

GROWING PAINS, POOR TIMING

Whitecaps 'will not be blackmailed by anyone'

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Whitecaps are navigating troubled off-season waters that are getting stormier for the North American Soccer League champions.

"We're having growing pains and we're guilty of some poor timing," club president John Best said Saturday in a telephone interview from London. "But we will not be blackmailed by anyone."

This was his response to the sale Thursday of goalie Phil Parkes to Chicago Sting, confirmation of plans to trade defender John Craven, who is also the club's player representative, and the sudden firing Friday of Josh Keller, the team's public relations man.

Best also confirmed a leak that he wants to resign from the club's day-to-day operations.

Parkes, who led the NASL in goals-against average for the last two seasons and was an allstar last year, had accused the club of refusing to negotiate.

Best said Saturday that Parkes, 32, wanted too much — \$750,000 over three years in a contract with a no-cut, no-trade clause; \$6,000 annually for accommodation; a car; two months' vacation; four returntrip airline tickets to London each year; six types of insurance coverage and a testimonial game at the end of the contract with all proceeds going to the goalie.

"The total package would have cost us \$950,000," said Best. "When I told the lawyer (Joel Shain of New Jersey) that was ridiculous, he said nothing less than six figures per year would be of any interest."

Best said Shain had another lawyer approach New York Cosmos and another approach was made to Los Angeles

The Citizen Sports

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Aztecs and "I don't call that negotiating." Craven, the anchorman on the Whitecaps' defence, said he thought he was being groomed to become an assistant to coach Bob McNab when his playing days are over. Now, he doesn't know where he'll be playing.

Interviewed before the club's North American contingent headed to England to begin training, Craven said four or five teams would be interested in him.

"What I'm afraid of is they'll price me out of the market and no one will bother. Things aren't very pleasant any more."

Best said the club had approached Craven about a management-coaching position with the Whitecaps but "Bob McNab does not want an assistant coach and I do not want John Craven in a management position."

"That is a collective decision of the board's, but I take full responsibility for it."

"The timing was very bad," Best said of the admission the club is trying to trade Craven, "but don't forget, we didn't release the story that we were trying to trade him, they did, he and his lawyer."

"I wanted to make the trade and then announce it. When it was leaked I was put in a position of having to deny it and I couldn't do that."

Best also accused Craven, as player representative, to allow a situation to develop whereby if Best held a meeting with the players and a lawyer to discuss local problems, he could be accused of strikebreaking by the NASL Players Association.

"John was the player rep and he let that happen. He and Jon Samuels came to me after Soccer Bowl and asked for bonuses for the players. I said no, they were illegal. I also reminded both of them that the club policy was to reward effort, because both their contracts had been ripped up in the first year and redesigned."

"But at a social function he went over my head and over (manager) Tony Waiters' head and complained to the directors about no bonuses. Right now — and I stress right now — I don't consider him management material." He said Keller's firing resulted from a conflict over the

PR man's future role with the club and that decision was made by Dave Golinsky, vicepresident in charge of operations.

"I argue with the timing. It couldn't have been worse. But I can't argue with the decision."

On his own status, Best said he submitted a resignation from the club's day-to-day operation so he could devote more time to other business activities.

"What upsets me is that the only people who knew about it were the board members at the meeting. That means one of our own board members is leaking information. That's not a good situation."

"The club is at a difficult stage. All the standards are going up. Business has to be conducted differently because of volume. We want to be good employers, and players naturally will try to take a negotiating advantage from a championship year. We expect that. But we will not be blackmailed and we will take a dim view of anyone who tries it."

And while the Whitecaps have been talking about trading players — striker Kevin Hector and midfielder Alan Ball, the catalyst of the Vancouver attack last season have also been mentioned by the media here — they are giving the roster a new look.

On the day Parkes was dealt to the Sting, the 'Caps purchased striker David Robb, a Scottish international, from Philadelphia Fury where he was fourth in NASL scoring last year with 16 goals and 22 assists.

And in England, Waiters has been talking to 16-time Scottish international David Harvey of Leeds United as a possible replacement for Parkes.

Pay now, Canucks instructed

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Hockey Club Ltd. was ordered Monday in British Columbia Supreme Court to pay into court the \$400,000 judgment won earlier by former Canucks player Mike Robitaille of the National Hockey League team.

The hockey club is appealing the judgment and resisted the application to pay the judgment.

"It seems to me to be patently unfair and unjust for the defendant to have the use of the plaintiff's money pending appeal," said Justice Patricia Proudfoot.

She ordered that the amount of money involved, which she said was in excess of \$400,000, be paid into court so that the interest could accrue to Robitaille.

The order provides that the interest can be paid out to Robitaille upon his filing a bank letter of credit to reimburse the hockey club if the appeal should be successful.

Robitaille was awarded judgment for \$347,840 in December when Mr. Justice W. A. Esson of the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that the hockey club was negligent in ignoring Robitaille's complaint of injuries three years ago.

The judge ruled that Robitaille was 20 per cent to blame for his own misfortune and reduced his total award of \$435,000 by that amount.

Justice Proudfoot followed an earlier decision by the B.C. Court of Appeal in the Morrison-Knudsen case when \$36 million was awarded to the builders of the Portage (Man.) Mountain Dam. She said the question at the time was who was to reap the benefit of the money that the utility had been ordered to pay.

Justice Proudfoot said that she could not help but conclude that the \$400,000 to Robitaille may be more important to him than the \$36 million was to Morrison-Knudsen.

She said the hockey club was not impecunious and it would not create a hardship for the club to pay the money into court.

The benefit to be reaped here was many thousands of dollars, she said, and the scales of justice weighed in favor of Robitaille. The interest rate on the money will be at one per cent below the prime rate.

Mr. Justice Esson ruled that the club's behavior in ignoring Robitaille's injuries in the 1976-77 season was high-handed and arrogant as well as negligent.

Robitaille, now 31, hasn't played since he suffered a spinal cord injury Jan. 19, 1977, in a game here against Pittsburgh Penguins.



If you think we in the Central Interior have it bad, just think about those unfortunate souls in tropical Florida. Los Angeles Dodgers' catcher Steve Yeager (left) and pitcher Terry Forster examine ice-covered branches of an orange tree Monday. Temperature dropped to near -5C overnight at the Dodgers' spring training camp at Vero Beach. Now you know where frozen orange juice comes from.

Spring?

GOWSELL BOMBED

CALGARY (CP) — Al Hackner, called the Iceman by his Northern Ontario teammates, played the role to the hilt Monday night after a 10-5 win over Alberta's Paul Gowsell.

"We're quite satisfied," said the skip of the only undefeated rink and the leader at 4-0 in the Canadian men's curling championship. "They (Alberta) probably had a bit of an off game." Hackner, 25, from Nipigon, Ont., was downplaying his role in the fifth draw of the 12-rink competition. He made a brilliant double take-out by drawing around a long guard in the third end to give the Thunder Bay team a 3-1 lead, then came through with a cold draw in the fourth for two points and a 5-2 margin.

It was definitely an off night for Gowsell, one of the early favorites in the Labatt Brier, along with Saskatchewan's Rick Folk of Saskatoon and Quebec's Jim Ursel of Montreal, winner of the 1977 title.

In the fifth end, the young Calgary skip was light with a draw for two and got one point. And, in the seventh, he was light with another draw, and Hackner stole two for an 8-3 lead.

Three draws were scheduled for today in the week-long championship, with Northern Ontario meeting Manitoba in a key early game, then taking on Saskatchewan in the afternoon. The top three rinks, after round-robin play, advance to the playoffs.

Folk, representing his province for the third consecutive year, was alone in second place at 3-1. Alberta, Quebec, Ontario's Russ Howard of Penetanguishene and British Columbia's Tim Horriagan were at 2-1, while Yel-lowknife's Al Delmage, representing the Territories, was 2-2.

At 1-3 were Earle Morris, skip of the Manitoba rink from Winnipeg, New Brunswick's Richard Belyea of Saint John, Peter Hope and his Nova

Scotia entry from Dartmouth, Newfoundland's Wayne Hamilton of St. John's and Ted MacFadyen's Prince Edward Island crew from Crapaud.

In other fifth-round results, Ursel drew to the button with his final shot in an extra end to beat Manitoba 6-5, Ontario downed Nova Scotia 8-5, B.C. topped New Brunswick 7-5 and the Territories scored a point in the 10th and final end to shade P.E.I. 7-6. Saskatchewan and Newfoundland got the byes.

Northern Ontario stole two in the 10th end Monday afternoon to beat Ontario 7-5 in the fourth draw. In other games, Saskatchewan dumped the Territories 6-3, Alberta outlasted Manitoba 7-5, Quebec scored three in the ninth and stole one in the 10th for a 10-7 win over Nova Scotia and B.C. defeated Newfoundland 9-6. P.E.I. and New Brunswick had the byes.

In the morning's third draw, Belyea's New Brunswick rink turned in a strong performance to surprise Saskatchewan 8-5 and Newfoundland shaded P.E.I. 8-7 in an extra end. The rest of the rinks got byes.

After raising his record to 4-0, Hackner said he wasn't surprised by his team's showing but added that he wasn't going to get over-confident.

"My third was a definite asset. He helps us out a lot on strategy, keeps us cool and doesn't let us get carried away."

Hackner was referring to Rick Lang, in the national championship for the third time and being a member of Bill Tetley's rink that won the Canadian title for Northern Ontario in 1975.

The Hackner rink, from the

Fort William Curling Club, had an impressive record of 18 wins and one defeat from club playoffs to the Northern Ontario final, leading to the national tournament.

In the Manitoba-Quebec game, Ursel said he was "just bloody lucky" to make the draw to the button in the extra end.

"You make those shots one out of 10 times," said Ursel, competing in his seventh national men's championship, six as a skip.

Morris, who had his troubles early in the competition, said after Monday's losses to Alberta and Quebec:

"I really feel unlucky. We played two very good games today and came away with nothing. The Ursel team curled extremely well, but we curled equally well."

Soccer in jeopardy if dispute not settled

by MARK ALLAN
Citizen Sports Reporter

There are two senior soccer leagues in Prince George, but there might not be any soccer here this year.

That was the gloomy message delivered to about 60 people Sunday in a special meeting at the Civic Centre.

Two groups claiming to be the rightful North Cariboo Soccer Association executive have prompted a letter from civic properties and recreation, saying no fields will be allotted for the coming season if the matter isn't settled internally.

Ray Kandola, president of the executive elected after last year's NCSA season, told the audience legal action is being studied after four members of the original 10-member executive formed their own group.

The second group, led by president Al Auld, registered in Victoria under the Societies Act, affiliated with the B.C. Soccer Association and drew up its own constitution.

Kandola told the gathering, including about 25 players, that the unrest in the NCSA will hurt youth soccer, which he says is a good organization and he believes "it's better for soccer if it's settled out of court."

He thinks the delay involved in a court case might result in adult soccer here being dormant for a year, with potentially disastrous results.

However, there was no formal representation from the breakaway group at Sunday's meeting, causing some resentment among those present because nothing concrete could be accomplished.

At one point, somebody in the crowd exclaimed, "we're arguing against ourselves."

One member who left the original group to join the new executive was present, but stressed he was not formally there on behalf of his group.

Hans Niedermayer admitted "I think it can only be solved by both executives meeting."

While stating "as far as I can

see, there is a compromise to make," he declined further comment.

Meanwhile, more than \$18,000 is frozen in a North Cariboo Soccer Association bank account.

Virtually everybody at the meeting agreed there aren't enough players in town for two leagues and the split can do nothing but harm the sport here.

Kandola, who says he's already approached the second group "two or three times" with no success, told the audience he will try once more to arrange a meeting.

If this fails, it was decided to gather a players' petition, hopefully demonstrating grassroots support for the original group and possibly resulting in another election suitable to both sides.

Players at the meeting made it clear they want nothing else but to play.

More developments are expected when the second group holds its own meeting at the Civic Centre next Tuesday.

DOWNHILL FINAL

Read, Mueller in battle

LAKE LOUISE, Alta. (CP) — Ken Read of Canada and Peter Mueller of Switzerland will settle their season-long battle for World Cup downhill skiing supremacy today.

The pair have duelled all season and the looseness of the race was largely responsible for International Ski Federation officials scheduling the race at Lake Louise.

The scheduled final race at Chamonix, France, had to be cancelled because of poor conditions.

Read and Mueller continued their battle in the final two time trials Monday. Mueller beat Read on the first run but Read bettered Mueller on the second.

Mueller leads World Cup standings with 96 points and Read is the only skier with a chance to wrestle the over-all championship away from Mueller.

Even if Read wins the race today, Mueller can take the championship by finishing second.

Read starts fourth today and Mueller seventh. Sepp Ferstl of Great Britain drew the first starting position in Monday's draw. Dave Murray of Abbotsford, B.C., will ski second, Steve Podborski of Toronto 14th and Dave Irwin

of Thunder Bay, Ont., 21st. Austrian veteran Franz Klammer took a bad spill during a trial run and was taken to hospital where doctors treated him for stretched ligaments in his left leg and a deep cut to his left arm. Klammer lost control about one-third the

way down the run and fell heavily.

Austrian ski officials said Klammer, 25, probably would be flown home today. The injuries leave his future in World Cup competition in doubt.

Today's race can be seen on CBC (channel 2, cable 3) at 10:30 p.m.



READ

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Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

PUBLIC NOTICE
BY-LAW 419

Public Notice is hereby given that the Regional Board of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George intends to adopt "Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Subdivision Control By-law No. 55 1971, amendment By-law No. 419, 1980, being a by-law to:

1. Include three new zones, Commercial Recreation II, Lakeshore Residential II and Seasonal Recreation IV.
2. Include minimum lake frontages, road frontages and parcel sizes for these new zones.
3. Require that wells that serve more than one parcel are located in such a way that the lots being served are grouped closely together.

Copies of the proposed By-law 419 may be examined at the offices of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, 311-1717 Third Avenue, Prince George, B.C. between the hours of 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dated at Prince George B.C. this 27th day of February 1980

Yvonne D. Harris
Director of Regional Planning



NOTICE

Owners of property on Hopkins, Christensen, Andres, Range and Underhill Roads, west of Westwood Drive in the Peden Hill Subdivision are invited to attend:

UTILITIES INFORMATION MEETING
March 4th, 1980 — 7:00 p.m.
Peden Hill Elementary School (Library)

City representatives will present information on the proposed subdivision upgrading program.

Lakewood girls get first

The Grade 10 girls' basketball team from Lakewood Junior Secondary won its own tournament during the weekend, in a tune-up for the B.C. championship.

The strong Lakewood girls defeated Hazelton 50-32 in the title game, improving their record this season to 29 wins and three losses and their third tournament win.

Anne Stevenson of Williams Lake was third, Duchess Park fourth, Maple Drive of Quesnel fifth and D.P. Todd sixth.

Robin Fitzgerald, Gabi Steinbach and Tracy Gatzke from Lakewood were the only Prince

George girls' on the all-star team.

The West Whalley Trojans from Surrey finished first on the boys' side, defeating Maple Drive 62-51 in the final.

Quesnel Junior Secondary took third, Kelly Road was fourth, Duchess Park fifth, Terrace sixth, Lakewood seventh and PGSS eighth.

Duchess Park won the zone championship two weeks ago in Williams Lake and competes in the B.C. junior boys' championship in Vancouver this weekend.

Lakewood's girls travel to the girls' provincial final in Kitimat March 21 and 22.

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT