

May 30, 2009

Wings' team DJ has a song for everything *By*

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press Writer

Not sure who scored that last Red Wings goal?

Just wait for the music.

If it's Sammy Hagar's lust-for-speed anthem "I Can't Drive 55," then bruising defenseman (and wearer of the red-and-white No. 55 sweater) Niklas Kronwall put it in the net.

Crafty center and Yekaterinburg native Pavel Datsyuk is responsible for the goal should a techno-infused version of the traditional Russian folk ditty "Kalinka" come blaring through the Joe Louis Arena speakers.

And, of course, the old cowboy song "Mule Train" could only mean burly forward Johan (Mule) Franzen is your guy.

Player-specific goal songs have been a staple at the Joe since **T. Campbell** took over as the team DJ 15 years ago.

"I think it gives a lot of flavor to the Wings and gives them character and personality," **Campbell** said. "It's something I haven't heard around the league. When their players score, they always seem to throw on the exact same goal song."

Not **Campbell**.

He's got a song for every situation and then some. In all, he comes armed to each game with 1,500 songs at his fingertips.

And quite a few will fill the arena for the Stanley Cup finals between the Red Wings and Penguins, with the opening games in Detroit today and Sunday.

"The louder the better," Wings defenseman Chris Chelios said. "It creates an atmosphere."

"I don't know how other buildings do it, but I like how they do it here," he said.

It wasn't always that way. In the pre-**Campbell** years, the team tried to

pump up the crowd with old-fashioned, organ-driven chants.

That all changed in the early 1990s, when the Wings did away with the organ and brought in a DJ. The original DJ didn't work out, so in came **Campbell**. He had been the music spinner for Michigan State games at Munn Ice Arena.

"They know I have a feel for the game because I've been playing hockey since I was 5 years old," said **Campbell**, who is 49 and whose three older brothers all played for the Spartans. He himself won two state championships as a prep player.

He continues to DJ at Spartan games and makes the 80-mile drive from his home in Okemos for every Wings home game. His license plate reads "HCKYTWN."

Campbell arrives 2 to 2 1/2 hours before each game. He wears a suit and stands for the entirety in his perch high above the ice. His booth is behind press row, and he shares it with the replay official.

Campbell wears a headset to communicate with the onsite event producers and is surrounded by black and silver machines that help pump his music to the masses. The tracks are listed alphabetically, so all he has to do is turn a dial, click and button and whoosh — the song heads into 20,000 sets of ears.

At Wednesday night's Western Conference championship clincher over Chicago, **Campbell** kicked off the pregame festivities by spinning Kid Rock's "Intro" chant, which goes: "It ain't no party like a Detroit party/'cause a Detroit party don't stop."

When the Wings made their way through the tunnel and stepped on to the ice, **Campbell** quickly queued up the thrash-metal rocker "Adrenaline" by 12 Stones.

But his musical selections aren't all rock tracks. He'll play anything from techno, dance or trance tunes to rap and classic rock. On Wednesday, he even played the soft Kiss ballad "Beth" in honor of a young lady who earned a Zamboni ride between the first and second periods.

When the Blackhawks were whistled for a penalty, **Campbell** went with the "Dagnet" theme. And before the Wings power play began, he broke out the classic Darth Vader theme "Imperial March" from "Star Wars," which sent the fans into a frenzy.

It was Bachman-Turner Overdrive's classic rocker "Takin' Care of Business" when Detroit goalie Chris Osgood made a key save.

"I have to keep a close eye on the game. It gets kind of tricky. I hate it if I ever miss a call," said **Campbell**, who has grown a beard for the first time in honor of the team's "The Beard is Back" postseason slogan.

Campbell said he sometimes will play "Another Brick in the Wall" by Pink Floyd after a good Osgood save, but he put it on the shelf for the Chicago series because Blackhawks goalie Nikolai Khabibulin is nicknamed "The Bulin Wall."

As for Campbell's name, "**T**" is what he goes by personally and professionally. A cousin couldn't pronounce his given name of Tim when they were kids — she simply said "**T**" — so the moniker was born and stuck.

"Everybody calls me 'T,'" he said.

Some player-specific songs Campbell plays after goals:

Chris Chelios, defenseman: song from "Zorba the Greek" in honor of Chelios' Greek heritage.

Pavel Datsyuk, center: techno version of the traditional Russian folk song "Kalinka"; Datsyuk is from Russia.

Kris Draper, center: "Warm It Up," by Kris Kross, with its refrain of "Warm it up, Kris."

Valtteri Filppula, center: the standard "Happy Wanderer," which repeats the word "Valdere.".

Johan Franzen, winger: the old cowboy song "Mule Train"; Franzen's nickname is "Mule."

Tomas Holmstrom, left wing: "Baby Got Back," by Sir Mix-A-Lot; Holmstrom is known for backing his backside into the goalie to block his view of the puck.

Jiri Hudler, left wing: the kids' song "Happy Happy Joy Joy"; Hudler's nickname is "Happy."

Niklas Kronwall, defenseman: "I Can't Drive 55," by Sammy Hagar; Kronwall wears jersey number No. 55.

Brett Lebda, defenseman: "American Boy," by Estelle (featuring Kanye West); Lebda is from Illinois and one of only a handful of U.S.-born Red Wings.

Kirk Maltby, right wing: "Eighteen," by Alice Cooper; Maltby wears jersey No. 18.

Chris Osgood, goaltender: dialogue from "The Wizard of Oz": "Do not arouse the wrath of the great and powerful Oz."

Brian Rafalski, defenseman: "Jump Around", by House of Pain; Rafalski attended the University of Wisconsin, and the student section at Badger football games goes crazy when the song is played.

Henrik Zetterberg, center: "Rock and Roll, Pt. 2," by Gary Glitter; the favorite of sports arenas everywhere plays at the Joe, and the crowd substitutes "Hank" for "Hey" during the chorus.