

Marchment, Bryan

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Marchment an Oiler

Bel - Bryan (collector)
**Arbitrator
makes decision
on Rice deal**

An NHL arbitrator awarded defenceman Bryan Marchment, a former Belleville Bull captain, to the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday as compensation for the Hartford Whalers' signing of free-agent right-winger Steven Rice.

By getting Marchment, the Oilers got the player they wanted in the hearing with arbitrator George Nicolau.

"I don't look at it as a win, I look at it as fair compensation," said general manager Glen Sather.

Marchment will join another former Bull captain, Scott Thornton, on the Oilers. Thornton and Marchment were Belleville team mates five years ago.

Both are former first round NHL picks. Marchment was a first round pick of the Winnipeg Jets. He was dealt to Chicago then moved to Hartford midway



**Former Belleville Bull
Bryan Marchment.**

through last season.

Thornton was a first round pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs. He was dealt to the Oilers in his second NHL season.

The Los Angeles Kings offered Thornton a three-year \$1.2 million deal last week but the Oilers

matched the offer so he'll remain in Edmonton.

Rice, 23, was the captain of the Canadian national junior team that won the gold medal at the 1990 world championships. He had 15 goals and 17 assists in 63 games with the Oilers last season.

Marchment, 25, joined the Whalers in a trade last November that sent Patrick Poulin and Eric Weinrich to the Chicago Blackhawks. In 42 games with the Whalers last season, Marchment had three goals and seven assists.

"We are obviously disappointed," Jim Rutherford, the Whalers' president and general manager said Tuesday. "But we still feel we have taken a step forward with the addition of Steven Rice.

"He is a player who comes from a winning background, a championship background, and a player with excellent potential that will definitely upgrade our hockey club."

Nicolau ruled that Hartford's offer of centre Robert Petrovicky and winger Robert Kron wasn't fair compensation for Rice.

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