

Wayne Out There (.com)

wayne-out-there

Stuff that matters to Wayne

Why the Hockey Hype? Understanding the Minds of Fans

Posted on February 17, 2013 by Wayne Taylor

Originally posted at www.blenzseymour.com, Thu, 04/14/2011 - 08:51 ----- It's 7:45pm. It's a rare evening because I'm not at the shop so I'm sitting at my dining room table. My daughter has just been put to bed. Life is good. Life is relaxing. Then, from what must have been the depths of the earth, male voices like what I imagined a middle-eastern uprising might sound like exploded into the night. Sounds like 'YAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!' and 'F@#\$ YAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!' and 'WOOOOOOOOOOO!' resounded and shook my hardwood floor (well, just the top is real hardwood). Then came a stomping sound. Were they marching? How near is this attack to my home and family? Then the slamming of fists on walls and tables. Were they angry? Is this a cult gathering and I am to be their next sacrificial animal, ripe for the slaughter? Did I prepare my will and who will get my classical guitar? No. These are hockey fans. Or, more precisely, Canucks fans. Why do I distinguish between a 'hockey fan' and a 'Canucks fan'? Mr. Peter _____ [insert Greek last name of your choice here..like Panagopolous], a reasonable and well-tempered man, explains with his example story: <blockquote>So this Czech woman arrives in Canada. She doesn't know what to do but she knows that there is a big hockey game on tonight - Canada versus the Czech Republic. So, she decides to go to the bar and meet some men and watch the game. When she arrives at the bar, it's empty. She was confused as she was under the impression that Canadians were hockey fans. She found out that the NHL playoffs were on and no one cared about anything except when the Canucks were playing. </blockquote> I nodded my head in agreement. These Vancouverites missed the federal election debate to watch a hockey game. I immediately thought about the Middle East and wondered if they would miss a national political event that could compromise their very lives to watch a game of..actually, I don't know what sport they watch there... anyways.. Well.. the point is, I didn't watch the debate either, but I don't have any TV connection. If I did, though, let it be known I would have watched Iggy vs the Harpster any day of the week. I might have even let out a gentle 'woot' of approval if I saw my side winning. Thankfully, Mr. Edward Garcia (@edstweets), a local broadcaster for a well-known radio station, helped bring some balance: <blockquote>Hockey [editor note: Canuck hockey] is the 'great bringer-togetherer of the people'. Two musicians might not be able to go to a concert together because they do not both like death metal. They are not like-minded about the topic and therefore cannot enjoy the event together. In a similar manner, if you support the Liberals, it is difficult to go to a Conservative or NDP political rally and enjoy the event. You are not in accord. You are not like-minded. With hockey, a Liberal can watch a game a conservative and have a good time.</blockquote> The only problem is that I can't seem to enjoy this game called hockey. Believe me. I tried. My dad is a fan of fans. He was born in Winnipeg and played hockey outside on the river (or something like that). He talks about 'icing' and 'body checks' and stuff like that. But... I just don't get it. I like hockey more than soccer, though. I've sat back and observed both sports on TV. I even played soccer when I was a kid but the goal post fell on me during a wind storm so I gave that up. But watching sports? Hockey is better because it seems faster. They get more goals in less time so it is therefore better. It has more drama put into a shorter amount of time. It's like Korean dramas versus north american soap operas. So this milk delivery dude comes today and the first thing he says is "How about that game last night, eh?" To this I could only reply, "I heard it was pretty good but it sure killed my evening sales at the store." I don't want to say "I don't care about your

temporal and relatively meaningless game." I also don't want to admit that I didn't watch it in case my citizenship may be called into question followed my imminent witch-hunt with me as the scape-goat poster-boy (FYI I put hyphens all over the place there because I didn't know which words needed them). So, the big question is not so much 'Why do people get hyped about hockey?' but more about 'Should I get hyped about the Canucks?' or 'Am I a loser if I don't get hyped about the Canucks?' In conclusion, I still don't give a rats arsenic about hockey or the Canucks but I'm open to people trying to force me into conversion. PS. [editor's note: Is it ok to put a PS in a blog?] Someone asked me why I don't have a TV in my cafe and my answer was because I didn't want to watch the game.

Posted in:Business,Humour,Originally Written Elsewhere | Tagged:Canucks,Hockey,Hype,NHL | With 1 comments