



## The Final Face-Off - 2018

### T. Kent Morgan

During 2018, the hockey community has lost a number of Manitobans as well as people with a connection to the sport in our province. Also included are earlier deaths not mentioned previously or brought to our attention. Information below has been compiled from newspaper obituaries and other sources such as the Internet and the Society for International Hockey Research. Individual members of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame (MHFF) are noted with an asterisk\*.

Dec. 21, 2016 in Renton, Wash. - **Brian Strimbiski, 74** - Played junior with the St. Boniface Canadiens from 1960-61 to 1962-63 followed by three seasons at the University of North Dakota. Won two Allan Cups with the Spokane Jets.

Oct. 19, 2017 in Souris - **Del Murray, 90** - Played junior for the Brandon Elks in 1945-46 followed by seven seasons with the Souris Elks of the Big Six and Southwest leagues. Picked up by the 1954 Western Canada intermediate champion Dauphin Kings team inducted into the MHFF in 2016.

Dec. 25, 2017 in Winnipeg - **Don Mitchell, 62** - Goalie who helped Glenwood win the provincial juvenile championship in 1974. Played for the Fort Garry Blues and St. Vital Victorias of the MMJHL and for Vilshofen in Bavaria in 1978-79. Toured Germany with the Canadian Ambassadors in 1981 and 1986.

Jan. 2, 2018 in Winnipeg - \***Sam Fabro, 97** - Played junior for the Elmwood Maple Leafs and the 1941 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Rangers (MHFF2001) and senior with Stan Evans Orioles and the Graham-Hoeme Plowmen. A founding member of the Manitoba Hockey Players Foundation and long-time member of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Board. Inducted into the MHFF in 1990 and was the honorary president at the time of his death.

Jan. 2 in Strathroy, Ont. - **George Coulter, 89** - Played for the Paisley Pirates in Scotland in 1953-54 and senior in Ontario and B.C.

Jan. 6 in Saskatoon - **Barry Douglas, 80** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Barons from 1954-55 to 1956-57 and with the Braves the following season. Later played senior in Yorkton, Sask.

Jan. 6 in Langenburg, Sask. - **Hugh Scobie, 79** - The Russell-born player played juvenile in Swift Current, junior for the Saskatoon Quakers and the Moose Jaw Canucks from 1956-57 to 1958-59 and two seasons pro in the EHL and the IHL.

Jan. 11 in Winnipeg - **Bruce Dunlop, 93** - Long-time geologist in northern Manitoba who was known as "Beehive Dunlop" when he played for the Acadia University Axemen.

Jan. 12 in Boissevain - **Vic Rayner, 87** - Served as a referee and referee-in-chief of the South West Hockey League in the 1970s.

Jan. 12 in Winnipeg - **Ron Russell, 91** - Coached junior with the Winnipeg Monarchs, St. Boniface Saints and the River Heights Cardinals in the 1960s and 1970s.



Jan. 14 in Winnipeg - **Max Labovitch, 93** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Rangers in 1941-42 followed by a seven-year pro career that included five games in the NHL with the New York Rangers in 1943-44.

Jan. 14 in St. Catharine's - **\*Cec Hoekstra, 83** - Played for the 1953 Western Canada junior champion St. Boniface Canadians (MHHF2009) followed by two junior seasons with the St. Catharine's Teepees. His 16-year pro career included playing for the 1955-56 Winnipeg Warriors (MHHF2011) and four games in the NHL with the Montreal Canadiens in 1959-60. Inducted into the MHHF in 2001.

Jan. 17 in Winnipeg - **Alex Ritchie, 91** - Played for the Winnipeg Army and the junior CUAC Blues in 1944-45. Served for many years on the Greater Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association executive.

Jan. 17 in New Westminster, B.C. - **Harold Taylor, 83** - Played junior for the Portage Terriers and intermediate with the Portage Plainsmen.

Jan. 18 in Winnipeg - **Ken Busby, 84** - Played for Winnipeg Canadians in 1950-51 and the St. Boniface Canadiens the next two seasons. The 1953 Western Canada junior champion team was inducted in the MHHF in 2009.

Jan. 20 in Fort Frances - **John Hazel, 85** - Born in Dauphin, he moved to Fort Frances as a young boy and played junior for the Port Arthur West End Bruins and was a member of the 1960 Western Canada intermediate champion Fort Frances Canadians. Refereed US college hockey and internationally.

Jan. 22 in Crofton, B.G. - **Jerry Cavers, 92** - Played for the junior Portage Terriers in 1945-46 and with the Harringay Greyhounds in England the following season. Later played intermediate in Portage and Pine Falls.

Jan. 24 in Winnipeg - **Tony Biegun, 86** - Played for the Winnipeg Kings and was a photographer for the Winnipeg Jets.

Jan. 29 in Marquette, Mich. - **Bill Ostwald, 73** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Monarchs from 1960-61 through 1963-64, the 1964-65 season in the EHL with Johnstown Jets and then several years in the USHL primarily with the Marquette Iron Rangers.

Feb. 1 in Kimberley, B.C. - **Rheo Touzin, 83** - From St. Jean, MB, the defenseman went north to play junior with the Flin Flon Bombers from 1952-53 to 1954-55. Played with the Washington Lions of the EHL in 1956-57 and then senior in B.C. for nine seasons.

Feb. 2 in Stonewall - **Cliff Gislason, 71** - Played in Arborg where he was born and Riverton and with the Fort William junior Canadians.

Feb. 4 in Fort Frances, Ont. - **Gord Calder, 84** - Played for the Allan Cup champion Fort Frances Canadians in 1952 and with the junior Brandon Wheat Kings the next season.

Feb. 4 in Delta, B.C. - **Don Slater, 90** - Born in Fort Frances, he played for the junior Edmonton Canadians in 1945-46 and 1946-47, followed by six pro seasons in the AHL, USHL and WHL and



several senior years in Kamloops and Penticton. Inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame with the Winnipeg Rosedales in 2015.

Feb. 15 in Edina, Minn. - **Jim Ridley, 82** - Born in Portage la Prairie, he played for the University of North Dakota from 1955-56 to 1957-58, followed by several years of senior in Western Canada. Played in the USHL for the St. Paul Steers in 1964-65 and 1965-66.

Feb. 17 in Winnipeg - **\*Joe Vinet, 97** - Played junior with the Winnipeg Falcon-Rangers in 1938-39 and the Portage Terriers in 1939-40. Two seasons of senior with the Graham-Hoeme Plowmen and the Nationals followed. After World War II where he was prisoner-of-war, he returned home and became one of Manitoba's top and best-respected referees. Inducted into the MHHF as an official in 2005.

Feb. 22 in Selkirk - **Ken Mlodzinski, 67** - Played defense for the Highland Huskies for many years.

March 6 in Winnipeg - **Stacey McAlpine, 54** - Served as a NHL player agent.

March 14 in Teulon - **Stewart Cheyne, 92** - Known as the "face of hockey" in Teulon where he was a coach and was involved with the senior Tigers.

April 6 on Hwy 35 in Saskatchewan - **Humboldt Broncos** - Bus accident when 16 players and support staff of the junior team were killed while en route to a playoff game in Nipawin.

April 10 in Winnipeg - **Ken McDonald, 75** - Played for the Bronx Park Bruins team of the North Kildonan Oldtimers League that competed in several Canadian Oldtimers National Cup tournaments across Canada.

April 11 in Winnipeg - **Tom Marshall, 86** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Black Hawks in 1951-52 followed by a season with the Harringay Racers in England, His intermediate and senior career in Manitoba lasted 11 seasons and included a Western intermediate title with the 1957 Pine Falls Paper Kings (MHHF2009) and a Canadian senior championship in 1964 with the Winnipeg Maroons (MHHF1999), a team he captained. Coached at the University of Winnipeg for several seasons.

April 12 in Winnipeg - **Norm Claydon, 81** - One of the founding members of the Midnight Flyers who played Friday nights at the Bertrand Arena for many years. Team played regularly in the Sam Tascona tournament.

April 14 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. - **Bruce Bell, 88** - Played for the Western Canada junior champion Winnipeg Monarchs (MHHF2013) in 1950-51 and then two seasons with the Brighton Tigers in England.

April 23 in the Twin Cities - **Dr. Bill Lindsay, 83** - Played for the University of Manitoba Bisons from 1958-59 to 1960-61 and inducted into the team's HOF in 2017.

May 13 in Selkirk - **Joe Smederovac, 79** - Volunteered for many positions with the Selkirk Steelers including assistant equipment manager of the 1974 Canadian Centennial Cup championship junior team (MHHF2007).

May 14 in Toronto - **Bill Burdeyny, 93** - Played for many years with the Midnight Flyers and the news media group and then with the St. James Fossils 55+ group at Keith Bodley Arena.



May 15 in Ontario - **Richard (Dick) Chapman, 72** - The Pas product who played intermediate with his hometown Huskies, juvenile and junior with the Flin Flon Bombers, junior with the St. Boniface Canadians in 1963-64 and the Winnipeg Warriors in 1964-65. Later played senior in Eastern Canada.

May 20 in Anchorage- **Mitch Kean, 48** - Born in Flin Flon, he played minor hockey in Red Deer and junior in the SJHL with Melfort and Weyburn and in the BCJHL with New Westminster. After three years at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, played the 1994-95 season in the ECHL with the Huntington Blizzard.

May 25 in Winnipeg - **Wayne Bailey, 81** - Born in Halifax, he played hockey there before moving to Manitoba in the 1950s. While working in Thompson, he played for the Thompson Steelers.

June 2 in Winnipeg - **Brian Gunn, 78** - Gunner served on the Hockey Winnipeg AAA Council for several years including time as the bantam B division director. Had a long association with hockey in the North End and was the penalty box custodian for junior West Kildonan North Stars games. Served as colour analyst for MJHL games on Shaw Cable TV.

June 3 in Newmarket, Ont. - **Bob Forhan, 82** - His lengthy career including being added to the regular roster of Canada's National Team in 1963-64 for the Olympics and 1964-65 for the World Championship. The 1965-1969 teams were inducted into the MHHF in 2009.

June 8 in Brandon - **Jack Borotsik, 68** - Played for the junior Brandon Wheat Kings from 1965-66 to 1968-69 followed by a season at the University of Brandon. Pro career primarily with the Dayton Gems and Denver Spurs included one game with the St. Louis Blues of the NHL in 1974-75. Ended career with three seasons with the Brandon Olympics of the CASH League.

June 11 in Winnipeg - **Jim Dixon, 76** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Braves from 1959-60 to 1961-62 followed by two seasons at the University of North Dakota.

June 19 in Winnipeg - **Jack Herny, 75** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Warriors in 1965-66 and 1966-67.

June 20 in Winnipeg - **Ron Castelane, 87** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Canadians in 1948-49 and 1949-50 followed by four seasons in the East. Joined the senior Winnipeg Maroons in 1955-56 and played until the 1963-64 season when the team (MHHF 1999) won the Allan Cup.

June 21 in Brandon - **Chuck Meighen, 74** - Following two seasons of junior with his hometown Brandon Wheat Kings, the defenseman joined the U of Blscons and captained the team (MHHF2007) to the 1965 Canadian university championship.

June 25 in Winnipeg - **Walter Hagen, 78** - the third member of the Midnight Flyers to pass in just over a two-month period.

July 5 in Kenora, Ont. - **Ben Sveinson, 25** - Played for the Winnipeg South Blues from 2010-11 through 2013-14 when the team won the MJHL championship. Later played for Lindenwoods University in Illinois

July 6 in Coventry, Eng. - **Adam Calder, 42** - Portage la Prairie product who played for the junior Terriers in 1994-95 and 1995-96 followed by three seasons at UND winning the NCAA



championship in 1997. Played pro for five seasons in the ECHL and CHL followed by nine seasons in Europe primarily with the Coventry Blaze.

July 29 in Winnipeg - **Ted Norrington, 73** - Played for the Kelvin Community Club team that won the 1961 city and provincial juvenile championships. Coached at Valley Gardens CC.

Aug. 1 in Middlechurch - **Danny McClure, 93** - Long-time hockey timekeeper in Winnipeg who coached the junior Winnipeg Monarchs during the 1959-60 season.

Aug. 4 in Winnipeg - **Bob Nieman, 73** - Coached minor hockey at Sir John Franklin and in south Winnipeg for 17 years. Played on several oldtimers teams and groups including SJF, Red River Wings. River Heights Wednesday nights and Fort Garry. Toured Germany with Winnipeg Buffalos team in the 1980s.

Aug. 10 in rural Manitoba - **Bryan Saindon, 28** - Played for the Labroquerie Habs of the Carillon Senior Hockey League in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Aug. 14 in Winnipeg - **Marcel (Musky) Lanouette, 85** - Born in Bruxelles and played with the Perth Panthers in Scotland in 1953-54 and later for the Holland Rockets and Bord-Aire seniors.

Aug. 17 in Vancouver - **Ken Hewitt, 78** - Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs of the MJHL in 1958-59 and 1959-60.

Sept. 4 in Winnipeg - **\*Ab McDonald, 82** - Played junior for the St. Boniface Canadiens (MHHF2009) and the St. Catharine's Teepees. His 14 NHL seasons saw him win three Stanley Cups with the Montreal Canadiens and one with the Chicago Blackhawks. Returned home to captain the WHA Jets in the team's first season. Inducted into the MHHF in 1985 with the initial induction class.

Sept. 18 in Brandon - **Jerry Carlisle, 79** - Played for the junior Brandon Wheat Kings in 1958-59 and three seasons with the Red Rock Royals of the Thunder Bay Senior League

Sept. 24 in Winnipeg - **Bob Arnal, 70** - Longtime player with the Maples Coyotes of the Inner City Oldtimers League and with 55-plus groups at Keith Bodley and the MTS Iceplex.

Sept. 26 in Winnipeg - **Peter Kuryk, 79** - Volunteer with North Winnipeg Minor Hockey and the annual Billy Mosienko tournament. Brother of MHHF president Don Kuryk.

Oct. 1 in Winnipeg - **Wayne Deschouwer, 63** - President of the Charleswood Hawks of the MMJHL and both the Tiger Hills and Southeast leagues. Had served as president of the Gladstone arena and was instrumental in the formation of the Gladstone Lakers team.

Oct. 8 in Winnipeg - **Clark Hicks, 86** - Well-respected hockey coach in south Winnipeg, who was the manager of the Fort Rouge Kings who won the city championship in 1973 and both the city and provincial midget titles in 1974.

Oct. 12 in Winnipeg - **Walter Melnyk, 92** - Played junior for CUAC in 1944-45 and with the St. James Orioles the next season. With the Harringay Racers in England in 1947-48 and the Muncie Flyers in the IHL in 1948-49.



Oct. 18 in Winnipeg - **Wayne Thompson, 72** - Founding member and first president of the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey League. Ran the annual playoffs and his long dedication led to the league's championship trophy being named in his honour.

Oct. 18 in Culver City, CA - **Aubrey Hellofs, 84** - Winnipegger who moved to California in 1959 where he arranged to have the LA Kings move their practice facilities to the Culver City Ice Rink where he was the general manager.

Oct. 22 in Winnipeg - **Ron Taylor Sr., 96** - Played junior for the East Kildonan Bisons and the Winnipeg Monarchs in 1940-41 and with the Monarchs in 1941-42.

Nov. 4 in Winnipeg - **Ron Mehmel, 67** - West Kildonan North Stars junior player who was a member of Manitoba's Canada Winter Games team in 1971. Played the next season in the Netherlands in the European Cup League.

Nov. 9 in Mexico - **Richard Hutchings, 66** - Played defense for the University of Winnipeg in 1971-72.

Nov. 19 in Barrie, Ont. - **Dan Maloney, 68** - Barrie native who played 11 seasons in the NHL. His coaching career with the Winnipeg Jets ran from 1986-87 to late in the 1988-89 season.

Nov. 19 in Winnipeg Beach - **Arnold Eyford, 67** - Coached the Gimli Vikings to the 2000-01 Interlake midget league championship.

Nov. 19 in Powell River, B.C. - **Hank Goodridge, 82** - Played for the Neepawa Natives in the Big Six League in 1951-52 and 1952-53 followed by three seasons in junior with the Brandon Wheat Kings, Flin Flon Bombers and the Melville Millionaires. Later played senior in Powell River.

Nov. 21 in Winnipeg - **Crawford Varnes, 83** - West End Memorials coach who was named North Division coach for the first Greater Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association midget all star game in March 1959. Also refereed in the GWMHA.

Dec. 3 in Peterborough, Ont. - **Lou Kazowicki, 78** - Winnipeg-born, he moved east to play for the junior Peterborough Petes in 1960-61. Spent 1961-62 through 1968-69 playing in the AHL, IHL, WHL and the CPHL. Later owned the Kingston Canadians and founded the Owen Sound junior franchise in the OHL.

Dec. 5 in Pine Falls - **Elmer (Alymer) Courchene, 82** - First Nations leader who had played defense for the Pine Falls Paper Kings.

Dec. 12 in Winnipeg - **Jack Webb, 81** - Stonewall product who played with the junior Flin Flon Bombers in 1957-58.

Dec. 13 in Brampton, Ont. - **Doug Orvis, 85** - Selkirk product who played for the Flin Flon Bombers in 1951-52 followed by five seasons in the IHL, EHL and with Edinburgh in Scotland.

Dec. 13 in Winnipeg - **Joe Moski, 65** - Played the 1968 CUAC Blues that beat Flin Flon Bombers for the provincial juvenile championship.

Dec. 15 in Springfield - **Mike Kuzyk, 64** - Minor hockey coach involved with the Oakbank minor hockey program.



Dec. 17 in Victoria - **Bernie Strongman, 99** - Played the 1936-37 and 1937-38 seasons with the junior Winnipeg Falcon-Rangers and then went to Flin Flon for three seasons with the senior Bombers. A pro career followed in the USHL, the PCHL and the WHL where he captained the Victoria Cougars in his final season of 1952-53.

Dec. 24 in Winnipeg - **Darlene Baschuk, 49** - Played in the Winnipeg women's league and served as a hostess for the Winnipeg Jets 1.0.