

CFL offered new partnership

The Spring League in U.S. interested in teaming up with CFL

DAN RALPH
The Canadian Press

TORONTO
An American developmental football league wants to help CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie out.
Brian Woods, the CEO of The Spring League, has approached Ambrosie about a partnership. Woods is offering an opportunity for some CFL teams to practise with and play against Spring League squads in September in a condensed format he says has proven beneficial to his operation.
“I think there could be an interesting opportunity here because it’s not sounding good for the summer or fall season up there,” Woods said. “The Spring League has been here since 2017 and many of our players have made it on to CFL teams and in some instances been very productive.
“It’s absolutely of great importance to us that the CFL stays in operation.”
These are troubled times for the CFL. Ambrosie said Wednesday a best-case scenario for the league is opening an abbreviated season in September due to COVID-19.
But a cancelled 2020 campaign also remains a definite possibility.
Ambrosie has approached the Canadian government for assistance. The league’s three-part proposal includes \$30 million immediately, more monies for an abbreviated season and up to an additional \$120 million in the event of a cancelled campaign.
The Spring League is a developmental football operation. It consists of four teams — with 38 players per roster — that practise jointly and play games at one facility.
Its season usually begins in March and generally lasts three weeks. Teams play two games apiece and during the off-season the league conducts tryout camps.
“It’s not many games but it’s enough for players to get current film,” Woods said. “Most NFL teams, even CFL teams, that’s all they’re looking for, they want to see players in two games to kind of really evaluate them and get a good feel for it.
“We’ve had to find a model that would work financially so we could sustain our-



CP PHOTO / JOHN WOODS

CFL balls are photographed at the Winnipeg Blue Bombers stadium in Winnipeg Thursday, May 24, 2018. An American developmental football league wants to help CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie out. The Spring League CEO Brian Woods has approached Ambrosie about a partnership. Woods is offering an opportunity for some CFL teams to practise with and play against Spring League squads in September in a condensed format he says has proven beneficial to his operation.
selves. We reached profitability last year and expect to have another profitable year (in 2020).
Players aren’t paid but are housed in hotels and fed during the season.
“Ultimately they receive an opportunity,” Woods said. “We’ve taken guys who’ve been on NFL practice squads the year before and are coming off injury.
“Getting into The Spring League was important for them to show, ‘Hey I’ve rehabilitated, I’m healthy, I can play and I’m full go.’ It’s been quite valuable to NFL teams, and even CFL teams for that matter.”
Woods said The Spring League has sent over 60 players to the CFL. That includes Toronto Argonauts quarterback McLeod Bethel-Thompson, Ottawa Redblacks receiver Jalen Saunders and former Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel.
The Spring League held an abbreviated ‘20 season that began with one of its teams playing an exhibition game in Dallas against a Japanese squad. Then all four clubs con-
vened for three weeks in Las Vegas.
Woods’ proposal calls for between two and four CFL teams combining with Spring League squads at an unspecified U.S. location for three-to-four weeks. Woods is amenable to adopting Canadian rules and playing on longer, wider fields like squads in Canada do.
“In 2019, the XFL asked us to test out some rules they were looking at for their 2020 launch,” Woods said. “They paid us a low six-figure deal to work with them but we were willing to test out some rules because we’re a true developmental league.
“We’d be completely amenable to utilize most, if not all, CFL rules and we could absolutely incorporate the CFL guidelines as it relates to the field specifications.”
Ambrosie hasn’t formally spoken to Woods but said they’ve exchanged emails. While the CFL hasn’t closed the door on a 2020 season, Ambrosie is keeping all of his options open.
“I’m trying to keep an open mind to everything,” he said.

NHL awaiting players’ vote on playoff format

JOHN WAWROW
AND STEPHEN WHYNO
The Associated Press

The NHL is awaiting the result of a players’ vote on a 24-team playoff format before discussing its options on how to proceed in its bid to resume play.
With the NHL Players’ Association executive board could release the results of its vote as early as Friday, but numerous questions remain whatever the decision is.
They include potential game locations, when players can return to teams and what non-playoff teams will be allowed to do during what could become a 10-month break between games.
NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said the league has a plan in place, but stopped short of providing details by saying it would be premature to do so at this time.
“All good questions and all questions with answers. But not in a position to answer any of them at this point in time,” Daly wrote in an email. “If and when we are in a position to make an announcement, we will try to make sure they are answered in that context.”
Under the plan proposed by the NHL/NHLPA Return To Play committee, the top four teams per conference would play each other in a mini-tournament for seeding while the remaining 16 teams face off in a best-of-five series play-in round to set the final 16 to compete for the Stanley Cup.
Games would likely be played without fans present, and the teams grouped in hub cities around the continent. Las Vegas has become the city most mentioned as a potential site, particularly because of its large concentration of hotels.

Jazz great Jerry Sloan dies at 78

The Associated Press

Jerry Sloan, the coach who took the Utah Jazz to the NBA Finals in 1997 and 1998 on his way to a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame, died Friday. He was 78.
The Jazz said he died from complications related to

Parkinson’s disease and Lewy body dementia.
Sloan spent 23 seasons coaching the Jazz. The team — with John Stockton and Karl Malone leading the way in many of those seasons — finished below .500 in only one of those years.

NASCAR grabs much-needed momentum

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
NASCAR had been planning sweeping changes for 2021 in hopes of finding new fans and adding some energy to a staid, stale schedule.
The coronavirus pandemic put those plans on hold and NASCAR is frantically trying to recover from a 10-week layoff.

So far, the stock car series is succeeding.
NASCAR devised a health plan that allowed it to resume racing last Sunday at Darlington Raceway, the first of 20 events scheduled in seven Southern states through June 21. Although spectators are not permitted, making for eerie, empty venues, the racing itself has delivered.
Kevin Harvick scored his 50th career victory in NASCAR’s first race back with seemingly everyone watching to see if the safety protocols would work. The next event was the first Cup Series race on a Wednesday in 36 years and it was about as good as it gets for a series dependent on miles upon miles of left turns.

PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



Medicine Hat
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DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MAY 14 TO MAY 20, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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1897 20 AVENUE SE (Lot 13, Block 3, Plan 2662JK)
DP15398. Garage (Gazebo).



COMMERCIAL

HOME OCCUPATION

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City’s website at www.medicinehat.ca

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City’s website at www.medicinehat.ca/eu or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

TREE VOUCHERS

Trees improve our air quality, lower cooling and heating costs and enhance aesthetic value.

Tree Vouchers are available for new properties zoned R-LD in the following City of Medicine Hat developed subdivisions and are limited to one per qualifying property.

- Ranchlands phase 3
- Saamis Heights phase 7
- Southlands phases 4, 5 & 6

To check if your property qualifies contact the Land Sales department with Invest Medicine Hat at 403.529.8148 or by email to land_properties@medicinehat.ca

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION MEETINGS ADJUST TO ALIGN WITH COVID-19 PRACTICES

Medicine Hat – City Standing Committees and Commissions will continue to meet as scheduled, with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health restrictions related to COVID-19.

A new Ministerial Order allowing municipalities to host meetings electronically to ensure recommended practices from Alberta Health was announced on March 20, 2020.

As per the order, Committee and Commission meetings will be closed to the public but the public may call in to listen to the open portion of the meeting via teleconference at 1-833-353-8610 (participant code 2848289).

Agendas may be viewed online at the City website at: <https://docs.medicinehat.ca/onbaseagendaonline>

Media questions will be addressed on the conference line once the meeting is adjourned.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 23rd day of May, 2020.
Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk
Phone: 403.529.8234
Fax: 403.529.8324
E-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

Jets, QB Joe Flacco agree to terms on 1-year deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK

The New York Jets and quarterback Joe Flacco have agreed to terms on a one-year deal, the 2013 Super Bowl MVP’s agency announced on Twitter.

The move to bring in Flacco gives third-year starter Sam Darnold a veteran backup, but one who is also coming off a herniated disk that cut short his only season in Denver and required surgery to repair.

JL Sports, headed by agent Joe Linta, announced the agreement Friday. Financial terms were not immediately disclosed, but ESPN reported the deal is worth \$1.5 million and could reach \$4.5 million with incentives.

The 35-year-old Flacco spent his first 11 NFL seasons in Baltimore, where current Jets general manager Joe Douglas was a scout in 2008 — when the Ravens drafted the quarterback 18th overall out of Delaware.

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