

**May 24, 2004**

## **2004 Stanley Cup Finals**

An Interview With:

### **VINCENT LECAVALIER, MARTIN ST. LOUIS & DAVE ANDREYCHUK**

**Q. When you guys played Montreal you seemed to thrive on all the attention and excitement around the game in their building. Do you expect it to be similar with Calgary because that's another hotbed of hockey?**

VINCENT LECAVALIER: Well, definitely, I mean, you know, it's a Canadian city and it's definitely going to be very exciting. When we played Montreal, going back to my native town, it was pretty special and now we are in the Finals of the Stanley Cup, in Calgary and yeah, we'll be very excited.

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: Well, obviously playing in your hometown in front of your family, sometimes you are able to get all the emotion and nervousness control your game in the right way and I thought Vinny definitely did that against Montreal, and you know, now I know people are making a big deal because I played in Calgary and this and that. I am treating this series the same way it would be regardless of if it's Calgary or if it would be San Jose or whatnot. Obviously it gives you have guys something to write about, but I don't really pay attention to that. This is a good team and I am happy for some of the players that are still there when I was there. They are good guys, but before everybody asks me, there's no hard feelings. I am not mad. I don't feel I have to put it in their face. The people that were there, they are gone when I was there. So this is totally new people there. But it's exciting to play in a Canadian city. That's the most excited I was in the Playoffs, playing in Montreal just to experience the whole -- this is a religion up there and to be in the Playoffs up there was great. I feel the same way going to Calgary.

**Q. In your mind why didn't it work out for you in Calgary? Was it just a case of getting more of an opportunity here in maturing?**

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: I truly think it worked out for me in Calgary to be honest. I

wasn't drafted. I had nothing. Here's a team that gave me an opportunity to reach my dream and I relished that. I loved it. I was playing more of a checking role, but if that was the role as it was going to bring me to the NHL or stay in the NHL, that's what I was going to do. When people get fired, you know, people sometimes, different people came in and went in different directions. To me, I didn't take that as a negative time. It was a chance for me to reach my dream and then things happened for a reason. I moved on and I mean, who would have thought that we would all be here now?

**Q. Is it special in a positive way as opposed to revenge to go back where you first got an opportunity?**

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: Yeah, absolutely. That's the way I feel about it. There's no hard feelings. I don't feel it's a revenge. I am very happy that they gave me a chance to reach my dream.

**Q. Facing another physical team in this series, when you played Philadelphia was that a good test coming into another team that uses their speed like you and forecheck, but are more physical and you guys seem to be more skilled?**

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Both physical teams, I think that we adapted very well as a team to what Philadelphia threw at us. Obviously they are a very good hockey team, that's why it went seven games and we won by one goal. So we will be ready for another physical team. But we are going to have to play our game and basically it's about what we do inside our locker room and the way we handle ourselves on the ice is going to determine.

**Q. In light of where you are today, what do you remember about what hockey in Tampa Bay was like when you first got here and what was the turning point or turning points to get this team on its way to where it is now?**

VINCENT LECAVALIER: Yeah, the first four years, I mean, came here finishing last and it was a great experience, you know, **Jacques Demers** gave me a chance to play at 18 and every year I was trying to get better. But when you lose you don't really know how it feels when you're winning, and right now the way I am feeling, you

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know, it's great. I would never want to go back to the way it was.

Turning point? I believe last year, I mean, that's when we started winning; we started believing in ourselves. We started to have confidence in what we can do. We made it to the Playoffs, which was unbelievable, for the first time we weren't satisfied. We won one series. This year we came back and people were saying, friends were telling me at home, well, it's going to be a lot of pressure. This is your second year. Right from the get-go, this year I thought we had a great season, a little slump in December, but, you know, we came right back in January proving that we're determined to achieve our goals and by finishing first, I mean, it's a great feeling. Now, we are in the Stanley Cup Finals. It's been an unbelievable ride. But we got to keep going. We got one more here and we're focused and we're determined to win.

**Q. A lot has been said it's hard for us who haven't been in Canada and experienced the past and the fervor of what hockey is all about, but Calgary being looked as the adopted city in Canada right now, could you guys give us an idea when you were growing up and the fervor that's going on, how this all evolves in Canada and how people do feel about the situation right now and Calgary having to, in essence, not only carry its city with it, but the whole nation?**

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: That would be a good question for Dave, I think.

(LAUGHTER).

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: I played in it. I experienced it. I know what it's like. I know the feeling that the fans have, the expectations that they have. They are playing the game along with you. We have experienced that in our Montreal series. I think the guys realized the atmosphere around the building, but I think bottom line it comes down to, it's not about Canada versus America. It is about what happens on the ice; about our team against their team and I think we learned a lot from Montreal. I think we learned as a team how we have to stay focused, especially on the road.

**Q. Is it so different? You are not going to see people in Philadelphia pulling for the Tampa Bay Lightning, know what I am saying? You are not going to see a nation kind have coming together, it's just an experience that I have a hard time fathoming?**

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: It is. Let's not forget Philadelphia, what we went up through

there, there were probably nine people in the stands that didn't have an orange shirt on and they were all from our organization. So that's going to be the same thing in Calgary. It's an experience. I think our guys have relished it.

**Q. After not being here for so many years, is it that much more special to get here at this point in your career. And for Martin and Vinny, can you look at what how long it's taken Dave to get here and realize how special this is to be here?**

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Well, for myself obviously it's what I play for. That's why I am here. That's why I keep continuing to stay in the League is to have a chance to play in the Playoffs; not only to play in the Playoffs but to have a chance to get to the Finals.

I think we have talked about this a lot in our locker room and I am living proof of how hard it is to get here. And how special it is and how we have to all have fun and enjoy it because it doesn't come around very often.

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: I think it was a big thing that as a player we didn't talk about it too much, but we all realize what Dave has gone through in his career and he was close a few times. You can't take it for granted when you get that chance, you know.

When we lost Game 6 in Philly, I was on the ice for the tying goal, and I kind of had something to do with it, and I prayed that we won Game 7, so I won't feel regrets and I didn't want to be so sad about that play because obviously I know how much I want to get there, and I have only been in the League for five, six years. And I can't imagine how much Dave wants to get there. I was really happy we won Game 7, so I can live with myself for a few years.

**Q. Martin, just what did you learn from Iginla while you were in Calgary, if anything?**

MARTIN ST. LOUIS: Jarome is not only a great player but he's a great person. He's a great pro athlete. He takes time away from the game and he's just a good all-around person. He's down to earth. As much success as he has, he goes out of his way to say hi to people. That's one thing beyond hockey that I think as a person you want to copy. But obviously as a player, his statistics don't lie. From his junior career and all the way up to the NHL, he has been an impact on every team he's played on. He's a player that does everything, I feel. He's a big reason why they are where they are at.

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