

Ice hockey – Johnston aiming to slay Giants and move up table

✘ JACOB Johnston aims to claim another major scalp and please home fans when they entertain high-flying Belfast Giants tonight (SUN, 6pm).

The 28-year-old Canadian, now in his second season at Edinburgh Capitals, was a key man as Michal Dobron's squad sent Braehead Clan home to think again after coming from behind to win 6-4 last Sunday.

And 6ft 1in Johnston from Sudbury, Ontario, is determined to claim full points as Capitals try to climb the table after being in the bottom two for the last seven games.

In contrast, Belfast have not been out of the top three for the past nine fixtures.

It's the first time the pair have met in the Elite League this season but Capitals lost both Challenge Cup games, 3-1 in Belfast in mid-September and 6-2 at Murrayfield on November 13.

Johnston, who scored nine goals and set up 15 other strikes in 30 games last season, and who has netted three goals and claimed seven assists in 14 games this term, said: "Belfast are a good team, so games against them are always tough.

"Our travel schedule this weekend (Capitals were in Cardiff last night) definitely doesn't help, but we've played some really good hockey at Murrayfield on a Sunday after travelling."

He added: "The last time we played Belfast was in Challenge Cup, and we didn't have our best performance.

"We are looking to give them a better run this time around, and hopefully getting the win in front of our home crowd."

Elsewhere, Braehead Clan travel to Dundee Stars (face-off 6.30pm) in the Elite League for the second meeting between the

club's following last night's (SAT) clash in Glasgow.