

Trestman might be next to go

Potential candidate for head-coach post with NFL's Raiders

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The Alouettes have lost the services of assistant coach Casey Creehan. And they're waiting to see whether one of the architects behind their Grey Cup appearance also will be departing.

As reported Sunday on montrealgazette.com, linebackers coach Creehan left to become the defensive-line coach at Eastern Michigan, an NCAA Division 1-A school that competes in the Mid-American Conference.

Also last weekend, CBS analyst Charley Casserly – a former NFL general manager – named Als head coach Marc Trestman as a potential candidate to become head coach of the Oakland Raiders. However, ESPN reporter John Clayton said during Sunday's playoff game between San Diego and Pittsburgh that he didn't believe Trestman would be considered for the job.

Trestman spent three years with the Raiders, starting in 2001, and was their offensive coordinator the next year, when they won the AFC championship and torched defences behind the passing of Rich Gannon.

But the Raiders were 4-12 the following season, leading to the firing of Trestman. He interviewed for the offensive co-ordinator's position at Oakland in 2007, shortly after he had been fired by North Carolina State, where he spent two years as offensive co-ordinator and quarterbacks coach.

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ALS 'Creehan was a young coach who grew,' Trestman says

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Trestman spoke to The Gazette yesterday, but only addressed Creehan's departure.

An Als official said the Raiders haven't requested permission to talk to Trestman and the team is declining all other comment.

Creehan had two years left on his Montreal contract, but his pact included an escape clause and Eastern Michigan was granted permission to contact him.

"This is a great opportunity for me to help turn a program

around," said Creehan, 31. "It's also an opportunity to get back to the U.S. Had I coached my whole career in the CFL, I'd feel very fortunate. But it doesn't hurt a young coach to expand his contacts. I just want to keep advancing in my career."

Creehan joined the Als last season after four years with the Calgary Stampeders, where he coached the defensive line.

Dennis Creehan, his father and a former Hamilton Tiger-Cats' defensive co-ordinator, was recently named head coach at

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THE SNAP

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West Virginia Wesleyan. Father and son worked together on the Stamps' staff, and the younger Creehan said he had an open invitation to join West Virginia. But he had no desire to join a Division II program.

The Eastern Michigan Eagles - attended by Als receiver Eric Deslauriers - were 3-9 last season and haven't had a winning record since 1995. But Creehan jumped at the opportunity of working under new head coach Ron English, a former defensive co-ordinator at the University of Louisville and Michigan.

Trestman said he'll never stand in the way of his assistants enhancing their careers. "He (Creehan) was a great contributor, a young coach who grew."

Trestman also said he isn't in

any rush to find a successor. "We're way ahead of where we were a year ago."

Note - Although they haven't made it official yet, the Als have signed quarterback, **Brad Roach**, who was an all-American at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. The 6-foot-6, 250-pounder passed for 7,874 yards and 62 touchdowns during his career, and attended training camp with the Baltimore Ravens.

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