

# SunSentinel SPORTS

## PANTHERS

NEW COACH JOEL QUENNEVILLE IS INTRODUCED

### 'New era' has NHL pedigree of a champion

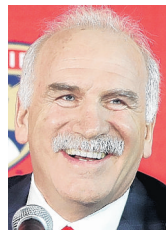
BY WELLS DUSENBURY  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

SUNRISE —Sitting next to one of the winningest coaches in NHL history, Dale Tallon wanted to make one thing clear as he discussed the future of the Florida Panthers.

"This is a new era," the Panthers president of hockey operations and general manager said. "A new beginning."

On Monday, Florida officially introduced Joel Quenneville as the 16th head coach in franchise history. One of the most highly respected leaders in the game, the 60-year-old Quenneville has won three Stanley Cups and ranks second in league history with 890 career victories.

He was a highly-sought coaching free agent since being fired by the Chicago Blackhawks early this season after holding that job since 2008, but he elected



Quenneville

See PANTHERS, 3C

## HEAT

### Curtain call at Wade's 'house'

End is here when it comes to Heat star's brilliant career at AmericanAirlines Arena

BY IRA WINDERMAN  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

MIAMI — The end of the road will come on the road, barring a late playoff-race miracle.

But Tuesday night at AmericanAirlines Arena will undoubtedly be the most meaningful moment of Dwyane Wade's "One Last Dance" retirement tour.

It is a moment that Wade has both braced for and yet been unable to fully comprehend, with the Miami Heat having scheduled a pregame commemoration prior to Tuesday night's matchup against the Philadelphia 76ers at AmericanAirlines Arena.

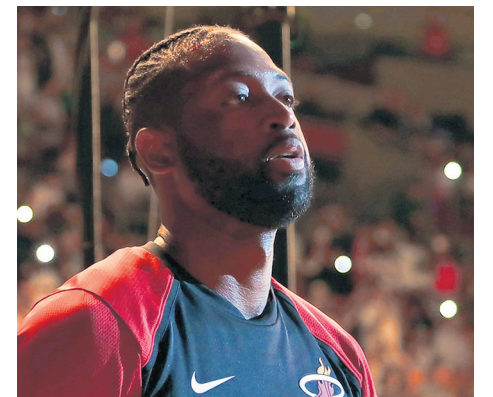
"I've never been in this situation before," the franchise's all-time scoring leader said. "I know all my family's going to be there. So I'm just looking forward to it, close a chapter."

"I really don't know what's going on. I've seen some things, [but] I really haven't been focused on it. I appreciate whatever is going on."

It is not any of the trappings, however, but the moment that Wade believes will resonate most.

"It's been incredible. It's been amazing," he said of a 16-season NBA career that has called South Florida home for all but 1 1/2 years. "A lot of people in that arena have watched me grow, watched me be imperfect and make a lot of mistakes, and watched me blossom and do amazing things. So I'm thankful for it."

See HEAT, 2C



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Dwyane Wade will look to the rafters at AmericanAirlines Arena likely for the final time as a member of the Heat on Tuesday.

### Dwyane Wade Night

A look at the Miami Heat's plans for Tuesday night's celebration of Dwyane Wade at AmericanAirlines Arena:

#### TIMING

- Doors open at 6 p.m.
- Pregame ceremony scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.
- Tipoff set for 7:50 p.m.

#### EVENT

- Official Wade career retrospective video.
- Guest tributes.
- Wade fan address
- Wade-centric, player-introduction sequence.

#### GIVEAWAYS

- L3GACY shirt.
- Cheering fans.

- L3GACY lanyard and commemorative game ticket.
- Wade-centric TIPOFF Magazine with 3-D cover.

#### TICKETS

(As of midday Monday)

- Tickets on Heat site start at \$97 standing room (obstructed).
- Cheapest seat listed at \$199.
- Cheapest seat not in balcony at \$245.
- Cheapest lower-bowl at \$375.

## If Panthers can't win with 3-time Cup winner Quenneville, they never will

SUNRISE — This marks their chance. This move. This hire. This big-money, bigger-statement decision that started last week when Dale Tallon read Joel Quenneville wanted to coach again and called Florida Panthers owner Vinny Viola with the idea.

"This makes us relevant," said Tallon, the Panthers vice president of hockey operations and general manager, after naming Quenneville as coach Monday.

The franchise that can't win has no excuses not to win now that they've got the second-winningest NHL coach and a three-time Stanley Cup champion leading them. Avenue Q or bust.

Quenneville checks the boxes of everything the losingest franchise in sports hasn't had of late. A proven winner? A credible champion? An instant recruiter for two prime free agents they'll chase this offseason?



Dave Hyde

He's also Exhibit A that the franchise's check-book is open.

Tallon, who is 68 and comes with the entertaining crust of a curmudgeon, framed the day like so: "I'm giddy like I've never been before."

If you want someone to douse that idea and point out marquee hires don't always work — that for every success story such as the Heat's Pat Riley or Marlins' Jim Leyland there are failures such as the Dolphins' Nick Saban and Bill Parcells — move on elsewhere.

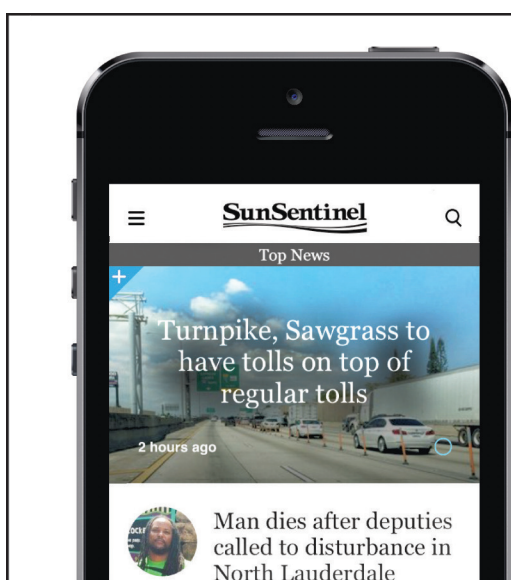
This is the Panthers' chance. This move. This hire. If they can't find the right pieces to assemble with their maturing core and a star behind the bench, it's time to ship the franchise to Manitoba because it'll never make it in South Florida.

See HYDE, 3C

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL NCAA TOURNAMENTS



Monday night's national championship game between Texas Tech and Virginia did not end in time for this edition. For coverage of the game, go to [SunSentinel.com/sports](http://SunSentinel.com/sports)  
**Inside:** Women's Final Four in Tampa draws highest attendance since 2010; Baylor tops Notre Dame for title. 3C



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