

# Sports On The Hill



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PAGE 8

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## Zednik Expects Full Recovery After Near Death NHL Incident

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Staff Writer

On Sunday night, Richard Zednik of the Florida Panthers suffered a freak accident when the carotid artery in his neck was cut by the blade of teammate Olli Jokinen's skate. A stunned crowd watched as doctors and trainers rushed Zednik off the ice as they desperately tried to stop the blood. For fifteen minutes the crowd stood in silence, until it was announced that Zednik was in stable condition and was being transported to the hospital. After some debate, the game continued, but the air of what just happened lingered throughout the crowd, and into sports talk of the following day.

The incident started out as a simple forecheck by the Florida Panthers. The puck was deep in the Sabers' zone when Olli Jokinen put a hit on the Buffalo defense-

men. The hit caused Jokinen to trip, causing his right skate to swing up. As this was happening, Richard Zednik skated behind the net and was headed towards the play. Being caught between the hit and another Buffalo player, Zednik was unable to avoid Jokinen's skate as it came up into his neck. As Zednik fell, it was not initially apparent what had happened. As play continued, Zednik miraculously was able to skate to the Florida bench, where his trainer had already jumped onto the ice to help him. Zednik's carotid artery in his neck was cut and bleeding profusely. Looking back on the incident, being able to skate to the bench may have saved Zednik's life; he lost over

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five units of blood. Joined by both the Florida and Buffalo trainers, Zednik was rushed to the medical room treated until doctors arrived. According to www.sportingnews.com, Panther's defenseman Steve Montador commented on what he saw: "He looked pale, he was obviously standing and to a degree, coherent. But he didn't look as focused as you or I right now. He was staring at nothing." After Zednik left the ice, veteran referee Bill McCreary talked to both coaches and managers about cancelling the last ten minutes of the game. Fifteen minutes after the incident, the announcement of Zednik's stability was made. After a standing ovation from the Buffalo crowd, it

was decided that the game would continue. After the game, Jokinen was quoted on nhl.com as saying: "My mind was not on the hockey game. If it was my call, I would have gone to the hospital with him" (www.nhl.com).

To many, this is an eerie reminder to a similar event that happened nearly twenty years ago when a skate cut the jugular of Buffalo goalie Clint Malarchuk. Malarchuk received 300 stitches, but was released one day later. These events are stark reminders of the dangers present every second in hockey. What is even scarier is that Zednik's life-threatening injury happened during a routine play, one that every hockey player has been in. The league will no doubt be talking about ways to prevent this from ever happening again, but the truth is that there is really nothing that can be done. Neck guards are available, and

sometimes even required by some younger leagues, but most, if not all, professional players don't wear one due to their uncomfortable and restricting qualities.

As of Monday, Zednik is still in recovery in Buffalo, but is alert and able to speak. The accident has not turned him away from the sport he loves, and according to the attending surgeon on staff, he has already asked when he can go back to training. The Florida Panthers and Zednik's family are extremely gracious for the overwhelming support he has received, and were quick to comment on the excellent work done by the Buffalo doctors and staff. A date for his return has not yet been determined, but the doctors are confident he will have a perfect recovery.

### Boot 'N Paddle

Alex Eaton  
Columnist

For those of you who didn't read last week's *Boot 'n Paddle*, it dealt with the intricacies of italicization. Now I don't claim to be an expert on the subject, but I have begun to appreciate and utilize the subtle power of italics. You might have noticed that I italicized the name of this column in my first sentence; that's just the technical usage and it is so boring— whoa! Did you see that? One carefully placed italicized word can transform your sentence from bland and unpleasant to robust and rejuvenating.

Don't worry if you're not completely sure how italics work. The concept evaded the editors of the *Hill News* just last week! As a result, *Boot 'n Paddle* was odd and confusing, the exercise did not make sense, and I have been accosted all week long. My goal is to remedy that mistake right now by giving the exercise in italicization another shot (this time *with italics*).

Again, think of a sentence, italicize one word at a time, and look at how much it changes the meaning.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- Start with no italics. Buck really likes cream cheese. And I hate mayonnaise, big deal.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- Whoa, this is weird! Your friend Sandy is obsessed with cream cheese, too!

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- Deryl, I already told you, Buck is my friend. If you have a problem with that then I question our friendship.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- Tucker, or Tuck as we call him, is lactose intolerant; he would never eat cream cheese.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- I'm telling you right now, Buck loves cream cheese.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- This one is tough; "a" as opposed to "the" cream cheese fanatic.

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- But he hates cheddar!

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- And he hates milk!

My friend Buck is a cream cheese fanatic.

- It's weird enough that Buck is a cream cheese fanatic. To add emphasis to the word "fanatic" makes his passion bizarre and spooky.

That was fun, gang! If you're having trouble thinking of a good sentence to try, here are a couple of ideas:

- Imagine what it's like in space.

- Keep the beef jerky coming.

- You, my friend, can dance.

- That ghost story was scary.

By the way, last week someone told me that punctuation/sentence structure games are boring... As if!

### Can Soccer Unite Kenyans?

Henry Wallace  
Columnist

While the near-religious fervor with which continental Africans relish sports, particularly soccer and Association Football, will never change, it was recently suggested that sporting events should be used as a rallying pivot for the unification of Africans. This is to say that cross-continental tournaments would serve as a fusion between different countries. However, this seems to be rather tenuous, could it work to unite Kenyans?

The problems facing Kenyans and Africans as a whole, which have been well documented by Professor George Ayittey, founder of Free Africa Foundation (FAF), cannot be resolved through a mostly seasonal sport or a sport at all. Rather, these relatively unique and immense handicaps call for dedicated leadership, creative, systematic thinking and long-term planning. At best, what the admittedly momentous occasion of the African Cup of Nations fiesta can facilitate is to serve a purposeful assemblage of people with diverse talents and cultures. However, people flock to the cup not for means of continental unification but to watch a game.

Thus, it is not quite clear why such an event would be used for

unification purposes. The fiesta is meant to unite and build bridges of friendship, but, with four decades of the African Cup tournaments having been held with no evident upraise in nationality, then chances are this plan would not work. The tournaments have failed to foster a continent-wide spirit of camaraderie, so why would well-known leaders of academia believe that it would boost cross-continental interconnections among the African people as well as the Kenyan. It wouldn't.

The joy of sports can be best be savored when the two political leaders of Kenya, President Mwai Kibaki and the opposition leader Mr. Odinga are able to achieve a decent life for their people. As it stands now, cross-continental tournaments can only be enjoyed as proverbial opiates, in Marxian parlance; as a temporary relief from the grinding pressures of avoidable poverty and destitution. And though it may well be this sorry situation that in the past prompted many an unruly sports fan to resort to violence and mayhem against opposition teams, what should be aimed for is a healthy competition. Instead of reaching to reunite all of Africa, the leaders should focus much more on their own countries and people.

MEN'S HOCKEY, SLU 4, CORNELL 2  
WOMEN'S HOCKEY, SLU 6, CORNELL 2 . Home Game 2/17, 7PM vs. YALE  
WOMEN'S SQUASH FALLS TO HAMILTON, 1-8  
MEN'S & WOMEN'S ALPINE TAKE 8th IN DARTMOUTH CARNIVAL  
NORDIC TAKES 8th IN DARTMOUTH CARNIVAL  
MEN'S SWIMMING LOOSES TO ALFRED WHILE WOMEN WIN, 123-104  
check out the SLU Athletics page for more scores and upcoming games

