better hockey 1

So many hockey people can still see young *Travis Roy* skating quick and hard into that right corner . . . Hearts are in our throats every time a headlong into the boards shakes up our worst hockey fears.

Helmets hitting the flexing clear glass seem to give okay head protection. Most extreme actions there are seen coming, and policed by the officials. But a sudden push, trip or loss of edge skating fast towards *any* boards instantly puts a player down, vulnerable and helpless - whether going in hard with the legs first - *or god forbid* - hard with the head first.

Top caps, white billboards and low yellow dashers comprise the structure of today's hockey rink walls. Each element is solid and *unprotective.*

what if.

90% of the rink walls could flex like the clear glass and provide invisible protection with no effect on play and be - *a vital change for the better?*

here's how.

A new wider top cap and yellow dasher are joined to a backing wall and made into long solid sections. Within this 'C' shape is a 6" deep cavity containing a thick full pad of memory foam. White billboards are ½" lexan panels that cover the foam and *float* - yet kept well in place on top and bottom by deep track lips in the cap and dasher. Vertical panel seams are rounded, linked by flexible hinges, and mounted to backing walls with structural compression-spring braces that flex on impact and release with the memory foam. Each section now has independent compression that absorbs and spreads impacts on the white billboards *anywhere* around the entire rink. All this with no rigid spots or solid seams.

This could ease concussions or worse and prevent the blown-out knee.

Imagine players, parents and fans seeing this 'safety net' come into play.

An idea of merit that deserves talk and testing.

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