The scene didn’t really serve any practical purposes for the Oil anyway. Sure, they managed to grab some media attention and earned the admiration of the Yellowknifeers, but it’s not as if many of them will be willing to make the 1500-kilometre drive to watch the Oil play, especially in the winter. The team would have been better served—from a marketing standpoint—by a trip to Yellowknife. The Oil are far more likely to make a bigger splash in Yellowknife than in Yellowknife would. The Oil have plenty of retail options for the Oil to stock their choice and local merchandise.

Let’s be clear about one thing here: even in the beginning of September, Yellowknife is a pretty shifty place to be. The three days the new Oilers spent there saw the temperatures hover around 10°C, and the team was in an old, cramped arena usually reserved for bantam teams. It was a really poor first impression to give the Oil. Moreover, holding court in Yellowknife doesn’t exactly help the perception and fantasy of many of the Oil fans. Ed Cross, Bruce Neufeld and Michael Nylander among them—that it is the aforementioned land of Ice and Snow.

The Oilers are desperately in need of a makeover in the eyes of the league’s first-agers—they need the league to see them as a good team to play for instead of one of the worst. And instead of showcasing the city and what Edmonton has to offer, they seemed ready to put their young recruits in one of the most remote and inconsequential cities in the country, probably damaging their reputation even more.

Esks rotting from the top down

Scott Lowell
Sports Commentator

There have been a lot of actors in varying roles and venues invited around to describe the Edmonton Eskimos season thus far. "Unimpressed" and "unpredicatable" are often repeated words in the press sections of both the Journal and the Sun, and a familiar friend of mine opted for the less-heralded term "unspotted, spontaneous, unprepared" to describe the Labour Day loss. But these epithets fail to accurately explain what happened to a squad that two short years ago were Grey Cup champions. That’s because there’s a problem with planning, patience, and poor understanding of some sort of external cause, where the problems with the Eskimos are primarily internal. On the Edmonton Eskimos, the football club has become a precious illness.

Whoever bug the hometown team has caught, the progress of the year isn’t that optimistic, with a dismal 3-1 record including a pair of worst-losses to the rival Stampede. It seems that there’s every reason to think that Edmonton’s rival is going to be getting more stronger anytime soon. The illness that has a hold of the team is systemic, spreading to every aspect of the game: the once-prolific Edmonton defense has dropped, the offense is clogging up, blood internally, and even the lullies seem to have a touch of gangrene. The question that hangs over all of us is any hope of recovery, a course of aggressive treatment needs to be taken. OH fans discovered this week what Dr. Danny Maciocia prescribes. sending sack-crazed fan Abdullah back home to Florida. The loud-mouthed, abrasive defensive end has been in but water since introducing his knee to the neck of Stamps’ tackle, Gerald Comissiong, an aggressive penalty that kept the Calgary drive that tied up the score lost forever—a game that the Riders’ season ended. Even Abdullah has plenty of retail options for the Oil to stock their choice and local merchandise.

Edmonton, the team, has been next best to the Oilers for some time, sending the Oil to the Alberta championship.”