

Sports

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GARY GASSOFF
... fourth brother



BOB GASSOFF
... in St. Louis

Brothers' act tough to follow

By DON KENDALL

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If you think it is easy growing up in a town where your family name is a household word, you should try it sometime.

Take the name Gassoff, for instance.

Quesnel, quietly nestled in B.C.'s Cariboo country, is not known throughout the country as a great hotbed of hockey.

But, the small town has produced several good hockey players including the Marsh brothers, but none who have done better than the Gassoff brothers.

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Oldest of the brothers, Bob, started his junior A hockey career with Vernon Essos before moving on to the Medicine Hat Tigers. Bob is now a member of the St. Louis Blues, of the National Hockey League.

Known for his rugged style of play, and his willingness to engage in battle with the opposition, 22-year-old Bob spent most of last season with the Blues, then started this year with Denver, before being called back up.

Next came Ken, now 20-years-old. Ken, like every good Gassoff, played junior hockey with Medicine Hat.

Unlike brother Bob who is basically a defensive player, Ken is currently tenth in the Eastern Pro Hockey League in scoring, with Winston-Salem.

Then came Brad, 19. Brad like his big brothers played junior A with Medicine Hat, until this year.

He was traded to Kamloops

Chiefs prior to this season. In exchange for Gassoff, the Tigers received ex-Vernon Viking Don Murdoch.

The trade has worked out well for both teams as Murdoch now leads the Western Canada Hockey League in goals while Brad leads the Chiefs in scoring and recently played in the WCHL all-star game.

FOURTH BROTHER

The fourth brother is Gary, 17, now a member of Joe Tennant's defensive corps with the Vernon Vikings.

It was tough for Gary, only 160 pounds, going into Medicine Hat's camp last September with the last name of Gassoff.

Fresh out of midget, Gary was considered too slow and too small to play defence in the WCHL. When he reported to Vernon, there was even some doubt if he could make the Vikings' line-up.

But, Gassoff is probably the most improved player on the Vikings since the season started.

He has emerged as a good puck handler and at times, has been Vernon's most consistent defenceman.

When Medicine Hat recently played against the Vikings, Tiger Coach Jack Shupe was impressed with, "Young Gassoff."

Tigers lose three defencemen next season because of age, and a good bet to fill one of the slots, will be Gary.

However, Shupe was wrong, a little. Gary is not the young Gassoff. There is still one at home playing hockey in Quesnel.