

SAME AS VODKA SPONSOR

Runner changes name

LONDON (AP) — Nick Akers, British-born distance runner, announced Tuesday he has changed his name to Nick Vladivar and is being sponsored by the Vladivar vodka company to compete in the Moscow Olympics.

Vladivar, 24, who lives in Edmonton, said he plans to compete for the Cayman Islands because he once lived there for seven months and is qualified for the islands' team.

This kind of sponsorship breaks new ground. No athlete has been known to adopt a commercial name before.

A spokesman of Vladivar — a British firm that adopted a Russian name but has no connection with the Soviet Union — said the sponsorship money will be paid to the Cayman Islands National Olympic Committee, and the company therefore will stay inside Olympic rules.

At a news conference, he displayed a legal document drawn up by an Edmonton lawyer in which he renounced his former name and adopted the name of Nicholas Vladivar.

"A change of name means nothing to me," he said. "It gives me a chance I would not have had otherwise."

"Some people may now question my amateur status, but I am getting no money out of this. Everything is going through the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee, which will pay for all my travel."

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) relaxed its eligibility rules in 1975 and allowed commercial sponsorship. But it insisted that sponsors pay their money to the athlete's sports federation or national Olympic committee, not to the athlete.

The Vladivar case could present a problem for the IOC and the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which is responsible for deciding who is eligible in the Olympic track and field events.

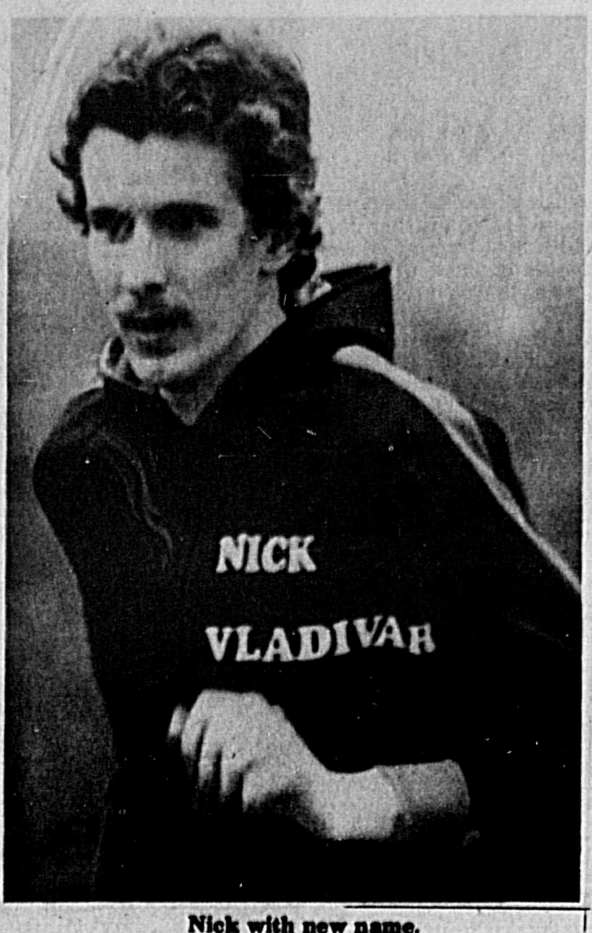
The Olympic Charter says: "A competitor must not have allowed his person, name, picture or sports performance to be used for advertising, except when his or her international federation, national Olympic committee or national federation enters into a contract for sponsorship of equipment."

The rules say nothing about athletes changing their name legally to the name of their sponsor.

"I discussed this with the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee and they had no objection," Vladivar said.

Vladivar's best time for the 10,000 metres is 29:36.0 — two minutes 14 seconds outside the world record of Kenya's Henry Rono.

Vladivar never has made Olympic qualifying time, but if he is the only entrant from the Cayman Islands in the 10,000 metres or the marathon he will be allowed to compete anyway.



Nick with new name.

The Citizen Sports

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Condors not best says Coast experts

by DAVE PAULSON
Citizen Sports Reporter

VANCOUVER — They have been ranked number one in five-of-seven top 10 polls this season, but still, pundits here don't believe in the Duchess Park Condors.

Local media pollsters have made the second ranked Nanaimo Islanders and third ranked Steveston Packers favorites to meet in the title game Saturday at the B.C. boys' AA basketball championship, which started here today.

The Condors, ranked number one in the final four polls from the B.C. High School Boys' Basketball Association, played their first game at 2:15 p.m. against Courtenay Towhees.

Duchess Park coach Bill Gook isn't disappointed in being lowered, however.

"They (Nanaimo and Steveston) are playing well down here now and those people have seen them play quite a bit this year."

The Condors have defeated the Islanders in both meetings between the teams this season, but haven't played Steveston or fourth ranked Richmond Colts, also considered a threat to take first.

"We'll just go out and play our game."

"It doesn't matter to me (who we play)."

"We've played Nanaimo, we've seen Richmond and we haven't seen Steveston, but it doesn't matter who we play."

One criticism of the Condors here is a supposedly weak bench, but Gook says he'll use

his four reserves "as much as possible."

The non-starters are Grade 12 guard Wade Beallie, Grade 11 guard Darryl Foucher and Grade 10 forwards Rob Carpenter and Brad Frenkel.

The starting five, thought to be the best group in B.C., includes centre Mike Suderman, forwards Brian Frenkel and Pat West, as well as guards Kent Stanley and Karl Bush.

All are in Grade 12 and were key elements in the Condors' surprising fifth place finish here last year.

If the Condors beat Courtenay today, they play the winner of Abbotsford Panthers and Handsword Royals at 9:15 p.m. Thursday.

If they lose their first game, Duchess Park plays next at 9 a.m. Thursday.

The Condors, if they win their first two games, will play a semi-final contest Friday at 7:15 p.m. probably against Richmond.

All games are at the Pacific Coliseum.

Opening-round matchups are: Vernon Panthers-Gladstone Gladiators; Centennial Centaurs-Trail Hawks; Handsword Royals-Abbotsford Panthers; Courtenay Towhees-Duchess Park Condors; North Surrey Spartans-Prince Rupert Rainmakers; Steveston Packers-Cowichan Thunderbirds; Nanaimo Islanders-McNair Marlins; Richmond Colts-Penticton Lakers.

The Coliseum will use a horse-shoe seating effect for the first time, with the basketball floor placed at one end of the building to allow for seating of about 10,000 spectators.

Soccer uproar; dispute raging

by MARK ALLAN
Citizen Sports Reporter

The great North Cariboo Soccer Association dispute rages on, in spite of a possibility there won't be any league games this season.

Two groups claiming to be the rightful NCSA executive have split the league and civic properties and recreation has responded by demanding a settlement be reached internally, or no fields will be allocated for the coming season.

One side of the dispute was bared in a meeting Tuesday night at the Prince George Secondary School.

About 70 people listened as a recently formed eight-member executive explained its side of the unusual affair.

The group at the meeting made three key moves in the past two months to establish its position.

With four members who left the 10-member executive elected after last season, the new body affiliated with the B.C. Soccer Association, registered itself in Victoria under the Societies Act and drew up a constitution.

The first two steps hadn't been implemented by previous executives.

The eight new directors say they've approached the BCSA for advice regarding the situation.

Director Al Auld, who's registered as president with the BCSA, says "they're taking it to the B.C. Soccer Commission and we're expecting an answer soon."

Auld's group cites a number of irregularities in league procedure as cause for breaking away and feels one group was determined to gain dictatorial power in the league.

The new league features defending NCSA champion LeBatt's-Tripke, Woodland Sab United, Croatia Soccer

Club and Rheingold Kickers from last year, as well as newcomers Acme Electric and Mackenzie.

Teams still supporting president Ray Kandola and what remains of the original executive are P.G. Croatia, City Furniture and the PCO Raiders from last year's seven-team league, plus Chile as a possible addition.

About 60 people strongly supported Kandola and his group at a meeting March 2... just as strongly as the audience backed the eight new directors at Tuesday's meeting.

Auld believes players on teams in Kandola's group aren't sufficiently informed about what is going on to make a proper decision.

"Every move we've made, we've approached our players and informed them of what's happening."

Former NCSA president Jim Briggs, now with Auld's group, believes just as strongly as the others that they're right and adds the referees support them.

"The referees' association is refereeing only our games... they won't have anything to do with the other group."

Both sides claim they've approached the other for negotiations, but both say the other hasn't responded.

Meanwhile, the threat of at least a year's layoff hangs over the league and the two groups don't appear to be much closer to resolving it.

Kandola's group decided two weekends ago to distribute a petition to the players, asking for guidance and the other group passed a unanimous motion Tuesday, calling for the same thing.

Auld explains, "I want to find out what the players want to do."

At the moment, neither side has announced any more meetings.

SEASON APPROACHING

Expos win, Jays split

By Associated Press

Montreal Expos defeated Detroit Tigers 9-6 in an exhibition game and Toronto Blue Jays split their players for an intrasquad game as Canada's two major league baseball clubs continued preparations Tuesday for the 1980 season.

Playing at Daytona Beach, Fla., the Expos' Rodney Scott and Andre Dawson had run-scoring singles and Larry Parrish lofted a sacrifice fly for three first-inning runs.

Montreal increased the lead to 6-0 with three more runs in the second inning.

In other exhibition games, Cleveland Indians edged Milwaukee Brewers 3-2 at Tucson, Ariz., Baltimore Orioles defeated Texas Rangers 5-4 at Pompano Beach, Fla., Seattle Mariners defeated Hanshin of Japan 4-1 at Tempe, Ariz., Chicago White Sox downed Kansas City Royals 10-4 at Sarasota, Fla., and Minnesota Twins beat Rollins College 6-4.

SPRUCE KINGS PLAY

Hockey fans get chance

Tonight is probably the last chance Prince George fans have to see the Spruce Kings play for at least a month.

The Kings, guaranteed a berth in the Peace Cariboo Junior Hockey League final, meet the Quesnel Millionaires in an exhibition game at 8:30 in the Coliseum.

Prince George would otherwise miss game conditions until beginning a best-of-three B.C. championship opening round series in Kitimat March 21.

If the Kings defeat Kitimat, they'll advance against the Kootenay champion the following weekend.

If the Kings take that series, the B.C. junior B championship will be held in Prince George. Meanwhile, long-time rivals Fort St. John

Golden Hawks and Dawson Creek Kodiaks needed double overtime in the opening game of their best-of-seven PCJHL quarter-final Tuesday.

The Golden Hawks finally won 4-3 in Fort St. John.

They play tonight in Dawson Creek, then return to Fort St. John Saturday.

The other quarter-final between the Millionaires and Grande Prairie North Stars opens Friday in Quesnel.

The Spruce Kings have an automatic berth in the PCJHL final because they finished first in the regular season.

The league also decided to send its regular season winners on the B.C. playoff trail.



Stylish?

The newest style in Pittsburgh involves a matching birthday cake-World Series ring outfit. The latest in Pirates' fashion is worn by slugger Willie Stargell, hit with the cake by some teammates on his 39th birthday.

STRIKE STILL LIKELY

Ball players getting plan

By Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Baseball's Players Association may strike, but the chances appear slim it will be opening day — April 1.

The association's executive board appears to be planning a power play if it fails to make progress toward a new agreement with the owners.

The executive board's announcement last week of a possible strike didn't say when such action would be taken. It said "on or after April 1," which could mean, for example, Memorial Day.

The players, if they strike, want to protect themselves and, at the same time, hit the owners where it hurts the most — in the wallet. Striking in April and much of May would be damaging, but not crippling.

In April and May many games are postponed by rain, snow and cold weather. There also are a number of off days. The crowds are smaller in the early months and the effect of a strike at its lowest ebb.

Also, if the players open the season and carry on negotiations until late May or early June, they will have earned three paycheques, in many cases enough money to carry them through the season.

The players also have an insurance fund to help the lower-paid guys. Each has contributed \$1,800 from bubble gum endorsement money, the total approaching \$1 million.

The owners also have a strike fund and may use it in their battle to regain some semblance of control of the game's salary structure and reduce the impact of the re-entry draft.

The players appear to feel they have all to lose and little or nothing to gain by giving in to management.

There is agreement on both sides that the bottom line in these complex negotiations is the free-agent compensation issue.

The owners say it must be changed to give them a player of major-league calibre or a potential star from the minors rather than the amateur draft pick they now get after losing a free agent.

The association, however, hasn't budged a millimeter in this area.

An example of the owners' dilemma in the free agent area was presented Monday when outfielder Garry Maddox, one

SHOULD HAVE LOST

Even bad, Flyers good

By Canadian Press

Even on their bad nights, Philadelphia Flyers seem to win.

"We probably should have lost," Flyers' centre Bobby Clarke said after his team came from behind Tuesday night to beat Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 in a National Hockey League game in Pittsburgh.

"They had better scoring opportunities than we did."

Bob Dalley's long shot at 12:49 of the third period was the winning goal.

"That's the way it goes, I guess," Clarke said. "Everything's been going good for us, and they're struggling a little bit."

In the only other game, New York Islanders' Bryan Trottier had four assists, including one on Mike Bossy's 41st goal of the season, as the Islanders downed Colorado Rockies 4-1.

The game marked the New York debut of centre Butch Goring. The St. Boniface, Man., native was obtained by the Islanders the previous night from Los Angeles Kings in exchange for right winger Billy Harris and defenceman Dave Lewis. It was one of several trades made as the league's trading deadline closed in at noon Tuesday.

Pittsburgh coach Johnny Wilson lamented his club's sloppy play in its own zone.

"We made some mistakes defensively and they probably cost us the game."

After taking a 1-0 lead early in the first period on a goal by former Flyer Orest Kindrachuk, the Penguins failed to score while surrendering three goals. Rookie Brian Propp tied the score late in the first period and the Flyers went ahead on second-period goals by Reggie Leach and Al Hill. It was Leach's 44th of the season and the 300th goal of his NHL career.

The Penguins cut the lead to one when George Ferguson scored in the third period. After Dalley's goal, Ferguson scored again but Flyers' goaltender Pete Peeters turned back a last-minute flurry of shots.

The Penguins, who have been having problems with their goaltending lately, started rookie Nick Ricci, 20, for the second game in a row since being summoned from the minors.

"It's going to take me a few games to get on the right track," said Ricci, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont. "I still have a lot to learn."

In Uniondale, N.Y., Anders Kallur, Bob Bourne and Bob Lorimer also scored for the Islanders. Bobby Schumatz's goal with little more than four minutes remaining spoiled Glenn Resch's shutout bid.

Goring, who'd spent 10 seasons on the West Coast, found out he'd been traded late Monday in Montreal after the Kings had taken a 6-3 beating from the Canadiens.

Goring has 20 goals and 49 assists and coach Al Arbour said he's hoping the scrappy veteran can take some of the

pressure off centre Trottier's productive line.

Meanwhile, Edmonton Oilers acquired right winger Don Murdoch from New York Rangers for right winger Cam Connor and goal tender Ron Low from Quebec Nordiques.

Today's game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and St. Louis Blues will be televised at 5 p.m. on BCTV (channel 12, cable 11).

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EXHIBITION HOCKEY
Jr. Spruce Kings (1st Place) vs Quesnel Millionaires (2nd Place)



TONIGHT 8:30 P.M. COLISEUM

Joe Bodnar and his daughter Joanne of Dawson Creek stand beside the 1980 Blazer he won in the Spruce King's Raffle. His ticket 3027 was drawn at the Spruce Kings game March 5 at the Coliseum.

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