

Ice hockey – Khristich wants to plug leaky defence



Edinburgh Capitals coach looking for consistency from his squad

Edinburgh Capitals boss Dmitri Khristich will demanded tighter defence despite the Murrayfield squad earning a highly-creditable 6-4 win at Belfast Giants last weekend.

The National Hockey League veteran will not want to see a repeat of Sunday's 7-3 home defeat to Fife Flyers as his men travel to Dundee Stars on Saturday (face-off 7pm).

His opposite number, Omar Pacha, celebrated last Sunday following a 5-1 victory over Milton Keynes Lightning.

And the Tayside team go in against a side which has lost eight of 11 fixtures in all competitions this season.

Capitals have taken two of those rare wins from Dundee, a 3-2 success after a shoot-out and a 3-0 victory in the third and fourth play-off in the Scottish Elite Cup.

However, Pacha, who still awaits the arrival of former National Hockey League forward, Brian Hart, is acutely aware of what Capitals can do.

But the Canadian-born coach said there was no reason why his men can't build on what they achieved against Milton Keynes, a team the coach rates highly.

Dundee's win sees them in second-bottom spot in the 12-strong league table with two points from three games.

Edinburgh have yet to get off the mark but have only iced in one game and Pacha has demanded that his men show the same

mind-set, resolve and worth ethic that was paraded on Sunday.

The clubs meet again at Murrayfield on Sunday (face-off 6pm) with points in the Challenge Cup, Group B, at stake.

Dundee are in second position in the competition with six points from five games while Edinburgh have three points from their five starts.

Fife, meanwhile, are also in action twice, travelling to Braehead Clan on Saturday (7pm) on Elite League business and they could log their 100th win in all Elite League competitions if they are successful.

The Kirkcaldy club are in third bottom spot with two points from one game while Braehead are one place above them with four points from six league starts.

Clan will ice experienced new centre Ville Hämäläinen. The 36-year-old has played in his native Finland and Germany and he makes his debut in front of a full house.

Coach John Tripp is desperate for a positive result in their homecoming fixture after being on the road for some weeks due to other commitments at Braehead. Clan visit Sheffield Steelers on Sunday (5pm).

Fife entertain league newcomers Guildford Flames on Sunday (6.30pm) with the English side sitting in seventh position with five points from six games.

Back-to-back wins is what Fife coach Todd Dutiaume has demanded and he has ex-Clan defenceman Jim Jorgensen returning to British ice hockey at his former stamping ground.