

After Brian was relieved of his duties, Dave Nonis was the runner-up as a replacement. He was hired on January 9, 2013. I believe that Nonis should have never been offered the job because he has never managed in a hockey-crazed atmosphere. The only benefit I will give him is the fact that he has been Burke's right hand man and could have learned a few things from him. The Maple Leafs are the center of attention lately, for all the wrong reasons. An Original Six franchise that has repeatedly failed to make the playoffs over the last decade had just acquired an inexperienced shadow walker. When you break down his run as GM of the Canucks and the Leafs, both times he was handed a playoff destined team that Burke had already molded. So what makes Dave Nonis so bad? Maybe it's the fact that he has a knack for signing players to overpriced, multi-year deals. Signing David Clarkson to a 7 year deal worth \$5.25 million per year is one example. This deal hurts the most because David was coming off his best season with the New Jersey Devils before Nonis had signed him with the hopes he would continue the trend... but that never happened. He went from scoring thirty goals a season to five. I blame Dave Nonis for this signing because he put Clarkson in a role that he wasn't accustomed to.

Kyle Dubas, 28, is currently the Assistant General Manager of Toronto. I think he would be a great candidate to replace Dave Nonis because he is young, and already had success with the OHL's Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. At the age of 11, he was the stick boy for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, and by the age of 14 he was the hockey operations assistant. He dipped his toes in scouting while he was attending university for sports management to later become the GM. To me, this is one heck of a dedicated man. The real characteristic that stands out to me is his tick for stats-analysis. Why? Because computers never lie, that's why. Billy Beane, the GM of MLB's Oakland Athletics, was highly criticized when he and his assistant created a team built strictly off stats. The A's ended up 24th out of 30 in team salary, while finishing the season with the fifth best record. Not to mention the Athletics were the first team in a century to win 20 consecutive games the same season. We can just hope that Dubas is capable of recreating



that type of a scenario. The only way to tell is to wait and see, but just for the sake of reassurance, within three years he brought the Greyhounds from the bottom of the OHL's West Division to the top.

The disappointment of giving up on Brian Burke and hiring the incompetent Dave Nonis both left me questioning the intelligence of upper management, but Dubas offers some light at the end of the tunnel. Brian Burke is currently employed with the Calgary Flames, and Phil Kessel has become one of the league's top scorers since the controversy of being an American, playing for a Canadian-Proud franchise. Although the Leafs are still one of the leagues laughing stocks, I will always be there through the thick and thin. It has been a bumpy ten years being a fan of Toronto. I will not be "that guy" at the game and throw my favorite jersey over the glass, but I do have the ability to point fingers, curse at the television screen, and shake my head at the unrealistic trade that never happened. Eventually I will witness the Toronto Maple Leafs win a Stanley Cup—even if I have to watch it from 1967.