

Seattle will interview coach

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — The University of Miami has given the Seattle Seahawks permission to talk to Dennis Erickson about Seattle's vacant head coaching job, team president David Behring said Wednesday night.

Erickson is under contract to the Hurricanes, but has a contract clause that allows him to interview for pro coaching positions. National Football League teams in Denver and Philadelphia also are thought to be interested in Erickson.

"I think everybody is aware of his coaching record," Behring said. "He's won everywhere that he's gone. He's a very motivational, energetic coach. He's a great communicator. He has a lot of great attributes that we're looking for in a coach."

Erickson is believed to be the Seahawks' top candidate for the coaching job left vacant when Tom Flores was fired as coach and general

manager last week.

Behring said he made formal contact Wednesday with Miami Athletic Director Paul Dee.

An interview will be scheduled during the coming week, Behring said.

Erickson will fly to San Francisco on Friday to coach the East team in the East-West Shrine All-Star football game Jan. 14.

Seahawks majority owner Ken Behring, David Behring's father, is a land developer who lives in Danville, Calif.

In six seasons at Miami, Erickson has won two national championships. The 47-year-old Erickson, a native of Everett, Wash., coached at Washington State in 1987 and 1988.

Behring said he hasn't talked to Erickson yet. Behring said he will interview fired Seahawks defensive coordinator Rusty Tillman for the head coaching job on Thursday.

NHL owners set to vote on offer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearing a deadline that could wipe out the entire NHL season, the players made another contract offer Wednesday and the owners will vote on it this weekend.

An Associated Press source close to the negotiations said the proposal addresses the issues of free agency and salary arbitration, but makes no concessions on the contentious luxury tax, the stumbling block in the three-month lockout.

The Board of Governors will vote on the proposal Saturday in New York. If NHL commissioner Gary Bettman finds it acceptable, 14 of the 26 teams must vote to approve. If Bettman does not approve, he can be overruled if 20 teams vote for the proposal.

A vote to accept would mean a 50-game season would open Jan. 16 while a rejection would not necessarily doom the season. A remote chance would then remain for further negotiations leading to a settlement.

"It (the proposal) is our best effort," a union source told *The Canadian Press*.

The league and the NHL Players Association on Wednesday completed secret discussions for a fourth straight day in Chicago, facing a Jan. 16 cancellation deadline.

Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow were not involved in the all-day discussions, but they spoke twice by phone.

NHL spokesman Arthur Pincus confirmed the league has received an offer from the union and the owners will vote on it Saturday. He said Bettman and Goodenow are not scheduled to meet before then, although plans could change.

The same four negotiators have been meeting since Sunday — NHL vice president Brian Burke, league counsel

Jeffrey Pash and union lawyers Bob Riley and John McCambridge.

No deal can be completed until Bettman and Goodenow give their approval, and the two have not negotiated directly since Dec. 6.

The talks in Chicago came with both sides imposing a strict news blackout that extended not only to the media but to team executives.

"What have you heard?" Edmonton Oilers general manager Glen Sather asked a CP reporter. "I haven't heard a thing."

One management source told the AP: "They're trying to cut down the rumor mill. So many different stories are coming out all over the country."

Bettman has said Jan. 16 is the latest the league could resume playing and complete a 50-game schedule along with a full round of playoffs. With a week to 10 days needed for players to get back in shape, that would require a settlement this week.

Sather said a deal would have to be in place by Sunday at the latest.

"If training camps didn't run five or six days, it would be pretty tough," Sather said from Edmonton. "You can't do less than that."

Players have said they will never agree to the owners' proposal of a luxury tax, saying it's nothing more than a salary cap in disguise. Owners feel the tax is necessary if player concessions do not accomplish the NHL's goal of restraining rising salaries.

"If the season falls apart, it will be because the owners bargained for that last nickel," Vancouver Canucks defenseman Gerald Diduck said. "They're always looking for that last drop of blood."

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4:30		Basic Bench 220 GER		Basic Bench 220 GER	Basic Bench 220 GER
5:15	Low Impact 36 ESL		Low Impact 36 ESL		
6:00	Bench & Weights 220 GER		Bench & Weights 220 GER		



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