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Stephens helps Arnott join hockey's elite ranks of players in postseason

DALLAS (AP) — A little more than 2 1/2 years ago, Scott Stevens didn't think much about offering an extra room over his garage to a mixed-up and disappointed young man whose hockey career had taken a nose dive in Edmonton.

Jason Arnott needed a place to stay after being traded by the Oilers to New Jersey and Stevens, the Devils' captain, gave him one for two months.

It turned out to be a learning experience. Arnott got a friend, ate the right foods and learned how to make a commitment to the sport he loved, just by watching Stevens.

The lessons learned could result in a Stanley Cup for the Devils.

That's how much of a contribution Arnott is making to the Devils' run toward hockey's top prize.

Only Dallas' Brett Hull and Mike Modano have scored more points than Arnott (seven goals, 12 assists) in the postseason.

Three of those goals have come in the Cup finals against Dallas. None was bigger than the one he scored late in the first period of Game 3 to tie Saturday's game. It took the momentum away from Dallas and helped New Jersey to a 2-1 win and a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

That's the type of play the Oilers always expected from Arnott, who was the seventh pick overall in the 1993 NHL Draft. The 6-foot-4, 225-pounder scored 33 goals as a rookie but he never had more than 28 in any one season after that and it made him a target of the fans in Edmonton.

The Oilers traded him and defenseman Bryan Muir to New Jersey in January 1998 for Bill Guerin and Valeri Zelepkun.

Arnott only had five goals in 35 games for Edmonton when he was traded and he added another five in 35 with New Jersey that year.

However, living with Stevens and his wife, Donna, got the then 23-year-old Arnott refocused and also improved his practice habits, learning to work as hard as his landlord.

"I remember late night staying up and talking with them just about life, nothing about hockey," Arnott said. "It was nice. At that time when I got traded it was tough. They made me feel right at home. It was a family away from home."

"I had a chance to talk to them about personal stuff, personal feelings," Arnott added. "It was like sitting in the kitchen taking to my mom. It was definitely helpful."

A nutrition freak, Stevens also helped Arnott with his diet.

"Single guys always eat whatever they want," Arnott said. "I wasn't eating all that bad but I definitely ate a lot

a more healthy there."

The change on the ice started year when then-Devils coach Rick Bawa moved Arnott to center with Erik Elias and Petr Sykora on the wings. The two natives of the Czech Republic are great skaters and that has helped Arnott move his feet and play better.

Arnott had 27 goals and 58 points last season and he added 22 goals and 56 points this year. His game has improved off in the playoffs.

"I think to be an elite player in the league you have to have that confidence in a good way," Arnott said.

"Scott is a great guy. He's our captain. Whenever a guy is in trouble and needs a place to stay, here is there. He did that for me and I owe him a tremendous amount."

— Jason Arnott, hockey player

man Ken Daneyko said. "And Jason has finally come to the forefront. He's a big, strong, powerful man and he's starting to use it along with his ability."

Not only has Arnott provided scoring in the playoffs, he's also one of the leaders in the locker room, another influence from Stevens.

"He's getting away from the Edmonton stuff and he really has his niche. And he's close to helping the Devils win their second Stanley Cup since 1995."

"Ironically, if the Devils win, the frontrunner for the Conn Smythe Trophy would be Stevens, whose physical play set the tone for New Jersey during their first three series."

The only person who might be a problem for Arnott is Stevens.

"Scott is a great guy. He's our captain," said Arnott, who lives in Waukegan, Ontario, about 90 miles west of Toronto. "Whenever a guy is in trouble and needs a place to stay, here is there. He did that for me. I owe him a tremendous amount."

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Sports in Brief

Rocker confronts writer before game

ATLANTA (AP) — John Rocker, the embattled Braves reliever who confronted Sunday with the Sports Illustrated reporter who wrote the story in which Rocker made offensive comments about gays, minorities, migrants and his own teammates.

The reporter, Jeff Pearlman, said Rocker threatened him, though there was no physical contact between the two. The Braves said they were investigating and teammate Brian Jordan called him a "cancer."

"I'm amazed he hasn't handled himself the right way," said Jordan, one of the leaders in the clubhouse. "Geez, if the guy has nine lives, he's still in it."

"You've got one guy being a cancer time and time again," the outfielder said. "Eventually, it's going to have an effect on the team. Hopefully, he'll change."

Pearlman, in Atlanta to do a story on the Braves meeting the New York Yankees in a rematch of last year's World Series, had a chance to meet with Rocker in a service tunnel beneath Turner Field about two hours before the final game of the series.

According to Pearlman, Rocker made threatening comments such as "This isn't over between us," and "you know what I can do to you?"

The confrontation lasted about five minutes and became so heated that Rocker flipped around the bill of his cap so he could get face-to-face with the reporter.

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ATHLETE'S FOOT STUDY

Volunteers, ages 12 and up, needed for a 6-week research study of investigational medication for the treatment of athlete's foot. Eligible volunteers will be compensated.

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2-Bdrm apartment, \$554/mo, available August. Call Melinda @ 694-2098 or Gable Office @ 693-1188.

2brdm/1bth, <1 mile from campus, utilities paid, ceiling fans throughout. First \$750 takes. 846-8295.

3brdm/2bth like new duplexes, spacious, ceiling fans, privacy fence, lawn maintenance. No pets. Mid August. \$975/mo. 775-4225.

August- 2brdm/1bth, 2brdm/1.5bth, 2brdm/2bth, \$490-\$640, w/d available, ceiling fans. 694-1581.

Beautiful RV Trailer Location. Own driveway, utilities included in return for taking care of place. 4-min. from campus. 845-5265, 823-0104.

Engineering Students: 2.5brdms & 2bths, 1448sqft., 1/2acre, 13mi. N/W Quiet country. Need engineering students to work on innovative projects. Summer \$200/student, up to 3-students. 823-7172.

For Rent: \$425/mo., 2brdm/1bth 4-plex. RE/MAX B/C/S 694-8400.

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS RESEARCH STUDY

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Call for information.

J&S Studies, Inc. 409-846-5933

FOR RENT

FREE LOCATOR SERVICE. Apartments, Duplexes, Fourplexes, Houses, Alpha-Omega Properties, Broker. 693-0868.

House For Rent. 2brdm/1bth, CH/A, \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. 1407 East 23rd, Bryan. 903-595-1602.

Look! Last minute summer move-in. 2brdm/2bth huge, W/D, carpet. Start \$399/mo. Executive. 696-6616.

Manufactured homes- 2&3brdm, 1&2bath, \$400-up. Close to TAMU. No pets. 823-3106. One month's free rent.

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FOR SALE

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'86 Toyota Tercel, 137K miles, 3-door, 4-speed, \$950. Sofa & love-seat- \$300. man's diamondback mountain bike- \$125. Nick 862-9236. nrupp@unl.tamu.edu

Amesa electric dryer, \$200, 1 year old, good condition. Call 846-6139.

Binocular Brightfield Microscopes. Wesco 1000-power. \$975. 774-1628 evenings after 6pm for full specs.

Fridgidaire, white stackable Washer & Dryer, \$300 negotiable. Good Condition. 764-2084.

Matching sofa, loveseat and chair- \$200. T.V.- \$50. Diamondback, 17inch bike- \$100. 774-3053.

Moving 6/16, Must sell \$75. electric dryer. Leave message or ask for Brooks. 774-1699.

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Auto Mechanic/ Helper Needed Part-Time. Call 828-4832.

Barnhill's Buffet hiring experienced dependable servers. Apply in person Mon.-Thurs. 2-4pm, 1701-S. Texas Ave. Drug Free Work Place.

Bartenders make \$100-\$300 per night. No experience necessary. Call 1-800-981-8168 ext.245.

Enjoy working with children? Join our nursery staff at Christ UMC. Sundays, 8am-12:30pm. Minimum wage. Pick-up application at 4203 State Hwy-6 South, CS.

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HELP WANTED

Full-time position available in Oral Surgeon's office. Please call 764-7101 Monday through Friday between 8am-5pm.

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Local business seeks aggressive positive self-starting male students for part-time work. Flexible hours, top pay. Call 696-0832, 8-10am only.

Looking for a way to earn money this summer on campus? How about doing promotions for the country's top internet sites? Log onto www.TeamMagma.com today to find out more!

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Depend
5 Slightly open
9 Gratuity
12 Wading bird
13 The life of ___ (ease)
15 Muscle condition
16 Become smitten
18 Vases
19 Murphy Brown's program
20 Head: Fr.
21 Just about
23 Actress Harper
24 Boring, colorful
25 Groups of bees
28 Boxer's crew
32 "___ hell!"
Sherman
33 Seeing red
34 Director Kazan
35 On
36 Raised, as an ante
37 Building extension
38 Netlike material
39 Prerequisite
40 Quit
41 Pontificated
43 Dissertations
44 State of mind
45 Framework
46 Minor quake
49 Misery star
50 Actress Farrow
53 Doughnut feature
54 Upholsterer's project
57 Former UN member

DOWN

1 Repeated musical phrase
2 Web-auction site
3 Role for Leslie Caron
4 High-fashion monogram
5 He played Marshal Dillon
6 Leaves at the altar

7 Skin-cream ingredient
8 Gun, as a motor
9 Matador's opponent
10 Roadside rests
11 Pain in the neck
14 Pined (for)
15 Desert-region plant
17 Entries in a list
22 Youngster
23 Machine part
24 Acted riskily
25 Boggy area
26 Tend the houseplants
27 Ascended
28 Aspired

29 Inventor Howe
30 Washer cycle
31 Wise men
33 Velocity
36 Topples, as a jousting material
42 Pigeon sound
43 Tiny amounts
45 Stared with dropped jaw
46 Dull sound
47 Optimistic
48 Otherwise
49 Refer to
50 List of choices
51 Annoys
52 Aide: Abbr.
55 WWII craft
56 Pep

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OOPS! by Norma Steinberg

Edited by Stanley Newman

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Answer to previous puzzle
STAB CEASES JED
ARGO ARDENT OXY
LIGHTBREEZE VIN
SPIRAL SKYWRITE
ASE XED SMEE
ICED EDAMES
ANA NAMES COCA
BACKGROUNDCHECK
BIEN SCORE TEE
AFRICA EBAN
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