara is a Boston Bruins draft pick in the early-career mould of Milan Lucic, willing to do his best to put a shoulder through a chest or a fist through a face. Everyone close to him will tell you he plays a man’s game moulded largely by two women. Once, when he and his sister Brooke were fighting over an issue long forgotten, Brooke threw the TV remote control at his head and hit bull’s eye. Another time, and maybe this was after Anthony protested her using his cherished on-ice game stick for road hockey, she heaved an ashtray at the same and missed the target. Raised together by their single mother in a humble townhouse near the intersection of Bathurst St. and Lakeshore Blvd., Anthony and Brooke squabbled through their share of familial debate. But even now, as Anthony draws ever closer to his goal of playing in the NHL, there is little argument over which of the children cut the more intimidating figure.

Anthony’s very tough. But his sister was very, very tough,” says Jeffrey Haier, the siblings’ make Anthony so tough.”



Griffin Reinhart

MARK BLINCH/REUTERS Canada's Griffin Reinhart was suspended four games for a hit on Vincent Trocheck of Team USA.

Kevin McGran  
Sports Reporter

2 Comments

UFA, RUSSIA—Stung by criticism — mostly emanating from Canada — that the four-game suspension for Griffin Reinhart was too harsh, the International Ice Hockey Federation held a news conference to defend itself.

The two members of the disciplinary committee Dan Marouelli — a Canadian and former NHL referee — and Jeff Sauer — an American and former NCAA coach —

stood by their belief that Reinhart deliberately targeted the head of American Vince Trocheck in the semifinal.

“The Canadian player had the stick in his hand and used it as a weapon, striking his opponent,” said Marouelli. “You have a responsibility with your stick to play the puck with it. In this case he was really irresponsible.

“We are trying in both of our countries to teach kids to play the puck. He had no reason to raise that stick the way he did. He was careless. We are tasked with the message of ‘Don’t do it or you are going to have to pay the consequences of your actions.’”

Canada is appealing the suspension, which affects only IIHF tournaments, not affect Reinhart’s CHL games. The Canadians were upset the IIHF held a news conference regarding the incident without telling them.

The IIHF showed video replays — in real time and slow motion — to show that Reinhart’s stick did not bounce off Trocheck’s stick, as the Canadians had asserted.

“We represent the world of hockey and we want to send the correct messages,” said Sauer. “In the rule book there is no contact to the head.

“And if you are a parent with a young hockey player and you watch this clip, the message we’re sending is, it’s a very dangerous game. There has to be accountability

It doesn’t matter who the teams are ... a play like this is a very dangerous play in the sport of hockey and we don’t want to send a message across the world. We want to represent the sport in a positive way.”

When asked why Reinhart’s transgression in which the Trocheck was not hurt was worth four games while a hit from behind on Ty Wotherspoon that landed him dangerously into the boards and resulted in a gash in his face was only a one-game suspension, Marouelli said the situation was different.

“There is a whole different set of circumstances there,” said Marouelli. “ Body position, the close proximity of both players as they entered the boards, he placed his shoulder on his back from behind, but he didn’t run from a great distance. Distance travelled, all of these types of things that come into play.



Boone Jenner has paid a heavy price for his late hit.

The International Ice Hockey Federation suspended the Canadian forward three games on Monday for his check on Swedish defenceman Jesper Pettersson in the team’s final exhibition contest prior to the start of the world junior hockey championship.

Pettersson suffered a broken wrist and a dislocated shoulder on the play and had to be carried off the ice on a stretcher. Jenner

was assessed a five-minute major and a game misconduct for charging.

“The video material indicated that the hit was late and delivered with no intention to play the puck and with Pettersson being in a vulnerable position,” the IIHF said in a statement Monday. “It was Jenner’s intention to deliver the forceful check in spite of having the opportunity to at least make an attempt to avoid contact on Pettersson.



What are the effects of a hockey concussion sustained on the ice during a normal professional or amateur Hockey Game



**Concussion**, from the Latin *concutere* ("to shake violently")<sup>1</sup> or *concussus* ("action of striking together"), is the most common type of traumatic brain injury.

The terms **mild brain injury**, **mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI)**, **mild head injury (MHI)**, **minor head trauma**, and **concussion** may be used interchangeably, although the last is often treated as a narrower category. Although the term "concussion" is still used in sports literature as interchangeable with "MHI" or "MTBI", the general clinical medical literature now uses "MTBI" instead. In this article, "concussion" and "MTBI" are used interchangeably. Frequently defined as a head injury with a temporary loss of brain function, concussion causes a variety of physical, cognitive, and emotional symptoms, which may not be recognized if subtle.

Treatment involves monitoring and rest including both physical and cognitive (reduction of such activities as school work, television watching and text messaging).<sup>[7]</sup> Symptoms usually resolve within three weeks, though they may persist, or complications may occur.<sup>[8]</sup>

Those who have had one concussion seem more susceptible to another, especially if the new injury occurs before symptoms from the previous

concussion have completely resolved.<sup>[9]</sup> There is also a negative progressive process

Followers of the game of hockey are known to rattle off statistics on goals scored and penalty minutes, but a new study of NHL concussions introduces a more sobering set of figures and charts to fans on the consequences when their hockey heroes take hits to the head.

The largest and most detailed analysis of concussions in the National Hockey League, published Monday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, looked at seven regular seasons from 1997 to 2004.

It was based on physician reports from every team in the league and found a total of 559 concussions during regular season games, working out to a concussion rate of 5.8 for every 100 players, or an estimated 1.8 concussions per 1,000

<http://www.tsn.ca/nhl/story/?id=362741>

## ADVOCATES WHO PRAISE AND SANCTION ROCK-EM, SOCK-EM HOCKEY

Every general manager, coach, and parent who sees this hockey tactic being played out on the ice and condones it and does not holler and scream when no whistle is heard and no penalties are called, and are in agreement with the TV commentator who calls it:

*“a legal hard check with no intent to injure.”*

# WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE NHL

Ever Since February 1, 1993 Mr. Gary Bettman Became The First Commissioner of The National Hockey League , Canada's National Sport Has Become An Arena of Combatants And Fierce Illegal Body Checks That Have Caused Much Physical And Mental Suffering Amid Hundreds Of Player Brain Concussions.

NHL hockey was a much different game when it was in the hands of Canadians with Offices in Montreal



**Figure 1 Clarence Campbell NHL President 1947-1976**

Talented Amateur Hockey player, Referee in the NHL, Veteran WW2, Oxford University, Rhodes Scholar, Montreal Lawyer

Canada and the Canadian hockey establishment must take note and begin the long, slow and arduous task of rebuilding and reclaiming the reins of how and where hockey is played in Canada. Hockey is a fascinating, high speed game of talent, skills and intelligence, that never fails to exhilarate players, spectators and television audiences. Making the right move, the right pass, the right play anticipation, the right shot and hopefully putting the puck in the top right-hand corner is always the mental and physical quest for any player, at any age, at any level anywhere in Canada.

Boarding an opponent violently from behind is not an acceptable maneuver to be learned, taught or practiced -- it's thug hockey and a gross misuse of the boards of a hockey arena. They are there to limit the area of play.



Failing all this evidence of a need to get back to playing hockey at its highest level, the only possible conclusion would be that only an arena death or a paralyzing hit will insist that the era of “gladiator” hockey is finally ruled out of order.



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In memory of Valentino & Angela (Nella) Daldin

