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Martyn at the mike

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BY STEVE CROWE
Free Press Sports Writer



Among the many chills provided Saturday night, and certainly among the top few, was the sound of Bruce Martyn's voice from Joe Louis Arena.

Thanks, Ken Kal.

Two seasons into retirement as radio voice of the Red Wings, Martyn joined his successor, Kal, and former partner Paul Woods on WJR-AM (760) for the second period and postgame Stanley Cup celebration.

Martyn, the Wings' play-by-play-announcer for 31 years, appeared at Kal's request.

"I surely appreciate it," Martyn said on the air. "Now I only hope I can do it."

Martyn did it wonderfully, save for a miscall on Darren McCarty's game-winning goal, on which McCarty made a superb move to get past Philly defenseman Janne Niinimaa.

"What a play Darren McCarty made on Michel Petit!" Martyn said, correcting himself a few seconds later.

And Martyn didn't quite do that signature soprano "He S-C-O-O-O-R-E-S!" thing, but cracked in a lower octave.

But he offered some perceptions that couldn't

come from his younger partners.

"You know, Paul," he said, "I was in the business in Detroit for 40-some years, watching professional sports, and I've never seen anything like what is going on in this city and state right now.

"This is not just Detroit, this is Michigan."

As the end of the second period drew near, Martyn joked: "Ah, 57 seconds left in my broadcast career."

Woods: "Well, it's a pleasure having you back here, Ken -- er, Bruce."

When the game ended and the Cup-carrying began, Martyn was back. And Woods said it all was "absolutely worth the wait." And Martyn responded: "Oh, I'm not sure of that."

But there should be no uncertainty about who was the broadcast's best sport.

"Bruce, you know what I'm most happy about?" Kal said. "The fact that you called the game-winning goal by Darren McCarty. What a fitting tribute to yourself."

Martyn, who thanked Kal something like six times, called it "the climax of what I've considered a fun career."

Martyn called two other finals: 1966, when the Wings lost to Montreal after winning the first two games, and 1995, when they were swept by New Jersey.

As Woods so aptly put it: "Justice has been served."

And as Martyn so characteristically replied: "I was afraid I was a jinx for 30 years."