

SMOKEY watches the practice session unfold with his characteristic BANDANNA hanging off of his shoulder. Next to him are MCNAMARA and BALLARD.

*See  
Dirt!*

BALLARD

Börje is playing like a twenty-year-old again now that Imlach is in hospital.

MCNAMARA

You're not wrong there. How is he... Imlach?

BALLARD

He's in the lap of luxury, probably. I hear that the nurses over at Mount Sinai's cardiology department are out of this world. *!!!*

McNamara can't even be bothered to respond, he just looks at Smokey dryly.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Jokes aside... He hates you Gerry. Of course. Your only consolation is that he hates me even more.

Smokey looks at Ballard.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Oh well... He was a mistake. I own to that! But let's start looking to the future instead. What's Börje said about wearing the captain's armband next season?

MCNAMARA

He'll think about it over the summer.

Ballard lights his cigar.

BALLARD

Think about it? Imlach is out of the picture and I've made you the new GM. What more does he want? Another car? Membership at a golf club?

MCNAMARA

It's not about what he wants, but about what he doesn't.

(MORE)

MCNAMARA (CONT'D)

I think the burden of responsibility is a little much for him still. Speaking in public. Dealing journalists and so on...

BALLARD

He's the teams natural leader anyways. And the fans love him. He's got to get over it. Or one day he'll regret it, believe me.

*thruater*

*Send Shrub*

MCNAMARA

Börje is Börje. You take the good with the bad. The most important thing is that he leads by example on the ice, right?

Ballard turns to Smokey.

BALLARD

Gerry McNamara. Always got the answer.

*hate at his*

*↓*

SMOKEY

He's the last man standing, so he must be doing something right.

BALLARD

You too, you shit!  
(to McNamara)

You know that technically, Smokey's been retired since last week. But that doesn't seem to have changed anything.

(to Smokey)

You're like an asshole after a nightmarish bout of the shits... still there. And puckering.

BAAM! Börje sends a thunderous shot into the back of the net. The three men look out at the ice. McNamara and Ballard both look at Smokey, impressed.

SMOKEY

(to Ballard)

As long as the dream's alive and kicking.

McNamara smiles.