



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • Aug. 4, 2017

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### At arena board, some hope for better days as sale of the Hurricanes proceeds ... slowly

BY LUKE DECOCK

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AUGUST 03, 2017 5:18 PM

RALEIGH

The Centennial Authority met Thursday afternoon in the same PNC Arena conference room Chuck Greenberg has been using to meet with current and potential investors in the Carolina Hurricanes, and the words “Chuck Greenberg” were never mentioned once.

For the moment, even in this very important room underneath the arena, the sale remains merely a whisper.

It’s a slightly curious situation for the governing board that oversees the arena, since it must plan for the future of PNC without knowing who is going to own one of its two primary tenants, as Greenberg continues his due diligence on his prospective purchase of the Hurricanes while current owner Peter Karmanos publicly pressed him this week to solidify his ownership group and hurry things up before he says “sayonara” and goes looking for even more money than the \$500 million that has been reported as the purchase price. (After all, it only took seven years to get a buyer this far; why not start over and hold out for a cool billion?)

Greenberg’s style, wherever he has taken over sports teams, has been to push through a bunch of facility improvements to immediately upgrade the fan experience. To do that at PNC Arena if he buys the Hurricanes, those will need to run through the Centennial Authority, which controls the building. The authority will also have to approve the transfer of the arena lease from the Hurricanes’ management group to any new owner.

So far, none of the key players on the authority – executive director Jeff Merritt, chairman Tom McCormick and former chairman Steve Stroud – have met Greenberg. The potential owner is expected back in Raleigh next week to continue his inspection of the team and the market, although it’s certainly a gray area whether he’s at liberty to speak with the authority at this delicate point in the negotiations.

“I think we’ll get a good owner out of this,” Stroud said afterward. “From what I’ve seen, I like Chuck Greenberg. I have not met him, have not spoken with him, but he seems to have a passion and a history. If he can put the ownership group that he envisions (together), I think it’ll be good. What

he’s asking for is more local involvement, which I think is a good thing. And I think he’s going to get it.

“I hear some very positive things from people that are meeting with him and talking with him. I’m very thankful that Peter Karmanos has been such an outstanding part of our community and wish him luck on bringing the right ownership group to take his place.”

The authority and the Hurricanes already have preliminary plans for major renovations to the arena, building new office space for the team at the north end of the arena while converting the current south-end offices into an entertainment district with bars and restaurants and other fan amenities. Those plans were not discussed Thursday and appear to be on hold for the moment.

The authority did hear a report from consultant Venue Solutions Group about the current state of the arena – aesthetically, structurally and mechanically – which indicated that while the 18-year-old arena remains in good shape in many areas, it’s going to need expensive work on its roof, ice plant and main kitchen soon. It’s possible such major repairs could potentially conflict with any upgrades Greenberg would like to make, even if his group intends to pay for them itself.

These are all issues yet to be resolved with the sale, although there are clearly more pressing issues for Greenberg to address – especially with Karmanos demanding progress, and threatening to pull the deal if he doesn’t see any.

“Sooner or later I have some other friends that are very well off that we could put together to keep the team going forward and solve my particular problem,” Karmanos said this week, which raises the question of why he didn’t just go ahead and do that years ago.

But nine-figure deals like this are complicated, and Greenberg continues to go through his process. Even if all goes well, it’s unlikely the deal would close until October at the earliest. Still, by the time the Centennial Authority next meets on Oct. 5, Greenberg could be its primary topic of discussion.



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## Canes add to medical, analytics, communications staffs

*From staff reports*

AUGUST 03, 2017 6:50 PM

The Carolina Hurricanes announced Thursday they have added personnel to their medical, analytics and communications staffs.

The new additions:

**Tristan Simmons, Massage Therapist:** Simmons has gained experience over the past four seasons with the Ottawa Senators, assisting the team's massage therapist during training camps. Simmons has also worked for the Ottawa RedBlacks of the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the Ottawa Fury of the North American Soccer League (NASL).

**Kevin Kan, Data Engineer:** Kan is the creator of the [datarink.com](http://datarink.com), a public hockey database featuring hockey data visualizations. He earned his bachelor of applied science (BASc) and masters of applied science (MASc) in industrial engineering from the University of Toronto, where he studied information systems design and human factors.

**Pace Sagester, Manager of Communications and Team Services:** Sagester spent the past four seasons as manager of media relations for the Washington Capitals. Prior to

joining the Capitals, he spent two years in the communications department for the Hurricanes, first as an intern and then as the team's media relations coordinator.

**Kirsten Brierley, Communications and Hockey Operations Assistant:** Brierley moves into a full-time role for the Hurricanes after serving as media relations coordinator in 2016-17. Prior to joining the Hurricanes, she spent one season as media relations assistant for the Tampa Bay Lightning, and gained experience with the NCAA at the 2015 Women's Final Four and the 2016 Frozen Four.

**Bryn-Marc Conaway, Charlotte Checkers Head Athletic Trainer:** Conaway was promoted to head athletic trainer for the Hurricanes' American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate after serving as the team's strength and conditioning coach in 2016-17.

**Ryan Wysocki, Charlotte Checkers Strength and Conditioning Coach:** Wysocki has spent the past three years working with professional and collegiate athletes at Mike Boyle Strength & Conditioning in Massachusetts.



## Pesce Inks Long-Term Extension with Canes

Canes add to banner offseason by securing another crucial piece

by Michael Smith [@MSmithCanes](mailto:@MSmithCanes) / [CarolinaHurricanes.com](http://CarolinaHurricanes.com)

August 3rd, 2017

By the time the calendar flips to August, the National Hockey League offseason has slowed quite a bit.

But behind the scenes, the Carolina Hurricanes were diligently working to ink another one of their young, talented defensemen to a long-term contract extension, a process that had been ongoing for about a month.

On Tuesday, it was announced that the Canes had agreed to terms with [Brett Pesce](#) on a six-year extension that pays the blue-liner \$4.025 million per season.

"I know how much faith the organization has put in me with this deal," Pesce said on a Wednesday conference call. "I know that now is the time to get even better and work even harder to elevate my game."

Pesce, 22, comprised one half of one of the league's top defensive pairs last season. Alongside [Jacob Slavin](#) - who received a seven-year contract extension not even a month ago - the two each posted a plus-23 rating, a team-best mark and the fourth-best rating in franchise history. In his second full professional season, Pesce was one of six skaters to play in all 82 games and also set career highs in assists (18) and points (20).

"I always hope and strive for the best. When it happens, it's pretty surreal," Pesce said. "I have a lot to be thankful for, starting with my family. I've got a great support system that helped me to get here."

In the room and off the ice, Pesce is just as close with Slavin and his fellow defensemen, all of whom are around the same age and have essentially developed together in the league.

"I think it's awesome and rare that our group of defensemen, we're all so close," he said. "I think it just goes a long way to come into the league together - me, him and Noah - and grow as people and hockey players. That builds our chemistry off the ice."

And with a pair of long-term extensions doled out this summer, the Hurricanes have made significant progress in solidifying the future of a defensive corps that is only going to continue to mature and improve.

"I love Raleigh, honestly. I consider it home now. I love the team. Management is great to me," Pesce said. "I really don't have anything bad to say, and that's why it was a no-brainer when we were talking six years for me."



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A native of Tarrytown, NY, Pesce was selected by the Hurricanes in the third round (66th overall) of the 2013 NHL Draft. Pesce turned pro after completing his junior season at the University of New Hampshire, where he was teammates with [Trevor van Riemsdyk](#) from 2012-14.

"He's just another good skating defenseman," Pesce said of the Canes' newest defenseman. "He's a really good player. Very smart and great in the D-zone. He can join the rush and contribute offensively, so I think he fits perfectly into our system."

Looking inward, Pesce has turned his offseason attention in the direction of his offensive abilities, specifically his shot and making that more of a weapon from the blue line.

"I've been hitting that pretty hard," Pesce said. "And my overall strength. You can always get stronger. It's what you use the offseasons for."

The Hurricanes' offseason has garnered rave reviews around the NHL media landscape, something that was [well documented by Mike Sundheim](#). And as he notes, it's not just media folk that are bullish on the Canes - it's the players themselves, too.

Pesce shared the same sentiment.

"We made the moves to be a playoff team, for sure," he said. "I think anything below that is an underachievement. It's a really exciting time, and I'm excited to be a part of it."



## Hurricanes Prove Pesce Part of Long-Term Plan

AUGUST 3RD, 2017

[MARK SHIVER](#)

On Tuesday, the Carolina Hurricanes proved that defenseman Brett Pesce is part of their long-term plan. Pesce and the team [agreed to a six-year extension that will pay him \\$4.025 million per season starting in 2018-19](#).

For those who were wondering if he would get an extension when his defensive linemate, Jaccob Slavin, did a few weeks ago, the question has been answered. The Hurricanes see value in Pesce, and have proven it with a lengthy contract and excellent compensation.

Pesce said that negotiations had been going on for about a month and that he is excited to have the deal done. "Obviously, I always try to hope and strive for the best," Pesce said via teleconference with the media on Wednesday. "It's pretty surreal. I have a lot to be thankful for."

**Pesce Earned a Long-Term Deal**

Along with linemate, Slavin, Pesce has steadily improved and earned his spot. In the team's press release regarding the contract, Francis said:

*Brett took another big step forward last season. He plays a smart defensive game and has good ability to move the puck and contribute offensively. We plan for him to be a part of the Hurricanes' defensive corps for a long time.*

In other words, Pesce has earned this contract extension. Anyone objectively assessing the Hurricanes would agree. After playing just three games in the 2015-16 season with the team's AHL Charlotte Checkers, Pesce was called up to the NHL when James Wisniewski sustained a knee injury and has never looked back.

Sometimes the remarkable amount of youth on the Hurricanes' squad is focused on players like Sebastian Aho, 20 and Noah Hanifin, also 20. But, Pesce is only 22, and has already played two full seasons in the NHL.

He played in all 82 games in 2016-17, and according to the team's statement: "Along with his defensive partner Jaccob Slavin, posted a franchise single-season best plus-23 plus/minus rating. Pesce and Slavin finished the 2016-17 season ranked tied for 10<sup>th</sup> among all NHL skaters in plus/minus."



[Jaccob Slavin](#)

Congrats Pesce! Can't wait for 7 more seasons together! [brettpesce22 @ PNC Arena](#) <https://www.instagram.com/p/BXRNWxtDkhr/>  
7:02 PM - Aug 1, 2017

While plus/minus as a statistic has its adherents and its detractors, the bottom line is that Pesce and Slavin play very well together, and Francis extending both of their contracts in the past month is a plus for the team.

**Pesce, Slavin and Francis at His Best**

Just a couple of weeks ago Francis nailed down the first half of this dynamic defensive duo. The team and Slavin came to terms on [a seven-year contract extension that will begin during the 2018-19 season](#) and has an average annual value of \$5.3 million. That is a little over \$9 million per year between the pair of Pesce and Slavin. When the contract of



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Justin Faulk is added to the mix with his \$4.83 million, the 'Canes have three top defenders under contract under \$15 million per year.

Pesce also said Wednesday, "Everyone knows how much chemistry me and Jaccob had last year. Hopefully we'll continue to keep building on that and grow together, obviously if we get the opportunity to play again which I'm hoping we will."

The solidifying of the back end for the team, at what can be argued is a reasonable price, puts the team in a good position to continue to build for now and for the future. The almost chess-like moves that Francis is making, locking in good players without breaking the bank, speaks to the thoughtfulness and preparation for negotiations.

In an article posted Wednesday, Jared Clinton of The Hockey News says Francis has delivered another masterstroke.

*At the rate Pesce and Slavin are developing, both stand to be in their prime in, say, three years' time. On shorter-term contracts, that would mean both are due big-money deals, if they hadn't signed them already. But by handing the two defensemen those contracts earlier in their careers when they're only starting their breakout keeps the cap hit down.*

There are other contracts that will need attention over the next two years. The Hurricanes current roster will have four unrestricted free agents and five restricted free agents in 2018-19, and three of each the following season. Francis is

being prudent but fair as he negotiates these contract extensions, fully aware that he will need cap room the next two years.

Francis is building, and the foundation he is laying appears to be solid and one that will likely get better over time. Whatever the status of the sale of the team to Chuck Greenburg, ownership has to be pleased with the way Francis is going about his business. As the season approaches, we'll see if the team can live up to expectations that continue to rise.



**Michael Smith** @MSmithCanes

Brett Pesce: "We made the moves to be a playoff team, for sure. Anything below that is an underachievement." #Canes  
[1:09 PM - Aug 2, 2017](#)

Pesce said Wednesday, "I love Raleigh, honestly. I consider it home now. I love the team. Management is great too me. I really don't anything bad to say. That's why it was a no-brainer when we were talking six-years for me."

Signing Pesce to a multi-year extension was a no-brainer for the Hurricanes, as was signing Slavin. The pair is already playing well, and their room for growth and improvement is expansive. For Francis and the team, this was an excellent move and one that will very likely pay huge dividends for the team, possibly as soon as this upcoming season.

## TODAY'S LINKS

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<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/brett-pesce-inks-long-term-extension-with-hurricanes/c-290579980>

<http://thehockeywriters.com/carolina-hurricanes-sign-brett-pesce-long-term-deal/>



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## SportScan

Articles from outlets covering the Hurricanes' upcoming opponents and league-wide news

1071977 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Canucks' Gagner, Del Zotto back together and ready to surprise

Ryan Dixon

August 3, 2017, 11:34 AM

They're nearly the same age, have played together before, signed very similar contracts this summer and can't wait to start a new career phase with the Vancouver Canucks.

And when they're talking to each other, which happens pretty often, Michael Del Zotto and Sam Gagner can easily find even more common ground.

"We've both been through some ups and downs," Del Zotto said.

Down has become a familiar place for the Canucks the past couple years, as the once-mighty club tries to redefine itself while eschewing a full-scale teardown. As part of the push to improve, Vancouver snapped up both Gagner and Del Zotto as soon as it was officially able to do so on July 1, inking Gagner to a three-year deal worth \$3.15 million annually, while Del Zotto agreed to \$3 million per season for the next two years.

"It's exciting," said Gagner, who is in Toronto this week with Del Zotto as part of the Power Edge Pro Hockey skills camp. "We've got a group that can surprise some people. We've just got to come to camp ready and hopefully get off to a good start and go from there."

Gagner, who turns 28 next week, is already off to a solid beginning of sorts just by virtue of knowing where he'll be come September. Last summer, Gagner went the entire month of July twisting in the wind before signing a one-year deal with the Columbus Blue Jackets worth \$650,000 on Aug. 1. That barely above-the-minimum salary represented an enormous pay cut and came on the heels of a miserable season in Philadelphia, where Gagner struggled to stay in the lineup on a team that also featured Del Zotto enduring challenges of his own.

In Columbus, Gagner found new life thanks largely to the opportunity he received on the man advantage. Though he averaged fourth-line minutes with 13:43 of nightly ice time, Gagner was always part of the first trio over the boards as soon as the Blue Jackets went on the power play, producing 18 of his 50 points in that situation. Overall, his 2.70 points per 60 minutes paced the Blue Jackets and demonstrated an ability to succeed in all situations despite limited 5-on-5 exposure.

"I got a chance to play in an offensive role," said Gagner, who was drafted sixth overall by the Edmonton Oilers in 2007. "Even at even strength, I was playing with offensive players and then on the power play, being on that first unit and getting a chance to play some really important minutes. When you get that added responsibility, it really gets you excited."

"Hopefully, in Vancouver, I'll get a chance to play some important 5-on-5 minutes along with the power play and help the team get to another level."

Del Zotto, a 20th-overall selection by the New York Rangers in 2008, would also like to see more of the ice this upcoming season than in years past. A mix of injuries and a few healthy scratches limited Del Zotto, who turned 27 on June 24, to just 51 games with the Flyers last season. In fact, the offence-minded blue-liner hasn't missed fewer than 15 games in a season since the lockout-shortened 2012-13 campaign.

Del Zotto, who had a 37-point season as a 19-year-old rookie with the Rangers in 2009-10 and put up 41 points two years later for the Blueshirts, says his lay-it-on-the-line style can sometimes leave him prone to injury. With his ninth NHL campaign on the horizon, he's trying to keep the tank topped up.

"A big thing I've been working on, more rest and treatment this off-season, not trying to push myself too much so I can last a little bit longer in the season," he said.

If that means he, along with Gagner, can be at their best, this season might feel a touch shorter than recent ones for Canucks fans.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 08.04.2017

1071978 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / IOC's Dick Pound rips NHL for its Olympics decision in op-ed column

Mike Johnston

August 3, 2017, 5:56 PM

International Olympic Committee senior member Dick Pound is the latest to chime in on the NHL's decision to skip the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.

Pound was critical of the NHL in a special Montreal Gazette op-ed column posted Thursday.

In it, Pound laid out the reasons why he feels it's a mistake on the NHL's part to skip the Games. During negotiations, the NHL expressed interest in being compensated monetarily for sending its players overseas. While Pound understands their point of view, he added that he believes the NHL has a responsibility to help grow the game of hockey internationally—the Olympics being the perfect opportunity to do so.

"It is not sufficient for the NHL to be content with plucking the low-hanging financial fruit, but to fail to invest in the future of the game," he wrote. "The second issue is the NHL's decision to actively prohibit individual players, who want to represent their countries at the Olympic Games, from doing so."

"Aside from being heavy-handed and an abuse of its economic power, it is disrespectful to the rights and dreams of those players."

Alex Ovechkin has said he plans on getting permission to represent Russia at the Games and Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis said back in December he would support his superstar. It's unclear at this time whether or not the NHL would intervene or what exactly would happen if, hypothetically, an owner gave a player the green light to leave his NHL team for two weeks to participate in the Olympics.

Pound also thinks—as many do—that since the decision didn't sit well with many players it could result in more difficult negotiations next time the league and the NHLPA have to come to terms on a new CBA.

"While I can see that it might be legitimate to try to discourage such participation, I believe it is (among other things) bad business to forbid or prevent such individual choices," Pound said. "Again, one does not have to be much of a prophet to predict that the NHL Players' Association will exact a significant price for the NHL's intransigence regarding the players when the next collective bargaining agreement discussions begin. That, too, is bad business for the NHL—all of its own making."

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1071979 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / The great past and uncertain future of the J.P. Bickell Memorial Cup

Mike Commito

August 3, 2017, 11:46 AM

It is one of hockey's most mysterious trophies.

The J.P. Bickell Memorial Cup can only be won by employees of the Toronto Maple Leafs. And although some have likened it to the Maple Leafs version of the Hart Trophy, unlike the award for the NHL's most valuable player, it is not awarded annually nor is it necessarily handed out for an MVP-calibre performance.

The Bickell – which dates back to 1953 – is awarded at the discretion of the Maple Leafs board of directors. When the Bickell was created, The



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Globe and Mail noted that, "there are no hard and fast rules to guide the board of directors in their voting except that only Toronto players qualify." As a result, while there may be no official criteria governing the award, it has been generally accepted that players could earn the Bickell for a singular feat, a season of superior play, or to recognize a distinguished period of service with the club.

Since 1953 just 19 different members of the organization have been recipients of the award. Some of whom, especially in the award's early years, are a who's who of franchise greats: Ted Kennedy was the inaugural winner; Dave Keon was the first Maple Leafs player to win it in consecutive years and the first to win via a unanimous vote, while Johnny Bower remains the only three-time winner.

But in recent years the Bickell has faded into obscurity (good luck finding even a photograph of it). It hasn't been awarded since 2003 and it's been nearly two decades since a player (Doug Gilmour in 1993) won the award.

### The History

Jack (J.P.) Bickell played a significant role in the early history of the Toronto Maple Leafs. He also happened to be one of the wealthiest people in Canada during his life. In 1907, at the age of 23, Bickell started a brokerage firm in Toronto. He later struck it rich in the gold mines of Timmins, ON, where he later became president of McIntyre Porcupine Mines, once one of Canada's most important mines.

When he wasn't stacking gold bars, Bickell maintained a keen interest in hockey. In 1924, when the Hambly brothers sold the Toronto St. Patricks, Bickell was one of the new owners. Three years later, when Conn Smythe purchased the St. Pats and renamed them the Maple Leafs, Bickell was integral in orchestrating the transaction and ensuring a smooth ownership transition.

With Smythe now at the helm, Bickell continued to be a driving force behind the Maple Leafs, including the construction of Maple Leaf Gardens. In words attributed to Smythe, repeated in The Globe and Mail after the magnate's death, Bickell was, "one of the corner stones of the whole thing; he was the man who put the thing over."

Building Maple Leaf Gardens was no small feat. Construction began during the depths of the Great Depression. Nevertheless, just seven months after the first bricks were laid, Toronto's hockey cathedral had opened, just in time for the start of the 1931-32 regular season.

For the next six years, Bickell served as president of the Gardens and remained chairman of the board for 11 years, serving as a director until his death in 1951.

To honour Bickell's contributions, Smythe—sparing no expense—commissioned a trophy to commemorate Bickell's legacy.

[pic.twitter.com/iIC1VSaDYt](https://pic.twitter.com/iIC1VSaDYt)

— Steve Baranowski (@StrayDog93) August 3, 2017

In a league with no shortage of beautiful trophies, the J.P. Bickell Memorial Cup might be its most extravagant. Made entirely of 14-karat gold, the Bickell sits atop a quartz base. After Smythe had it constructed by a Swedish firm in the early 1950s, it estimated to be worth \$10,000, leading The Globe and Mail to call it, one of "the most beautiful and expensive sports trophies in the world."

The award was handed out for four straight years beginning in 1953, but not again until 1959 when George Armstrong and Bob Pulford became the first players to share the distinction in a single year. During the 1960s, a period in which the Maple Leafs won four Stanley Cups, the Bickell was awarded nine times to six different players.

Then in 1972 Harold Ballard became the team's majority owner.

### Descent to obscurity

For the next two decades, the Bickell was moribund. And it's not as though there weren't any exceptional Maple Leafs throughout the 1970s. When Darryl Sittler set the NHL record with a 10-point game in 1976, he received a silver tea set for achieving the feat. He was never awarded the Bickell while a member of the Maple Leafs.

The Bickell's disappearance under Ballard could also be attributed to his battles with other Maple Leafs board members. In the late 1960s, the board had attempted to oust Ballard, but having survived and later

become principal owner, he sought to curtail the board's influence, which could have included their awarding of the Bickell.

During the 1970s the Bickell also faced some internal competition in the form of the new Molson Cup, which was to be awarded to players from Canadian teams who earned the most three-star honours throughout the regular season.

Even after Ballard's death in 1990, and the subsequent change in Maple Leafs' ownership, the Bickell remained largely dormant, with a few exceptions. According to Bob Stellick, former director of business operations and communications for the Maple Leafs, the trophy became part of a new tradition the post-Ballard owners wanted to instill as part of their efforts to repair relations with alumni.

Beginning in 1990, the Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens played an annual alumni game. As part of this friendly competition, the winning team would be awarded the Bickell Cup. But, for this competition the award would be renamed and given a new look.

After being hauled out of a safe in Maple Leaf Gardens, the Bickell was refitted with a marble base and renamed the King Clancy Trophy. When the alumni game shifted to Montreal in 1991, Stellick packed up the "Clancy" and carried it with him on the train.

Former captain Darryl Sittler was never awarded the Bickell while a member of the Maple Leafs. (Nathan Denette/CP)

Unbeknownst at the time to Stellick and most of the Maple Leafs brass, was just how valuable the "Clancy" was. It was only after new owner Steve Stavro demanded it be returned to Maple Leaf Gardens and restored at a jeweler, did they learn the trophy was worth upwards of \$80,000.

"I thought it was a nice trophy," recalled Stellick. "But I had no idea it was made out of solid gold. Here I am sticking it into a gym bag and putting it on a train."

With the Bickell now safely back at Maple Leaf Gardens, it was put on display in the building's trophy case.

Following the team's resurgent 1992-93 season, Doug Gilmour became the trophy's first recipient in 14 years. The following year there was some chatter about giving the Bickell to Wendel Clark following his trade to the Quebec Nordiques, but it never came to pass.

According to former Maple Leafs general manager Gord Stellick, there was an idea to present it to Clark when he visited Toronto with his new team the following season but due to the 1994-95 lockout-shortened season, the two clubs didn't meet and the idea was never revisited.

Since 1993 the award has been handed out just three times with Pat Quinn winning it last in 2003.

### An uncertain future

With the exceptional play of the Maple Leafs rookies in 2016-17, an argument could have been made for awarding the Bickell to Auston Matthews. Mike Babcock's performance behind the Maple Leafs bench was also worthy of consideration but it remains unclear if the Maple Leafs intend to start awarding the Bickell again.

Members of the organization's front office declined to comment for this story.

For now, the trophy sits securely somewhere in the Air Canada Centre, but in place not accessible to the public.

Whether the next recipient turns out to be Auston Matthews, Mike Babcock or someone else, the Bickell should be rechristened as an important bridge between eras.

Awarding it again would not only pay homage to Bickell's important contributions to the franchise, but it would also acknowledge that for the first time in a while, the Maple Leafs have a team worth celebrating.

### J.P. Bickell Memorial Cup Recipients

Year	Recipient
1953	Ted Kennedy
1954	Harry Lumley
1955	Ted Kennedy



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1956 Tod Sloan  
1959 George Armstrong and Bob Pulford  
1960 Johnny Bower  
1961 Red Kelly  
1962 Dave Keon  
1963 Dave Keon  
1964 Johnny Bower  
1965 Johnny Bower  
1966 Allan Stanley  
1967 Terry Sawchuk  
1969 Tim Horton  
1971 Bobby Baun  
1972 King Clancy  
1979 Mike Palmateer  
1993 Doug Gilmour  
1995 Bob Davidson  
1999 Mats Sundin and Curtis Joseph  
2003 Pat Quinn

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 08.04.2017

1071980 Websites

TSN.CA / Canadian goalie duo ready for big stage

By Mark Masters

PLYMOUTH, Michigan – A Canadian hasn't been named top goalie at the World Juniors since 2008 when Steve Mason was tournament MVP. But there are two leading contenders to end that drought this year in Buffalo. Carter Hart helped Canada win the silver medal last year by handling home ice pressure very well. And then there's Michael DiPietro who starred in Windsor's Memorial Cup win last spring.

"It gives me momentum, but also gives me experience with pressure," DiPietro said, "and experience with playing against older players too. Obviously, the Memorial Cup you're playing against powerhouses in the CHL ... When you get on the bigger stages, I think that's really when you got to prove yourself and that's really when you can separate yourself from other people and other goalies."

Canadian goalies can handle the pressure: 'Don't let it consume you'

A Canadian hasn't been named top goalie at the World Juniors since 2008 when Steve Mason was tournament MVP. There are two leading contenders to end that drought this year in Buffalo. Carter Hart won silver last year handling the pressure on home ice very well and then there's Michael DiPietro who starred in Windsor's Memorial Cup win. Mark Masters has more.

DiPietro grew up in the Windsor, Ontario area cheering on the Spitfires so the chance to play for his hometown team in the Memorial Cup was incredibly special. And he came through in the clutch by posting a .932 save percentage to help the underdog Spitfires take home the title. What's the key to playing well under pressure?

"I think just not thinking," he explained. "Try to embrace pressure. Don't let it consume you. That's the way I approach it."

Even though DiPietro, a Canucks prospect, is 18 and lacks World Junior experience, TSN's director of scouting Craig Button believes he's got a legitimate chance of stealing the starting job from Hart.

Can DiPietro unseat Hart as Canada's starter?

The two leading candidates to start for Canada at the 2018 World Juniors are Flyers prospect Carter Hart and Canucks pick Michael DiPietro. As a returning player, Hart would appear to have the inside track to start on Boxing Day. But TSN director of scouting Craig Button believes that 18-year-old DiPietro has what it takes to challenge him for the job.

Hart's big advantage is he's been here before and he understands very well what it's like to represent Canada at the World Juniors.

"It was a big learning experience for me," said Hart, who posted a .906 save percentage in four games at last year's tournament. "I've never played in front of so many people like that so it was quite eye-opening. I know the first game when I played against Russia it was a sold-out crowd in Toronto. I've never experienced anything like that. I think after that game I sort of settled down, because I knew what to expect."

BROTHER KNOWS BEST

Brett Howden and David Quenneville have an extra edge at the World Junior Summer Showcase, because they have been able to lean on their older brothers for support and advice. Quinton Howden, a Panthers draft pick now in the Jets system, represented Canada at the World Juniors in 2011 and 2012 while John Quenneville, a Devils prospect, wore the Maple Leaf in 2016.

Brett Howden still remembers what it was like to be in the stands watching his sibling. What stood out the most? "The crowd, for sure. Obviously, the games were so much fun, but the crowd had so much to do with that. They were so impactful to the game and how well they played."

And as he watched his brother, who is six years older, Howden couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to one day play in the World Juniors himself.

"I was thinking that," he said. "I didn't know if it would come true or not. It was so far away back then. When I was younger, it seemed like it would be forever, but now it's right in front of me and I'm doing everything I can to be there."

It's not just the World Juniors - Howden leans on Quinton for advice on basically everything. "The reason why I am where I am today is because of him."

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As for Quenneville, he got a thrill from watching his brother score at the World Juniors even though it wasn't the prettiest goal.

"He didn't necessarily shoot it in," Quenneville said with a smile. "Mitch Manner kind of shot it in off his pants. He was in front screening the goalie. That was super special for me. Everyone at Christmas watches the World Juniors and having your big bro, who you look up to a lot, score a goal like that – it was a greasy goal, but they all count – was super special."

And just like Howden, Quenneville has been mesmerized by being in the crowd at a World Juniors game.

"It's the atmosphere," he said. "I remember watching the World Juniors a few years back in Edmonton and that was really special. I'm an Edmonton kid and I remember sitting behind the Canadian net and you see the Canadian flag getting passed around against the Americans on New Year's Eve and it's so special. You're in the moment and everyone's so excited to watch the game and so patriotic. Those kind of things are so special."

LILJEGREN'S LEARNING CURVE

A bout of mononucleosis early last season stunted Timothy Liljegen's development and robbed him of a chance to play at the World Juniors. Now, Toronto's first round pick at last June's draft is eager to make up for lost time. And so far the Swede believes he has performed well at the Summer Showcase, especially when it comes to puck management.

"I try to do the hard plays when they come to me instead of looking for the hard plays," he explained. "I think I've been improving on that this tournament."

"Timothy started off good," said Swedish head coach Tomas Montén. "I talked to him coming in here and told him he doesn't have a lot to prove and just to try and play his game. I think he can be an asset for us. Timothy's a skilled player and he's going to make skilled plays. He just can't force them and look for them all the time. He's got to make sure he



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plays 70 per cent as a defensive defenceman and everything is going to come."

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Liljegren was able to watch a bit of the World Juniors last year. What does he recall the most? How well defenceman Rasmus Dahlin played. "He's an exceptional talent," Liljegren said, "so fun to watch."

But Liljegren likely won't get the chance to play with the 2018 top draft prospect on Friday when Sweden takes on Canada, because the 17-year-old is dealing with an illness (fever).

**SWEDES RELY ON 'EYE OF THE PUCK'**

The battle at the face-off dot should be an intriguing one on Friday. The Swedes struggled in the circle during Wednesday's loss to the Americans and spent a good chunk of Thursday's practice working on draws.

"We really sucked at the face-offs last night," Montén said bluntly. "I think we were 1-for-11 in the first period. It's a little bit different here especially with how the players have to line up. Back home you can stand a little bit more twisted, but here you have to square up and that's been big trouble for our players."

The centres reviewed video of the top NHL face-off takers during the morning meeting. Then on the ice they reviewed video of their practice face-off attempts on an iPad. The video was shot on a GoPro attached to a puck held right above the dot. The design, a brainchild of the team's goalie coach Nizze Landen, has been dubbed "The Eye of the Puck."

"We used the camera just to see how the puck looks from above," Montén explained, "where it lands and where they get beaten and how their feet are moving."

The team usually uses the GoPro when working with goalies and forwards so they can see the exact angle of shots.

'We really sucked': Swedes use 'eye of the puck' to improve on face-offs

After a terrible night in the circle against Team USA, Team Sweden spent a good portion of Thursday's practice working on face-offs. And in order to show players where they can improve specifically, the team used a small camera attached to the puck and then showed them the video immediately on an iPad.

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY: Canada v Sweden, 1pm et (TSN Network) ... USA v Finland, 4pm et (TSN Network)

SATURDAY: Sweden v Finland, 4pm et on TSN3/5 ... USA v Canada, 11pm (tape delayed) on TSN3/5

Gord Miller and Craig Button will call the games with Tessa Bonhomme hosting the coverage.

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TSN.CA / Why Carolina's commitment to Darling makes sense

By Travis Yost

It's hard to think of many players with a more interesting jump to the National Hockey League than Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Scott Darling.

Darling, who turns 29 this December, didn't see NHL action until 2014-15. After spending two years at the University of Maine, Darling bounced around the Southern Professional Hockey League, ECHL and American Hockey League for years, and for good reason – his performances at lower tiers of professional competition were never particularly encouraging.

But something sure seemed to click a few years ago. Darling turned in some fantastic work for AHL Rockford in 2014-15, and then parlayed that into a sensational 14-game run for the Chicago Blackhawks. Since that

time Darling has looked every bit the part of a goaltender ready to compete for an NHL starting job.

He makes all of the sense of the world for a Hurricanes organization loaded with skating talent, but one that's also struggled on the goaltending front. Since 2012-13, the Hurricanes have stopped 90.3 per cent of shots across all situations – 28th best in the NHL and only 0.3 percentage points ahead of the Calgary Flames, who occupy the cellar over this interval.

So not only did the Hurricanes have the cap space to tender a four-year, \$16.6-million contract to a goalie with a strong but limited track record, they had an obvious need in terms of operational risk. The team has watched Cam Ward's performance slide as he has made his way through the aging curve, and they don't really have a ton of answers behind him. (Prior bets in names like Eddie Lack and Anton Khudobin haven't exactly yielded stellar results.)

One question that might come up as it relates to the Darling acquisition and signing is why Carolina made such a commitment to a goaltender with 75 games of NHL experience. And that's a fair thing to ask! It's not exactly commonplace for goalies with a limited top-level track record to ink multi-year deals worth 5 to 6 per cent of the NHL salary cap.

Here, it's worth emphasizing that calling Darling a player with 75 games of NHL experience might understate his actual talent level. Darling has been fantastic at stopping shots in those 75 games – to a degree that his peers are mostly well-established NHL starters.

To illustrate this, I pulled out both multi-year save percentages and quality start percentage (as calculated by HockeyReference – basically a way to show the percentage of games in which a goaltender met or exceeded the league average save percentage). I think Darling's placement on both fronts is pretty telling:

Embedded Image

There are a lot – and I mean a lot – of strong goalies who sit behind Darling here (including his former teammate Corey Crawford), and two of the three guys he's punching up at in Carey Price and Braden Holtby are perennial Vezina candidates. Perhaps a better way to hammer home this point: 50 goalies have at least 75 games played over the last three years, and 46 of them have a worse save percentage.

The quality start measurement tells a similar tale. There, Darling is second in the entire league with 62.5 per cent of his starts meeting or exceeding the league average stop rate, which even bests names like Price (60.7 per cent) and Henrik Lundqvist (60.6 per cent). The only goalie ahead of him, funny enough, is Corey Crawford (62.9 per cent).

I think the above helps paint a supportive story of Carolina's move here. There just aren't many guys who can truly "flake" into the upper echelon of goaltender performance. Although Darling's sample of games is limited, the company he's keeping is impressive. Even if you bake some degree of regression into Darling's expected save percentage over the next four seasons, you'd likely still endorse the idea of signing him on this exact contract.

To that end, it's hard not to like Carolina's position here. Darling might be good. He might be great. But he will almost certainly be an upgrade over the status quo. With a young and talented Hurricanes team looking to jump back into the playoffs, that's about all you can reasonably ask for.

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TSN.CA / Flames get goalie Lack from Hurricanes in multi-player deal

TSN.ca Staff

The Calgary Flames have acquired goaltender Eddie Lack, defenceman Ryan Murphy and a seventh-round draft pick in 2019 from the Carolina Hurricanes in exchange for defenceman Keegan Kanzig and a sixth-round pick in 2019.

CAR trades Eddie Lack, Ryan Murphy and 7th in 2019 to CGY for Keegan Kanzig and 6th in 2019. CAR retains 50 per cent salary on Lack.

— Bob McKenzie (@TSNBobMcKenzie) June 30, 2017

The Hurricanes will retain 50 per cent of the salary remaining on the final year of Lack's contract. Prior to the 2016-17 season, Lack signed a two-year, \$5.5 million deal. He carries a cap hit of \$2.75 million next season.



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The upshot is CGY gets a back-up goalie in Lack for \$1.375M with a year left on his contract. CAR's end of it is financial housecleaning.

— Bob McKenzie (@TSNBobMcKenzie) June 30, 2017

Last season, Lack played in 20 games. He had a .902 save percentage to go along with a 2.64 goals against average.

This isn't the first time Lack has been dealt. He was sent from the Vancouver Canucks to the Hurricanes in 2015 for a pair of draft picks.

Meanwhile, Murphy has spent the last five seasons with the Hurricanes, but has bounced between the big club and the AHL's Charlotte Checkers. In 151 career NHL games, he has six goals and 31 assists.

Kanzig has yet to appear in the NHL. Last season, he split time between the AHL's Stockton Heat and the ECHL's Adirondack Thunder. In a combined 46 games, he had one goal and six assists.

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1071983 Websites

TSN.CA / Canes sign D Slavin to 7-year, \$37.1M deal

The Canadian Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes and defenceman Jaccob Slavin have agreed to a seven-year contract extension.

General manager Ron Francis on Wednesday said the deal begins in 2018-19 and will carry an average annual value of \$5.3 million through the 2024-25 season.

Francis says the 23-year-old Slavin is "one of the cornerstones of our team" and "one of the top young defencemen in the NHL today."

In his second season in the NHL in 2016-17, Slavin had 34 points, three goals, 29 assists. He also led the team with 161 blocked shots, 83 takeaways and an average time on ice of about 23 1/2 minutes.

Slavin, Brett Pesce and Noah Hanifin are the team's key defencemen entering their third NHL season, and they along with All-Star Justin Faulk and trade acquisition Trevor van Riemsdyk will enter the season as the nucleus of the defence in front of new goalie Scott Darling.

The Hurricanes have not had a captain since Eric Staal was traded in 2016, going with a group of alternate captains last season. Slavin understands that his lengthy new contract comes with an expectation that he will help lead a young dressing room, whether or not he earns an "A" or a "C" on his jersey.

"Letter or no letter, it doesn't matter — I'm going to be who I am," Slavin said. "I don't think that's going to change the way I play or change the way I am in the locker room. ... I want to contribute as a leader and be a leader on this team for a long time, letter or no letter."

His entry-level contract expires after this season, and he would have been eligible for restricted free agency in July 2018.

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## Arizona Coyotes

Jakob Chychrun is sidelined indefinitely after undergoing knee surgery Thursday to repair an injury suffered this week during offseason training.

The Coyotes said Chychrun is expected to make a full recovery, and they will provide a further update once training camp begins Sept. 14. They did not elaborate on the nature of the injury and declined to share any specifics about it or his recovery, so it's unclear when, where and how the injury happened.

## Buffalo Sabres

If a report that surfaced Wednesday is accurate, Jack Eichel could be a member of the Buffalo Sabres well into the 2020s.

According to the Associated Press, the Sabres and the team's No. 1 draft pick in 2015 are closing in on an eight-year contract for the Massachusetts native. That's the maximum length allowed for an NHL contract.

## Calgary Flames

The Calgary Flames have named Don Maloney vice-president of hockey operations.

Maloney, who originally joined the Flames in 2016 as a scout, will report directly to general manager Brad Treliving.

## Florida Panthers

The Panthers addressed depth on the blue line Thursday by signing young defenseman MacKenzie Weegar to a one-year, two-way contract.

## New York Islanders

Just before going into an arbitration hearing Wednesday afternoon, the Islanders and restricted free-agent defenseman Calvin de Haan reached a deal on a one-year contract worth \$3.3 million.

## Philadelphia Flyers

Morgan Frost and Isaac Ratcliffe officially became Flyers employees Thursday, signing entry-level contracts.

Terms were not disclosed.

## St Louis Blues

Defenseman Nate Prosser, who was in training camp with the Blues in 2014 before the team lost him to a waiver claim when they tried to send him to the minors, is back with the squad.

Prosser signed a two-year, two-way deal with the Blues on Thursday, reuniting him with both his brief home and his longtime former coach, Mike Yeo.

## Vegas Golden Knights

The Golden Knights and defenseman Nate Schmidt met for nearly four hours with a Toronto arbiter Thursday as they tried to settle on a contract for the restricted free agent.

## NHL Daily Transactions

Florida Panthers	MacKenzie Weegar	Signed, One-year contract
Philadelphia Flyers	Isaac Ratcliffe	Signed, Entry-level contract
Philadelphia Flyers	Morgan Frost	Signed, Entry-level contract

END