

STUDIO:

A GOOD-NATURED FRENCH CANADIAN WITH A BAGFUL OF ANECDOTES AND A PENETRATING INSIGHT INTO THE HARD-BITTEN WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL ICE HOCKEY WAS IN ROANOKE TODAY - AND HE LIKED WHAT HE SAW:

SILENT FILM/VOICE OVER:

MARCEL PELLETIER (PEH-LEH-TAY), DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL FOR THE PHILADELPHIA FLYERS OF THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE, WAS GUEST SPEAKER AT THE ROANOKE VALLEY SPORTS CLUB TODAY. PELLETIER, A NATIVE OF MONTREAL, CANADA, HAS SEEN THE GAME FROM EVERY ANGLE - PLAYER, MANAGER, SCOUT, PROMOTER AND EXECUTIVE. HE ENTERED PRO HOCKEY AS A TEENAGER AND - DESPITE SOME UPS AND DOWNS - CAN SAY: "HOCKEY HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME." THE FORMER GOALIE FOR A NUMBER OF CLUBS IN SUCH PLACES AS KANSAS CITY, MILWAUKEE, SEATTLE AND LOS ANGELES PLAYED IN THE DAYS BEFORE GOAL TENDERS WORE MASKS TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE WHISTLING

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FILM CONTINUES:

PUCK. AS A YOUNG PLAYER, PELLETIER  
PACKED FROM CITY TO CITY, SAW CLUBS  
PROSPER OR MORE OFTEN FOLD AND HAS PLAYED  
FOR TEAMS WHERE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH  
STICKS TO GO AROUND AT PRACTICE. HE WAS  
SUSTAINED BY A LOVE FOR THE GAME AND A  
SENSE OF HUMOR - WHICH IS HIS TRADEMARK.  
HE CAN LAUGH AT HIMSELF, AND READILY  
ACKNOWLEDGES HE ONCE BLEW A SHUTOUT BY  
FLICKING THE PUCK INTO HIS OWN GOAL.  
PELLETIER SAID HE'S IMPRESSED WITH THE  
PROGRESS OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY REBELS,  
THE STATE'S ONLY HOCKEY CLUB. HE SAID  
THEY HAVE SOME GOOD PLAYERS AND ARE  
GAINING NATIONAL RECOGNITION. SOME OF THE  
GAMES TOP STARS, HE BELIEVES, WILL ONE  
DAY SAY THEY PLAYED IN THE VALLEY.

FILM OUT: