

ICE HOCKEY

# Sakic won't freeze out Roy

Avalanche GM not blaming coach for club's failure to make playoffs

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in Denver

Joe Sakic is in Patrick Roy's corner.

After the Colorado Avalanche ended their season with a 5-3 home loss to the Anaheim Ducks on Saturday, GM Joe Sakic confirmed coach Patrick Roy will return after missing the playoffs for a second straight year.

Sakic said he was "very disappointed" by a season marred with shaky performances at home and blown third-period opportunities.

The Avs were in contention for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference before hitting a late skid.

"It is frustrating. It's disappointing," Sakic said. "But right now you're not going to make any rash decisions."

"We're all upset and need to take a couple weeks off and then get back to work, make some tough decisions going forward, do what we have to do to try and get better."

The Hall of Famer turned executive does not fault Roy, his longtime friend and former teammate, saying: "We're in this thing together." The tandem captured two Stanley Cup titles together during their playing days with the Avalanche.

"We all have to look in the mirror and figure out why it happened like this," said Sakic, whose team finished 17-20-4 at the Pepsi Center this season.

"At the end of the day, I know by watching our club,



Erik Johnson of the Colorado Avalanche controls the puck as teammate Tyson Barrie draws an interference penalty against Ryan Garbutt of the Anaheim Ducks at the Pepsi Center in Denver on Saturday. The Ducks won 5-3. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

“Players know exactly what he wants. It's one of those things where you don't always look at the coach.”

Joe Sakic, Avs GM

it was unacceptable to see from the start of the year to the middle of the year to the end of the year, blowing games by being undisciplined out there.

"But we have a plan. This isn't a quick fix. We still have to be patient with some of our younger players."

Roy appreciated Sakic having his back — even if he never felt in danger.

"I have a great relationship with Joe," Roy said. "We all have to be better, the coaching staff, the players, the core, we know we have to do things a bit different next year in order to be more

successful and make the playoffs. It's the objective that we have to make the playoffs. There's no doubt about it."

One thing that did not sit well with Sakic was the lack of urgency of the players with the postseason on the line.

He did not feel as if they had the "the emotion you needed to make the playoffs".

"We just didn't manage the games very well," Sakic explained.

"We have to see — take a couple of weeks off to reflect, discuss and figure out if these guys want to learn what it takes to win and show it on

the ice by playing the right way."

Roy, a Hall of Fame goaltender, was NHL coach of the year in 2013-14 during his inaugural season on the Colorado bench.

He led the Avalanche to a franchise-record-tying 52 wins and a Central Division title, but the team lost a first-round playoff series to the Minnesota Wild.

"He's got the passion. He's a winner and he wants to win," Sakic said of Roy.

"Players know exactly what he wants. It's one of those things where you don't always look at the coach."

Scoreboard

BASEBALL

Results of MLB games on Saturday (home team in CAPS):  
 Boston 8 TORONTO 4  
 CINCINNATI 5 Pittsburgh 1  
 New York 3 DETROIT 4  
 CHICAGO WHITE SOX 7 Cleveland 3  
 LA Dodgers 3 SAN FRANCISCO 2 (10)  
 WASHINGTON vs Miami p/d  
 BALTIMORE vs Tampa Bay p/d  
 St. Louis 12 ATLANTA 2  
 Houston 6 MILWAUKEE 4  
 Philadelphia 1 NY METS 0  
 KANSAS CITY 7 Minnesota 0  
 Chicago Cubs 4 Arizona 2  
 San Diego 16 COLORADO 3  
 Texas 4 LA Angels 1  
 Oakland 6 SEATTLE 1

BASKETBALL

Results of NBA games on Saturday (home team in CAPS):  
 Phoenix 121 NEW ORLEANS 100  
 ATLANTA 118 Boston 107  
 Golden State 100 MEMPHIS 99  
 CHICAGO 105 Cleveland 102  
 SACRAMENTO 114 Oklahoma City 112  
 Minnesota 106 PORTLAND 105

GOLF

US Masters  
 Leading third-round scores at par-72 Augusta National on Saturday:  
 213 - Jordan Spieth (USA) 66-74-73  
 214 - Smylie Kaufman (USA) 73-72-69  
 215 - Hideki Matsuyama (JPN) 71-72-72  
 Bernhard Langer (GER) 72-73-70  
 216 - Jason Day (AUS) 72-73-71, Dustin Johnson (USA) 73-71-72, Danny Willett (ENG) 70-74-72  
 217 - Lee Westwood (ENG) 71-75-71, Brandt Snedeker (USA) 71-72-74, Soren Kjeldsen (DEN) 69-74-74  
 218 - Daniel Berger (USA) 73-71-74, Rory McIlroy (NIR) 70-71-77  
 219 - Justin Rose (ENG) 69-77-73, J.B. Holmes (USA) 72-73-74, Angel Cabrera (ARG) 73-73-73  
 220 - Emiliano Grillo (ARG) 71-75-74, Jimmy Walker (USA) 71-75-74, Matt Kuchar (USA) 75-73-72, Billy Horschel (USA) 70-77-73, Louis Oosthuizen (RSA) 72-77-71, Chris Wood (ENG) 72-73-75, Paul Casey (ENG) 69-77-74  
 221 - Matthew Fitzpatrick (ENG) 71-76-74, Jamie Donaldson (WAL) 74-72-75, Danny Lee (NZL) 68-74-79, Kiradech Aphibarnrat (THA) 72-72-77, Bill Haas (USA) 75-74-72, Scott Piercy (USA) 70-72-79, Bryson DeChambeau (USA) 72-72-77, Charley Hoffman (USA) 71-77-73, Brooks Koepka (USA) 73-72-76  
 222 - Davis Love III (USA) 73-73-76, Rafael Cabrera (ESP) 74-73-75  
 223 - Adam Scott (AUS) 76-72-75, Webb Simpson (USA) 77-72-74, Harris English (USA) 74-73-76, Shane Lowry (IRL) 68-76-79  
 224 - Patrick Reed (USA) 76-73-75, Troy Merritt (USA) 74-71-79, Keegan Bradley (USA) 74-73-77, Anirban Lahiri (IND) 76-73-75, Bernd Wiesberger (AUT) 73-72-79  
 225 - Sergio Garcia (ESP) 69-75-81, Victor Dubuisson (FRA) 73-76-76, Kevin Kisner (USA) 77-72-76, Kevin Streelman (USA) 71-75-79, Henrik Stenson (SWE) 72-75-78

ICE HOCKEY

Results of NHL games on Saturday (home team in CAPS):  
 Ottawa 6 BOSTON 1  
 NY RANGERS 3 Detroit 2  
 PHILADELPHIA 3 Pittsburgh 1  
 Anaheim 5 COLORADO 3  
 MONTREAL 5 Tampa Bay 2  
 FLORIDA 3 Carolina 2  
 NEW JERSEY 5 Toronto 1  
 COLUMBUS 5 Chicago 4 OT  
 Calgary 2 MINNESOTA 1  
 Buffalo 4 NY ISLANDERS 3 OT  
 Washington 5 ST. LOUIS 1  
 DALLAS 3 Nashville 2  
 VANCOUVER 4 Edmonton 3 SO  
 Winnipeg 4 LOS ANGELES 3 SO  
 SAN JOSE 1 Arizona 0

SOCCER

English Premier League

Results on Saturday:  
 Aston Villa 1 (Ayew 85) Bournemouth 2 (Cook 45, King 74)  
 Crystal Palace 1 (Puncheon 68) Norwich 0  
 Manchester City 2 (Aguero 19-pen, Nasri 66) West Brom 1 (Sessegnon 6)  
 Southampton 3 (Long 4, Pelle 38, Wanyama 55) Newcastle 1 (Townsend 65)  
 Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 25) Chelsea 0  
 Watford 1 (Holebas 45+3) Everton 1 (McCarthy 45+1)  
 West Ham 3 (Carroll 44, 45+2, 52) Arsenal 3 (Ozil 18, Sanchez 35, Koscielny 70)

English Championship

Results on Saturday:  
 Bristol City 4 Sheffield Wednesday 1  
 Burnley 1 Leeds 0  
 Derby 4 Bolton 1  
 Fulham 2 Cardiff 1  
 Huddersfield 2 Hull 2  
 Ipswich 1 Brentford 3  
 Middlesbrough 1 Preston 0  
 Milton Keynes Dons 0 Rotherham 4  
 QPR 2 Charlton 1  
 Reading 0 Birmingham 2  
 Wolves 0 Blackburn 0

French Ligue 1

Results on Saturday:  
 Guingamp 0 Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 56-pen, 71)  
 Angers 0 Gazelec Ajaccio 0  
 Caen 1 (Appiah 64) Lorient 2 (Jeannot 17, Wari 47-pen)  
 Reims 2 (Oniangue 11, De Preville 80) Nantes 1 (Audel 68)  
 Saint-Etienne 1 (Maupay 75) Troyes 0  
 Toulouse 4 (Ben Yedder 57, 80, Braithwaite 62, Trepo 72) Bastia 0

German Bundesliga

Results on Saturday:  
 Hamburg 1 (Holtyb 90) Darmstadt 2 (Sulu 38, Gondorf 54)  
 VfB Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 83) Bayern Munich 3 (Niedermeier 31-og, Alaba 52, Costa 89)  
 Werder Bremen 1 (Grillitsch 43) Augsburg 2 (Fimboogason 53, Hong 87)  
 Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Hoffenheim 2 (Amiri 62, Uth 89)  
 Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann 87) Borussia Moenchengladbach 0  
 Wolfsburg 1 (Schuerle 53) Mainz 1 (Jairo 66)

Italian Serie A

Results on Saturday:  
 Frosinone 0 Inter Milan 1 (Icardi 74)  
 Chievo 1 (Pelissier 83) Carpi 0  
 Sassuolo 0 Genoa 1 (Dzemal 42)  
 AC Milan 1 (Alex 18) Juventus 2 (Mandzukic 27, Pogba 65)

Spanish La Liga

Results on Saturday:  
 Real Madrid 4 (Rodriguez 5, Vazquez 18, Ronaldo 20, Jese 39) Elbar 0  
 Espanyol 1 (Dioy 28) Atletico Madrid 3 (Torres 35, Griezmann 58, Koke 88)  
 Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 5) Barcelona 0  
 Real Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 81) Levante 0

TENNIS

WTA Katowice Open  
 Results on Saturday (x denotes seeding):  
 Semifinals  
 Camila Giorgi (ITA x5) bt Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) x3, 6-4, 6-3; Dominika Cibulkova (SVK x8) bt Pauline Parmentier (FRA) 7-5, 6-0

WTA Charleston

Semifinals:  
 Sloane Stephens (USA x7) bt Angelique Kerber (GER x1) 6-1, 3-0 (retired); Elena Vesnina (RUS) bt Sara Errani (ITA x5) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2

ATP Casablanca Open

Semifinals:  
 Borna Coric (CRO x3) bt Jir Vesely (CZE x8) 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5); Federico del Bonis (ARG x4) bt Albert Montanes (ESP) 6-4, 6-3

ATP Houston Open

Semifinals:  
 Jack Sock (USA x4) bt John Isner (USA x1) 7-6 (4), 6-3; Juan Monaco (ARG) bt Feliciano Lopez (ESP x3) 6-4, 6-2

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