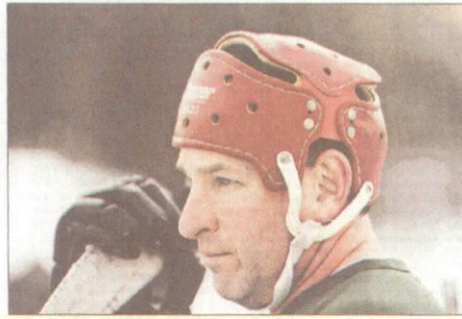
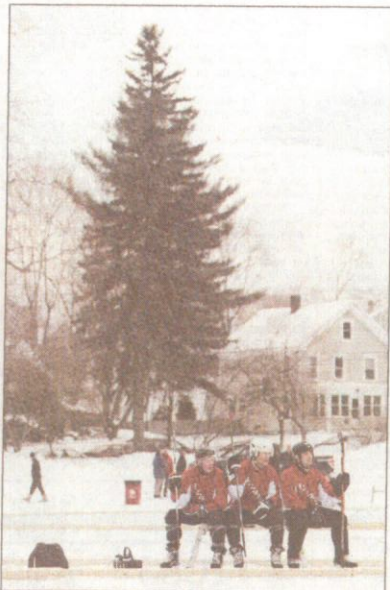
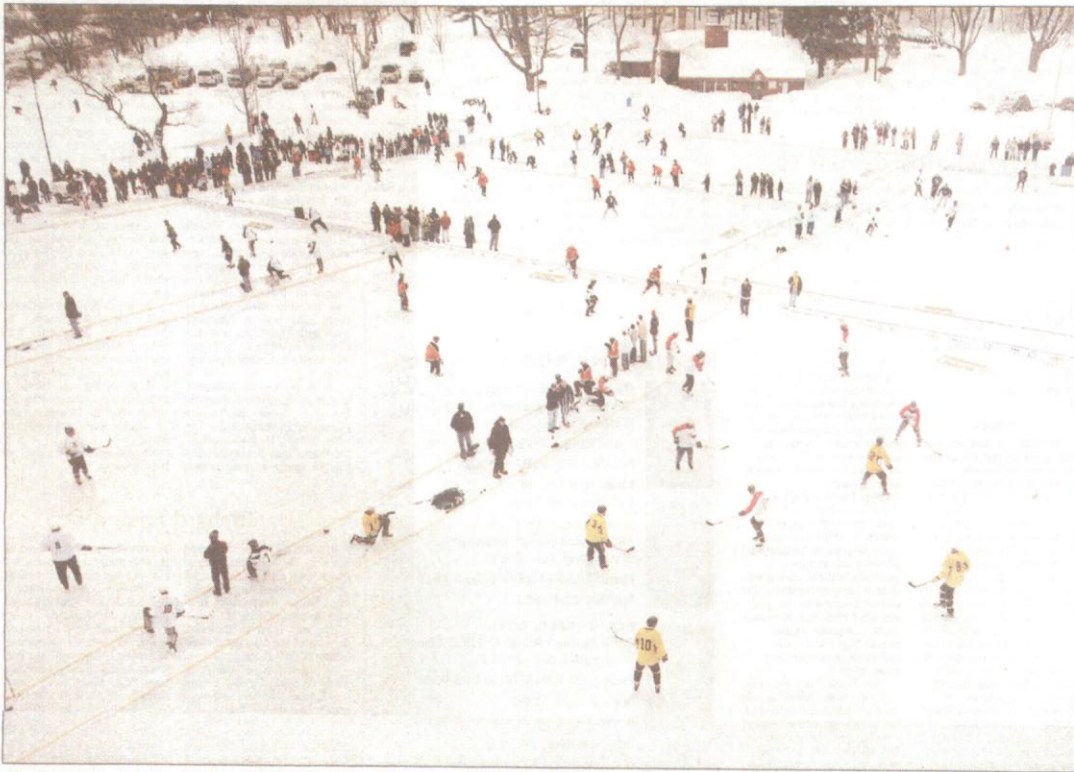


## BLACK ICE TIME



Bob Vallieres of the Silver Seven hockey team watches the action.



**T**he 1983 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship churned through a second day on White Park Pond yesterday with late games featuring Babes of Glory vs. Cunningham Dentistry and Concord Fire vs. So Sick Swamp Rats finishing under the lights. The division finals are today starting at 9 a.m.

Center: The pond at White Park is home to six rinks with space for spectators.

Above: Amy O'Brien touches the nose of her daughter Charlotte, two-and-a-half-months, as they warm up beside the bonfire yesterday afternoon.

Left: Bob Love (left), Bob Cahill and Sean Pineau play on the Buzzards of Reading, Mass.



# SUNDAY MONITOR



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## EMBRACING LONGEVITY



Photos by JOHN TULLY / Monitor staff

From left: Ray Champagne, Terry Blaser and Ken Moulton, teammates on the Lynch Gang, change after their final game yesterday in the 50-plus division. The team played two games during the second day of the 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship.

### Hockey tournament's 50-plus division full of nostalgia

By MATTHEW SPOLAR  
Monitor staff

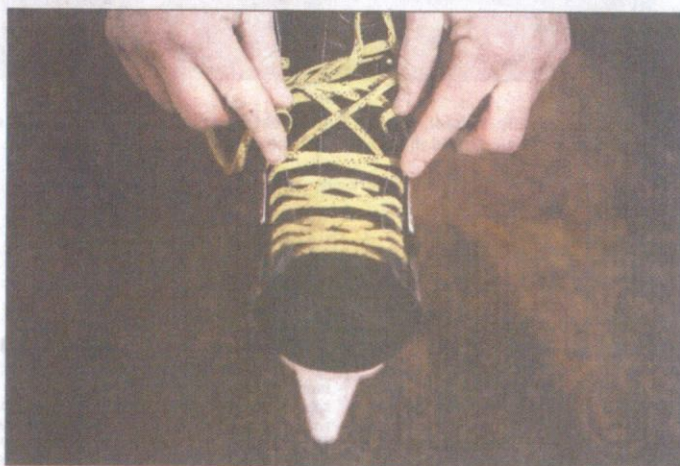
Hockey has long been a sport rife with great duos: Orr and Esposito, Gretzky and Messier, Lemieux and Jagr. But in a society that often conflates longevity with greatness, those pairings had nothing on Gillies and Farrelly at White Park yesterday.

"I've been playing with this guy for 45 years," Kurt Gillies, 56, said as he and 54-year-old Mike Farrelly walked toward their final game of the opening round of the 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship in Concord. "Youth hockey,

high school, city league . . ." The Concord men even shared a bit of medical history. "He and I both have had hip replacements," Farrelly said.

White Park hosted the second day of the inaugural pond hockey tournament yesterday.

See **HOCKEY - A8**



John Lineberry of the Patrick's Pub hockey team, unties his skates following the team's final game yesterday during the pond hockey tournament.

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### HOCKEY Continued from A1

day, its sheet of ice gleaming and teeming with spectators. Between the 18-plus and 35-plus men's divisions, 41 teams battled to move on to today's semifinals. And then there were the old guys.

The 50-plus division consisted of five teams, aches, pains and, for many players, a good dose of nostalgia.

"I grew up playing youth hockey here (at White Park) before the Everett Arena . . . and a bunch of guys who are playing in this tournament did, too," said Bob Blood, 54, of Mountain Road. "This brings back a lot of fond memories."

Brothers Steve and Bob Arndt grew up on a lake in Minnesota, where they would square off when the weather turned.

Steve lives on Hopkinton Road and Bob came in for the weekend from Shoreview, Minn., to join the Turkey Pond Flyers 50-plus team.

"It's still the most fun playing on the pond," said Bob Arndt, 57. "I've played in pond hockey tournaments in Minnesota, and this is the best one I've played in."

The reasons for lacing up their skates haven't changed much.

"Playing with your friends, playing against your friends—trying as hard as you can," said Steve Arndt, 60. "We shake hands and we're all friends afterwards."

Terry Blaser, 64, owner of Blaser's Fireside Tavern in Hopkinton, described his game as getting slower and more cerebral as the years wear on.

"Sometimes the mind's there, but the body just isn't moving with it," he said.

"You're a lot more cautious because if you break something, it's not a matter of two weeks, it could be a matter of three, four months," said Ray Champagne, 66, who played center for the Manchester Blackhaws, and later with the Monarchs, during the 1960s and '70s.

Blaser and Champagne were teammates of Gov John Lynch, whose 50-plus Lynch Gang team drew more attention than most. Several onlookers offered their critiques of the governor's play. The red stripes on Lynch's socks made him easy to track up and down the ice.

"He's the governor, and it's budget season," Mayor Jim Bouley said. "He did an outstanding job. In fact, I don't think there's a player any better than him out here."

Steve Arndt described the governor as a scrappy, heady player who "plays a lot bigger than his size."

Champagne said Lynch has a knack for anticipating

*"He's the governor, and it's budget season. He did an outstanding job. In fact, I don't think there's a player any better than him out here."*

Concord Mayor Jim Bouley

the play and "takes care of himself" on the ice.

"If somebody tries to push him, he pushes back, like everybody else," Champagne said.

Les Magoon, who came down from Fenacook to watch the games, said Lynch "could use a little more speed."

"If you do it faster, you can catch up with the puck a little bit more," he said.

Leo Lajoie, 78, of Concord said seeing Lynch play showed that "he's a real person," while also noting that the governor's ability on the ice is "probably indicative of the fact that he's over 50."

After a win early in the day, Lynch, 58, allowed for a post-game interview. The governor explained how to excel in the tournament format, a four-on-four competition on a 120-foot-by-64-foot rink.

"It's hard to just get out there and stickhandle around a bunch of guys given how small the rink is," Lynch said.

"You really have to open the rink up, position players all over the ice, and passing off the boards is really key."

Lynch deflected a question about a goal he scored early in the contest.

"It's not really a question of who scores. We just get out there to have fun and be competitive and to celebrate the game of hockey," he said. "I think the organizers of this tournament and the city of Concord have done an absolutely amazing job."

Byron Champlin, chairman of the city Chamber of Commerce's Creative Concord initiative, also praised the tournament's benefit to the city.

"If you're going to suffer through a New Hampshire winter, you may as well have some fun," Champlin said.

As he watched from the sidelines, Champlin, 60, marveled at "guys in the older age range getting out there and mixing it up."

"I think 50's the new 40," he said.

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