

NHL hockey lockout. Wayne Gretzky for NHL commissioner?

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Could or would Wayne Gretzky become the next NHL commissioner? Is it a dream come true? Gretzky to the rescue to save NHL hockey, end the lockout, and everyone could return to play NHL hockey as if nothing ever happened.

Gretzky has the reputation of being the great one. Gretzky comes to rescue the league time and time again when he laces up the skates and steps onto the ice. Did he not save the Los Angeles team when he was traded from the Edmonton Oilers. And now, perhaps, maybe, somehow, help the two sides end the lockout.

On Sporting New Radio, Chris Chelios was reported saying Gretzky has his vote for league commissioner and hockey fans back Chelios up on this. Gretzky has been labeled the great one but only because he is a truly sensational hockey player. Why would he even consider taking over from Gary Bettman. What would be the incentive for Gretzky to consider such a challenge. We all know that Gretzky is a shrewd business professional.

NHL league commissioners have to make tough decisions. Decisions, that people, may or may not like, depending upon what side of the fence you sit on. On the other hand, Gretzky is known as Mr. Nice Guy. Everyone likes him. Why should he be viewed as the enemy. Gretzky making unpopular decisions that some of us might not like. It's unheard of. It's a role most of us can't see him in. We love Gretzky the way he is. Don't make him the bad guy.

Yes, we do need a miracle to end the NHL lockout, but Gretzky isn't it.

Catherine Kenyeres is a freelance writer and publisher for <http://www.best-4u-tickets.com>. Catherine has written numerous articles for the sports enthusiast.

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Gretzky has not said no to coaching, nor has he said yes, if and when the NHL labor dispute resolves itself. In June, Mike Barnett, General Manager of the Phoenix Coyotes asked Gretzky, who also is part owner, about coaching the Phoenix Coyotes.

Gretzky said, in an interview with the Canadian Press, "at this point in time, it's not something that's very high on my priority list or something that I've thought a lot about other than to say I haven't officially turned it down."

Did Gretzky himself actually get caught up in a fever during Team Canada's World Cup run or it is something that everyone speculates he will do. Most people agree that Gretzky has an outstanding reputation as a winner in the hockey players circle, but does he want to tarnish that reputation in attempting to coach a questionably talented hockey team and leave himself open to criticism.

As far as the NHL lockout is concerned, Gretzky said, "Everybody's frustrated. I feel bad for everyone, from coaches and managers to owners and players, and mostly importantly the fans. Right now it looks very bleak. It doesn't look very good."

The rumor mill suggests that the NHL will use replacement players next fall if a resolution to the lockout is not reached. This is something that Gretzky flatly denies. Most General Managers, according to Gretzky, want this settled and everyone to get back to work.

Critics say that if the NHL lockout goes more than one year, it will have a devastating blow especially to southern American hockey markets, such as Phoenix, whose fan base is not so strong. Will those remaining die-hard fans return once the lockout is resolved? Some say yes. Others are not so sure. One thing is for certain; it will take strong, competitive teams to win back fan loyalty across the league once NHL hockey resumes.

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