



**EDDIE JOHNSTONE**  
... to New Haven



**DONNY MURDOCH**  
... number three

# RANGERS KEEP ONE EX-VIKING

By **DON KENDALL**  
Daily News Sports Editor

One ex-Vernon Viking is now a New York Ranger, while another Vernon product just failed to make the NHL club.

Donny Murdoch, who played with Vikings during the 1973-74 season, has made the Rangers. Eddie Johnstone, who was with Vernon in 1971-72 before graduating to Medicine Hat Tigers, was one of the final cuts from New York.

Rangers' General Manager and Coach John Ferguson told the Daily News in an exclusive interview today Murdoch has had an exceptional training camp.

Ferguson said, "Right now I'd have to rate Donny as our number three right winger behind Rod Gilbert and Ken Hodge. Unfortunately, he got hurt pretty badly last week. But, he seems to be alright now."

## HUGE CUT

Murdoch picked up a 37-stitch cut in the head when hit by a slapshot.

With Murdoch rated number three, the right winger Johnstone had to beat out was veteran Bill Fairbairn, and Fergie said he just missed.

Ferguson said, "I'm very high on Eddie and I would have loved to keep him. There is no doubt he'll get another chance with our club this year. He just got caught in a numbers' game."

Johnstone has been assigned to New Haven, of the American Hockey League, under Coach Parker McDonald.

Johnstone spent part of last season with Rangers before being sent down to Providence of the AHL. New York changed farm clubs this year, explaining why the 22-year old winger ended up in New Haven.

## SURPRISE PICK

Many people were surprised when Rangers drafted Murdoch because of the club's obvious strength on the right side. Ferguson said, "When we drafted Donny, we weren't looking at position, we were looking at talent."

"We felt very fortunate to get him. We didn't draft until number five, and we rated him as one of the top three juniors in the country."

Fergie currently has Murdoch working on a line with veterans Greg Polis and Walter Tkaczuk.