

# THE INSTIGATOR BY CHARLIE TELJEUR

Up until last year all of the *Edmontonoilerus Firstoverallus* sightings have been centered in northern Alberta but this year the creature has been spotted as far east as New Jersey and most recently one was reportedly seen in Missouri.



## WHICH NO. 26 IS NUMBER 1?

The stats are close, so where does St-Louis sit among the best players to wear his digits?

**MARTIN ST-LOUIS' NO. 26** will hang in the rafters of Amalie Arena after a Jan. 13 ceremony, completing the circle and healing the wounds of what was a messy divorce with the Lightning in 2014.

St-Louis is the best No. 26 to ever play for the Tampa Bay Lightning. But is he the best ever to wear that number in NHL history? Now that's a good barstool debate. Let's look at the three contenders: St-Louis, Peter Stastny and Patrik Elias.

When it comes to production, Stastny has the upper hand, with 450 goals and 1,239 in just 977 games. But if you adjust the scoring totals, using hockey-reference.com's formula to reflect league-wide trends by season, St-Louis comes out on top. His 391-642-1,033 totals in 1,134 games are adjusted to 445-721-1,166, which puts him 49th all-time. Stastny's are adjusted to 364-637-1,001, which drops him down to 86th all-time. Elias is not far behind St-Louis, with his 408-617-1,025 totals in 1,240 games adjusted to 464-680-1,144 for 56th overall.

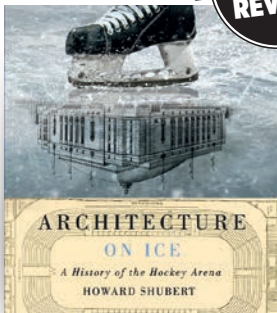
Where St-Louis does have an enormous edge is in individual accomplishments: two scoring championships, one Hart Trophy and three Lady Byngs. Add to that he was a first-team all-star at right wing once and a second-teamer four times. Stastny won the Calder in 1980-81 and had seven 100-point seasons but was never an all-star. (Stastny had to compete with the likes of Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Bryan Trottier, Dale Hawerchuk and Mark Messier at center.) Elias, a left winger, has one first-team all-star berth to his credit.

Because he was a top player for longer than Stastny and a more dynamic and decorated player than Elias, St-Louis gets the nod as the greatest No. 26 of all-time. — **KEN CAMPBELL**

**THE BOOK REVIEW**

### ARCHITECTURE ON ICE

\$49.95, McGill-Queen's University Press, 328 pgs, 9" x 10", hardcover



In *Architecture on Ice: A History of the Hockey Arena*, author Howard Shubert, a former curator for the Canadian Centre for Architecture, thoroughly examines the cultural factors that contributed to the evolution of the rink. Shubert starts this 150-year journey with how and why ice skating became a popular activity in the 19th century, leading to the desire to take both recreational skating and hockey playing indoors. Later, he explains how newer forms of entertainment – televised sports, video games and rock concerts – influenced the design of modern arenas.

You don't need a degree in architecture to appreciate *Architecture on Ice*, though non-academics will probably find the book's 15-page introduction a bit dull and should skip ahead to the first chapter. Richly illustrated with photos, historical depictions, blueprints and concept art, no stone was left unturned in the construction of this book. — **SAL BARRY**