

Habs Fans Boo Stutzle in Ottawa

I'm wondering why Habs fans felt the need to be so disrespectful and tacky when playing the Senators in Ottawa last night.

The loud booing by the considerable number of Habs fans every time Senator's superstar Tim Stutzle touched the puck was annoying and disrespectful. The booing was a result of Habs' Brendan Gallagher's comments after the last time the two teams met. Basically, Gallagher alleged that Stutzle fakes injuries to draw penalties. Ironically, I saw a statistic today that showed Gallagher and Stutzle have the same number of diving/embellishment penalties, meaning Gallagher's criticism is the pot calling the kettle black, so to speak.

The penalty in question was a dirty, potentially career-ending knee-on-knee hit delivered by Nick Suzuki. Stutzle did lie on the ice after the hit but recovered sufficiently to continue his shift. He did miss two subsequent games due to the injury though. Who remembers way back at the beginning of Sidney Crosby's illustrious NHL career when [Don Cherry](#) ragged on Crosby for his "turtle" reaction that drew penalties? I do, I bet Crosby does too. He appeared to learn from that criticism; perhaps Stutzle will learn something from Gallagher's comment and the booing fans. Stutzle's obvious talent will draw enough hits from frustrated opposing players, he does not want to encourage more.

Ottawa began last night's game with a touching (and yes, respectful) tribute to the late Guy Lafleur, a hockey legend that led Montreal to most of their Stanley cups. Lafleur never played for the Ottawa Senators, the gesture was to show respect for a Habs hero. To top it off, Senators goalie Anton Forsberg stopped 44 shots on net last night to lead his team

to a (nother) win against Montreal.

Canadiens vs Senators

NHL - Yesterday Final


Montreal Canadiens
(20 - 48 - 11)

4

-

6


Ottawa Senators
(31 - 41 - 7)

Team	1	2	3	T
Montreal Canadiens	1	2	1	4
Ottawa Senators	1	5	0	6

Back to the previous game...Suzuki apologized for the hit the next time he met Stutzle in the faceoff circle. Well before Gallagher's rant and the Senator's victory.

Now that's classy on Suzuki's part.

Habs fans could learn something from both examples of respect and sportsmanship. And lose the tackiness.