

Areshenkoff a good bet

In keeping with tradition, it is a good bet that Medicine Hat Tigers will have at least one player selected in the first round of this year's National Hockey League draft.

Over the past few seasons, Tigers have had more than their share of players selected early in the draft. This year's best bet is center Ron Areshenkoff.

Most of the scouts are raving about Barry Beck, Brad Maxwell, and Kevin McCarthy from the WHC's. But Areshenkoff just keeps making himself a better pick by the handful.

Last weekend, he enjoyed one of his biggest games of the season with four goals and an assist as the Hat thumped Calgary Centennialis 13-5.

SHOULD HIT 160

To date, he has 45 goals and 42 assists for 87 points, and should easily reach the 100-point plateau.

Hockey hasn't always been easy for the 19-year-old Grand Forks native. He came to Vernon Vikings camp as a 16-year-old and stuck with the club until Christmas. However, he was tall and lanky, and not quite ready for junior. A hitting coach told the 1975-76 season with Grand Forks Border Bruins.

The following season he put on a little weight, but Joe Tennant, then coach of the Vikings, questioned whether he was strong enough to stick in junior.

After a mediocre training camp and bad start, the rangy center was sent to the Calgary Broncos. He was known as the W.A. line, terrorized the BCHL. Areshenkoff finished the year as Vikings' top scorer with goals and assists for 86 points.

Then came the Medicine Hat camp in September, 1975. Ron had put on some weight. The Vikings' coach Jack Shupe was still a little pessimistic about his rangy frame. Aresh fooled his critics and had a good rookie year in the WHC.

BIG GUNS GONE

This year, with all the team's big guns — Don Murdoch, Morris Lukowich and Greg Carroll, graduated to the pro ranks, a lot of considerations. His shoulders are bigger now and he is handling the extra responsibility as a team leader.

The pro teams may still have a little doubt about Ron's ability because, although he is a great stickhandler, and passer, he is not the fastest skater in the world. However, he has another thing going for him besides ability — he is playing for the Tigers.

When it comes to churning out scorers, few junior teams can boast a better Medicine Hat than has been joining the WHC, eight years ago.

Of course Murdoch, who has 32 goals this season, heads the list — or does he? Don Murdoch, who has 20 goals in Toronto, who has 37 goals already there, down south at Atlanta. Tom Lysyak is the acknowledged leader of the Flames.

IMPRESSIVE LIST

Stan Weir is a regular. The Maple Leafs and Barry Dean has been one of Colorado Rockies' most consistent performers this year.

Morris Lukowich, with Houston Aeros, and Greg Carroll, with Cincinnati Bengals, are enjoying good rookie years in the WHA.

Eddie Johnstone, playing with New York Rangers' farm team in New Haven, was leading the American Hockey League in scoring last report. And Greg Vaydik, with Chicago's farm club, Dallas Black Hawks, Not to mention the other players, Bob, Ken, and Brad, who all played with Tigers.

With a production record like that, it is simple to see why scouts like the Hat's forwards. Maybe you're watching Ron on television next winter, on Saturday nights.



SPIEL WINNERS

First place winners of the CAE Morse annual bonspiel held Sunday at the Armstrong Curling Rink, from left, Rick Munk, second; Marybelle Lintott, third; Muriel Nelson, lead; and skip Emil Ploeger, receive the winning trophy presented by Harold Lavac, of Laurendite Finance. Adding congratulations is bonspiel chairman, Maurice Marty, right, of Armstrong. Also involved in organizing the spiel that drew 50 people, from Kamloops, Vernon, Nakup and Armstrong, were Lintott and Ken West, who are staff officials with CAE Morse's Vernon branch. (Daily News Photo)

Soccer groups form association

Senior and juvenile bodies have banded together to form a governing body for soccer in Vernon.

A meeting of about 20 people on Monday, at the Coldstream Hotel, elected John Zonneveld as president, Ian Gibson will

serve as first vice-president and George Garrett will be second vice-president.

Ron Dickie was chosen as secretary, treasurer and Karl Krause is in charge of publicity.

500 PLAYERS

Fee for jurisdiction, the body will have 44 teams and about 500 players.

The association is in charge of all senior soccer tournaments and B.C. playdowns.

Meanwhile, the overall Soccer Association will hold its first registration season Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the recreation complex.

PROOF NEEDED

Registrations will not be accepted "without proof of age and a medical insurance number."

Boys born 1969 or later, and girls born 1967 or later, will be 14. Girls born before 1967 will pay \$5 while boys born in 1968 or earlier will pay \$12. Family rate is \$25.

booth exchange will be held during registration.

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Easy victories in hoop league

Armstrong and Vernon Blues hold comfortable leads after the opening games of the two-point round-robin men's Commercial Basketball League semi-finals.

Armstrong blasted Art's Gulf 102 while Blues trounced Lumby 94-84.

The Cheese City boys held a 40-26 lead at half-time and were able to stretch that margin in the second-half when Gulf got into foul trouble and had to finish the game with only four players.

42 POINTS

League scoring champion Tony Wolcott enjoyed his best night of the season with 42 points, including 25 in the second-half. Calvin White while being an assist on the game. Kim Polak added 13.

Ed Folk was top sniper for Gulf getting 10 points while Vince Mikuska and Mike Sorba sunk 20 and 18 respectively.

Bill Vlaevich was Lumby's big gun with 11 points while Truck Yarnoch added 11.

LOTS OF FOULS

In the other game, Lumby took 22 fouls, resulting in Blues getting 47 foul shots while Armstrong had 22.

Alma Marshall scored eight for Armstrong while Jane Hill led the Enderby attack with eight points.

In minor boys basketball play, Eagles dumped Rebels 21-16. Brian Buggley led Eagles with eight points, while Tony Fisher was Rebels' top sniper with nine.

Despite a 24-point performance by Steven Schmidt, Roadrunners dropped a 37-34 decision to Falcons. Ralph English led Falcons with 12 points.

Nilson praised for play

WINNIPEG (CP) — The night Anders Hedberg broke professional hockey's record for the fastest 60 goals in the Winnipeg Arena was the player some say was mostly responsible for the record.

While Hedberg was on television and the remainder of Winnipeg jets were dressing and showering, Ulf Nilsson stood quietly, almost alone, as tears of joy rolled gently down his cheeks.

A complete team player, Nilsson has happened in winning, in the success of his teammates, or in his dry wit that is funnier as the season gets longer.

There are many known, legible hockey officials in both the World Hockey Association and the rival National Hockey League who say Nilsson is probably the best centreman in the game today.

Nilsson was the centre who made Hedberg's record-breaking performance possible and was also centre for Bobby Hull when Hull tied the record of 60 goals in 50 games and set a single-season record of 77 goals.

AIMS AT 100

There is nothing Nilsson can't do offensively or defensively. The 27-year-old controls the puck in a manner known to most hockey fans, but he would make Jean Beliveau proud.

"I'm a premier centreman, the best I've seen," says Winnipeg coach Bobby Kromm. "Not just offensively, but defensively too. Ulf makes everything look easy because he's worked at it."

Star defenceman ties WCHL record

WINNIPEG (CP) — Winnipeg Monarchs built up an early lead and withstood a barrage of third-period goals as they defeated Regina Pats 8-6 in the only game in the Western Canada Hockey League Monday night.

And Winnipeg's Kevin McCarthy tied a league record when he added an assist on the last goal of the night just 49 seconds before the end of the game. The 27-year-old McCarthy's 200th and tied career record set by Dale McCarty in 1967.

For the Pats, Greg Ing had two goals and Gerald Minor, Glen Koef, Greg Tebbutt and Dirk Graham had singles.

struck back with four straight goals.

However, Winnipeg held on to the lead and added an insurance goal in the final minute of play.

Kelly Durbin and Tom Rouleau led the Monarchs with a pair of goals each, and singles were added by Tom McCarthy, Darrell Gaudin, Greg McPhee, and Jim Malaz, defence.

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Hunt unhurt in auto crash

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — World auto racing champion James Hunt was unhurt in a crash from a 100-m.p.h. crash at the Kyalami track near here today after a big blow.

Hunt, who was on a practice lap in a prototype McLaren race car in preparation for the South African Grand Prix on March 6, was saved by a fence which slowed the car before it hit the earth bank.

Tigers to host boxla tourney

Vernon Lodge Tigers Team Manager Laurie Jenner announced today his club will host the first annual Western Canada Invitational Senior Lacrosse Tournament on May 7 and 8.

Jenner said, "The tournament will feature four of the top senior clubs in B.C. and Alberta, offers \$500 to the first place team. Runner-up will win \$200 while the third-place club picks up \$100."

Jenner said, "With the calibre of teams that are invited, the tournament should prove to be one of the season's highlights. It is not often you get three Canadian champions in one place."

Jenner said, "The 1976 Canadian champion Tigers, the teams invited are 1974 Canadian champion Shamrock, and 1975 Canadian champion Edmonton Fullers, and Armstrong Shamrocks."

Jenner said, "We are hoping to be as strong as last season and I'm sure the other clubs will be ready to play. \$500 is a pretty good incentive."

Two-day passes will go on sale in April.

Eagles' coach wants back in

Vernon Screaming Eagles Coach Don McDonald says his club will be back in the North Okanagan Hockey League next season, and he can't figure out why the team was suspended this year.

McDonald said, "Even though I am our team representative, I didn't get a written notification that we were suspended. The letter went to our manager Roy Herring."

The letter, issued two weeks ago by League Commissioner John Mahler, said, "Because of the actions and conduct of Screaming Eagles players and coaching staff, as you are aware, we have reached a point where the officials will no longer participate in a game that your club is in violation of."

McDonald replied to the letter by saying, "I don't think our club has been any worse than a couple of the others in the league. There has been a couple of pretty big brawls in Winfield and one nice brawl in Lumby."

"I've mentioned the game last week that was called off in the second period. We weren't involved in any of those."

"If I was a rowdy coach, don't you think I'd get some bench penalties? I've never had one."

McDonald went on to say he feels the only way to improve the NOHL is to elect a proper executive.

He said, "The league has to be run by people who will be at the games, but not involved with any team. I don't think our commissioner (Mahler) has done a good job this season."

CRITICAL WORDS

McDonald also had some critical words for the referees. He said, "It looks like we're paying the refs to do a job on us. It seems as soon as Eagles step on the ice, the officials want to straighten us out."

Eagles went back in the NOHL next season and their coach says it will take a darn good reason to keep them out.

He said, "I don't think it is right for Winfield and Lumby clubs to get away from our own arena. We are a Vernon team and want to play in a league based in Vernon."

Kinsmen post playoff win

Kinsmen edged Raiders 4-3 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League playoff game Thursday night at the Civic Arena.

Irv Nixon, Cliff Wenger, Bob Dwyer and Sam Reinme scored for Kinsmen.

Graham Jobbett, Tom Dwyer and Steve Girey countered for Raiders.

Gary Buden made 28 saves for Raiders while Pat Lett blocked 20 shots for the winners.

Deadline passes with no results

CLEVELAND (AP) — The noon deadline set by Cleveland Barons players for resolution of the National Hockey League's ultimatum financial problems passed with no salvation assured.

A series of meetings held out the possibility that the confrontation still could be avoided, but there was no sign it was likely.

As they practised during the morning, the players remained adamant in their insistence the Barons majority owner Mel Swig must pay their overdue wages, sell the club or otherwise resolve the team's financial bind. The players have refused to consider a salary-free agents if nothing were done by the deadline they set arbitrarily.

And they vowed to strike at the same time, saying they would not play for their scheduled match with Buffalo here Wednesday night.

Alan Eastson, executive director of the NHL Players' Association which has sanctioned the Barons' ultimatum to Swig, flew in to meet with representatives of the Barons' players.

Chairman of the NHL Board of Governors, John Ziegler, of Detroit, Red Wings, also came to Cleveland to talk with the players.

"We'll listen to them," said Barons player representative Bob Stewart, "but we are siding by our earlier decision."

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