

Gretzky hits 200-point mark

By The Canadian Press
It didn't take long for Wayne Gretzky to score two short-handed goals and assisted on two others Thursday night to break 200 points and shatter a barrier in hockey that never existed in any other sport.

The 21-year-old Edmonton Oilers centre, who once again led his team to victory, 5-2, in a win over Calgary Flames, now has 200 points in 141 assists for the National Hockey League season.

With four regular-season games remaining, it is conceivable that the Stratford, Ont., native could score 100 goals.

In other games Thursday, it was New York Islanders 3, Montreal Canadiens 1; Boston Bruins 5, Buffalo Sabres 1; Washington Capitals 4, Philadelphia Flyers 1; Minnesota North Stars 4, Detroit Red Wings 3.

Gretzky's 200th point came at 9:16 of the first period when he lost the draw to Calgary's Mel Bridgman but chased the puck to the side of the net, where he stole it from rookie defenceman Steve Konradi. Gretzky then fired a 20-foot slapshot passed goalie Rejean Lemelin.

Two minutes later, with Calgary playing two men short, Gretzky set up Dave Semenko near the edge of the crease and the big left winger stuffed it home.

In the second period, Gretzky scored twice on the same shift while "killing" a penalty. His 99th came on a low 40-foot shot that handcuffed Lemelin, and then — 27 seconds later — he scored a 2-1 flip-pass at centre from Charles Hudry and set up a shot by John Nordin.

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KNIGHTS TAKE STRANGLEHOLD

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — Pentiction Knights are just one win away from taking a B.C. Junior Hockey League championship after defeating New Westminster Royals 4-0 before 1,500 fans Thursday.

Pentiction now leads the best-of-seven series 3-1 with the next game scheduled for tonight in Pentiction.

The Knights dominated play Thursday although the Royals showed signs of picking up late in the third period when they scored twice.

Pentiction got singles from Ken Karpu, Dave Purnal, Brent Grogan, Rick Trupp, Rob Proudfoot and Ken Ferraro in the first three periods.

Vaughan Karpan, who contributed to New Westminster's win the night before by getting three goals, led the Royals' scoring with two. Goalie Harrison and Rod Slatten added singles.

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period but Pentiction then surged ahead to end the second with a 4-2 advantage and New Westminster was unable to catch up.

Pentiction goalie Norm Foster made 29 saves while Rich Wilts stopped 25 shots for New Westminster.

Rota balances faith and fists

VANCOUVER (CP) — Darcy Rota of Vancouver Canucks, who balances faith and fists, isn't embarrassed to admit he prays and reads the Bible every day and that Christianity has become "the most important thing in my life."

Yet the Canucks left winger, who erupted for five goals in his first three games back in his seven-year layoff, is wary about people misinterpreting his beliefs and he refrains from preaching to his fellow hockey league teammates.

Rota, a 26-year-old, is a personal commitment I made my relationship with Jesus Christ," Rota said in an interview this week. "I'm not a preacher."

But people sometimes get the wrong idea, the wrong impression. It's not a cult or a freakish religion. It's just normal thing."

Rota, the only avowed born-again Christian on the team, not only doesn't demean fighting in hockey, he is a frequent participant.

PART OF GAME
The 26-year-old is not fighting with a good one-on-one confrontation, said the scrappy forward, who has scored two goals in his last 16 outings (11-3-3), now is 11 points up on second-place Winnipeg Jets in the NHL's Norris Division.

Chris Cooper, of the Vernon Legion, and Herb Schneider, of Vernon Army Navy Air Force Veterans Club, recorded the high scores in the recent Valley Dart Shoot.

Kelowna Legion won both the men's and women's teams events. A total of 32 teams completed in the one-day event, at the Vernon Legion.

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Sweden faces Denmark in world curling final

GENEVA (CP) — Elizabeth Hogstrom, skip of the Swedish team from Karlstad, has advanced to the final of the world curling championship for the third straight year, defeating Scotland 5-3 in semifinal play on Friday.

Hogstrom, seeking her second straight title, put on a powerful performance against Isobel Torrance's rink by stealing single points in the fourth and fifth ends, scoring two in the sixth on an open draw and one in the eighth and ninth ends.

The Swedes will meet Marianne Jorgensen of Denmark, who wound up with the best record in round-robin play of seven wins and two defeats, in the fourth women's final later today.

Denmark, which whipped the Swedes 11-3 in the first round last night, advanced with a 4-3 verdict over Trine Truelsen of Norway. The Danish squad scored single points in the first and third ends, then got two on the sixth for the triumph.

While the semifinals were being played in the Geneva Arena, Colleen Jones and her Canadian teammates from Halifax were touring the city.

The Canadians were eliminated Thursday night and on Friday, they were downed 6-5. It was only the second time in 10 years a Canadian team has been eliminated from the playoffs in world curling.

Denmark, the first being Jack MacDuff's foursome from St. John's, Nfld., in the 1978 men's world event.

HAD TWO CHANCES
Canada had two chances to make the semifinals, but Jones and her mates remained inconsistent three times as curlers were eventually eliminated.

There were three tie-breaker games to decide playoff positions. In the first series, Scotland defeated Canada 4-6 and Sweden 4-3.

In the semifinals and forced overtime games between Canada and Norway to decide the fourth position.

In the second tie-breaker, it was Norway, 6 Canada, 4. That result for Jones.

"We just didn't curl up to par," said the Canadian skip who lost her last five games. "I definitely was flat all week, which is very disappointing because I work very hard at my game."

The round-robin portion of the championship ended up earlier Thursday, with Canada, Sweden, Norway and Scotland finishing in a tie for second place, all with 6-3 records. Denmark, which missed the playoffs in the first three games, placed first with seven wins and two defeats, including a 15-7 setback to Canada in the fourth draw.

The Canadian rink, which also includes the skip's sister, Monica and Barbie — plus Kay Smith, was sitting pretty at the time in the 10-county, round-

in the ninth and final draw, in other final-round games, F. Julete Sulpice of France beat Maria-Grazia Constantini of Italy 10-3. Denmark whipped Trudi Kiesel of West Germany 10-1. Sweden won Erika Muller of Switzerland 12-6 and Scotland took a 5-3 win over Ruth Schwenker, skip of the United States rink from Oak Park, Ill.

Canada lost its third game in a row in the round-robin schedule when Norway took a 7-5 decision

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