

UM volunteer goalie coach leaves for new post

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

Ray Jean, who has served as the University of Maine's volunteer goalie coach the past three seasons, has resigned to take a position as the goaltending development coordinator for USA Hockey in the state of Maine.

COLLEGE REPORT

It will be an unpaid position. Jean said the position entails the development of a more thorough and organized system pertaining to the state's goalies and goalie coaches. He will establish

goalie coaching programs so the state's goalies will receive the mentoring they deserve.

"It was something I wanted to do five years ago. It's similar to the program they have in Finland," said the 33-year-old Jean, who noted that Finland has produced a number of quality NHL goaltenders such as Boston's Tuukka Rask and Nashville's Pekka Rinne.

USA Hockey will have a national committee with regional representatives, and Jean will be the Maine representative.

"We'll be working closely with regional directors and coordinators to develop a program that trains

coaches on how to incorporate goalies into their practices," he said.

Hockey coaches have a series of levels they can attain by attending clinics and passing tests, and Jean would like that to eventually apply to goalie coaches.

Jean runs his own goaltending school, Own the Crease, with his brothers Ryan and Cody, and he teaches at goalie clinics across the state.

"I've always wanted to give something back to the state, and I'm excited USA Hockey is finally doing it," Jean said.

He said he was grateful to the university and enjoyed his time at Maine.

"The goalies were all great kids. I don't think people realize how hard those kids work," he said.

Jean lives in Sidney and has a full-time job at Camden National Bank. He used to drive to Orono once a week for practice and attend as many games as possible.

UMaine head coach Red Gendron said Jean did a "great job."

"He was a very good teacher," said Gendron. "I am delighted for him."

Gendron said NCAA guidelines of allowing two assistant coaches prevented UMaine from paying Jean or reimbursing his travel.

"It cost him money, but Ray wanted to coach because he loves

the game and the University of Maine," he said.

Gendron said "in a perfect world, I'd love to have a goalie coach here every day."

"But that's not likely," he added. Gendron said he will name a goalie coach as soon as possible.

Randolph native and former Gardiner High School standout Jean appeared in five games over two seasons at UMaine before transferring to Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts where he was a two-year starter and posted a 21-28-5 record with a 3.36 goals-against average and a .901 save percentage.

F1 crash puts focus on 'halo' device

BY ALAN BALDWIN
REUTERS

LONDON — Formula One's existing safety measures saved Fernando Alonso's life in a horrific crash on Sunday at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix but his escape has added a twist to the debate about proposed improvements to cockpit protection.

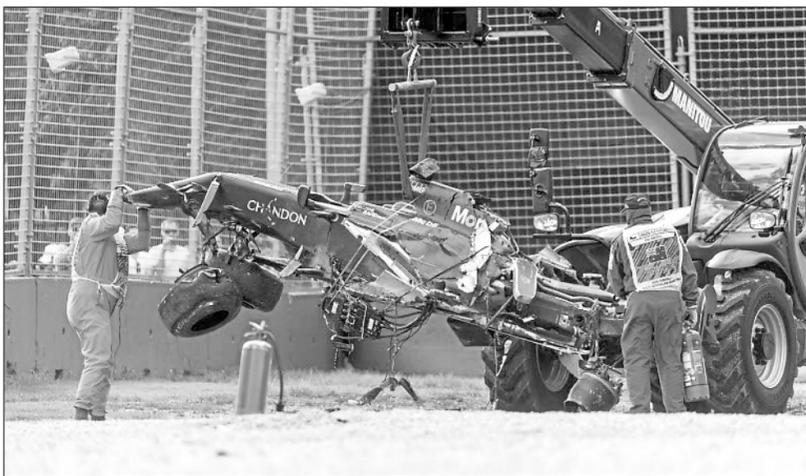
The Spaniard clambered from his demolished McLaren after the high-speed crash with Mexican Esteban Gutierrez's Haas and later posted an Instagram photograph of himself holding the Melbourne Herald Sun bearing the front-page headline "Luckiest Man Alive."

The two-time Formula One world champion said he extricated himself so his mother would see he was safe. He went on to praise Formula One's safety improvements, saying: "I'm thankful for the safety of these cars. I'm alive thanks to the job of the last 10 to 15 years of Formula One."

But some commentators said Alonso's crash and his escape raised questions over further Formula One safety plans which involve installing a cockpit "halo" device to protect drivers against being struck on the head by debris and bouncing wheels.

The device, tried out by Ferrari in testing in Spain, is fixed to the cockpit at three points including a central pillar in front of the driver.

Some commentators expressed concern that it might have been harder for Alonso to get quickly out of his car



Formula One driver Fernando Alonso's McLaren is retrieved after a crash Sunday at the Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne.

with the halo in place.

"Would that halo have caused more problems of getting out of the car? probably. It will be thought about properly for next year," said former racer and Sky TV pundit Johnny Herbert, who broke both legs in a Formula 3000 crash before he made it to F1.

Alonso's teammate, Jenson Button, felt the benefits from having the halo device outweighed any disadvantages, however.

"There's more safety risk of things hitting our head than anything happening when the car's upside down," said Button, the 2009 world champion.

"It's very unusual that there would be an issue with fuel spillage or anything like that because you have the safety cell and the way that the fuel tanks are, it won't

happen. I think it's better to have a halo system."

Alonso missed last year's Australian Grand Prix after suffering concussion in a testing crash that kept him in hospital for several days.

He was taken to the medical center for checks at Albert Park on Sunday after the collision with Gutierrez, but was then released.

"I'm sure he's had his marbles rattled a little bit," commented McLaren boss Ron Dennis.

"I guess ... it's me," Alonso said. "Time to take the plane and rest (for a) couple of days for a full recovery."

In the race, Nico Rosberg won in dramatic fashion after Ferrari's challenge was squandered by a bungled tire strategy.

Rosberg's 14th career victory was also his fourth in

succession after the German won the final three races of last season.

His teammate and pole-sitter Lewis Hamilton finished second, some eight seconds behind after recovering from a chaotic start that pushed the defending world champion back to sixth at the first turn.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel led for much of the race but his advantage was eroded by poor tyre management, especially after Alonso's crash brought out a red flag, as his compatriot Rosberg coasted home.

"Yeah! awesome, guys, awesome. Great start to the season," Rosberg yelled down the team radio.

New team Haas celebrated points on debut, with Frenchman Romain Grosjean finishing sixth behind Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo and Williams driver Felipe Massa.

Celtics' balanced scoring attack beats Magic

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — The scoring of Isaiah Thomas, Kelly Olynyk, Avery Bradley and Evan Turner drove the Boston Celtics to their second win in 24 hours, a 107-96 victory over the Orlando Magic on Monday night.

After ending a four-game losing streak with a win at Philadelphia on Sunday, the Celtics handed the Magic their 11th consecutive regular-season loss at TD Garden, their 12th in a row counting playoffs.

The four players combined for 88 points as the Celtics kept pace in the scramble for spots No. 3 through 6 in the Eastern Conference — with Boston (41-30) moving into a virtual tie with the Miami Heat for fourth place with the win.

Thomas, recording his 10th straight 20-point game, scored 28 points and added seven assists and five rebounds. Olynyk scored 22 points in 21 minutes off the bench. Bradley also scored 22 and grabbed nine rebounds, and Turner posted 16 points, five rebounds and four assists.

Amir Johnson had 11 points and 11 rebounds and blocked three shots in his sixth double-double of the season. Olynyk had his best scoring game since Dec. 11.

The Magic (29-41) lost for the eighth time in 10 games and dropped to 4-17 on the road in the 2016 portion of their schedule.

Victor Oladipo continued his hot scoring with 25 points, while three others — Evan Fournier, Aaron Gordon and Andrew Nicholson all scored 13 in the loss.

Thomas, Olynyk and Bradley combined for 44 of Boston's 56 points as the Celtics jumped to an early lead, blew it and took it back to lead by seven at the break.

The Celtics' biggest lead of the first half was 10 points, and they got the margin back to 10 midway through the third quarter — Thomas scoring eight points in the first 5:58 of the second half.

The little guard then set up Turner for a 3-pointer that made the lead 11, and Turner set up Olynyk and it was 13.

The Magic cut it to seven, but Turner hit two baskets and Olynyk two free throws after getting fouled on a steal. Boston led by 13 after going 13-for-18 from the floor in the third quarter, but the Celtics hit just one of their first 10 shots in the fourth quarter to keep the game close.

Boston never trailed after taking a 37-35 lead in the second quarter.

Cavaliers 124, Nuggets 91

CLEVELAND — LeBron James had 33 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers clinched the Central Division title with a 124-91 victory Monday night against the Denver Nuggets.

Cleveland (50-20) sealed the fifth division title in team history and also secured its ninth 50-win season.

James registered his second triple-double of the season and the 41st of his career.

Cavs forward Channing Frye scored 14 points as a replacement for Kevin Love, who did not play because he was ill. J.R. Smith scored 15 points, and Matthew Dellavedova had 10 points and seven assists off the bench. Kyrie Irving finished with eight points and three assists.

"I think a 50-win season in this league, it's not every year you can do that," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said. "It just shows the hard work the guys have put in to get to this point."

The Cavs built a 19-point lead in the first quarter before the bench gave it all back in the second. The Nuggets scored 17 consecutive points in the second while the Cavs went scoreless for more than six minutes. Will Barton scored 16 of his team-high 27 points in the second quarter for Denver.

The Cavs led by as many as 31 in the fourth quarter after trailing by as many as 33 on Saturday in an embarrassing loss at Miami. That is the way it has been all season for the Cavs.

Kraft

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"I don't think you'll see any momentum among our peers," he said. "I wish they would because they could be in a similar position. But we have put our best case forward and that's in the league's hands."

Asked by a reporter whether his letter to Goodell also sought to have Brady's suspension addressed, Kraft said: "I've really moved on from that. But you're a wise man. You can put your own interpretations."

Kraft said he sent the letter "over a month ago."

Goodell has not said whether he would reinstate Brady's four-game suspension if the NFL prevails in its appeal of the ruling by U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman overturning the penalty.

Kraft did not directly address his feelings about the NFL's appeal of Berman's decision or the prospects of the issue being resolved by the league and the players' union before the appeals court rules.

"I'm excited about the upcoming season and I'm trying to look forward, and we've covered that as best

we can," he said. "I'm moving on from that."

Kraft was similarly elusive when asked if he'd received a response from Goodell to his letter, saying: "I'm moving on from that as well."

It seems unlikely that the NFL would relent on the Patriots' penalties while it seeks in court to reinstate its right to suspend Brady, even if Goodell has said that appeal is about the league seeking to assert its rights under the sport's collective bargaining agreement and not directly about Brady.

There have been reports throughout the process about other owners not wanting to see Goodell allow the Patriots to escape punishment or be punished lightly because of his relationship with Kraft, which once was described as very close.

League and union have been negotiating potential changes to the sport's system of player discipline and Goodell's role in it. The union is seeking independent arbitration for players' appeals of discipline imposed by the league in cases under the sport's integrity-of-the-game rules, like Brady's, and under its personal conduct policy. Currently, Goodell is empow-

ered to resolve appeals in such cases. The players already have third-party arbitration of other forms of league-imposed discipline, such as penalties under the sport's drug policies and for illegal on-field hits.

DeMaurice Smith, the executive director of the NFL Players Association, said last year that the league and union were having the right conversations toward reaching a player-discipline accord. He said at the Super Bowl he was cautiously optimistic a deal would be struck. A person familiar with the deliberations said recently that slow progress was being made and he believed the league and union eventually will reach an agreement but a deal, in that person's view, probably is not imminent.

Some outside observers have suggested that a player-discipline accord between the league and NFLPA, if reached, also might include a settlement of the Brady case resolving his suspension. Some legal experts said following the courtroom hearing on the NFL's appeal that the league's chances of prevailing might have been bolstered based on the perception that the appeals court judges seemed to question Brady's attorney,

Jeffrey Kessler, more sharply that day than they questioned the NFL's lawyer, Paul Clement.

Of Goodell's tenure as commissioner, Kraft said: "Putting personal situations aside, I think he's done a very good job. He's worked hard. The health of the league has not been better. We have our issue that we don't think has been handled well. But it is what it is."

Kraft decided last year not to challenge the Patriots' penalties in court.

"When you join the NFL as a partnership, you agree to abide by certain rules and conditions," he said Monday. "We have tried to work the system as best we can and now it's working its way out."

The NFL conducted random checks of the air pressure of footballs at games leaguewide this past season and said it found no violations, but did not release its data.

"They did their own testing," Kraft said. "They have results. But for whatever reason they haven't shared them with any of us. And we actually requested at the beginning of this season that they test every game throughout the league and do that. They chose to do it their own way."

White Sox no longer discussing LaRoche case

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Chicago White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said Sunday he met with players and staff over Adam LaRoche's sudden retirement and that the organization will no longer discuss the situation publicly.

LaRoche retired last week when executive vice president Kenny Williams sought to limit the amount of time LaRoche's 14-year-old son, Drake, was spending around the team.

The way Williams han-

dled the decision ruffled feathers among the White Sox players and ace left-hander Chris Sale referred to Williams as a liar on Friday.

Reinsdorf backed Williams in a statement Sunday and is now calling on the organization to move forward.

"I have taken the past few days to personally meet with everyone involved, including Adam LaRoche, members of our front office, uniformed staff and some of our active players," Reins-

dorf said. "I continue to have nothing but the greatest regard for Adam — in fact, my respect for him has grown during this process — and I applaud his desire to spend more time with his family."

"I continue to have complete faith in the skills and abilities of the leadership group of our baseball operations department in Ken Williams, (general manager) Rick Hahn and (manager) Robin Ventura. I also appreciate the passion and commitment to one another

shown by our players, Robin, our coaching staff and our front office."

"As with many things in life, much of this was a result of miscommunication and misunderstanding rather than this being a case of anyone not telling the truth. I do not believe there is anyone to directly blame in this situation. While there is no doubt this might have been handled differently, the fact remains that this is an internal matter that we have discussed and now resolved."

2,000 fans a game and Quin-nipiac 494.

Some speculated that Maine didn't get the home court because Wednesday was the only available day at the CIC and it would make too much of a quick travel turnaround for the opponent. If I'm making the decision, and the CIC isn't available, then I'd still try to get the game in Maine, such as Alford Arena, Augusta or Portland, where fans will still turn out to support their state team.

But no, the game ends up in Hamden, Connecticut, and it appeared that the seniors were physically and emotionally drained for the game, and given some of the factors I've mentioned, it's understandable.

Maine shouldn't be judged on the basis of this one game, as the loss is more disappointing to the players than it is to their fans.

To top it all off, Temple won its first-round WNIT game and if Maine had won, it would have hosted a second-round game.

The team deserved better; instead it ended up having a truly maddening March.

Bob Cimbollek is a retired high school basketball coach and athletic director.