



Surprise, NHL fate still undecided

Owners put the ball in the players' court



MARK MCTYRE

Fans get the shaft in NHL soap-opera

Will there ever be a decision on the fate of the National Hockey League season? Will they play or not? Is a deadline a deadline or is it just a meaningless figure of speech to get a hockey fan all excited over nothing? These are the questions that are going through the minds of many, if not all hockey fans.

The season has been hanging by a thread for the past 102 days and now it has all come down to one final day. The waiting has been too long.

Being an avid hockey fan, I awakened at 8:59 a.m., one minute prior to the 12 noon eastern daylight time deadline, to listen to ESPN for the decision on whether or not there would be a season. I stumbled out of bed and dragged myself to the couch to find the comfortable surroundings of all armchair ath-

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NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL lockout has come down to one last offer from the league. Take it or leave it. Season or no season. The owners said Tuesday night that it's all up to the players.

"This is the final, final, final, final offer," Boston Bruins president Harry Sinden said.

"We've given (NHL commissioner) Gary Bettman a mandate to do the deal on our guidelines," Edmonton Oilers owner Peter Pocklington said.

Canadian Press said the owners voted 19-7 Tuesday to send to the union a proposal that was similar to the plan the league's Board of Governors rejected earlier in the day.

If the players refuse, there will be no 1994-95 NHL season and hockey will become the first major professional sport to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

Jeremy Roenick, player representative of the Chicago Blackhawks, said the NHL Players Association would deal with the proposal Wednesday.

"Everybody is tired," he said. "Everybody is going home and going to sleep and we'll pick it up in the morning."

Neither Bettman nor NHL Players Association head Bob Goodenow were available for comment.

Free agency was by far the most contentious issue in the round-the-clock negotiations that Bettman and Goodenow

STRIKING A DEAL?

WHO: NHL players and owners

WHAT: 102-day work stoppage coming to a head on Wednesday

THE FUTURE: Any hopes of a 1994-95 season hinge on whether or not the players accept the owners' final offer



EMERALD

started Monday morning, racing against a league-imposed noon Tuesday deadline for canceling the season.

But that deadline came and went with the season still alive — barely. Now it remains to be seen if the owners have made an offer the players can live with.

Under terms of the contract management is sending to the union, players would have the right to become unrestricted free agents when they reach 32 years old in the first three years of the contract and when they reach 31 in the last three years.

Because owners reportedly have the right to reopen the agreement after the third year, players may never see the 31-year-old benefit.

Sinden doesn't have much

sympathy.

"We started out with and we're going to abide ... knowing full well that we needed a salary cap," he said. "We changed the cap to a tax and we didn't get that, either."

In the proposal that was rejected by the owners Tuesday, players would have become unrestricted free agents at 32 years old in the first year and at 31 in the last five. Players went into the week hoping to land free agency at 30.

"It's disappointing that we offered 32 in the first year and 31 in the next five and they didn't accept it," said Bob Corkum, player rep of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. "It seems that they're stuck on 32."

Hartford Whalers GM Jim Rutherford agreed that the Board of Governors was "splitting hairs."

"And this isn't the time to do that," he said. "The main issue is the age of free agency."

Other key components of the contract the owners rejected:

—Three salary arbitration walkaways over each two-year period for players receiving awards of at least \$550,000.

—\$850,000 salary cap for first-round draft picks.

—Draft for 19-year-olds with 18-year-olds having the option to get in.

All were compromises — skewed toward the owners — of the stated "final" positions of each side.

Running back, officers indicted in Cincinnati incident

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals running back Derrick Fenner and two city policemen were indicted Tuesday by a Hamilton County grand jury.

Fenner was indicted on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He will plead innocent, his lawyer, Kenneth Lawson, said.

Police officers Andre Eddings and Claudia Vercellotti were indicted on felony charges of perjury and obstruction of justice and misdemeanor charges of obstruction of justice, Hamilton County prosecutor Joseph Deters said.

If convicted, the officers could face up to 3

years in prison. Fenner could face up to five months in jail.

The grand jury has been investigating incidents that allegedly began when Fenner was arrested outside a tavern early Dec. 12, hours after the Bengals had lost to the New York Giants.

Police alleged that the manager of the Parktown Cafe bar, George Beatty, offered Eddings and Vercellotti \$5,000 each to pursue the original charges against Fenner as misdemeanors rather than felonies. Beatty has been indicted on bribery charges. He denies wrongdoing.

Fenner was charged last month with resist-

ing arrest, resisting arrest while intoxicated and inciting violence, a felony. Those charges were dropped in what Deters then described as a tactical decision.

The officers are accused of lying to a grand jury and obstructing internal police investigations, Deters said.

The officers have denied similar administrative charges. The officers were suspended without pay Dec. 23 pending a hearing on whether they should be fired.

Prosecutors alleged that Beatty met with Eddings outside a district police station Dec. 15 to offer the bribes and that Eddings improperly failed to arrest Beatty at that time.

Trio of Bruin juniors decide to stay for another year

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three UCLA juniors coming off outstanding seasons have decided to stay in school and play their senior years for the Bruins next fall, the school announced Tuesday.

The three are outside line-backer Donnie Edwards and wide receiver Kevin Jordan, both honored by The Associated Press as third-team All-Americans, and offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden, who allowed

just one sack last season.

Edwards led the Bruins in several defensive categories. He made 106 tackles, 19 more than any of his teammates, and tied a school record with 12 sacks.

Jordan caught 73 passes for 1,228 yards and seven touchdowns last season. He made at least six receptions in nine of UCLA's 11 games. He needs just 19 catches next season to set a school career reception record.

Prep coach on leave as district investigates conduct allegations

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — The boys basketball coach at Juanita High School has been placed on leave while the Lake Washington School District investigates allegations of "improper conduct" with two former players.

Jim McDonald was placed on paid administrative leave Monday after the school district learned of the allegations from a third party Saturday, the *Journal American* of Bellevue reported.

District spokesman Dan Youmans this morning would provide no additional details, confirming only that McDonald was on leave and that the district was conducting an investigation.

A private investigator was hired and the matter was referred to Kirkland police, Youmans said. Both are standard practices, he said.

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Sailing team hits rough tides

The University of Oregon sailing team found the stormy weather and choppy waters of Long Beach, California unkind this past weekend.

The Northwestern District champs could only muster a 15th overall placing against some of the top sailing teams in the nation.

The regatta was finally decided by protest on the last day with Stanford, Navy, St. Mary's, and the Coast Guard all vying for a piece of the title.

The Oregon sailing team is winding down its most successful racing season to date with first or second-place honors in all the district races. The string of top finishes included a top ranking at the sloop district championships earlier this season at the University of Washington.

"This has easily been our best season," team captain Dane Winchester said. "We've raced in seven national regattas including races in Florida and Massachusetts."

The sailing team's next race will be in Portland this weekend.

PAC-10 STATS

Scoring offense

	Average
1. UCLA	92.5
2. Oregon	86.7
3. Wash. St.	84.7
4. Arizona	82.6
5. California	80.7
6. USC	80.0
7. Stanford	79.3
8. Arizona St.	78.6
9. Oregon State	74.2
10. Washington	63.1

DIVISION I HOCKEY

The top ten teams in the Division I men's ice hockey poll published by the Troy Record, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 8, points, and previous ranking:

	Record
1. Maine (24)	16-1-5
2. Boston U. (3)	12-3-3
3. Colorado College	17-5-0
4. Michigan (1)	13-4-0
5. Michigan St.	13-5-1
6. Bowling Green	13-6-0
7. Denver	14-6-0
8. Minnesota	11-7-2
9. New Hampshire	12-4-3
10. Clarkson	8-5-2