

OVER THE PASS



"I would buy chocolate! I don't care if I'm allergic to it, I still eat it. I get blisters on my tongue and inside my mouth, but I can't resist it, mostly Hershey milk chocolates."

— Alyssa Pedri, TSJC business and math student, Trinidad



"Probably a Bugatti Veyron. It's the world's most expensive racing-type car, about \$2.8 million. A lot of rap artists own them. Ace Hood made a song about them. There are only about 20 in the world. I'd cruise, very much so, and try very hard not to crash it."

— Gideon Miller, GOAL Academy freshman, Trinidad



"Maybe this old building over here (on Commercial St.). Maybe a couple of them so I could bring friends with me, make it more interesting. We're artists so we'd do some installations, galleries, studios, and businesses."

— Maya Salganek, Assistant Professor of Film Studies, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What is something you'd love to buy, if only you could?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"A nice piece of land, somewhere where there's no people, with mineral and water rights, big enough to be comfortable, with a beautiful view, where the seasons change. I'm a computer technician and I'd love to get away from technology."

— Michael Alderette, computer technician, TSJC, Raton

COLORADO BASEBALL

Rockies know they must start winning to save Weiss

MIKE CRANSTON
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Carlos Gonzalez believes some managers are successful even when they aren't good at the job.

The Colorado Rockies slugger is convinced the opposite is true for his boss, Walt Weiss.

"I wish we could have played better for him because he's a really good person and a great manager," Gonzalez said Monday. "But so far his career as a manager has been difficult for him to win ballgames because, obviously, he didn't have the talent."



AP/Getty Images by Mitchell Layton
Walt Weiss

Through three seasons dealing with bad pitching and numerous injuries, Weiss is 208-278. The former All-Star shortstop's .428 winning percentage is the worst of any Colorado manager.

Weiss is back, but in the final year of his contract. There have been no talks of an extension and he's uncertain if and when they'll occur.

"I don't know and I really don't care," Weiss said.

The 52-year-old has plenty of other concerns.

There are numerous pitching questions and a hole in the infield. Shortstop Troy Tulowitzki was traded to Toronto last summer. His replacement and the team's highest-paid player, Jose Reyes, is on paid leave while facing domestic violence charges.

"When you lose, that's what happens," third baseman Nolan Arenado said of the questions surrounding Weiss. "If we give Walt a good team, I think we'd be talking about what a great coach he was. Now everyone is probably questioning how he coaches. But he's not a bad coach. He does a great job."

Weiss, who spent four seasons of his 14-year big league playing career in Colorado, was a high school coach in suburban Denver when he was hired before the 2013 season.

The management that brought him in is gone. Jeff Bridich is the new GM, and Weiss' status isn't helped amid predictions the Rockies are headed for a sixth straight losing season.

"I've never worried about the terms of my contract," said Weiss, who worked without one his first year. "I show up and go to work every day."

Weiss is calm when he speaks, no matter the questioning. Infielder Daniel Descalso said that while there's little rah-rah in his manager, he brings "quiet confidence to the field every day."

He has plenty of fans in the clubhouse. Arenado said Weiss sometimes knows him better than he knows himself.

"I don't like to admit to him that I'm pressing, but deep down sometimes I am and he can see it already," Arenado said. "He's good at reading guys. He'll give me a day off when I don't want one, but deep down it's probably the right thing to do."

Weiss said it took him longer to figure out the off-field aspects than managing from the dugout.

"Staying out in front of a game, it took a little bit of time but

not that much," Weiss said. "It's leadership on a fairly large scale. A lot of people are counting on you."

Weiss will spend the spring trying to improve a rotation that had baseball's highest ERA (5.27) a year ago. He doesn't know if and when Reyes will return. Gonzalez could be the next star to leave if they're out of contention again this summer.

"Things haven't gone his way," Gonzalez said. "That's why I wish we can play a lot better for him because he definitely deserves it."

NOTES: Arenado took issue with Tulowitzki describing the Rockies' plucky spring complex as a "country club" where "guys got comfortable" in a USA Today story Monday. "We work hard and we're trying to get better," Arenado said. "I don't believe it's a country club here." Weiss called Tulowitzki's comments "the furthest from the truth" and said "I have no issues with guys being soft." Jon Gray and Tyler Matzek are scheduled to pitch in the exhibition opener Wednesday against Arizona.

COLORADO HOCKEY

Sakic busy at trade deadline, picks up speed, toughness

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Joe Sakic added a little more speed as the Colorado Avalanche charge toward the postseason. A little more toughness, too.

The Avalanche general manager was quite active at the trade deadline Monday, picking up speedy winger Mikkel Boedker from the Arizona Coyotes for veteran forward Alex Tanguay, along with two prospects — defenseman Kyle Wood and forward Conner Bleackley.

Hardly done, Sakic added physical defenseman Eric Gelinas from New Jersey for a 2017 third-round pick.

Two big pickups — one big vote of confidence.

"This shows us they're in it to win it and in it to go far in the playoffs," said Matt Duchene, whose team clings to one of the final playoff spots in the Western Conference with 18 games remaining. "This is exciting."

It's a tightly bunched playoff race, too, with Minnesota just two points behind Colorado for the final spot. The Avs face the Wild on Tuesday night in Minnesota.

"We expect to make the playoffs," Sakic said at the airport, shortly before boarding a plane for Minnesota. "That's what the moves are for, trying to help your team get better. ... We think we did that."

It was a bittersweet day with the trade of Tanguay, a long-time forward who helped Sakic and the Avalanche win the 2001 Stanley Cup title. Tanguay has struggled this season, scoring just four times (including one last weekend in the outdoor game at Coors Field).

A tough business decision, for sure. "Alex, giving him a chance to go to Arizona, where he can continue his career," Sakic said. "Next year, we were going to move on, try to get younger."

The team certainly understands. "The guys really like Alex here and it's not easy to see him go," said Jarome Iginla, who also was teammates with the 36-year-old Tanguay in Calgary. "It's beyond just playing. It's hard to see a teammate and a longtime friend go."

The blazing Boedker may be one of the few forwards that can keep up with speedster Nathan MacKinnon. Those two will be paired with captain Gabriel Landeskog on the same line. Boedker had 13 goals and 26 assists with Arizona this season.

"It's exciting to get somebody of Boedker's caliber," Landeskog said. "It sends a message to everybody here that they're willing up top to give us the best chance possible to win and go deep in the playoffs. That's what we want to do."

Same goes for the acquisition of Gelinas, who has a goal and five assists in 34 games.

"He's big and physical. He's got a chip. He plays confrontational," Iginla said. "I had a couple battles. He's a big guy to play against."

Before the trade deadline, Sakic said he wasn't interested in surrendering high picks or prospects just for rental players. Boedker and Shawn Matthias, who was acquired last week from Toronto, are both impending unrestricted free agents.

Any plans to sign Boedker and Matthias long term?

"The plan is to try and help the team this year, to make us better this year," Sakic said. "In the offseason, we're going to have options, which is always nice."

NOTES: Given backup goaltender Calvin Pickard's solid play, Sakic said Reto Berra will remain with San Antonio of the American Hockey League for the rest of the season. "We're in a playoff push and you want to go with the goalie that's played the most and been hot," Sakic said. "You don't want to send Calvin down the way he's played."

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