

Murdoch is flying



Talk of the town these days is ex-Vernon Viking Don Murdoch.

Murdoch, a rookie this year in the National Hockey League, has been a pleasant surprise for New York Rangers.

In just five games, the speedy right winger has fired eight goals. Not bad for a kid who wasn't ever supposed to make it in the pros.

As a 17-year-old, Murdoch went to Kamloops Chiefs' training camp, and probably should have made the team. However, Chiefs' Coach Joe Tennant felt Murdoch was too small for tier one hockey and also did not have the right attitude.

So, Donny ended up playing tier two with the Vikings. Vern Dye, who coaches the Vikings that season, came under considerable fire for giving Murdoch so much ice time. The complaint was Donny was just a one-way player.

But, Dye's reply to the critics was, "He gets the job done." Murdoch finished the season with 50 goals and 82 points, despite missing several games.

GASSOFF TRADED

During the off-season Kamloops traded Murdoch's tier one rights to Medicine Hat Tigers in exchange for Brad Gassoff. Gassoff, who was 19, set a team record of 50 goals with the Chiefs and picked up more than 100 points.

Gassoff was rookie of the year last season in the Central Hockey League, and is expected to stick with the Vancouver Canucks when he recovers from an injury later this month.

However, Tigers got the bargain. During his first year in the Western Canada Hockey League, Murdoch surprised even himself and scored 82 goals. What could he do for an encore?

Well, he got in a dispute with Tigers' management at the start of the 1975-76 season, and missed the first four league games. However, the sometimes moody superstar came back better than ever. He finished the campaign with a whopping 88 goals, whopping 88 goals.

It is probably lucky for Donny he went back for another season, and didn't lengthen his squabble with Tigers. One year could have been a fluke, but the pro scouts knew two years made him the real thing.

ACCURATE SHOT

He admits he doesn't have a Bobby Hull slapshot, but he does have a good shot that is extremely accurate. He isn't a Bobby Orr when it comes to passing, but he moves the puck well, and he isn't a Gordie Howe when it comes to fighting, but he is not a powderpuff.

Murdoch has always put a fair amount of pressure on himself because of his attitude, but now more than ever, he is under pressure. Not only as a first round draft pick, but also as a contender for the NHL's top rookie award, the Calder Trophy.

When Rangers' Coach John Ferguson announced two weeks ago that Murdoch would be a regular, on a line with Walt Tkaczuk and Greg Polis, betting that Donny would score 25 or 30 goals would have been a safe wager. But, now some people are predicting 40 goals for the Cranbrook native.

One person Murdoch thanks for his success is Dye. He said, "When most teams didn't want me, Vern took me. He gave me a chance to play and gave me confidence."

But, that is history, and Donny has a bright future.

Foreman stops Dennis in fourth

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — George Foreman, patient and powerful, punched Elmo Dennis into submission with smashes to the head and stopped him in the fourth round of a scheduled 12-round heavyweight fight Friday night.

In the first round of a doubleheader at the Hollywood ring Sportatorium, lightweight champion Roberto Duran was a man in a hurry, knocking out Alvaro Rojas with a right to the temple in the first round that left the Costa Rican on the floor for five minutes before he could leave.

Fans in the 16,000-seat auditorium and a television audience saw a devastating

former world heavyweight champion had things his own way and took control of the bout in the third round.

In that round, Dennis, with his back to the ropes, missed with a right hand and Foreman, buckled his knees and crashing left hook to the head. The 231½-pound Foreman then rained at least 20 punches on Dennis's head, but Dennis would not go down until after the bell rang.

He then dropped to his knees but got up quickly and walked to his corner, with blood pouring from a cut above the left eye.

Early in the fourth round, Foreman shook up Dennis with four straight jabs that sent the fighter backwords



ADMIRING the Pat Hartney Trophy are from left, Bobby Dodds, Wolfgang Gachter, and Roly Sammartino. See story below. (Daily News Photo)

OLD TROPHY FOUND

Vernon Lodge Hotel has an old, dignified trophy sitting on top of its trophy case.

The Pat Hartney Trophy, symbolic of senior B lacrosse supremacy in B.C., was recently presented to Vernon Lodge Hotel.

However, the trophy had not been presented since 1968. It seems sometime that year the huge cup was misplaced, and just turned up three weeks ago.

In its absence, the Albert Brown Trophy was being awarded. However, now that the Hartney Trophy has been found, the replacement cup has been given to senior A.

A few of the oldtime players around Vernon were particularly happy to see the cup. Vernon Tigers won the provincial title trophy back in 1962. Two members of that squad, Bobby Dodds and Roly Sammartino, stopped by the hotel this week to get a close look at the trophy with Tigers' General Manager Wolfgang Gachter.

Since it was first awarded in 1929, the Hartney Trophy has been to almost every corner of B.C. including Powell River, Prince George, Pitt Meadows, Victoria, Roseland, Nanaimo, and of course, Vernon.

Merritt loses punch —bows 10-5 to Kelowna

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Merritt Centennials left their scoring punch in the first period Friday night as they bowed 10-5 to Kelowna Buckaroos in one of three British Columbia Junior Hockey League scorefests.

Langley Lords scored six goals in the second period as they beat Kamloops Braves 11-7 and Penitton Vees plied up an 8-1 edge before outlasting Abbotsford Flyers 9-4.

The goalies got a bit of a break in Maple Ridge where Nanaimo Clippers scored three unanswered goals in the second period for a 5-3 triumph.

In Kelowna, the Centennials led 5-3 after 20 minutes, had the gap narrowed to 5-4 in the middle frame and the Bucks blitzed them with six unanswered goals in the final period.

Doug Davis and Rod Danchuk led Kelowna scorers with two goals apiece. Defencemen Ken Calder, who also got four assists, and Darren Stanoffsky scored power-play goals while Bill Audeyk, Robbie Wright, Rick Benningshof and Brian Matthews completed the Kelowna attack.

Paul Chadwick scored twice to lead the Centennials who got their other goals from Don Nachaur, Lance Legouff and Laurie Nordstrom.

Kelowna outshot Merritt 94-27 with 16 of those drives coming in the final period. Brad Earp started in the Merritt nets but was replaced by Kelly Dube early in the third period.

John Mckerrow blanked the

centennials for 40 minutes. Merritt took five of seven minor penalties while Kelowna was tagged for three of five majors and a game misconduct.

In Langley, Layne Lavik scored three goals for the Lords, Barry Crawford, Bruce Harris and Terry Jackson had two each while Eddie Lebler

and Chris Tucker added singles.

Murray Matherson and Lance Lestander with two, Scott Lauch, Steve Zanatta and Ward Sparrow scored for the Braves.

Ken McNabb had a busy night in the Kamloops goal, stopping 37 shots. Al Wiebe made 22 saves for the Lords.

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Pigskin Contest winds up Sunday

Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation District's Pigskin Pete Contest has now been held at most elementary schools in the Vernon area.

Champions from each school will compete Sunday, for the North Okanagan championship, at Vernon Senior Secondary School, at 2:30 p.m.

John Ravensbergen was winner at BX School. Ravensbergen placed first in passing with a toss of 88 feet, and second in kicking with 81 feet.

Larry Olson won the punting event with a boot of 74 feet, while George Terpmans was top kicker with 80 feet.

AT BEARSTO
At Bearsto School, Winston

Flyers in town to face Vikings

Vernon Vikings will be trying for their third B.C. Junior Hockey League victory of the season tonight when they host Abbotsford Flyers at 8:30 p.m.

Vikings' last outing was by far their most impressive of the season. Vernon shot down the high-flying Penitton Vees 5-2.

In the absence of a new coach, General Manager Vern Dye will be behind the bench trying to keep his unblemished record intact. He took over the reins just prior to the Penitton game.

The game is being called Children's Night with special prizes for the youngsters in

attendance, including a five-speed bicycle.

Earlier this season, Flyers edged Vikings 5-4 in overtime, in Abbotsford. However, Dye told the Daily News his club has come a long way since then.

He said, "We're starting to come together now as a unit. But Flyers won't be any pushover. They have a young team, but they're big and work extremely hard."

Vikings will have a Kevin White back on the wing tonight after sitting out five-game suspension. But, rookie defenceman Brad McDonald may miss his fifth straight game because of a knee injury.

Bruins coach loves Marcotte —'he's perfect'

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Don Marcotte is a ballet on ice to Boston Bruins coach Don Cherry.

"Marcotte can play on any team, including the Montreal Canadiens," says Cherry.

NHL Campbell Conference Patrick Division

Team	W	L	T	F	A	P
Atlanta	4	0	16	4	8	
Islanders	4	0	16	21	8	
Rangers	3	2	13	9	6	
Phila	1	3	5	14	2	

Smythe Division

Team	W	L	T	F	A	P
Chicago	3	2	0	13	13	6
St. Louis	2	1	0	9	4	4
Colorado	1	3	0	17	4	4
Minnesota	1	3	0	15	23	2
Vancouver	1	3	0	10	18	2

Prince of Wales Conference Adams Division

Team	W	L	T	F	A	P
Boston	4	1	0	25	16	8
Toronto	1	2	1	14	18	3
Cleveland	1	2	1	13	13	3
Buffalo	1	2	0	6	9	2

Norris Division

Team	W	L	T	F	A	P
Montreal	2	2	5	7	8	
Los Angeles	1	2	15	14	4	
Detroit	1	1	1	7	3	
Washington	2	1	13	18	3	
Pittsburgh	1	4	0	16	28	2

of play, but Ian Turnbull and Larry McDonald came back with goals for Toronto.

Bucyk scored on Wayne Cashman's rebound a 4-2 lead the second period for a 4-2 lead, but Detroit Sittler brought the Leafs to within one of a breakout 49 seconds later. Bill Flett scored at 12:30 of the third period to provide Atlanta with its victory over Philadelphia. Atlanta's other score came at 13:06 in the second period on Curt Bennett's slap shot.

Gary Croteau scored the go-ahead goal at 17:36 of the second period to send Colorado past Chicago. The Rockies trailed 2-0 as the second period began, but scored three goals in the period.

FOLLOWED FIGHT

The Rockies began their comeback following a 1-0 lead. An altercation between defencemen Steve Durban and Chicago centre Jim Harrison. The incident, which resulted in Harrison's expulsion from the game, prompted three consecutive goals by Larry McNabb and defencemen Terri Jacobsen and Jim Slater.

The suspensions are a result of Thursday night's game against Abbotsford Flyers who defeated the Clippers 4-3 in a game that saw 45 penalties handed out, 27 to Nanaimo.

McNabb was slapped with a two-minute penalty for talking from the bench in the first period. When the teams returned for the third period, a suspension he had been thrown out of the contest.

Jacobsen and Slater were suspended for the several penalties they took in the game.

FLAMES WIN
In other NHL games Friday night, Atlanta Flames beat Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 and Colorado Rockies surprised Chicago Black Hawks 5-3. Marcotte, Hank Nowak and Dave Forbes scored for Boston in the first 10 minutes