

Ogilvie back in Adanac fold

By Dan Olson

Wednesday, March 05, 2008

During a hall-of-fame caliber playing career which saw him set the tone in three Mann Cup championship titles, Andy Ogilvie carved out a reputation as the

consummate team leader.

An on-floor general, the 43 year old is now a behind-the-bench boss, taking over the head coaching duties for the Coquitlam Adanacs.

The Western Lacrosse Association club announced Ogilvie's appointment Monday, along with the resignation of head coach Rod Jensen.

Last year's successful run to the Mann Cup final, which ended with a disappointing Game Six loss to powerhouse Peterborough, will provide a good backdrop for a new season, Ogilvie said.

"Peterborough was an extremely strong team, so you can't take anything away from Coquitlam with what they achieved," Ogilvie recalled of last year's national showdown. "Under the circumstances, and considering a couple of questionable calls by the referees, I don't know if you could have done much better.

"That's the starting point we're aiming to work from."

He retired from the summer circuit after the 2004 season, finishing with 157 goals and 249 assists in 248 regular season games. As the 2001 Mann Cup MVP, he led Coquitlam past Brampton in a seven-game battle at the PNE Coliseum.

Although he's never coached before, Ogilvie has contributed as an occasional advisor, Adanac general manager Les Wingrove said. His experience and dedication to the team made Ogilvie a great fit - if he wanted it.

"Andy didn't have to sell me on him, it was more a concern of selling Andy on (the job)," Wingrove said. "I'm pretty familiar with what Andy can bring to a team, I brought him to Coquitlam (in 1998) and coached him for a couple of years. We've had a lot of lunches over the years so I can say I know what makes Andy tick and what he brings to the table."

Jensen made the decision to step down to spend more time with his family. The Delta native helped the club in a quick three-year rebuilding

program, with the Adanacs reaching the WLA final in 2006 and the Mann Cup last year.

"Going to the Mann Cup was good but the most exciting time was (in 2006) when we took Victoria to overtime in the

seventh game," Jensen said.

Ogilvie points to a long list of respected skippers as inspirations, beginning in his minor and junior days in Peterborough under the likes of John Martin and Dan Dunne. He also played for the late Les Bartley with Team Canada.

The Surrey resident believes he's ready for the stress and strain of being a coach.

"When I say it's a simple job, I've had 20 years of adult experience with some of the best coaches in the game. What I've learned from them should make it easier."

He hopes to groom a new core of young players who'll help replace the likes of Colin Doyle, Taylor Wray and Dallas Eliuk.

Getting the attention and respect of his players won't be a problem, Wingrove said.

"I think Andy understands the

challenges," he said. "He's going to get total respect and the players will go through a brick wall for him."