

Murdoch gets another chance

Don Murdoch, who started his junior career with Vernon Vikings (now Lakers) in 1972, is battling to get back into the National Hockey League.

Murdoch, who now toils with Adirondack Red Wings, says the pressure of living up to his reputation as a goal scorer, not just his conviction of cocaine possession, has hurt hit attempts at a NHL comeback.

Murdoch scored 32 goals as a rookie with New York Rangers in 1976-77 and 27 the next year. But his promising career hit the skids after he was arrested at Toronto International Airport in August 1977 with a small amount of cocaine.

Although he returned to the Rangers after serving a 40-game suspension, he was later traded to Ed-

monton Oilers. From there; Murdoch had stops in Wichita, Minnesota and Detroit before joining Adirondack in the American Hockey League.

"They remember me as a first-round draft choice and the rest, so if I don't score right away the pressure builds," Murdoch said in an interview from Glen Fally, N.Y., home of the Adirondack team. "It's like they want to build a team around you instead of letting you just contribute.

"Then, if the coach is getting heat, I'm the kind of guy you can put the blame on for all that's happened. I believe I've been made a scapegoat.

IMPROVES GAME

The 28-year-old native of Cranbrook, has worked to improve his game, particularly his defensive skills, during his stint with Adirondack.

"The key for him to get back is to play suitable defence," said Adirondack coach Bill Dineen. "With the speed today, you've got to think defence no matter how many goals you score."

Dineen said Murdoch is one of several Adirondack players who could play in the NHL.

But Murdoch had to be persuaded to try to earn another shot at the NHL.

"My feeling was to buy out my contract with Detroit and get a job outside hockey," Murdoch said. "I went back to get my stuff and would up talking with (Red Wings general manager) Jimmy Devellano. He convinced me to come back and have one more shot. I guess it remains to be seen if it will do me any good."

Murdoch doesn't expect a lengthy trial in the NHL.

"All I want is a chance to prove myself," he said. "If they would give me maybe five games to try it, I would be happy.

"I want to prove to my family and friends that I can get back, but I especially want to prove it to myself. Getting one more shot is what I want most of all. That's why I am down here."

Seymour, and Tony Tidi, of Whistler.

Sean Furlong, who finished seventh with a combined time of 2:47.84, was the only other local racer to place in the top 10.

On the second day,

Lakers host Rangers

Vernon Lakers can move to within two points of first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division with a win tonight, at home, against Revelstoke Rangers.

Penticton Knights currently lead Lakers by four points, but Vernon has one game-in-hand.

Youngsters will be admitted free to tonight's game if they take a can of food, destined for relief hampers.

Vernon leads the third place Rangers by 16 points, but Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark said his club won't be taking Revelstoke lightly.

"You have to play good hockey to beat them," Enemark said. "On any given night, they are capable of knocking off any team."

Lakers will have hard-hitting Ron Berezowski back in the line-up tonight after sitting out a six game suspension.

Enemark said Peter Martin will be in goal for his club. Martin was ineligible to play until this week because his release was being held up by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association.

Coach Murray Lawrence and his Revelstoke crew dropped a 5-4 decision, Thursday, to Summerland Buckaroos.

Shawn Pettyjohn scored at 7:08 of overtime to lift Buckaroos past Rangers, in Revelstoke.

Brent Mowery scored two goals and assisted on one for the Buckaroos, who trailed 1-0 after the first period, then tied it 2-2 in the second.

Dean Garnett faced 44 shots on the Summerland net, while the Buckaroos took 38 shots at Revelstoke's Frank Romeo. Shawn Harrison and Jim Perrich scored singles for Summerland.

ned oach

traditionally been fourth behind Quebec, Ontario and Alberta," explained Bryce. "It is to place first.

Number one in Canada is the goal. The long-term goal is to be in the world . . . Canada has a gold medal in Olympic since 1912."

goal in mind, selection of team will take place over a period of time.

started selecting potential with the type of qualifications to make the team," said Bryce. "Also that the selection narrowed from about 100 to 10. Basically they'll form a team of the best B.C. swimmers, national team members, and the results of meets between."

the process could run into if present conditions are in according to Bryce.

a bit of a lull right now as swimmers go," offered Bryce. "There is a lot of good potential coming up though. There is a lot of training camps being held."

Completed the team will consist of 10 members, all chosen by Bryce.