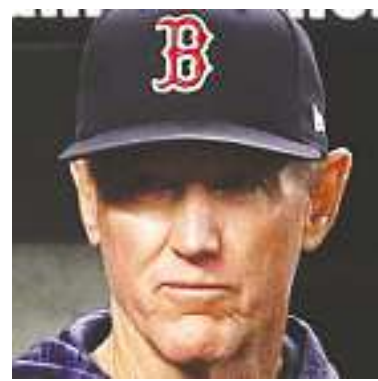


ROENICKE TO MANAGE RED SOX

The Boston Red Sox will promote bench coach Ron Roenicke, pictured, to manager once MLB's investigation into allegations of sign stealing by the team is complete. Both USA Today and The Boston Globe reported the pending move on Friday, citing league sources. Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday he plans to complete his investigation into allegations of stealing signs against the Red Sox before the opening of spring training on



Wednesday. Roenicke, 63, spent the past two seasons as bench coach for manager Alex Cora, who parted ways with the team last month. Cora has denied any involvement with sign stealing in 2018. Roenicke was a major league outfielder who played for six teams from 1981-88. The Milwaukee Brewers hired him as their manager before the 2011 season. His record with the Brewers was 342-331 when he was fired in May 2015. *Reuters*

MONTREAL GAZETTE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

PAGE C7



Former Hab Patrice Brisebois, left, and team doctor David Mulder, honorary co-chairs of the Cedars Hockey to Conquer Cancer tournament, are joined by members of the organizing committee, from left, Steve Stotland, Dario Montoni, Dr. Tarek Hijal, Ariel Dayan Médalsy and Tony Aksa. *JOHN MAHONEY*

TIRELESS CANADIENS TEAM DOCTOR IS NOT SLOWING DOWN AT AGE 81

Mulder is honorary co-chair of inaugural Cedars Hockey to Conquer Cancer tourney



STU COWAN

David Mulder, the Canadiens' head team physician, has been with the franchise since 1963 and could write an amazing book about his experiences.

The 81-year-old says his toughest day with the Canadiens came in September 2001, when he had to tell 26-year-old captain Saku Koivu that he had cancer.

"We had to make the diagnosis ... hardest thing I ever did in my life for two reasons," Mulder said during an interview last week in his Montreal General Hospital office. "Because while his English was good, there's a very subtle way of communicating in English and his native tongue is Finnish. I told him here in the hospital. He didn't understand. ... It took him a long time and he still talks about the day I explained it to him. I had to explain it again the next day when his parents were here. The biggest help was Hanna, his wife. She understood. That was one of the toughest days in my professional life." Koivu won his battle with

intra-abdominal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and returned to action with the Canadiens in April 2002 in one of the most emotional games in franchise history. Koivu received a nine-minute standing ovation from the Bell Centre fans before the game and the Canadiens then beat the Ottawa Senators 4-3 to clinch a playoff spot for the first time in four years.

"Before he went out on the ice, he came into the clinic and said he didn't think he had thanked me enough," Mulder recalled. "He was so grateful. I could hardly keep it together.

"I always think back of what he gave back," Mulder added about Koivu. "When his treatment was over — he had radiotherapy and chemotherapy — and he had a special kind of treatment where they had to take out his spinal fluid and put chemotherapeutic agents in. One of the most painful things. When it was all over, he had a PET scan and there were no PET scans in Montreal.

"He went to Sherbrooke," Mulder continued. "He called me from Sherbrooke and told me they had told him he was cancer-free. I think he was with his dad and it was very emotional. Then he said: 'Doc, why don't we have a PET scanner at the Montreal General?' I said: 'Well, it's

pretty expensive.' He said: 'I'm going to raise the funds and make sure you have one.' Which he did. The whole project was about \$7 million, but he raised probably \$3 million. He's just an incredible guy."

So is Dr. Mulder, who will be the honorary co-chair — along with former Canadiens defenceman Patrice Brisebois — for the inaugural Cedars Hockey to Conquer Cancer 3-on-3 tournament that will be held on April 5 at Hockey Etetera in Town of Mount Royal. There is room for 16 teams with a goal of raising \$250,000.

"This project is going to support radiotherapy, which is a bit like surgery," Mulder said. "It's important in terms of local control of tumours. It's not as jazzy maybe as surgery. ... It's not very obvious or open. Guy Lapointe is now getting radiotherapy, Jean Béliveau had radiotherapy, Saku Koivu had radiotherapy. So they've all benefitted from it.

"The Cedars Cancer Foundation began more than 50 years ago and it was started at the Royal Victoria Hospital and now it's a full MUHC," Mulder added. "It provides cancer care for all phases, from diagnosis, treatment, support and palliative care. All under one roof at the new MUHC hospital."

Mulder is one of the nicest gentlemen you could ever meet and he still keeps a busy schedule at the Montreal General Hospital, arriving in his office at 7

a.m. Monday through Friday and leaving around 5 p.m. Mulder is the hospital's former surgeon-in-chief and holds the title of H. Rocke Robertson professor of surgery. He also attends every Canadiens game at the Bell Centre in his role as team physician.

When asked what's the key to staying so active at his age, Mulder said: "I think my answer is to be involved. The good thing about whether it's the Bell Centre or here, I'm always challenged by a younger generation and they keep me on my toes, on top of the game. It's been an incredible ride."

Retirement is not in his plans. "I still enjoy what I do here every day," Mulder said. "I have never considered the Bell Centre a job or work. I've considered it fun and an honour and a privilege. It's an incredible experience I've had."

Will he ever write a book about his time with the Canadiens?

"I can't believe all the experiences I've had," Mulder said. "I sometimes think I should write them down. But as Toe Blake said: 'What happens in the dressing room stays in the dressing room.' So it's probably better unwritten."

For more information about entering a team or being a sponsor for the Cedars Hockey to Conquer Cancer tournament, contact Natalia Kalbarczyk at 514-656-6662.

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MAPLE LEAFS AT CANADIENS

Here are five things you should know about the Habs-Leafs game at the Bell Centre Saturday (7 p.m., CBC, TVA Sports, TSN 590 Radio), writes *Pat Hickey*.

1. The matchup

This is a must-win game for both teams as they attempt to stay in contention for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Leafs, who defeated the Anaheim Ducks 5-4 in OT Friday, move into third in the Atlantic Division with 65 points and have opened a six-point lead on Montreal. This is the third of four meetings between these rivals; the Canadiens won the first two.

2. The goaltenders

The Canadiens have won eight of their last 11 starts. Carey Price has led the way with seven wins in nine games. Price has played 45 of the Canadiens' 56 games, but the Canadiens have no choice but to play him in every game because he gives them the best chance to win. Frederik Andersen won't play this weekend and newcomer Jack Campbell may get back-to-back starts for Toronto.

3. Tatar keeps streak alive

Tomas Tatar was dealing with the flu Thursday night, but he insisted on playing against Anaheim and he picked up an assist to extend his consecutive-game points streak to six games with three goals and five assists. Tatar is the Canadiens' leader in goals (20), assists (31) and points (51).

4. Medical updates

A flu bug has been running through the Canadiens' dressing room and there will be several game-time decisions for coach Claude Julien. Tatar, Jordan Weal, Victor Mete and Ryan Poehling all skipped practice Friday. Jonathan Drouin, who hasn't played since Nov. 15, took Tatar's spot on the top line and on the power play, but there was no confirmation he'll face the Leafs.

5. Watch out for Matthews

Auston Matthews is the Leafs' leading scorer with 68 points, including 40 goals, which ties him with Alex Ovechkin for the lead in the race for the Maurice Richard Trophy. Matthews has been particularly effective against the Canadiens, with 12 goals and five assists in 13 games. Mitch Marner has scored 56 points this season and is among the NHL leaders with 43 assists. Other major contributors are William Nylander, who has collected 24 goals and 24 assists, and John Tavares, who checks in with 22 goals and 25 assists. *phickey@postmedia.com*

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