



PUNK BAND PLAYS WITH RAGE

Like the band's *Flyer* namesake, The Hextalls play with fire and edge as they crank out hardcore hockey fare

RANGER DANGER! HAVE ANOTHER beer! Never trust a girl in a Richter jersey!" yells Devin Hextall, front man of the pop punk band The Hextalls on "I Don't Wanna be a New York Ranger." It's a catchy, funny song about a *Flyers* fan who goes to a game at Madison Square Garden, gets lost while buying beer, then finds his date making out with a *Rangers* fan.

Hockey, beer and relationship angst are just some of the irreverent topics that have been a staple of The Hextalls' songs for 17 years. Their newest album, *Play With Heart*, was released Feb. 14 and is available on Amazon, iTunes and their website, thehextalls.com. The album includes a song about Sergei Bobrovsky called "Who's the #1 Cop?" "We started our

band as a joke," Hextall said. "We all have a sense of humor. There were a lot of bands in our hometown (Kamloops, B.C.) that took themselves very seriously. We wanted to see if we could do this for fun and maybe be better than the serious bands."

The Hextalls' lineup is drummer Nicole 'Nikki' Stixx, bassist Jimmy 'The Con,' guitarist Jeremy 'JJ' Justice and guitarist/vocalist Hextall. And no, he isn't related to former *Flyers*' goalie Ron Hextall, but he is such a fan of the temperamental netminder that he all but legally adopted the surname. "There was something about his aggressive style I loved," Hextall said. "When it came time to pick a band name, I kind of forced The Hextalls because I was obsessed with Ron since I was a kid."

While their name is inspired

LIKE GOALIE, LIKE FAN

Frontman Devin Hextall isn't related to ex-*Flyer* Ron Hextall, but he idolized him as a kid.



by the fiery goalie, the quartet draws musical inspiration from pop punk bands like Chixdiggit and Screaming Weasel, as well as the godfathers of punk themselves, The Ramones. "We all like three-chord pop punk stuff that's simple and catchy and happy," Hextall said.

Founded in 1998, the band broke up in 2002 when Hextall moved to Chicago "for a girl." They reformed in 2006 when he moved to Washington State, near the border. (The rest of the band lives in Vancouver.) The Hextalls spent the late 2000s releasing albums and touring, even appearing at Baltimore's annual punk festival, Insubordination Fest, three times.

Now, with online music services making it easier to reach a wide audience, The Hextalls prefer to spend their coin on producing music instead of touring. "We're going to make the best songs we can and have fun with it," Hextall said.

Seventeen years later, they're still having fun. — **SAL BARRY**



In The CARDS

JAROMIR JAGR IS A VETERAN of 21 NHL seasons – and of four NHL work stoppages, too. During the 1994-95 lockout, Jagr played 11 games with his hometown of Kladno in the Czech League, as well as one-game stints in Italy and Germany. His single game with the Schalker Sharks in the German League was definitely his most notable during the lockout, as Jagr had one goal and 10 assists that game. His 11 points put him ahead of six of the team's regular players in scoring, while his one game in the league was enough of an excuse to include him in the league's 1994-95 trading card set.

BY **SAL BARRY** OF PUCKJUNK.COM