Nomads in No Hurry to Change

The Minnesota Whitecaps offer an independent, if unpaid, alternative to the two women’s professional leagues.

By SETH BERNHARDT

MINNEAPOLIS — Kendall Coyne grabbed the puck and tossed it to the open area in the corner. Coyne and her teammates immediately followed her, pushing past the perimeter to pursue the puck.

This is Coyne’s third season with the Whitecaps, and for the first time, they are playing in a league that has a television contract and potentially could attract attention from the public. The team is part of the Women’s Hockey Association, an independent league that plays against college teams.

The Whitecaps are considered a professional team, but they have not played in the Canadian Women’s Hockey League or the National Women’s Hockey League. The sport’s two prominent leagues have struggled to find an audience, and many players have had difficulty making a living.

The Whitecaps’ instructors, former Minnesota-Duluth coach and former Olympic silver medalist Liz Loven, is a testament to the grassroots nature of women’s hockey. She has been the primary coach for the team since its inception and has helped guide the team to multiple championships.

Loven says the team’s success is due to the dedication of its players and the support of the community. The team is sponsored by local businesses and has a strong base of fans who attend games and support the team.

Coyne says the team’s focus is on developing young players and providing a platform for them to showcase their skills. The team has had success in recent years, with several players being invited to the United States national team.

The Whitecaps have remained independent, and their members have been able to cultivate a national view of the women’s hockey world. Coyne says the team’s success is due to the dedication of its players and the support of the community.

The team’s goal is to continue to grow and attract more fans, and Coyne says the team is looking forward to the future.

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RFL PLAYOFFS

Ryan Flies High While Staying Under the Radar

By BILL PENNINGTON

Bill Henfey Park, three blocks from the beach in the New Jersey shore town of North Wildwood, is a peaceful, grassy rectangular expanse with a children’s playground tucked in the corner. It’s a place where Ryan learned the nickname Matty Ice, and where he honed his skills late-game rallies and victories. But it may be where he honed a reference to a fearless, swashbuckling style that has led to membrane.

The summer games are not for the meek. Ryan, the Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, honed his skills at Matty Ice, and the nickname stuck. He is a product of his uncle John Loughery, who played at Boston College. The ex-left tackle at Notre Dame who could one day be a top NFL draft pick.

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While Staying

Ryan Flies High

While Staying

Under the Radar

FLYING EXTRA 1,609 METERS,
Florida Extends Metric Use

By JERÉ LONGMAN

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