

MacKay wins sportsman of the year contest

A standing ovation was accorded David Stanley MacKay Thursday night as B.C. Lions Football Coach Jim Champion proclaimed him the winner of the first annual Sportsman of the Year award.

The former Chicago Blackhawk star registered both surprise and humility as he went forward to accept the Legion Trophy.

Following the presentation, MacKay told the gathering, "This is pretty well the end of my career in sports, after 30 years . . . and this is one of the highlights of that career."

"I've met a tremendous amount of wonderful people in sports at all levels, and I've attempted in these last few years to put back what I got out of it."

The decision was made by an anonymous panel of judges and Mr. MacKay was presented with the award as the result of many years of devotion to minor hockey in the city.

In conclusion, he stated, "I would most certainly like to thank the Legion and the awards committee for this award and this honor."

Prior to the presenta-

tion of the award, the guests were entertained by the singing style of Vancouver's Thelma Gibson and the keynote speech by Mr. Champion.

At the beginning of his talk, the coach presented each of the five finalists with a parchment scroll honoring them for their services to sport and the community.

His speech, though mainly on the topic of football and the B.C. Lions, was interspersed with various mirthful tongue-in-cheek comments regarding sportsman's dinners, Valley residents, and life in general.

"Once I've made a speech, I'm never invited to come back," he stated. "However I have been invited to return to North Battleford to speak there. The last time I was there, I didn't get to speak until 12 midnight and those that weren't drunk were asleep, so consequently no one in North Battleford has heard me talk."

The coach also referred to Vernon as one of the few places "with good looking women and ugly men."

On the more serious side, Champion admitted that the B.C. Lions had not exactly been "setting the woods on fire" in the last four years but in 1969 they hope to kindle a bit of a flame.

He also mentioned the names of a few of the ball players the Lions will have back in the roster or hope to sign in the near future.

Defensive end Dick Foutts will be back with the Leos again as will Pete Ollar a quarter back who is recovering from a leg injury. "Pete completed 61 percent last year," stated Champion, "most of the time with one good leg."

"Jim Evanson, the original hippie of the Lions should be back," commented Champion, "however if last year's biggest disappointment, Leroy Sledge, doesn't get down to 225 pounds he won't be playing."

The coach also described the B.C. Lions football fans as being the greatest in the world because 28,000 of them turn out per game in spite of the teams poor record and Vancouver's bad weather.

Among the things he would like to see started is a charter flight from the Okanagan to Vancouver for the Lions home games.

"The football fans in the Okanagan can't charter a bus, because it's asking too much of anyone to travel eight hours and eight hours back on a bus just to see a football game."

Earlier in the evening and following the introduction of the head table guests, the opening remarks were made by Tom Harper, vice president of the Vernon Legion Branch 25. Mr. Harper stated, "This is a good attendance in spite of the 'resistance factor' in Vernon. 'I know the sportsman's award night will grow bigger and bigger as the years go by.'"

Committee Chairman J. G. "Curly" Jellison welcomed the guests and supporters and reaffirmed Mr. Harper's comment, saying, "We propose to make this a recurring event which he know will become much bigger."

Jellison then introduced his committee which had spent the last six months making the awards night possible. On the commit-

tee were R. Stark, S. G. Doner, V. L. Dye, N. Turik, J. Keenan, and D. Warner.

The committee spokesman, Don Warner, stated that for the first year they took nominations as they came in, however, next year and the following years, the committees will be concerned only with the candidates' activities in the previous year. Athletic clubs are urged to be on the alert and be willing to participate in the second annual Sportsman's Award night.



DAVID STANLEY MacKAY

Photo by Doug Bulwer

Additional SPORT

Police warn

"Rules of road" for bicyclists

With the arrival of spring, the RCMP request parents to ensure their children's bicycles are completely equipped and their children are aware of regulations.

Bearing in mind that motor vehicles are more

Parents should instruct cyclists they must not ride their bicycles on the sidewalks, as the latter are for the use of pedestrians. An elderly pedestrian—or someone younger, could suffer a broken leg or other severe injuries from a fall

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Champion meets champion

B.C. Lions Football coach Jim Champion congratulates Dave MacKay, first winner of the Sportsman of the Year Award during presentation Thursday night at the Allison Hotel in Vernon. MacKay's award came as the result of 30 years of devoted service to all ranks of hockey. Upon

receiving the award Mr. MacKay announced that this is his final year in connection with Vernon Minor Hockey circles, and that being given the honor of Vernon's first Sportsman of the Year was a highlight in his many years of association with the sport. —Photo by Doug Bulwer