

Salary cap makes sense for the NHL

Bruins owner says cap will be in place in next bargaining agreement

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs, breaking years of silence for the sake of a charity fund-raiser, vowed Friday that the NHL will have a salary cap in its next collective bargaining agreement.

"The commissioner is dedicated to cost-certainty when it comes to the labour agreement," Jacobs said at a "Breakfast with the Bosses" featuring Boston's four professional sports owners. "There will be cost-certainty."

Owners sought a salary cap in the last negotiations before an agreement was reached without one, ending the lockout that wiped out almost half of the 1994-95 regular season. Since then, three teams have moved and three others have declared bankruptcy, though in at least two cases the financial problems went far beyond salary costs.

The labour contract expires after next season, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has said he wants a salary cap in the next one. Officials from the NHL Players Association could not be reached for comment, but the union has always maintained that the market should set salaries.

A resident of Buffalo, N.Y., Jacobs is so rarely seen or heard from publicly in Boston that his appearance at the breakfast was itself news. Although he is said to attend many Bruins games, he sits in a luxury box and rarely, if ever, mingles among the fans; his last media interview is believed to have been more than three years ago.

Friday's event was broadcast on television and radio as part of the WEEI-AM radiothon to raise money for the Jimmy Fund, which serves children with cancer. The event raised more than \$550,000 US by the evening.

Jacobs was quickly asked about the perception that he cares more about milking money from the team than winning.

"Boston makes money, and it will continue to make money. When I say it makes money, it doesn't lose a lot, is a better way to put it," Jacobs said during a panel discussion with Celtics owner Wyc Grousbeck, Red Sox owner John Henry and Patriots owner Bob Kraft.

"We've got teams that are losing 20 or 30 million dollars a year. These guys are close to going out of business. If we don't have a healthy league, we don't have a healthy team. So it's up to guys like us, in Boston, who have it good, to be able to help bootstrap up this entire league."



Salary Cap



Peter Beermann from Calgary brings down his draw in 5.7 seconds in the steer wrestling event of the Whoop-Up Days Pro Rodeo Friday night in front of a large crowd at the Exhibition Grandstand.

Where's your jeans and hat, cowboy?

Losing complete control is something that could get you into a lot of trouble on a pro rodeo circuit. And that is what happened almost immediately after I nestled my left foot in the stirrup and mounted an unknown horse.

"Sometimes it is good to know the horse you're on, but sometimes it's best not to know at all," said Troy Tattrie, a Youngstown cowboy taking part in the annual Whoop Up Days Pro Rodeo at Lethbridge Exhibition Park. "When they first start out they're unpredictable, but once they establish themselves they become easy to read. But an animal is an animal. You never know what might happen."

Words of encouragement and support they were not for this city kid who was taking in his first rodeo.

As I slid up the side of this beautiful, yet terrifying, animal I recalled what the security guard mumbled to me as I strolled into the infield at Lethbridge Exhibition Park rodeo grounds.

It went something like, "Be careful in there."

"It's something anyone can do," explained Bill Melaney, a Carolina cowboy competing in the tie down roping event.

"It's a matter of getting the right coach and the right experience to get you through. Trying to do it on your own will open the door for a lot of mistakes - and some of them can be quite costly and painful."

My first mistake wasn't painful, but rather messy. A tip to all first-time rodeo goers: watch where you step, especially if you're wearing open-toed sandals.

"You always get a few scars and bumps and bruises. That comes from learning the ropes," Melaney said.

"You're dressed wrong to be at the rodeo," blurted one unknown cowboy from across the dirt track. "Where's your jeans and hat?"

We all know cowboys have a unique style all their own. The

flashy shirts, the flamboyant belt buckles, the tight-fittin' jeans and cowboy boots do anything but deter the women from rocking around the entrance gates to the infield. Is there any truth to the rumour about the infatuation women have with cowboys?

"There's just something about a guy in jeans and a hat that make your knees weak," said rodeo spectator Michelle Decelles. "This is where you find a real man."

Holding the title of only single guy in the Lethbridge Herald newsroom made me rethink my choice to never be a rodeo participant.

"When I was younger I used to notice (the girls) a lot more," Melaney said. "I'm married now so I don't pay much attention to that anymore. It's like any other sport. You get your puck bunnies in hockey and we get those types of ladies out here watching us."

The fairest one of them all was Shannon McCarthy, Miss Rodeo Canada 2003.

"The money is really good, which is one of the lures on the side," noted Tattrie, who has earned over \$70,000 in his short five-year rodeo career. "But you throw a loonie in the pot and I think everyone here will go at it just the same."

As I nervously sat atop my horse, I remembered what was told to me as the proper way to ride a horse bareback.

"A lot of the pressure is on your feet," Tattrie said, as he demonstrated by turning his feet outward around the horse's shoulders. "It's not all arm strength. Once the horse comes up you want to get your feet back toward the ground or closest to his shoulders before his feet hit the ground, otherwise you get thrown forward."

Most successful bareback riders resemble horse jockeys in terms of physical size. You want to be in the neighbourhood of five-foot-five or five-foot-six to have any hopes of hanging on this wild ride — the wildest one at Whoop Up Days. But it's not about being reckless and wild. Tattrie said you have to maintain some sort of control.

"If things are going wild for me I'm probably on the ground looking up at the horse going wild on top of me."

"I don't know if I breathe when I'm up there," he said. "I've first one hundred or so horses you ride it's the longest eight seconds of your life. But the more you get on, the easier it comes."

Maybe so, but this reporter plans to stay on the ground tonight, the final night of the Pro Rodeo at Whoop Up Days.



Craig SLATER
Herald Staff

Leafs re-sign McCabe

By The Canadian Press

The Toronto Maple Leafs re-signed restricted free agent Bryan McCabe to a one-year deal on Friday.

Terms weren't released but the Leafs were reportedly prepared to pay \$3 million. The 28-year-old defenceman earned \$2.85-million last season.

In 75 games for Toronto last season, McCabe recorded six goals and 18 assists with 135 penalty minutes.

The native of St. Catharines, Ont., has played eight NHL seasons with the New York Islanders, Vancouver Canucks, Chicago Blackhawks and Leafs. In 633 career NHL games he has 60 goals and 157 assists with 1,176 penalty minutes.

The Leafs are still negotiating with Nik Antropov and Karel Pilar on contracts. But Pilar will miss the team's training camp in Sweden due to a "recurring medical problem", the team said Friday.

Training camp opens Sept. 12.

Florida has revenge on its mind at LLWS

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — R.J. Neal hasn't forgotten the last time his Boynton Beach, Fla., team faced the team from Saugus, Mass.

"Massachusetts beat us," Neal said of teams' meeting Monday night in pool play.

Saugus (4-0) and Boynton Beach (3-1) will meet again Saturday night in the U.S. championship at the Little League World Series in the second of two rematches. In the international championship, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, plays Tokyo.

Saugus jumped out to an early lead in their first game against Boynton Beach, then held on for a 4-3 win. Jason Kasabuski (1-0) gave up three hits to a Boynton Beach team that is batting .297 in the series and outscoring their opponents 22-8.

"He threw his pitches in the right location, knew when to throw his curveball and when not to throw it," Neal said.

But Saugus can't pitch Michael Scuzzarella or Matthew Muldoon. Both pitched in the U.S. semifinal win against Richmond, Texas. Little League rules bar players from pitching more than a single inning in consecutive games.

That means Boynton Beach will see Kasabuski again. "We're going to face the same guy, and that's one advantage because we've already seen him," Boynton Beach coach Joe Irene said.

Boynton Beach hasn't determined its starter, but it won't be ace Michael Broad, who threw in the semifinal. Boynton Beach didn't start Broad in the teams' first game because it was the final game of pool play, and both had secured spots in the semifinals.

In the international game, Curacao (3-1) needs to find some way to beat a Tokyo (4-0) team that has hardly been challenged in the series.

Tokyo has hit as many home runs — eight — as the other three semifinalists combined. They're batting .366, with five batters at .500 or better, and have outscored opponents 35-2 in four games.

Curacao scored one of those runs in a 4-1 loss on the opening night of the series when pitcher Tharick Martines limited Japan to its lowest output of the series.

But Martines, who pitched in the semifinals against Venezuela, won't be on the mound Saturday night. Coach Michelangelo Celestina said he had not decided who would start.

Royals play leapfrog with Twins in AL Central

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Darrell May pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Kansas City threw out two runners at home and the Royals evened an important intra-division series with a 3-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.



Joe Randa went 2-for-4 with an RBI for Kansas City, which ended a four-game losing streak.

After losing 4-3 on Thursday and falling into third place for the first time all season, the Royals again took an early lead — and hung onto this one in front of a crowd of 36,101, the fourth-largest in the Metrodome this year.

Brent Mayne and Raul Ibanez also drove in runs for Kansas City, which passed the Twins in the AL Central race. The Chicago White Sox lead the Royals by one game and the Twins by a game and a half.

Shannon Stewart went 3-for-4 and Jacque Jones had two hits and scored twice for the Twins, who are 7-10 against the Royals this year despite outscoring them 101-80.

May (7-6), who beat the Twins last Sunday, is responsible for Kansas City's only two quality starts in their last eight games.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 3

At Toronto, Roy Halladay won his AL-leading 17th game as the Blue Jays beat Barry Zito and Oakland.

Red Sox 6, Mariners 4

At Boston, Jeff Suppan allowed two runs over 6 2-3 innings and Manny Ramirez homered for the second straight game to lead the Red Sox over Seattle.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3

At New York, Pat Lintgen pitched into the eighth inning, and Brook Fordyce homered and drove in two runs as Baltimore ended the Yankees' seven-game winning streak.

White Sox 7, Rangers 1

At Chicago, Jose Valentin hit two homers and Frank Thomas and Carl Everett hit one each as the White Sox won their fifth straight, beating Texas.

Phillies 9, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Jim Thome punished St. Louis Cardinals pitching again with two home runs, and the Philadelphia Phillies ended Albert Pujols' 30-game hitting streak.

Reds 4, Astros 3

At Houston, Juan Castro hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning as Cincinnati beat the Houston Astros 4-3 Friday night and snapped Wade Miller's six-game winning streak against the Reds.

Braves 9, Rockies 3

At Denver, Chipper Jones homered and drove in five runs, Greg Maddux pitched six solid innings and the Atlanta Braves snapped a three-game losing streak with a 9-3 win over the Colorado Rockies.

Lethbridge Hurricanes Hockey Club

The 17th Annual **General Meeting of Shareholders** will take place **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2003** at 7:00 p.m. at the **Lethbridge Heritage Centre** formerly Bill Kergan Centre, 207 - 13th Street North, Leth., AB in the Multi-Purpose Room

Nominations for the election of Directors are available at the Lethbridge Hurricanes Office

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