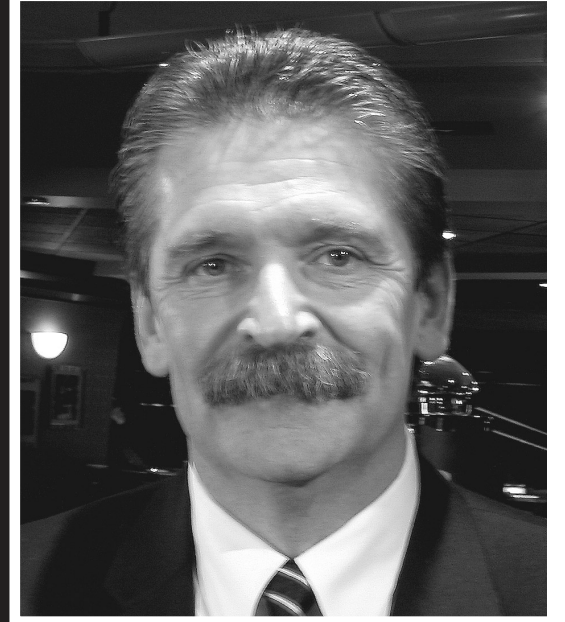


A TALE OF TWO HOSTS



JODY VANCE



JIM VAN HORNE

It was the best of seasons, it was the worst of seasons, it was the epoch of trades, it was the epoch of internal growth, it was the season of playoffs, it was the season of golf- in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest primetime authorities insisted on its comparison only- which was also said of those who reported it.

All these things, and a thousand like them, came to pass in and close upon the dear old year two thousand and four. Environed by them, Vance and Van Horne worked unheeded. Thus did the year conduct its Greatnesses, and myriads of sporting events- the interview of this chronicle among the rest- along the roads that lay before them.

In the Beginning

Jody Vance grew up in Vancouver. Since her dad was a athletic director at a local high school, her weekends were spent at different sporting events.

The love of sports

While she did participate in a few team sports such as softball and soccer, she preferred individual sports. Unwilling to let anyone down in a team format, she kept in shape running, skiing, and has recently taken up golf.

Getting to here from there

Vance started as a volunteer at a radio station doing promo. She decided to apply to BCIT to further her career goals. She was accepted, but the radio offered to hire her based on experience, rather than education.

Continuing to work through the ranks, she was eventually given her shot on TV. Her first appearance was on BCTV. Finally, she moved to Sportsnet, where she eventually became the first female to host a prime time sports program.

First Interview

Her first interview was done for the radio. It was of a young, local hot shot snowboarder named, Ross Rebagliati. It took place early in 1996, before the first ever World Cup event at Whistler. Then of course, only a few short years later, he would go on to win the first ever gold medal in the event.

Best Moments

Among her favorite sports interviews include a funny Carlos Delgado, Wayne Gretzky, and Mike Weir. She spent a whole day with Gretzky in 1999 when he launched his clothing line, and spent the day with Weir after he became the first Canadian to done the green jacket.

Another big moment for her was being home in Vancouver to help announce the winning Olympic 2010 bid.

Women in Sports

Increasing numbers of women are challenging men's leagues, and Vance thinks this is great. Why shouldn't women respond to the highest level of competition and challenge? Especially in sports, like golf, where physical prowess is less effective, women are going to continue to excel.

Women as Sports Broadcasters

Vance has faced some difficulty in her trailblazing role. She understands that viewers are more likely to question a women, she has earned the respect. She is just glad she was able to make her mistakes on local television.

3 Easy Ways to Join Sportsnet

Well, that is a little misleading. Becoming a sports broadcaster is becoming more and more difficult. For some reason,

claims Vance, the job has been glorified, and the applicants are increasingly more qualified for fewer positions.

Best advice: "Aim high, start low." Be willing to work for what you want.

Things to come

Vance's next goal is to take part in more human interest stories- a Barbara Walters of Sport.

She likes to challenge people to take her job, because she feels by the time they get there, she will have moved on again...

Interview Wish List

Tiger Woods

Little Known Facts:

1) Vance appeared in the 2000 movie, *Romeo must Die*.

2) She is a chef by trade.

3) She writes a monthly contribution in *West Coast Families*.

4) Her work days run from 9am to 10pm, she does all her own makeup and hair, and writes all her own material.

The love of sports

Like most people involved in sports, Jim Van Horne loved to play. He played a lot of hockey when he was younger, and like Vance enjoyed long distance running. Currently, he time is split between skiing and golf, depending on the weather.

Getting to here from there

Van Horne started straight out of highschool at a radio station in Midland, Ontario. He bounced around following work until he found Calgary and his first full time TV job. He moved to TSN shortly after that, and worked there for 17 years- covering every sport imaginable. Finally, after two years away from the small screen, Van Horne returned to Sportsnet, where he and Vance anchor the early evening edition of the news in sports.

First Interview

In 1979, Bobby Orr was inducted to the Hockey Hall of Fame, and this was the moment Van Horne conducted his first Q&A.

Best Moments

One of his best interviews was with Wayne Gretzky, and it took place on the ice, sitting in a zamboni, after the All-Star Game in Pittsburgh, surrounded by 200+ screaming fans. Surprisingly, Van Horne explains that it was a very intimate interview. Gretzky's focusing skill made the venue irrelevant, and created a unique memory.

An event which by the mere mention still gets him excited, was the 2000 Olympic Gold medal men's doubles tennis match. It was all about the atmosphere, which is impossible to duplicate in print.

Women in Sports

"If women can hold their own, then they should play. Men are just scared."

The standards for women in sports and sports broadcasting are set significantly higher, but Van Horne knows they are up to the challenge, and more will follow in the footsteps of Vance and others.

Amateur Sports

For national broadcasts, there is just too much content to cover, and it is a matter of the bottom line. Sports need to capture the imagination of the viewer, and all local sports have legitimate stories- they just need to be found by a willing local media- who should be responsible for its coverage.

3 Easy Ways to Join Sportsnet

Today it is nearly impossible to volunteer your way into a job. According to Van Horne, you need to prove you have something finished, a broadcasting degree is best.

Things to come

Van Horne couldn't be happier with what he is doing. Having spent 32 years in the field, there are not many things left for him to accomplish. Although he would like to help with the alpine events in 2010. The next foreseeable big change will be retirement, and with that, the possible removal of his trademark mustache.

Interview Wish List

Muhammad Ali

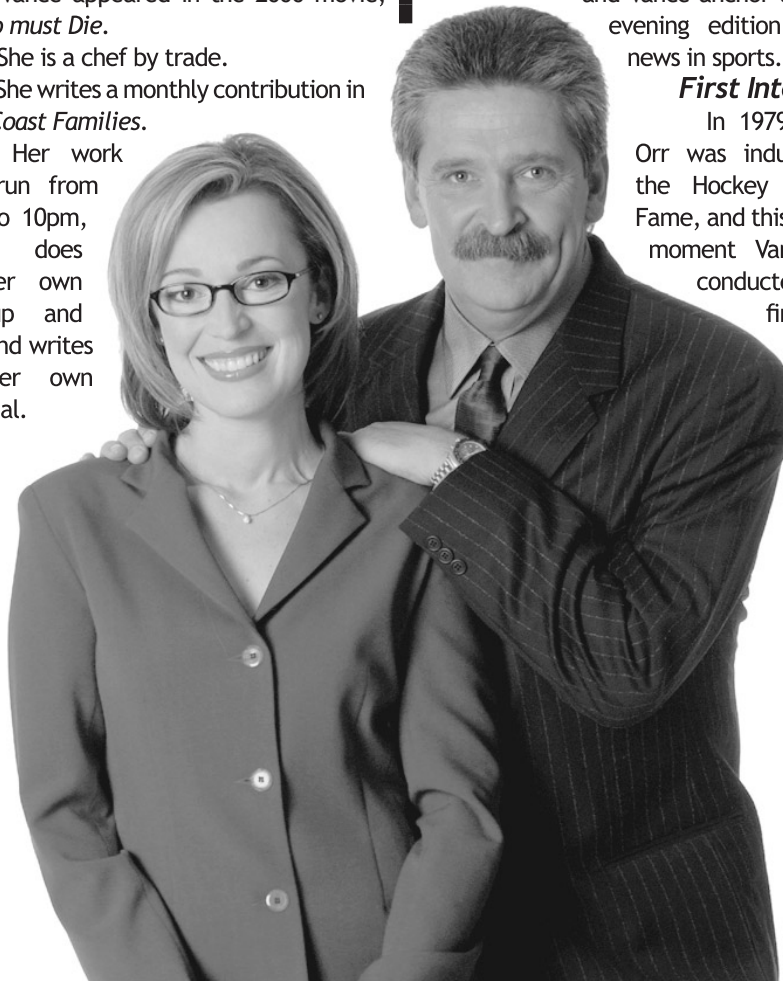
Little Known Facts:

1) The name on his birth certificate, David Melnyk, wasn't "hard-rock" enough for his first radio gig in 1972, so he picked Jim Van Horne from a long list of the station's suggestions.

2) Van Horne has not been without a mustache since he first grew it at 21- it took so much effort the first time, he swore to leave it.

3) He does not discuss sports outside of work, instead he reads just about anything he can get his hands one. Next book: *5 people you meet in Heaven*, by Mitch Albom.

4) His favorite sport to call is golf since it lends itself to his deliberate style on commenting.



Although the life of a sportscaster is neither glamorous, nor easy to achieve, having both worked hard to get there, neither Vance nor Van Horne would rather be anywhere else, doing anything else. Should we all be so lucky.

"It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

-Charles Dickens, Tale of Two Cities.

by Ashley Carwithen