



The Final Face-Off - 2020

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During 2020, the hockey community has lost many 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*.

March 25, 2019 in Roland, **Tom Rockey, 93** - Played for the 1946 Canadian junior champion Winnipeg Monarchs followed by seven seasons in the USHL, PCHL, the Maritimes, and the E AHL. Then played for the Winnipeg Maroons and played with and coached the Carman Beavers.

Nov. 8, 2019 in Flin Flon, **Tom Baird, 87** - Played with Dauphin Kings in the Big Six League in 1950-51 and coached the Flin Flon Bombers of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League in 1964-65 and 1965-66.

Jan. 1 in Los Angeles, **Eddie Matveld, 82** - Played four seasons at the University of Denver winning the NCAA championship in 1957 followed by four seasons in the California Hockey League.

Jan. 6 in Lundar, **Steini Palsson, 99** - Played for the Army during World War II and later in Lundar where he also coached the Lundar Oldtimers.

Jan. 7 In Emerson, **Gilbert Fontaine, 84** - Served as equipment manager for the Letellier Blues.

Jan. 9 in Winnipeg, **Andy Moffat, 93** - Coached at Glenwood Community Club and was club president when an indoor arena that bore his name for a number of years was built.

Jan. 17 in Winnipeg, **Marvin Shenkarow, 73** - one of the group of eight who owned the WHA Winnipeg Jets before the team entered the NHL.

Jan. 19 in Burlington, ON, **Lloyd Ferguson, 89** - Played for the junior Monarchs in 1948-49 and 1949-50 followed by a season in the Western Hockey League with the Edmonton Flyers. Spent eight years playing senior in Ontario.

Jan. 19 in St. Catharine's, **John Gibson, 60** - Defenseman who played for the WHA Winnipeg Jets in 1978-79 and the NHL Jets in 1983-84.

Feb. 1 in West Vancouver, **Noah Bowman, 91** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Canadiens in 1947-48 and 1948-49.

Feb. 7 in Ottawa, **Brian Glennie, 73** - Played with the Winnipeg-based Canada's National Team in 1966-67 and 1967-68 (MHFF2009). Spent ten seasons in the NHL.

Feb. 9 in Kelowna, **Joe Kaiser, 89** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Monarchs in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and the Denver Falcons of the USHL in 1950-51. From 1951-52 to 1959-60 he was with the senior Kelowna Packers in B. C. except for the 1953-54 season when he played for the senior Melville Millionaires in Saskatchewan.

Feb. 23 in Winnipeg, **Trevor Hoilett, 55** - Played for the junior Selkirk Steelers in 1982-83.

Feb. 24 in Burlington, ON, **Bob Flemons, 89** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Black Hawks in 1947-48.

Feb. 25 in Winnipeg, **Ron Farnfield, 83** - Winnipeg junior Monarchs in 1953-54 and 1954-55 and won a Memorial Cup with the Toronto Marlboros the next season. Won the Allan Cup with the Winnipeg Maroons in 1964 (MHFF1999). Played senior in Newfoundland in 1967-68 and 1968-69.

Feb. 29 In Winnipeg, **Champ Russenholt, 89** - Served as a practice goalie for the WHA Winnipeg Jets and coached at Silver Heights CC and for the St. James Canadians.

March 2 in Edmonton, **Ed Willems, 87** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Monarchs in 1951-52 and 1952-53 and the senior Yorkton Terriers in 1953-54. Three seasons at the University of North Dakota where he was the co-captain in 1957-58.

March 2 in Winnipeg, **Gerry Sorenson, 86** - Played for the Lethbridge Native Sons in the Western Canada Junior League from 1952-53 to 1954-55. Also played with the intermediate Trail Smoke Eaters in 1954-55.



March 5 in Folsom, NJ, **Wayne Kitchen, 75** - played junior for the St. Boniface Canadiens and Winnipeg Braves in the early 1960s followed by six seasons in the EHL with the Long Island Ducks and the Jersey Devils. Later spent two years as an EHL official.

March 10 in Portage la Prairie, **John Hewitt, 66** - Played for the junior Portage Terriers from 1970-71 to 1972-73.

March 24 in Winnipeg, **Cam Bell, 59** - Played for the junior Portage Terriers in 1977-78.

March 27 in Winnipeg, **Rick Jenken, 59** - Played for the St. Boniface Riels and the St. Vital Vics of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

March 30 in Winnipeg, **Bill Barker, 96** - Coached at the Victoria CC and managed the minor hockey Fort Garry Twins and Monarchs.

March 30 in Calgary, **Wayne Hannay, 80** - Brandon-born player with the junior Wheat Kings in 1958-59 and the intermediate Cloverleafs the next season. Several years during the 1960s with Red Deer senior teams.

April 9 in Kamloops, BC, **Len Ouellette, 78** - Played for the Prince George Mohawks and Vanderhoof Bears of the Cariboo Intermediate League in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

April 19 in Burlington, ON, **Arnie Foliott, 88** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Canadians and Brandon Wheat Kings in 1950-51 and the junior Fort William Canadiens the next season.

April 25 in Winnipeg, **Allan Adelman, 87** - Played for the midget Winnipeg Monarchs in 1947-48 and the junior team the following season.

May 1 in Winnipeg, **Bill Maslanko, 87** - Played two seasons with the juvenile Winnipeg Canadians and then junior with the Brandon Wheat Kings from 1950-51 to 1952-53. Member of the Brandon team that won the Western Canada Intermediate Championship in 1955.

May 4 in Minnedosa, **Doug Dilts, 78** - Played for the Flin Flon Bombers of the SJHL in 1961-62 and the senior Yorkton Terriers from 1963-64 to 1970-71.

May 8 in Portage la Prairie, **Geno Romanow, 78** - Served as the junior Portage Terriers trainer/equipment manager for more than three decades.

May 25 in Winnipeg, **Len Rebeck** - Played minor hockey at Norquay and Margaret Rose and coached girls hockey at Kelvin CC and in East St. Paul.

May 26 in St. Petersburg, FL, ***Cliff Pennington, 80** - River Heights multi-sport athlete whose hockey career included winning the SJHL scoring championship in 1958-59 and playing for Canada in the 1960 Winter Olympics. Pro from 1961-62 until 1973-74 in five leagues including time in the NHL with Montreal and Boston. MHHF 2005.

May 27 in Calgary, **Wally Gacek, 93** - Played for the junior St. James Canadiens in 1942-43 to 1944-45. Had three seasons with the University of Michigan winning the NCAA championship 1948. Spent three years with Detroit in the IHL.

June 2 in Winnipeg, **Dwayne Swanson, 59** - Played for the Brandon Travelers in 1977-78 and the Calgary Wranglers of the WHL the next season.

June 15 in Winnipeg, **Harry Kruger, 79** - Played the 1960-61 and 1961-62 seasons with the junior St. Boniface Canadiens and later with the intermediate Riverton Lions. Played in Ravensburg, Germany in the early 1970s.

June 30 in Port Alberni, BC, **Jim Hargreaves, 70** - River Heights defenseman who played in the MJHL with the Monarchs and two seasons in the Western Canada Junior League with the Winnipeg Jets. Played pro from 1970-71 to 1975-76 including two stints with the Vancouver Canucks of the NHL and the 1973-74 year with the WHA Jets.

July 9 in Orangeville, ON, **Cam Millar, 92** - Played defense with the Monarchs in 1945-46 when the team won the Memorial Cup and in 1946-47. With the Nottingham Panthers in England in 1953-54.

July 16 in Winnipeg, **Steve Klowak, 69** - Won a provincial juvenile championship with CUAC in 1968 and then played in the MJHL with the West Kildonan North Stars.

July 18 in Burnaby, BC, **Jack McIlargey, 68** - Played for the Flin Flon Bombers of the WCHL in 1971-72. Lengthy pro career as a player and coach.

July 19 in Selkirk, **Maxine Geller, 63** - While principal at Warren Collegiate she helped write, accredit and implement the first high school hockey program as a certified course in Manitoba.



July 20 in Winnipeg, **Jim North, 69** - Played with the junior Monarchs, the University of Manitoba Bisons and the senior St. Boniface Mohawks from the late 1960s to the late 1970s.

July 29 in Winnipeg, **Gene Lakusiak, 78** - Better known as a football player with the Blue Bombers, he played for the Sarnia Junior B Legionnaires from 1958-59 to 1961-62 and in 1963-64 with the Port Huron Flags of the IHL.

Aug. 7 in Winnipeg, ***Mike Yaschuk, 97** - With the St. Boniface Athletics in 1941-42 and 1942-43 when he led the MJHL in scoring. Later played with the senior Reo Flyers in Winnipeg and Quakers in Saskatoon and the 1949-50 season with Streatham, the England Hockey League champions. Coached in Norwood and was a co-founder of the senior St. Boniface Mohawks. MHHF 1990.

Aug. 8 in Winnipeg, **Bill Bond, 75** - Played for the Monarchs in the MJHL from 1961-62 to 1963-64 and then the next year with the Brandon Wheat Kings who were in the SJHL that season. With the Flin Warriors (MHHF2019), who won the Western intermediate title in 1966. In the IHL and WIHL from 1896-7-68 to 1975-76.

Aug. 17 in Brandon, **Dr. Gary Nowazek, 78** - played for the junior Flin Flon Bombers in 1960-61.

Aug. 18 in Barrie, ON, ***Dale Hawerchuk, 57** - Won two Memorial Cups with the Cornwall Royals before joining the Jets in 1981 where he starred until 1990 when he was traded to the Buffalo Sabres. Also played in the NHL with St. Louis and Philadelphia. Coached the junior Barrie Colts for nine seasons. MHHF 2001.

Aug. 23 in Kingston, ON, **Bill Burega, 88** - Rugged defenseman who played junior with the Winnipeg Monarchs from 1949-50 to 1951-52. His pro career saw him win the QHL championship with the Quebec Aces in 1953-54, the AHL championship with the Pittsburgh Hornets the next season, and the Western title and the Edinburgh Cup with the Winnipeg Warriors in 1955-56 (MHHF 2011). Also played four games in the NHL with Toronto that season. Finished career playing senior for the Kingston Aces.

Aug. 26 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, **Dave Mazur, 76** - Played junior for the Brandon Wheat Kings in 1960-61 and 1961-62 and then at the University of North Dakota. In the United States Hockey League from 1964-65 to 1973-74 primarily with the Waterloo Blackhawks.

Aug. 27 in Barrie ON, Paul Meger, 90 - Born in Saskatchewan, he grew up in Selkirk where he played for the junior and intermediate Fishermen. Pro career with the Montreal Canadiens of the NHL and in the AHL and QHL ran from the 1949-50 season until November 1954 when he suffered a career-ending injury in a Canadiens/Boston Bruins game.

Aug. 30 in Winnipeg, **Scotty Hume, 82** - Managed the Oakville Seals in the 1960s and 1970s including the team that won the provincial intermediate A championship in 1971.

Sept. 7 in Winnipeg, **Ted Ranick, 88** - A graduate of the National Hockey Coaches School who coached minor hockey in Winnipeg's North End for many years.

Sept. 11 In Redditt, ON, **Frank Holliday, 86** - Junior with the St. Boniface Canadiens in 1951-52, 1952-53 (MHHF 2009) and 1953-54. Played in 1954-55 with the Clinton Comets, Johnstown Jets and Toledo Mercurys.

Sept. 14 in Lundar, **Neil Thage, 67** - Served as general manager of the Lundar Falcons.

Sept. 18 in Winnipeg, ***Lou Joyal, 87** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Black Hawks and Barons from 1951-52 to 1953-54. Except for the 1956-57 season in IHL with the Fort Wayne Komets, he primarily played for the Winnipeg Maroons (MHHF1999) winning the Allan Cup in 1964. Headed the CASH League for several years and was inducted into the MHHF in 1995 as an official.

Sept. 20 in Puerto Escondido, Mexico, **Ed Rutherford, 93** - One of the founding fathers of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League and the Charleswood Hawks team.

Oct. 3 in Winnipeg, **Wilf Beaulieu, 102** - Before his death, he was believed to be the oldest living pro hockey player. His hockey journey that began in Emerson in 1933 took him both east and west and included nine pro games with Portland Buckaroos of the Pacific Coast League. His story is in Ty Dilello's book, *Manitoba Hockey An Oral History*.

Oct. 9 in Kenora, ON, **Allie Reynard, 83** - Goalie who played for the Kenora Thistles and won the Canadian intermediate championship with the Warroad Lakers in 1974 (MHHF2011) .

Oct. 10 in Winnipeg, **Lou Marius, 87** - His career in Manitoba saw him play for the junior St. Boniface Canadiens in 1951-52 and 1952-53 (MHHF2009) and the intermediate Minnedosa Jets and St. Boniface Seals.



Oct. 17 in Vancouver, **George Butterworth, 78** - With the junior St. Boniface Canadiens in 1961-62 and 1962-63. Member of the 1965 Canadian champion University of Manitoba Bisons (MHHF2007). In 1967-68 played in Germany. With the Western senior finalist St. Boniface Mohawks in 1969-70.

Oct. 24 in Las Vegas, ***Morley Meyers, 81** - Began officiating in Winnipeg at age 14 and worked 15 seasons in Manitoba and 20 more in the USA primarily in college hockey. HHOF 2001.

Oct. 26 in Victoria, **Jon Novak, 44** - Played for the Interlake Lightning and the Nipawin Hawks in the SJHL.

Oct. in Winnipeg, **Shanley Parkinson, 78** - She served as chair of the Assiniboine Park Rangers AA Hockey Association.

Nov. 6 in Winnipeg, **Jim Neilson, 78** - Long-time NHL defenseman who lived in Winnipeg after his pro career and played rec hockey with several groups. In 1990, he did a report on junior hockey in northern Manitoba for the provincial government.

Nov. 7 in Winnipeg, **Taylor (Zahayko) Dibley, 29** - Played for the Prairie Blaze in the Manitoba Junior Women's Hockey League.

Nov. 19 in Winnipeg, **Glenn Yelland, 41** - Played for the St. James Canucks of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Nov. 25 in Stonewall, **Mel Matthews, 88** - Born in Garson, he played in the WCJHL with three Alberta teams in 1951-52 and 1952-53. Later with the Pine Falls Paper Kings including the 1956-57 season when the team won the Western intermediate championship (MHHF2009).

Nov. 26 in East St. Paul, **Ed Ruml, 88** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Black Hawks in 1950-51 and 1951-52 and the senior Nelson Maple Leafs in B.C. the next season. Then spent five seasons with the Johnstown Jets of the EHL/IHL.

Nov. 26 in Vernon, B.C., **Tom Balfour, 79** - Born in The Pas, he played in B.C. during the 1960s with the Fort St. John Flyers of the South Peace League and the Prince George Mohawks of the Cariboo Intermediate League.

Nov. 29 in Brandon, **Irv Powers, 86** - Played intermediate in Souris, Erickson, Rivers and Brandon, managed the Brandon Olympics and was a volunteer for the Wheat Kings.

Dec. 12 in Winnipeg, **Tony Green, 81** - played with his brother Ted on the 1957-58 St. Boniface Canadiens (MHHF2019) and the junior Brandon/Transcona Rangers the next year.

Dec. 13 in Winnipeg, **George Evans, 93** - Brandon-born goalie who played in his hometown between 1937 and 1950. Teams included the midget Monarchs and the Athletics of the Big Six League.

Dec. 15 in Winnipeg, **Ted Faulkner, 93** - Played for the junior St. James Canadiens in 1946-47, the Baltimore Clippers of the EHL in 1947-48 and Akron and Louisville of the IHL the following year.

Dec. 15 in Winnipeg, **McKenna Riley, 20** - Played high school for the Sturgeon Heights Huskies and then the Kelvin Clippers where she was captain in grade 12. Also played for the Interlake Roadrunners and the AA Stonewall Blues and travelled to Europe with a Manitoba Junior Women's Hockey League team.

Dec. 16 in Winnipeg, **Dennis Liebrecht, 82** - Spent three seasons with the junior Rangers from 1956-57 to 1958-59 when the MJHL team played out of Winnipeg, Brandon and Transcona.

Dec. 25 in Whitemouth, **Victor Love, 89** - With the junior Black Hawks in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and the Brandon Wheat Kings in 1950-51. Big Six League with Killarney Shamrocks and Dauphin Kings in the mid 1950s.

Dec. 27 in Winnipeg, **Bob Koblanski, 82** - Played for the junior Winnipeg Rangers in 1956-57.