

Johnstone and Rangers lack on the right track

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Eddie Johnstone took time out from a rigorous National Hockey League road trip to visit his younger brother, Bob, Wednesday at Vernon Jubilee Hospital.

Bob was recently injured in a logging truck-snowmobile accident on King 24th ward Lake Road.

Johnstone and the New York Rangers edged Vancouver Canucks 4-3, Tuesday, in Vancouver. He arrived in Vernon, Wednesday morning, and left for Calgary in the evening, where Rangers meet the Flames tonight.

After a spectacular 1980-81 campaign when he was second on the club in scoring and represented Rangers in the all-star game, Johnstone got off to a slow start this season.

Under rookie coach Herb Brooks, Johnstone was shuffled from line-to-line and sat out four games, but, in the past month, that has all changed.

"It was early-January when I got things turned around," he said. "I'm going pretty well right now."

In his last five games, Johnstone has scored six times. He now has 16 goals and 18 assists (for 34 points, in 47 games).

Rangers, like Johnstone, have been hot. New York has won five straight games, despite injuries which have sidelined 10 regulars.

Johnstone said, "We're starting to get some of our injured guys back now... Dave Maloney, (Ron) Greshner, Danny Sils, and Don Maloney have returned... and they've helped."

Don Maloney, who is playing on a line with Johnstone and Eddie Flock, has made the biggest difference. The 23-year-old left winger missed 25 games with a knee injury.

"I've never seen Donny play so well," Johnstone said. Maloney has 25 points, in 21 games.

NINTH OVERALL

Since their resurgence, Rangers have climbed from 17th place to ninth overall in the NHL. And Johnstone thinks his club will continue to improve.

"We've got the potential," he said. "but we can't afford any more injuries. We play a free-wheeling style on offense... we can do what we want when we've got the puck. And we make the transition from offence to defence very well."

With injuries to veteran John Davidson and Steve Baker, Steve Weeks and Ed Mio have been filling in between the pipes for the Broadway Blues. Rangers acquired Mio from Edmonton Oilers last month, for Lance Nethery.

"Weeks and Mio have been doing a good job for us. In fact, everyone has been playing well," Johnstone said. "We've got 29 games to go and I think we'll be tough down the stretch."

"Slick," as his brother Bob calls him, was making a return appearance at the all-star game next week. But, he stays hot. Eddie can certainly salvage a respectable season... with perhaps 30 goals.

Lakers must win down the stretch

If Vernon Lakers hope to hold on to their fourth place standing in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, they had better start winning some games, and soon.

Merritt Centralians are only three points back of Lakers for first place. A year ago, Lakers were challenging Revelstoke Rockets for third place, but have now slipped 15 points back and there's a place Lakers may not want to slip into.

Lakers have an opportunity to turn things around when they travel to Revelstoke, Saturday, to try to open some space between them and the Rockets.

However, Vernon could be without two players for the contest. Dale Reimer, a defenseman, is also tentative because of a doubtful separated shoulder. Jeff Armitage, a forward, is also tentative because of a chipped bone in his elbow, suffered in the Penitence game last weekend.

Richie Odell will be playing this weekend. Odell took a cracked cheek bone in a fight and it was feared he had a cracked cheek bone.

However, Lakers' Coach Gord MacBeth said Odell is okay, but he's got a bit of a black eye, but he's a tough kid.

MacBeth said he's not exactly worried about the injuries, but is skeptical about his defence, especially with Reimer a doubtful starter.

"Our big problem is the Kootenai defence. I don't have anyone that can clear people out," said MacBeth.

Lakers have given up 235 goals, a far cry from the 109 league leading Penitence has given up.

"Defence I'm worried about, but not the goaltending. I can't fault (Dale) Woods, when he has to stand there and make three or four saves in a row there's not much he can do."

MacBeth said Revelstoke has recruited four or five veteran players and will be tough.

"When we go up to Revelstoke you can bet they're going to have a full hockey club," said MacBeth.

CRUCIAL GAMES

A win over Rockets would definitely improve Vernon's chances of making the playoffs, but Lakers' crucial games have yet to come.

A win this weekend would set us up nicely, but our big wins have to come against Merritt."

Lakers have three or four games remaining with Merritt, two in Merritt and one in Vernon.

"If we can win two of those three games we'll be in."

MacBeth said he's not making any changes on his lines for Revelstoke, but other than that has nothing new planned.

"In practice we've been working on coming out of our own end as well as trying to work our forechecking. But basically nothing new, just working on some strategy."

Lakers' forechecking has been weak the last few games allowing opposing teams too much time in their own end.

"We just have too many guys turning on their checks, some because they're young and some because they're experienced and others are just lazy."

Aussie pulls second upset

TORONTO (CP) — Peter McNamara seems to have a good understanding of the average tennis fan.

After staging his second upset in as many nights at the \$350,000 Molson Tennis Challenge with a 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 win over the United States' Eliot Teltscher of the United States.

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When fans banded him for wasting more time, Gerulaitis involved with two fans scolding directly behind him that he held a delay of game and received a delay of game warning.

"If he (one of the fans) had said I never want to work with you, I would have kicked him with my racket," said Gerulaitis after the match.

"There's no use in repeating what they said to me because you can't print my replies. The fans here are a joke. I'm going to time the old days when it was polite."

Gerulaitis continued his reprieve with the crowd through the remaining games with things finally coming to a head in the final game. He became so involved with two fans scolding directly behind him that he held a delay of game and received a delay of game warning.

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Rowdies win

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In the only other game, Diego Sockers beat Vancouver Whitecaps 10-6.

Two matches later — after John McEnroe's 6-3, 6-2 thrashing of Italian Adriano Panatta — and near the end of an evening without incident, the 5,000 in attendance at Maple Leaf Gardens seemed intent on proving McNamara's words right.

With Vilas Gerulaitis closing in on an eventual 7-4, 6-4, 6-1 win over fellow-American Rodger Taylor, some fans began heckling.

The first incident occurred at the start of the sixth game of the final set, when a fan threw a seat behind Gerulaitis, the defending champion, started riding the line and was returning to the court after a

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Joins Lions

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Drafted by St. Louis Cardinals in the fourth round of the National Football League draft, Rhodes joined the Lions as a free agent, the club announced today.

Scannella hired

CLEVELAND (AP) — Joe Scannella, head coach of Montreal Aspettes of the Canadian Football League from 1976 to 1981, was named running back coach of Cleveland Browns of the National Football League on Wednesday.

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Brown clinches second place in league

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports Editor

Randy Brown (M and K Ready Mix) clinched the aggregate with an 87 extra end win over Dan Worley (Bob Harris Airports) in Pacific Western Airlines Inter-city men's 5-3er

League curling, Wednesday night, at Vernon Curling Club.

Brown's record stands at 11-3 with Wayne Laface (OK Take) 10-1 and Bert Gretzinger (Labatt's) at 10-4 with one game remaining. However, if there is a tie, Brown will be awarded the aggregate because of previous wins over Laface Gretzinger.

In other Super League action Herb Van Groote (Lance Smith) defeated Dave Lovdahl (McDonald's) 6-3. Frank Brewer (Dave Loudon Mobile Homes) dumped Larry Smith (M. W. Office Supply) 9-6, and Ron Houston (Hong Kong Village) defeated George Smith (Petrolco) 8-7, in an extra end.

In Kelowna, Laface edged Gary Fowler (Royal Anne Hotel) 9-8, also in an extra end. Gretzinger beat Jack Hockey (Smith's) 11-1, and Barry Smith (Gilmour Construction) whipped Dave Simpson (Baron Insurance) 7-4, and Barry Smith (Carling O'Keefe) trounced Bill Kilmura (Happy Vineyard) 7-4.

Brown's first rock, he had second shot to the right of the four and was playing a hit on a Worley's rock to the right of the four. Brown hit a slick, forcing Worley to try the same shot. However, Worley hit a bit of a break and rolled inches too far giving Brown the win.

On Brown's chance to win in the 10th, there was some question whether his rock picked something up.

"I don't see how it could have picked anything up because they (front end) were so close together," said Brown. "But I guess it could have picked something up, it did in a hurry."

Brown said Worley's rink played well, as did his team, and admits they got a bit of a break and rolled inches too far giving Brown the win.

"We put one out in front and they beaked it so that got us started. But we did get a pretty big break."

Houston had a 5-3 lead after seven ends before James picked up two in the eighth. However, Houston cracked a deuce in the ninth only to have James hit and stick for two in the 10th, to again tie the game.

In the extra end, Houston had to draw to the right foot for the win and responded by planting the winning rock right on the four foot.

Van Groote took advantage of a three-ender in the eighth while Lovdahl could only manage a single in the ninth. Lovdahl then ran out of rocks in the 10th.

TWOIN

Brewer cracked three, two ends with the most important being the tie he picked up in the 10th for the win over Larry

Smith.

In league standings, Brewer is tied for fourth with Worley, both at 8-6; Houston, Van Groote, Lovdahl 4-10; Simpson and Hovdahl 4-10, and Kimura 2-12.

James, L. Smith, Scott, B. Smith and Fowler are all 7-7. Lovdahl 4-10; Simpson and Hovdahl 4-10, and Kimura 2-12.



SKIP Herb Van Groote gives instructions to his sweepers as Dave Lovdahl, of Kelowna, looks on during Pacific Western Airlines Super Curling League action, Wednesday. Van Groote defeated Lovdahl 6-3. (Daily News Photo)



EDDIE JOHNSTONE, of New York Rangers, was in Vernon, Wednesday, to visit his brother Bob who is recuperating from a recent accident. Johnstone had less than 12 hours here before leaving for Calgary, to join Rangers, for a game tonight against the Flames. (Daily News Photo)

Winter sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

GUIDE REPORT

Winter doldrums

By SMOKEY TRUMBLYE

The period from Feb. 1 to May 1 is always a slack time for outdoor recreation.

I know that skiers and snowmobilers enjoy this period and usually have good conditions for their activities, but fishermen and hunters are not so lucky, neither are our wildlife.

All fishermen are not ice-fishermen, neither are they all lake trawlers — only a small percentage of anglers participate in each method of angling. The largest percentage of fishermen participate in small lake angling, either casting or trolling, and of course this time of year all our small lakes are frozen over and anglers is limited to ice-fishing only at least May 1. Hunters are inactive until next his spring season, so they are totally grounded.

Our native wildlife are in even more serious doldrums during this period. They find their natural food supply is harder to locate as a result of deepening snow level and becoming more scarce daily from over browse. This results in what is referred to as "winter kill." There are other things that contribute to winter kill as well... extreme cold, deep snow that hinders escape from natural predators, and man himself has caused winter kill to increase annually by destroying winter habitat and even destroying animals that invade his property, such as orchards in search of food when their natural food supply has been exhausted or eliminated by winter conditions in the wild.

COUGAR PROBLEMS

The winter doldrum period usually is cause for another problem involving wildlife. This winter, conditions are such that I'm certain we can expect cougar problems, especially in the rural areas with surrounding timber terrain where cougars habitat. Snow depth is such that cougars cannot catch deer or other food sources such as rabbits. Hunger will drive them to search for other food prey that is easier to catch, and domestic dogs and cats are their first choice.

Hunger pains will drive a cougar to the point where it will abandon all fear of humans and will invade yards and homes in search of food. Actual attacks on humans have been documented in past years, but not a common occurrence. Never-the-less, cougars are wild animals and when starving to death should not be trusted. I strongly suggest that anyone living in cougar country, and seeing signs such as tracks around their homes, should contact the nearest conservation officer and ask to have the animal destroyed. You can be certain he will be back, especially if you have a dog or cat that is running loose at night.

Our local coyote population will decrease sharply this winter and the extent of the decrease will be determined by how cold the weather gets during winter. Coyotes are infected with a mange disease which results in loss of protective hair and renders the animal to being susceptible to freezing to death. Coyotes mate during February and the disease will spread even more during the mating season.

BOUQUET OF THE WEEK

Goes to Stowarama committee for another excellent job this year. Also, to the Vernon Snowmobile Club, which has the Vernon Lions Club members. Vernon and surrounding areas have done it again... \$46,122.00 for the crippled and blind.

BRICK OF THE WEEK

Goes to Ministry of Environment Fish and Wildlife Branch Publicity Department for the TV film currently being shown on local television stations. I'm still trying to get the message the film is supposed to give.

GUIDE TIP

Now that the weather has turned colder, the snow has a strong crust that will cause such as dogs but not deer. Do you know where your dog is?

BEST HOURS

Saturday from 3:10 to 5:10 p.m. and Sunday from 4 p.m. until darkness.

Vernon bowlers qualify for meet

Fifteen bowlers have qualified to represent Vernon in the B.C. Inter-city Five-pin Bowling Championships, March 19 and 20, at Lincoln Lakes.

Thirty-three bowlers competed in trials last weekend. The Vernon women's team is comprised of: Irene Walker 2306, Lori Kuyper 2238, Helen Franklin 2220, Mary Turek 2063, and Donna Desmarais 2063.

The men's squad includes: John Tykavich 2541, Len Chahley 2517, Gene Natsuhara 2361, Bill Kniaz 2346, and Marcel Gallon 2322.

The mixed team is comprised of: Diane Baker 2059, Marie MacBeth 2054, Joe Goldenhall 2312, Jim Bodger 2245, and Paul Babineau 2220.

Alternates are Delores Jett, who rolled 2044, and Art Block, with 2208.

Will Wendel will act as coach with Ron Potts serving as manager.

Top 10 games in the trials were: Gallon 321, Chahley 301, Kniaz 308, Gene Natsuhara 300 and 307, Babineau 318, Kuyper 309, Tykavich 305 and 222.

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