

The Arctic Arena – Solution

BY: ALEX WALKER, SARA WALKER, ZACH ZAGORSKI

This puzzle takes the form of an advice column, in which athletes vent their frustrations to Coach Maddening, a fictional coach (and snowman). In each letter, the author complains about a recent move, and by piecing together context clues, we can determine some information about which teams the writers played for and where they lived before and after their move.

Sports fans (or fans of keyword stuffing) may recognize that these moves correspond to the actual relocations of major league sports teams in the United States and Canada. This is further confirmed by the dates of the letters, which match the years in which the corresponding move occurred. The relocations are as follows:

Seattle Supersonics	→	Oklahoma City Thunder
Winnipeg Jets	→	Phoenix Coyotes
Chicago Zephyrs	→	Baltimore Bullets
Milwaukee Brewers	→	St. Louis Browns
Quebec Nordiques	→	Colorado Avalanche
Hartford Whalers	→	Carolina Hurricanes
Kansas City Scouts	→	Colorado Rockies
Orlando Miracle	→	Connecticut Sun
San Jose Earthquakes	→	Houston Dynamo
San Antonio Stars	→	Las Vegas Aces
Portsmouth Spartans	→	Detroit Lions
California Golden Seals	→	Cleveland Barons
Colorado Rockies	→	New Jersey Devils

In the spirit of *Dear Abby* and other classic advice columns, each letter is signed with a thematic pseudonym. Here, the athletes sign off using the common construction

[new location name] [old team name (singular)],

e.g. Oklahoma City Supersonic. Filling in the signatures and reading the boxed letters gives a final cluephrase: MY HOME'S IN DC NOT ON THE RANGERS. This can be interpreted as a (very short) letter complaining about the relocation of the Washington Senators, who moved from Washington, D.C. to Arlington, Texas in 1972 to become the Texas Rangers. By analogy, this last letter would be signed TEXAS SENATOR, which is the answer to the puzzle.