

Milford rejects McLean as Canucks' new coach

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Canucks are searching for a coach with professional hockey experience, general manager Jake Milford said Thursday in ruling out the possibility of Ernie McLean moving from the junior ranks to the National Hockey League.

McLean coached New West Bruins in the Memorial Cup championship last season and his team currently is involved in Western Canada Hockey League journey final series with Victoria Cougars.

"Punch (McLean) is a proven junior coach who has done as well as any of the junior hockey coaches," Milford said. "But we're not in a position to gamble at this time."

"I've got five or six candidates in mind right now in the NHL and World Hockey Association."

"We need a man who can improve the hockey team, not just a guy who can sell tickets."

Milford fired coach Orlando Kurtenbach and his assistant, Arnie Brown, on Wednesday and the hunt began for the Canucks' sixth coach after just eight seasons as an NHL executive.

DIVISION WEAK

Kurtenbach was unable to get the Canucks into the playoffs in the Smythe Division in his 1½ years with the team. The division, with Chicago Black Hawks, Colorado Rockies, Minnesota North Stars and St. Louis Blues, is considered the weakest in the NHL.

Vancouver finished the 1977-78 season with only 57 points in 80 games and missed finishing sixth by just two points.

Milford said he wants a coach who is a stern disciplinarian and a believer in conditioning. He said Kurtenbach did not have the character in good physical condition at the end of the season.

A coach has to work the heck out of his players today because of their lifestyles with all that money," Milford said. "Our players didn't hate Kurtenbach the way they should have."

"I think if the players are worked hard by the coach, they respect him for it at the end of the season."

Milford said he hopes to name a coach by the end of the week. He refused to speculate on his choices because of possible supporting charges by clubs now involved in playoffs.

MCLEAN INTERESTED

Milford said some of the Vancouver players "didn't perform up to their capabilities" in 1977-78 and he might have "over-coached the players" in assessing their abilities before the season.

The Canucks want just 20 games, but had a seven-point lead over Colorado in the middle of March. They won only one of their last 11 games.

Kurtenbach's contract includes a two-year agreement to work with the team in another capacity. Milford indicated he would ask Kurtenbach to take a scouting assignment.



MEMBERS OF THE VERNON Outdoor Club take a break during last weekend's hike through Kalamalka Lake Park. The group has another trip scheduled Sunday, to Campbell-Brown Park, near Oryama. New members are always welcome. (See story "Outdoors Club")

Vees and Clippers dominate

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Penticton Vees and Nanaimo Clippers recorded easy road victories Thursday night to take 2-0 leads in their British Columbia Junior Hockey League best-of-seven semi-final series.

The Vees got three goals from Darcy Listhaeghe to down Kamloops Chiefs 8-2, while Harry Pederson scored four goals as the Clippers dumped Bellingham Blazers 8-4.

Following a scoreless first period in Kamloops, Pete Gerlinger scored his first of two goals to give the Chiefs a 1-0 lead, but the Vees came back with three goals to take a 3-1 advantage into the final frame.

Andy Turner, Terry Olson, Craig Cooke, Ross Fitzpatrick and Kevin Maxwell were the other Penticton marksmen as the Vees outscored Kamloops 8-2-8.

CLIPPERS IN COMMAND

In Bellingham, Greg Adams, with two goals, Brent Denat and Nigel Thomas were the other Nanaimo marksmen as the Clippers held period leads of 3-1 and 5-1.

Don Frazer, with two, Ken Henry and Steve MacDonald replied for the Blazers, who were outshot 40-33.

Nanaimo took 15 of 24 minor penalties and each team had one major.

Tonight, Kamloops is at Penticton, while the other series resumes Saturday night in Nanaimo.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Two games were enough for three preliminaries

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coach Pat Kelly motioned toward the locker room, where his Colorado Rockies removed their uniforms for the final time in the National Hockey League season.

"There's no shame in that room there," he said. "Nineteen guys worked their heads off and Philadelphia didn't just push us aside. They had to work for it."

The Flyers worked for their 3-1 triumph over Kelly's charges Thursday night and moved into the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"It was a real good series," said Philadelphia centre Bobby Clarke in the team's third and final game. "I didn't give up many scoring chances, and that helps."

Elsewhere, Don Murdoch's goal at 1:37 of overtime carried New York Rangers past Buffalo Sabres 4-3 and forced a deciding game Saturday night in the teams' best-of-three set.

But two other first-round matchups were also decided. Detroit Red Wings eliminated Atlanta Flames 3-0 in Bill Lorchard's goal with 1:34 remaining, and Toronto Maple Leafs ousted Los Angeles Kings 4-0 behind Mike Palmateer's shutout performance by centre Darryl Sittler.

FLYERS STING

The Flyers gave up just three goals in sweeping the best-of-three series permitting two in overtime night's opening 3-2 victory over Colorado 4-1 in the second round.

Murdoch's goal capped a wacky overtime in which each team had a goal disallowed. Pat Hickey, who had scored earlier, had his apparent goal disqualified just 50 seconds into overtime when referee Mike McCauley overruled the goal judge and decided the puck never entered the net.

Danny Gare, who had produced the game's third tie, with 1:58 left in the second

period, had his goal waved off 32 seconds later when McCauley ruled he kicked it into the net.

Murdoch finally decided to go for it, and he scored. Don Edwards to which matters until Saturday's contest.

"If McCauley had called back that one," said Murdoch, "I'd have killed him."

"You've got to give them credit because they worked hard and they won," said Gare, "but you've got to give us credit, too, because we're going to win the next one."

Crest television with a big assist on Lorchard's goal, his second of the third period.

"I was tired at the faceoff," said the left wing. "I was so tired that if we hadn't gotten that TV commercial I would have pulled myself out."

Lochard, rushed past Atlanta defencemen Pat Ribble and Richard Mulhern, drew goalie Dan Bouchard out of the net and scored the puck home to win the Red Wings' first home playoff victory since 1968.

Ron Ellis, Lanny McDonald and James had the other goals for Toronto. Palmateer stopped 23 shots.

Outdoors Club visits Kal Park

Vernon Outdoors Club held its first hike of the season last weekend.

Thirty-seven members broke in their new boots in Kalamalka Lake Park.

The circuit, led by Vera Shaw, began at the trail gate after an uphill lunch, the trekkers enjoyed some of the higher peaks in the national park then, hiked down to Coena Bay for lunch on the beach.

After a break, they headed out to Rattlesnake Point and Twin Buttes, which are about eight miles.

Club spokesman S.K. Black said the journey was a real treat.

She said, "It was fantastic to see these scenic areas that are seemingly remote, but only minutes from city dwellings."

GREAT OUTLET

There is a great outlet for down-trodden elites. Everyone is invited to join our group."

Vernon Outdoors Club is the product of a recent amalgamation of the hiking, canoeing, orienteering, and cycling clubs.

Newly-elected officers are: Harold Morgan, president; Pamela Mellows, vice-president; Joyce Hyatt, secretary; Jane Forsy, treasurer; Harold Hamlin, public relations; Wayne Walker, canoeing; Ken Cunningham, orienteering; Ted Hoyle, trail building; and Angela Muff and Miriam Townsend, hike co-ordinators.

NEXT TIME

Next scheduled hike is Sunday, in Campbell-Brown Park, near Oryama. This is a long, slow hike with a spectacular view from the top of the hill.

Anyone planning to go is asked to bring good walking footwear, and a lunch. Meeting place is Vernon City Hall, at 8 a.m.

For further information phone Townsend at 546-0409 or Muff at 546-3885.

MAJOR LEAGUE BALL ROUND-UP

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

East Division	W	L	Pct.	G.B.L.
St. Louis	4	2	.667	1/2
New York	3	2	.600	1/2
Chicago	3	3	.500	1/2
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	1/2
Pittsburgh	2	4	.333	2

West Division	W	L	Pct.	G.B.L.
Cincinnati	6	1	.857	1/2
San Diego	5	2	.714	1/2
San Francisco	3	3	.500	1/2
Los Angeles	2	3	.400	1/2
Seattle	2	3	.400	1/2
Houston	1	4	.200	2

Thursday's Results	W	L	Pct.	G.B.L.
Cincinnati vs San Francisco	6	1	.857	1/2
St. Louis vs Pittsburgh	3	2	.600	1/2

Today's Probable Pitchers

Los Angeles (0-0) at Toronto (0-0) (Garvey 10)

Milwaukee (0-0) at Baltimore (0-0) (Martinez 10)

Texas (Alexander 0-1) at Boston (0-0) (Scherer 0-0)

Seattle (House 0-1) at Minnesota (0-0) (Cahn 0-0)

PIN POINTS

April 4

Ladies' 9-11

Women's high single Pat Upper 287, high triple Pat Upper 679, high average Marg Forsyth 136, high average Mary Budo 22, high triple Terry Harb 267

TEAM STANDINGS

Why Kings 453

Why Kings 449

Terry Harb 434

Has Beens 405

Bowler of the week Pat Upper 741

Bowled 153 pins over her 1st year

April 4

Meads 7-18

Women's high single Joanne Sheets 275, high triple Joanne Sheets 680, high average Sybil Timmah 207

Men's high single John Tyskovich 311, high triple Archie Tursk 142, high average John Tyskovich and Mary Zwarych 21

TEAM STANDINGS

Four Roses, a Prairie 419

Winston Hill Golf 419

Mary's V 419

Trick K 419

April 4-Tuesday Coffee

Women's high single Fay McWhirter 361, high triple Fay McWhirter 771, high average Lil Armstrong 208

Team high single Capelin Crutch 1326, high triple Luford 1239

TEAM STANDINGS

Frankenger 379

Corn Club 369

Caplan Church 369

Bran Frances 354

APRIL 5 Wed. Matinee

Women's high single Edna Pears 167, high triple Mary Viala 90

WHA ready for playoffs

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ever since the roof fell in, New England Whalers have been trying to salvage their World Hockey Association season.

They remain that task tonight in their first WHA playoff game against Edmonton Oilers.

Also opening tonight is the Birmingham Bulls vs Winnipeg Jets series. The Nordiques-Houston Aeros series opens Sunday.

The Whalers started the season playing winning hockey, and the club seemed immune to the financial woes that have plagued other WHA teams.

But the Hartford Civic Centre's roof collapsed one morning last winter, and under weight of ice and snow, leaving the team without a home rink.

The team moved to the Springfield Civic Centre and continued to win games, draw fans, and finished the season Tuesday by clinching the WHA's Ben Hataken award for best goaltending.

ROUGH SERIES

In Winnipeg, Jets coach Larry Hillman looks for a rough series with the truculent Bulls.

"We'll have to answer challenges," said Hillman. "We must become involved. Look for us to be more aggressive."

Bobby Hull and Peter Sullivan will be back in action for Winnipeg, although Sullivan may wear a special mask to protect an injured right eye. Hull was absent from his left wing spot for the last three season games with a shoulder injury.

The Oilers went into semi-sectation Wednesday in preparation for their opener at Springfield.

Edmonton coach Glen Sather commented that he "didn't want his players disturbed."

B.C. clubs ahead in intermediates

PRINCE GEORGE (CP) — British Columbia's intermediate hockey championship is under way in just 4:51 to build period leads of 8-1 and 7-3.

Grant Evans led the Mohawks with three goals, Grant Williams and Glen Johnson had two each and singles came from Garth Green, Greg Norbraten and Dennis Bergeson.

Dave Ritchie, Daryl Lazaruk, Ross Perkins, Daryl Meyer and John Kienenschul scored one each for Sherwood Park, which outshot the Mohawks 37-26 before 1,069 fans.

Thompson, Man, Hawks play Sherwood Park and North Shore play the defending team champion Warroad, Minn., Lakers today.

BRACE YOURSELFS!

The United States has more than 200,000 hockey players between the ages of five and 19 who are members of amateur teams.

North Shore Hurry Kings of the B.C. champion Prince George Mohawks had little trouble outwitting Sherwood Park Barons of Edmonton 10-2.

Kienenschul led 3-1 going into the third period, but the Hurry Kings forced overtime with 1:44 remaining. Brian Phillips scored overtime with three goals, including the one which forced overtime and the winner. Robinson tied the other North Shore goal.

Robert Halpenny had two for the Klippers and Don Jackson fired the other. North Shore outshot Kingletons 4-3 in 200 minutes. The Mohawks used a six-goal first period to get past the Alberta champions, including five in just 4:51 to build period leads of 8-1 and 7-3.

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