

Ferragamo deal nearing reality

MONTREAL (CP) — General manager Bob Green said Wednesday night that Montreal Alouettes were close to a contract agreement with free agent quarterback Vince Ferragamo but that no announcement would be made until today.

The Alouettes acquired the Canadian Football League rights from the Montreal Alouettes of the National Football League. The former Tiger-Cats earlier in the day in a conditional trade for wide receiver Kiki Baker and guard David Green.

The deal was subject to the Alouettes' ability to sign Ferragamo, and new owner Nelson Skalbania, head coach Joe Scannella and David Fisher, Ferragamo's agent, met for several hours Wednesday.

Ferragamo, who made something more than \$2,000 with the last team, was reported to be seeking \$300,000. Skalbania said he had reached an agreement with the highly-regarded passer on a four-year personal services contract.

MAKES FINAL OFFER

I spoke to his agent after we submitted the last offer," Rams general manager Don Klusterman said of Ferragamo in an interview. "I don't know if he said he'd be en route to Montreal."

"From then, I knew he (Fer-



GUY LAPOINTE ... critical of coach

Lapointe to meet with Ruel

MONTREAL (CP) — Manager Irving Grundman met disgruntled forward Guy Lapointe and told him Wednesday to talk over his differences with head coach Claude Ruel as soon as possible and settle them, a spokesman for Montreal Canadiens said.

He said no time or suspension was levied against Lapointe, who lashed out at Ruel after sitting on the bench through a 4-0 National Hockey League loss to the Nordiques at Quebec City on Sunday night. Lapointe did not dress for a 3-1 victory here Friday.

Grundman and Lapointe "had a lengthy meeting shortly after practice today to review the situation," the spokesman said.

He said it was impressed on Lapointe that he was the coach of the club and that he would be in the lineup. Lapointe was said to have understood the message.

Lapointe had called Ruel a hypocrite and said: "The word 'honesty' doesn't exist in his vocabulary."

Grundman said the remarks were "an insult to the coach and the hockey team."

Knights sweep series

PENICTON, B.C. (CP) — Leroy Rempel had two goals and two assists to lead Penicton Knights to a 5-1 victory over the Victoria Juniors in the first game of a three-game series Wednesday.

The Penicton Junior Hockey League champion, downed Prince George Spruce Kings of the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League 5-1 to sweep the best-of-three series in two games.

Penicton now plays St. Albert Saints, who won the Alberta Junior Hockey League title Wednesday. The best-of-seven Penicton-St. Albert series, which could lead to the national Centennial Cup, begins Saturday in Penicton.

Penicton also got two goals from Randy Maxwell and one from Bob Shaw. Craig Krekovic scored the Prince George goal, which put the Spruce ahead 1-0 until early in the second period.

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WITH LOWLY JETS

Canucks settle for tie

VANCOUVER (CP) — There were no Academy Awards for Vancouver Canucks when they took more than 100,000 fans than Raging Bull on Wednesday night in the National Hockey League.

The Canucks, contenders for 10th place in the overall standings, portrayed a team higher honors in the Stanley Cup playoffs when they tied last-place Winnipeg Jets 4-4.

"It's certainly disappointing to play like this when you'd like to finish 10th," said Canucks coach Harry Neale.

"At this time of the year we should be proud of what we're playing, but rather how we're playing."

Vancouver needed a goal by Thomas Gradin at 14:56 of the last period to pull into a tie with the Jets, a team the Canucks recently thrashed 10-2 last Friday in Winnipeg.

"We knew the Jets would be tougher tonight," said

Vancouver winger Stan Smyl, but that's no excuse for our performance.

"We were happy before the game because Quebec had lost and Chicago had tied. What happened after that is anyone's guess."

PLAY OILERS NEXT

The Canucks now are tied with Chicago Black Hawks, one point back of 10th-place Quebec Nordiques. Vancouver finishes out the regular season schedule here Friday against Edmonton Oilers and Saturday in Los Angeles against the Kings.

"We had everything going in our favor tonight, but we just weren't concentrating on the job at hand for some reason," added a disturbed Neale. "We're not working and the players aren't responding to me jumping all over them."

"For us to be effective, we've got to have 40 takeouts a game and tonight we had just 18, including three in the second period. We have to hit to be effective and play our game."

Neale said the Canucks' goal this season is 80 points — 10 more than a year ago — and it can be reached, although ties against Winnipeg and Colorado Rockies in the last week have dampened prospects somewhat.

Defencemen Kevin McCarthy and Harold Snepets, along with centre Per-Olof Brasar, also scored for the Canucks before the defeat as Vancouver outshot the Jets 40-30. Netminder Richard Brodeur of their last nine games.

EFFORT WAS THERE

The Jets, with just nine wins in 78 games, obviously are looking to the future and associate coach Mike Smith was happy with the effort put forth by his team.

"We had a little motivation going for us tonight, considering the last game, and we played much better," Smith said. "In fact, we played pretty well for the first 15 minutes."

"Then our inexperience showed. We went into a shell trying to protect a lead and it almost cost us a game."

Winnipeg netminder Markus Mattsson made a brilliant sliding save on Vancouver's Gerry Minor with five seconds remaining to preserve the point.

Kris Manery scored two of the Winnipeg goals and Rick Bonasus and Darryl Gedroog got the others. Six goals were scored in the last period when the teams broke open a light-checking, no-hitting war.

REVENGE MOTIVE

"We sort of wanted to get some revenge tonight for what they'd done to us," said defenceman David Babych of

the Jets. "We played much better defensively, although we had trouble clearing in the last few minutes."

"But we showed we're still got some pride at this time of the season. We were booted at home last time against Vancouver and we wanted to show that we haven't quit."

Mattsson was brilliant in netting for the Canucks before the Jets 40-30. Netminder Richard Brodeur of their last nine games.

"So fortunate," he allowed goals on the first three shots of the last period.

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Gretzky sets assists record

By The Canadian Press

Wayne Gretzky tied the assist record for a National Hockey League record May 11 when he set up a goal by

Lanny McDonald, with two, Steve Tambellini and Craig Neerwich countered for the Rockies.

Whalers' Nordiques 4-2. Gretzky may have lost more than a game after Jacques Richard, who scored his 32nd goal of the season, was carried from the ice on a stretcher when he was checked by Stuart Smith.

Blaine Spurgeon scored two for Hartford, including the winner on a 12-foot wrist shot that bounded into the net off goaltender Dan Bouchard's pads in the third period. The Nordiques, however, are in 10th place in the standings while Hartford, in 18th place, has been eliminated from post-season play where only the top 16 qualify.

Don Naubahar, Dave Debol and Rick Meagher also scored for the Whalers. Real Cloutier, with two, and Peter Stastser, were the other Quebec goal scorers.

Black Hawks 4 Maple Leafs 4

A penalty to Toronto for getting caught with too many men on the ice gave Chicago the opportunity to needed to salvage a point in Toronto. Reg Kerr scored his second goal of the game midway in the third period to equalize the contest.

"It is as good as a win, as far as making the playoffs," said Nykoluk.

Yanks acquire first baseman

The Associated Press

There are a lot of ways to get from California to New York quickly. For Jason Thompson, the turnpike through Pittsburgh is not one of them — not when baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn's putting up roadblocks.

Thompson, the left-handed first baseman who hit .288 and .21 home runs for California Angels in 1980, was dealt to Pittsburgh Wednesday — and then on to New York Yankees. In the three-day deal, the Yankees ended up with catcher Ed and pitcher Mickey Mahler from Pittsburgh and the Pirates wound up with first baseman Jim Spencer, minor league pitcher Greg Cochran and Freddie Tolliver and some of Yankees owner George Steinbrenner's cash.

How much? That's what Kuhn would like to know. That's not one of the reasons he gave for temporarily holding up the two trades. Since 1976, Kuhn has had to do a \$400,000 ceiling in all trades involving money.

The other reason for holding up the deal, says Bob Wirtz, major league baseball's director of information, was that Kuhn wants to know whether the two

trades, "having been made back-to-back ... are interrelated."

Wirtz acknowledged that there were specific rules banning such interlocking deals.

"But in this case, until we know the facts of the trading overnight," he said.

SECOND BIG DEAL

It was the second big deal in 24 hours involving the Yankees. On Tuesday night, they completed a six-player trade with San Diego Padres. The Yankees were the recipients. Jerry Mumphrey and Tom Seaver were the other players. The Padres were the

traders. The deal involving Thompson was Wednesday's biggest before the midnight interleague trading deadline passed.

The Angels also added pitching strength by acquiring 34-year-old Ken Forsch from Houston, where he was 12-13 with a 3.20 earned-run average in 1980. After the season, he is to be traded. The Astros first tried to ship him to San Francisco, but Forsch vetoed that deal. Then they worked the deal with the Angels, getting 22-year-old utility infielder Dickie Thon in return.

Like the Pirates and Angels, Chicago White Sox made two trades Wednesday. They sent outfielder Thad Bosley to Milwaukee Brewers for minor league outfielder Jay Loviglio.

Nobody, it seems, wanted one-time Detroit ace Mark Fidrych. The pitcher cleared waivers, then was sent down to the Tigers' Evansville farm team, subject to 24-hour recall.

Detroit picked up infielder Moe Keller from the Cubs in exchange for cash or a player to be named later. In another deal, Baltimore Orioles traded shortstop Kiko Garcia to the Astros for minor league outfielder Chris Bourque.

Fidrych sent to farm team

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP) — Mark The Bird Fidrych was sent to Detroit Tigers' farm club in Evansville, Ind., on Wednesday after a dismal spring training season.

"I'm not frozen down there (in Evansville)," said Fidrych, 26, after giving the news by Tigers general manager Jim Campbell. "I'll be there again in the majors, you watch."

In a meeting Wednesday, Fidrych was told he was optional to their Triple-A farm club at Evansville of the American Association, subject to 24-hour recall.

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