Word-processing Assignment

Modern Day Canucks 2005–present: Post-lockout

*(From Wikipedia)*

2005–06 season began with much promise; some hockey analysts picked the Canucks as Stanley Cup favourites. Under Nonis, free agents such as Anson Carter and Richard Park were signed prior to the season. However, the team failed to meet expectations and completed the regular season in a disappointing ninth place in their Conference narrowly losing a playoff position to the Edmonton Oilers. The season was characterized by under-achieving play, most notably by the first line of Naslund, Bertuzzi, and Morrison, which was expected to produce higher point totals under the new league rules. Morrison had a career-high 84 penalty minutes. Meanwhile, his wingers, Bertuzzi and Naslund, had a combined −37 plus/minus rating. Vancouver's highest-scoring line was the second unit of Carter and the Sedin twins.

On April 25, 2006, the Canucks fired Crawford; he was subsequently hired by the Los Angeles Kings. Alain Vigneault, who had been coach of Vancouver Canucks' AHL affiliate, the Manitoba Moose, was hired as his replacement on June 20, 2006. Vigneault remains coach to this day.

Three days after Vigneault's hiring, Nonis traded Bertuzzi, Bryan Allen and Alex Auld to the Florida Panthers for Roberto Luongo, Lukas Krajicek and a sixth-round draft pick (Sergei Shirokov) in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft. Florida fan-favourite Luongo initially claimed to be "surprised" with being traded. He later signed a 4-year, $27-million contract with the Canucks, which includes a no-trade clause after the first year, tying him with Chicago Blackhawks' Nikolai Khabibulin as the highest paid goaltender in the NHL. With the acquisition of Luongo, Cloutier was traded to the Los Angeles Kings for a 2nd round draft choice in 2007 and a conditional pick in 2009 on July 5, 2006.

On April 7, 2007, the Canucks won the Northwest Division title for the second time in three seasons with an overtime win over the San Jose Sharks. The win also gave Luongo his 47th win of the season, tying him for the previous single-season win record with Bernie Parent, which had been eclipsed during the same season by New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur.

The Canucks opened the 2007 playoffs with a quadruple-overtime win against their first-round opponents, the Dallas Stars. The game was the longest in club history and the sixth longest in league history. Also in this game, the Canucks set a record for shots against, allowing 76. The Canucks won the series in seven games despite a lack of goal-scoring; Stars goalie Marty Turco recorded three shutouts in the series, becoming the only goalie to earn three shutouts and still lose a series. Advancing to the second round, the team was defeated by Anaheim Ducks in five games. The Ducks, under ex-Canuck GM Brian Burke, would go on to win the Stanley Cup. Following the playoffs, coach Vigneault received the Jack Adams Award.

Towel Power in the 2007 Playoffs. The 2007–08 season did not begin well, with key injuries beginning from training camp. Defencemen Sami Salo and Lukas Krajicek were both injured in October, while Kevin Bieksa was severely cut by the skate blade of Vernon Fiddler of the Nashville Predators on November 1. Left-winger Matt Cooke was traded to the Washington Capitals for left-winger Matt Pettinger at the trade deadline. During the last nine games of the season the Canucks were also without Ohlund, who had suffered bone chips in his knee; as well, they lost promising rookie forward Mason Raymond to an MCL sprain and Morrison, again, to an ACL tear. The Canucks lost seven of their final eight games and missed the playoffs for the second time in three years, coming up three points short. The final game of the season, played on home ice, saw the retiring Linden awarded the first star of the game and given a standing ovation after a 7-1 loss to the Calgary Flames.

On April 14, 2008, the Canucks fired Nonis, and nine days later, former player agent Mike Gillis was named as his replacement.In addition to Nonis' firing the Canucks lost several other assets during 2008 off-season. On May 29, 2008, the Vancouver Canucks tragically lost promising young prospect Luc Bourdon, a defenceman picked 10th overall in the 2005 entry draft, to a motorcycle crash near his hometown of Shippagan, New Brunswick. Shortly thereafter, long-time Canuck and fan favourite Linden officially retired on June 11, 2008. Then Gillis, in his first free agency period as general manager, let Naslund - still captain and the franchise's all-time leading scorer - go to the New York Rangers, and another long-time Canuck, Morrison, sign with the Anaheim Ducks. In their place Gillis signed unrestricted free agent Pavol Demitra and traded for (and subsequently signed) restricted free agent Steve Bernier from the Buffalo Sabres. Former Toronto Maple Leafs forward Kyle Wellwood was also added to the roster. Gillis also made a two-year, $20 million contract offer to unrestricted free agent Mats Sundin. Although Sundin did not, at first, accept Gillis' offer, he later joined the Canucks in December 2008, signing a one-year, $8.6 million contract (which was pro-rated) for the remainder of the season.

With the departure of Naslund to free agency, Gillis announced on September 30, 2008, that Luongo had been named team captain, marking the first time since Bill Durnan of the Montreal Canadiens in 1947 that a goaltender has been named the captain of their NHL team. On December 17, 2008 the Canucks retired the second jersey number in team history, hanging Linden's number 16 beside Smyl's number 12 in a pre-game ceremony. The team won the Northwest Division and finished 3rd in the Western Conference. In the 2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs the Canucks swept their first round series against the St. Louis Blues in four games (the first four game sweep in franchise history),but were defeated in six games by the Chicago Blackhawks in the second round.

In the 2009-10 season, the Canucks faced the longest road trip in NHL history, with 14 games over 6 weeks, from January 27 to March 13, 2010,[12] as a result of Vancouver hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics. This allowed GM Place to be used for ice hockey during the games, which shut down the NHL for 2 weeks. This marked the first time that an NHL market hosted an Olympics since the league allowed its players to compete in the games, beginning with the 1998 Games of Nagano. GM Place was "Canada Hockey Place" during the games, as the IOC wouldn't allow corporate sponsorship for venues during the games. Their former home, Pacific Coliseum, also hosted events during the games, serving as the venue for figure skating and short-track speed skating.

That season, Henrik Sedin became the first Canuck ever to win the Art Ross Trophy by scoring 112 points. The issue was not resolved until the last day of play, when Sidney Crosby scored five points out of the eight needed to take home the trophy to Pittsburgh. Henrik would also eventually be awarded with the Hart Memorial Trophy as the league's most valuable player, beating out nominees Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin. At the end of the regular season, Vancouver finished first in the Northwest Division, and third in the Western Conference. They opened the playoffs by defeating the sixth place Los Angeles Kings in six games, but once again, were defeated by eventual winners Chicago in six games in the second round.

On October 9, 2010, during a pre-game ceremony to commemorate the teams 40 years in the NHL, Henrik Sedin was officially named team captain.

The 2005–06 season