

Hockey: Mutual support, improvement can result in a league title

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However, with these players that is definitely not the case.

"Both my goalies are real good about the [playing time]," Ham said. "If one of them is having a bad night and I elect to pull him out, they're real supportive of the team and supportive of what choice I have to make on goaltenders."

"Pulling a goalie from a game is really tough. It's kind of hard on their ego, but both Keith and Stuart have been really good about that this year."

Both players understand that on some nights when one player is not at the top of his game, the other might be better for the job.

"It's fine," Barbato said about splitting time with Robertson. "All my other teams were like that, and I have no problem with that whatsoever. There is no controversy."

He was complimentary of Robertson's game.

"Stuart's a great keeper," he said. "He's got a good style, he's really relaxed in practice, and we joke around a lot."

"If he gets pulled in game, he's way cool

with it, and if I get pulled in a game, I'm way cool with it, and he goes in. Those things happen all the time."

Robertson had nothing but praise for Barbato and also doesn't have any problem with sharing the duties.

"I love Keith; he's a great guy," he said. "We're both real friendly and try to help each other out and support each other."

"We are real good about who gets the start. Keith has been able to step up and do a really good job when I'm gonna play, and I think I've done the same for him."

As far as the talent level is concerned, Ham said the two are about equal.

"For the most part, Keith is my more experienced goalie," Ham said. "For the quality of play, both goalies I think are pretty much about equal."

This is Barbato's second year with the team and Robertson's first.

Before coming to Oregon, Barbato played ice hockey in Northern California since 1993, when he began playing. Before that, he played three years of roller hockey in Southern California.

He decided to come to Oregon to major

in journalism and said having a hockey team was a bonus, but was not influential in his decision.

"Mostly, it was the major," Barbato said. "I wanted to do journalism, and it is a good school. It was nice to have hockey, so I came and tried out for the team."

Robertson took more of an indirect route in joining the team. He grew up playing hockey in Colorado, playing about six years there before taking the last three and a half years off, mostly for financial reasons, he said.

"I could not afford it," he said. "I was living on my own. That was the main reason, also I didn't really have a team."

He lived in Seattle for two and a half years before moving to Eugene last year, when he took a few classes at the University.

He joined the team this season and said it feels good to be playing the game again.

"Really, this is my first season back into it after three and a half years, so I feel like as far as my abilities go, I've got nowhere to go but up," he said. "I feel good when I'm on the ice, but I feel shaky as far as where I know I can be."

As far as the team goes, both Barbato and Robertson said it has played well so far, but there is room to improve.

"We're much better than last year," Barbato said. "Last year we faced about 40 to 50 shots a game, and this year it is like 15 to 30, which is perfect."

"I've just got to start playing better here and keep one or two more out of the net per game, and we'll start winning more and more, I hope."

Robertson echoed the sentiment.

"I think that if Keith and I both can get some improvements going and our team starts working better together, we're definitely going to win the Pac-8," he said.

Winning the Pac-8 tournament and going to nationals is a major goal of the team.

"The ultimate goal of the team right now is to go to the ACHA [American Collegiate Hockey Association] playoffs, to go to St. Louis and play some of the best Club teams in the nation," Barbato said.

Barbato and Robertson will definitely do whatever it takes to help the team accomplish that goal.

No matter who is in front of the net.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Thursday, Nov. 21, 1996

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)

It's a day of give and take in your dealings with those around you. Don't let minor setbacks throw you off, though. The evening finds you happily ensconced in the bosom of family.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)

Don't let minor snags entangle you. This could cause some delays in business. Something that has been on the back burner comes to the fore.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)

If you've been dancing around a certain romantic decision, now's the time to address it. Someone's patience is running thin. Evening hours are best for discussing this.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)

You and your mate are unhappily out of sync and a bitter argument is likely to erupt. You can take steps to avoid this by being more solicitous. A business dream is realized.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Don't be afraid of that new job assignment. It can lead to much success for the future. Friends are trying to put you in the middle of their quarrel.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Early in the day, a quarrel about money is possible. An assignment awaits that is connected to a group activity. Evening hours tempt you to overindulge in holiday feasting.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You seem to have all the answers, which is beneficial. You're asked to smooth out an aggravating work decision. Evening hours are sheer bliss in the romance department.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Someone is spinning quite a tale of potential riches and you're buying into it. It's best to exercise some healthy skepticism. Mix-ups in communication mar your evening.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You're content, but perhaps a bit too complacent. Avoid falling into this trap by taking more of an initiative on the job. A possible quarrel with a loved one should be avoided at the holiday table.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Patience is the key to success on the work front. You are at your self-expressive best and should take full advantage of this. The accent for the evening is on family.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Your ambitions are soon to be realized. However, make sure you're on firm footing on the job. Be careful not to spend too much on holiday fripperies.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)

You have an unfortunate tendency to let little things upset you. A writing or speaking project is on your agenda in the near future. You excel in this area and should show off your talents.

YOU BORN TODAY are one to firmly grasp the proverbial bull by the horns and go after what you want. Single-minded in purpose, you are a force to be reckoned with when you're in pursuit of your goals. Unfortunately, you have a tendency to be a bit insensitive to those around you when you're on a quest for success. Once you learn to temper your ambition with a genuine compassion for people, you can soar to even greater heights.

Birthdate of: Marilyn French, author; Marlo Thomas, actress; Joseph Campanella, actor.

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