

No telling the future



An announcement last week by New York Rangers' Coach John Ferguson just goes to prove you can't forecast the future.

Fergie announced right winger Don Murdoch was made the Rangers' fourth Johnstone is being sent down to New Haven, for the time being at least.

It was just a few years ago Murdoch was playing with Vernon Vikings and Johnstone was burning up the Western Canada Hockey League with Medicine Hat Tigers.

Murdoch was a moody player, owned by Kamloops Chiefs. Chiefs wanted little to do with him because of his attitude, so he ended up back in Vernon for a second season.

Vern Dye, at that time coach of Vikings, had faith in Murdoch and made the speedy winger his ace. Murdoch responded in fine fashion with 60 goals and 82 points.

SET RECORD

Meanwhile, everyone was raving about Johnstone. He picked up more than 100 points with Tigers and set a WCHL record for most short-handed goals.

The following year, Rangers drafted Johnstone, but Eddie decided to go with the fledgling World Hockey Association. After a year with the ill-fated Michigan Stags, ne Baltimore Blades, Johnstone joined the New York organization last season.

He felt he was ready for a good year in the NHL, but then along came Murdoch.

In the meantime, Medicine Hat acquired Murdoch, from Kamloops, for Brad Gassoff. Murdoch enjoyed two sensational years with Tigers and was drafted in the first round by Rangers this year.

Ferguson's pick of Murdoch surprised more than a few people. With a stable of right wingers that includes Rod Gilbert, Ken Hodge, and Bill Fairbairn, the last position New York appeared weak was on the right side. Particularly with Johnstone determined to make his mark in the NHL.

BEAT FAIRBAIRN

When training camp started, it appeared Murdoch and Johnstone would be battling for the fourth spot, behind the veteran trio. However, Ferguson has been so impressed with Murdoch, he elevated him to third line, "pass Fairbairn. Fergie wants to keep Fairbairn, leaving Johnstone out in the cold.

Johnstone is not banished to New Haven forever. Rangers have indicated he will be brought up for games during the season. But, the unfortunate thing is, Eddie is good enough to play in the NHL.

Rangers are not over-scheduled with talent at any position, except right wing, and there are several teams in the league that could make good use of Johnstone's talent.

It is a case of, Rangers can't use him, but nobody else can have him. Ferguson says Johnstone is in New York's future plans, but at 22, Eddie is ready now for the big time.

Let us hope Fergie has a heart and trades Johnstone. We'd like to see him on television too.

The SPORTS Page

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Citizens want second arena

Vernon residents apparently feel the number one city priority should be a second covered ice surface.

The, "Make Your Own Choice," survey ended this week with a majority of citizens voting for a second arena.

Of 530 ballots cast, 418, or 79 per cent, felt the city's number one priority should be construction of a new arena. Other project listed on the ballot, a museum-library complex, picked up 92 ballots, or 17 per cent of the votes.

Since Vernon Mayor Stuart Fleming recently announced a

museum-library complex was in the city's plans, a group of local citizens calling themselves, "Concerned Mothers and Fathers," have banded together to press for a new rink. It was this group that started the survey.

Of the write-in suggestions, 12 people felt tennis courts should be the number one priority.

Only seven people felt no expansion was necessary, while other minorities suggested sidewalk repairs, a second covered swimming pool, a quarter-mile track, and downtown improvement.

Rookie golfer still seeks first title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — "I've been in this position a couple of times," George Burns observed from his spot at the top halfway through the \$35,000 Sahara Invitational golf tournament. "And I haven't been able to get it across."

"The experience, I know I'm playing well enough to make it happen."

Burns, who has led in the final round of two other tournaments this year but is still seeking his first title at the end of his rookie season, fired a six-under par 65 Friday for a one-stroke lead at 132 after two rounds of this event.

veteran Kluder Barber, who had a 67.

George Knudson of Toronto made the cut with a two-round total of 142, including a 73 Friday.

Burns led at one time or another in the final round of both the Houston Open and the American tournament before fading to third in each event.

"I've faltered when the pressure was on me," said Burns, who had an outstanding amateur career before turning pro at age 26. He won the Scandinavian Open as a pro before joining the American tour and has collected more than \$80,000 this year.

IN BCJHL

Vikings find Lords' Tucker too hot to handle in 3-2 loss

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Vernon Vikings were without the services of two suspended regulars and found Chris Tucker too much to contend with in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League Friday night.

Tucker scored two goals including the winner to pace Langley Lords to a 3-2 victory over the Vikes while in other games, 10 minutes of overtime failed to break a 0-5 deadlock between Kelowna Buckaroos and Penticton Vees while Maple Ridge Bruins bested Merritt Centennials 5-3.

In Langley, Tucker's second goal at 8:16 of the third period of the defensive-minded game gave the Lords a 3-1 cushion.

Terry Leclain scored the other Langley marker while Brad McDonald and Darcy Wilkinson counted for the Vikings who were without suspended players Kevin White and John Schmitz.

White and Schmitz were suspended for one game for leaving the players bench during a fight in the Vikes' 10-1 loss to Penticton Wednesday night. Brad Gassoff of Vernon was also suspended for one game but he'll sit out Sunday night at Bellingham.

Al Wiebe of Langley stopped 23 shots while Keith Ferner blocked 22 in the Vikings nets.

EADES SCORES TIE
In Penticton, 793 fans watched Gary Eades score

two goals to lead the Vees while John Uvegas, Andy Turner and Shawn Dinet were the other Penticton players. Rod Danchuck paced the Bucks with two markers while Ken Calder, Rick Benningshof and Doug Davis completed the Kelowna scoring.

John McKerrow stopped 41 shots for Kelowna while Pat Murphy blocked 38 for Penticton which trailed 2-1 after the first period but led 3-2 entering the final 20 minutes.

The Vees took seven of 13 minor penalties and the Bucks were assessed two of three misconduct sentences.

In Merritt, 700 fans watched John Ogradjick, who scored

twice, get the winner for Maple Ridge in the second period. Maple Ridge led 5-2 at the end of the first period and 4-2 at the end of the second.

Ferry Kirkham, Lou Clark and Randy Irving scored the other Maple Ridge goals while Dale Setzner, Bob Deschamps and Gary Sirkia scored for Merritt.

Merritt drew four of seven minor penalties and a 10-minute misconduct. Maple Ridge had one major.

Tonight, Maple Ridge is at Kelowna and Bellingham Blazers meet the Clippers in Nanaimo. On Sunday, Maple Ridge is at Penticton. Kamloops is at Merritt and Vernon plays in Bellingham.

Canucks notch first victory in five pre-season outings

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Canucks scored four goals in the second period, including two on power plays, as they defeated Los Angeles Kings 7-1 for their first win in five National Hockey League exhibition games.

The victim of the Vancouver scoring spree, before about 11,000 fans, was rookie goalie Mario Lessard of the Kings, up from Saginaw Mich. of the International Hockey League. Lessard stopped 20 shots and was hurt by sloppy defensive play.

Right-winger Rick Blight led Vancouver with two goals, including one of the second-period power-play markers.

Other Vancouver goal scorers were Gerry O'Flaherty, Don Lever, John Gault, Gerry Monahan and Dennis Vergeert.

Rookie Steve Clippingdale scored the Los Angeles goal on a power play.



CESARE MANIAGO

... 39 shots

shots in his first complete game of the exhibition season.

The Canucks are undefeated in three games against the Kings, the first two ending in ties, and play them again tonight in Victoria.

Wednesday by Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Canucks opened the scoring early with a short-handed goal by O'Flaherty but Los Angeles tied the score 39 seconds later on Clippingdale's goal.

Lever's goal with one second left in the opening period put the Canucks ahead for good. Goulet and Blight scored power-play goals in the second and goals by Monahan and Verveert gave the Canucks a 6-1 lead going into the final period.

Blight scored the only goal of the third period.

Lessard was replacing Gary Edwards on the Los Angeles roster. Edwards has a broken knee in his catching hand and will be sidelined indefinitely.

Left-winger Dave Schultz, the NHL's all-time penalty leader acquired earlier in the week by Los Angeles from Philadelphia Flyers, did not

Meanwhile Colorado Rockies made their National Hockey League home debut Friday night before a record 13,435 fans at Denver but lost their exhibition game with Chicago Black Hawks.

J.P. Borgeleau and Phil Russell scored two goals each to lead the Hawks to a 5-3 win before the largest hockey crowd ever assembled in Colorado.

The Rockies, formerly Kansas City Scouts, are playing in the arena vacated by Denver Spurs, the former World Hockey Association team that moved to Ottawa in mid-season last year before folding.

The young Colorado team outhot the Hawks 63-50 but their victory bid fell short in the final minutes when Borgeleau slapped the clinching goal into an empty net.

In other exhibition games Friday night involving NHL teams, Atlanta Flames