

Fergie makes strange pick



Sometimes general managers, in professional sports, act in strange ways. A great many of them, such as Sam Pollock, Fred Shero, and the late Vince Lombardi, have been declared geniuses for their strategic moves. Others have come to be known as idiots by the fans.

For instance, no matter who is general manager of the B.C. Lions, by the end of the football season, every fan in Vancouver is calling for his head.

The latest move which appears a little strange was made by New York Rangers' G.M. and coach John Ferguson.

When Fergie took over the Rangers midway through last season, he announced, to no one's surprise, that his club was not going to get pushed around.

He made one move in that direction recently when he sent young winger Rick Middleton to Boston Bruins in exchange for big Ken Hodge.

FINE GROUP

Hodge, along with Rod Gilbert and Bill Fairbairn give the Broadway Blues one of the finest complements of right wingers in the NHL.

Gilbert has been deemed as the best player to ever wear a Rangers' uniform, Hodge can score goals and throw his weight around, and Fairbairn does everything well.

Behind that trio is durable veteran Bill Collins, who not only scores his share of goals, but is considered one of hockey's premiere penalty killers.

With those four, Vernon's Eddie Johnstone found himself as odd-man out when Fergie took over last season. Johnstone spent most of the year with Rangers' farm team in Providence, but is determined to make the big club this year.

Such a fine complement of right wingers, but what does Fergie do for a surprise. He drafts high-scoring Don Murdoch in the first round of the amateur draft.

A MYSTERY

Murdoch, who also wore the blue and white of the Vernon Vikings, can score goals as well as everyone, but it seems a mystery as to why Fergie would pick another right winger.

For starters, Rangers have enough competent players at that position. Secondly, Fergie said he was going after big, aggressive players. Donny does not fit into that category.

New York is weak on left wing, defence, and in goal. It would have been a pretty safe bet that they would have tried to draft a player who could fill one of those holes.

Johnstone said, "I'm going to try my damndest to make the Rangers this season, and if it means knocking Murdoch around in camp, I guess I'll have to.

Unfortunately, neither player will beat out Gilbert, Hodge, or Fairbairn this season. So, it appears they are fighting for the fourth spot. Collins has not yet signed a new contract and Rangers may feel the aging veteran is expendable.

Murdoch or Johnstone? Right now Donny has to have the inside track because he was a first round draft pick and is a colorful player. But, I wouldn't want to bet against Eddie.

The SPORTS

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City fighting to keep Chiefs

Future of the Kamloops Chiefs Hockey Club appears to have taken an abrupt about-face.

Just when it appeared certain Chiefs were going to move to Vancouver's Pacific Coliseum, a group of Kamloops businessmen got together and are now making a determined bid to keep the club in the Interior city.

Chiefs planned to move because city council earlier this week rejected a proposal for renovations to the Memorial Arena. Without the renovations, it would be financially impossible to operate the team there next season.

PAY INTEREST

At a special meeting Wednesday, 50 senior Kamloops businessmen

agreed to guarantee city council the interest on a \$118,000 loan, needed to do the renovations.

Cost of the renovations would be in excess of \$200,000. Of that total, \$82,000 would be allocated from a recreation facility renovation fund, and the remaining \$118,000 would be in the form of a loan.

Reportedly, the businessmen hope to raise the interest money with various booster programs. Any money raised over the interest total, would be applied to the principle.

An emergency meeting of city council was scheduled today to discuss the proposal.

Chiefs' owner Ernie Rempel previously said if the renovations were done, the hockey club would stay in Kamloops.

Ali signs pact to battle Norton

NEW YORK (AP) — Muhammad Ali stood on second base at Yankee Stadium Thursday to sign his latest \$6-million fight contract and admitted that the legend of Babe Ruth left him cold.

"People keep asking me

