



MANITOBA HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011



Hall of Fame Class of 2011 to be inducted Oct. 1 in Winnipeg

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame will welcome the class of 2011 on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. At present the long list of candidates nominated for induction is being reviewed by the independent selection committee. Chair Frank McKinnon expects the selection process will be completed in March. The individuals and teams to be honoured will be announced at a news conference in April in Winnipeg.

While some of you may be waiting to hear who is on the list before you purchase a dinner ticket, dinner chair Jerry Kruk wants to remind you that the 2009 dinner was a sell-out. In fact a few ticket stragglers ended up eating dinner in an overflow room. The situation where dinner tables had to be squeezed together also created problems in getting the teams being inducted to the stage. If you wish to attend this year's event, Kruk recommends that you purchase your tickets at an early date or you could miss out. The cost is \$110 per person or tables of 10 at \$1000. A \$65 Charitable Tax Receipt is included as part of the ticket. Cocktails at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets can be ordered from Jerry Kruk, c/o 987 Milt Stegall Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z3 or phone 204-668-0900 or email: JerryKruk@shaw.ca.

Further to the nomination process, McKinnon wants to emphasize the need for nominators to provide as much support documentation as possible with the nomination submission. While he, with support from the research committee, try to check information that may seem questionable, it is the responsibility of the nominators to ensure that information is accurate. Although the deadline for consideration in 2011 has passed, a nomination may be submitted at any time. A nomination form can be found on our website: www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca.

Help the Hockey Hall of Fame identify the Radio Oil personnel

This photo of the Radio Oil team that won the 1947-48 Winnipeg Commercial League championship is an example of the type of historical photo that the Hall of Fame wants to put on its website.

Tom McCluskey obtained the photo from his Uncle Wilf, who was the team's goalie. Coach Jed Mendella is at left in the back row and Charlie Krupp is next to him. Ted Lozanski is wearing the helmet in the middle row, Elmer or Ed Kullman is third from the left and Vern Smith is on the right in the front row. Herbie Burns is to the far right in the suit. Wilf and Tom are unable to identify most of the players so we need help from our members before the photo is posted. In an undated program from around that period, George Mehner, Herbie Burron, Doug Stack, Jack Raleigh, Bill Johnstone, Stan Craig, Nick Melnyk, Adam Schedwitz, Bill Dubec and Mel Davidson are listed in the Radio Oil lineup, which may help with identification.



Also, if you have any photos of Manitoba teams including minor hockey, please send the original if you wish to donate it or a copy on quality photo paper to the office or a scan via e-mail to tkmorgan@mts.net. If you don't know the complete team personnel, identify those that you can.



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Mission Statement

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is an incorporated, non-profit organization dedicated to Manitoba's hockey heritage, past, present and future.

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Submissions should be sent via e-mail to tkmorgan@mts.net, by fax to (204)-489-6641 or mailed to the above address.

Hockey Hall of Fame News

A Message from President Gary Cribbs

Wishing each of our Patrons and Hall of Fame members the best for 2011. We are looking forward to a busy year ahead, what with our induction dinner slated for Oct. 1 at the Canad Inns Polo Park, and numerous other projects on the table. Speaking of the induction dinner, we received numerous nominations for induction. Frank McKinnon has the Selection Committee hard at work reviewing both old and new nominations and deciding on who will be inducted into the prestigious Hall. Always a tough choice, and always disappointing to some, but we handle only so many each time around. The honorees will be announced in April.

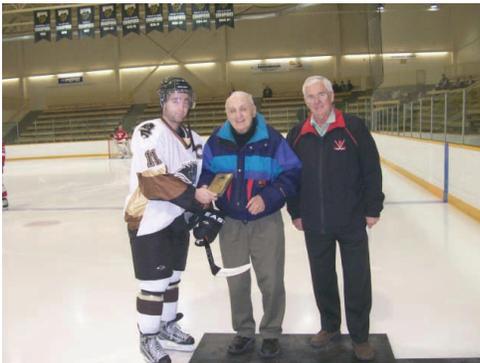
The work on our Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is on-going. Our Wall of Champions will be showcased at the MTS Centre around the time we publish this newsletter. We also are working to have part of our museum collection in a new location to be announced shortly.

Our Patrons list has been growing steadily and we appreciate the support we continue to receive. Len Morrow with help from other board members has been compiling a list of prospective patrons and a mailing will go out to them shortly. The Research Committee, headed up by Kent Morgan, is working on many facets of the history of our game in our province and beyond. Interesting items have begun to surface and we continue to seek photos, scrapbooks, etc. as well as people who would be willing to help with research.

The Awards Committee is formulating a new nomination form for those applying for the scholarships awarded by the Hockey Hall of Fame as well as awards to various individuals and organizations. Also I must mention the fine work at the Under-17 World Hockey Championship done by Board Member and Awards Committee chair Jan Brown. Great job 'Brownie' on hosting a successful portion of the tourney. The board also has donated plaques honouring the two Portage teams and Poplar Point team in our HOF that will hang in the new PCU Centre in Portage. Laurie Langrell headed this project.

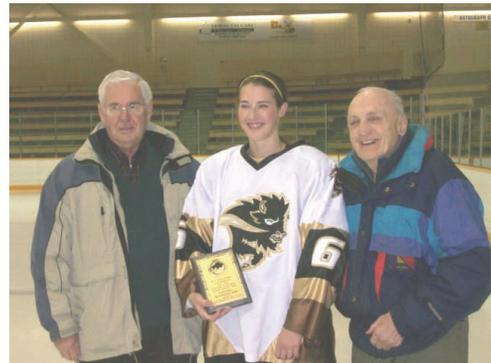
There are a number of new projects being discussed and work to be done as we continue our mission statement. Hopefully we will accept the challenge in 2011.

Hockey Hall of Fame News Briefs



Mike Hellyer with Fabro and Cribbs

The 2010 recipients of the \$1,000 R.A. (Sam) Fabro Scholarships that are awarded annually by the HOF to a male and female player at the University of Manitoba are Mike Hellyer and Chantal De Spiegelaere. Hellyer, who is playing his fourth season with the Bisons, led



**Women's Winner
Chantal De Spiegelaere**

the team in scoring last season. De Spiegelaere has been a solid presence on the Bison women's defence for four years. Sam presented the award to Hellyer at the Bisons game against Calgary on Nov. 12 and returned to Max Bell on Nov. 19 to present De Spiegelaere with her award when the women played UBC. President Gary Cribbs accompanied Sam on both nights.

Since our last Newsletter, a number of Honored Members of the Hall of Fame have ordered HOF rings. We had stated that a letter would be forthcoming. However, due to time restraints, the fluctuation in the price of gold, etc., these letters did not go to those Honored Members or their families. We regret the fact that we promised to do so. However, should any Honored Member or their family wish to order this precious keepsake, please contact our office and all information will be sent. In the meantime, the value of the ring continues to escalate and we continue to offer these mementos at great price.

Thank you to our new Patrons since Jan 1, 2010:

Reg & Lorene Abbott
 Fred & Elayne Creighton
 Orille & Gwen Hogue
 Jim Irving
 Dick Kowcinak,
 Jim Mann
 Paul Platz
 Gordon Stratton
 Butch & Lynda Wozniak
 Silk Screen Industries

Rick Brownlee
 Gil & Marg Goodman
 Dave Hrechkosy
 Ted Konyk
 Robert Lowenberger
 J. D. Perrin III
 Don Steele
 Sid & May White
 Daryl Young

You can join them in support of the Hall of Fame and our many activities. Forward a cheque for \$100 made payable to the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame to the address shown on page 2. A charitable tax receipt will be issued.

Garry Hammerback is the newest member of the board of directors. He played three seasons for the U of M Bisons and one at the U of W followed by four with the EK Millionaires of the CASH League. He later played oldtimers with the Millionaires and the Winnipeg Clubs. Garry is a trade specialist for Manitoba Competiveness, Training and Trade and serves as secretary for the Misericordia Health Centre board.



Garry Hammerback

Name Dropping by Toast and Coffee

Editors Ted (Toast) and Kent (Coffee) write a sports column titled **Toast and Coffee** that runs every second week in the Canstar community newspapers (*The Herald, The Lance, The Metro, The Sou'wester, The Times*) in Winnipeg. They also write the **Sporting Life** column for the *Prime Times* newspaper. Any items or suggestions for their columns or for **Name Dropping** can be sent to tkmorgan@mts.net or telephone Ted at 204-489-2218 or Kent at 204-489-6641.

Three Manitoba officials, referee **Kyle Scrivener** and linesmen **Lyle Mahoney** from Winnipeg and **Bryden Hutlet** of Brandon, were selected to officiate in the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge played Dec. 28 - Jan. 4 in Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie. Mahoney and Hutlet both earned playoff assignments while Scrivener refereed the Team Pacific/USA semi-final at the MTS Centre. Hockey Manitoba referee-in-chief **Ian Heather** was in charge of off-ice officials...HOF director **Jan Brown** served on the organizing committee and he had president **Gary Cribbs** working hard at getting the minor hockey teams that played between periods into their uniforms and onto the ice at the MTS Iceplex...Retired CJOB executive and one-time *Winnipeg Tribune* hockey writer **Vic Grant**, a feisty player in his media and oldtimers hockey days, and Manitoba Moose GM **Craig Heisinger** served as honorary co-chairs of the tournament. Zinger was the guest speaker at the U of M Bisons men's and women's teams fundraiser on Feb. 7...Bisons forward **Addie Miles** had seven points and was +13 when Team Canada went 7-0 and then beat Finland 4-1 to win gold at the Winter World University Games in Turkey on Feb. 5. The Canucks scored 47 goals and gave up just two before the final. **Caitlin MacDonald** also was selected to Team Canada, but an injury kept her from travelling to Turkey. She was a finalist for the 2010 Manitoba female athlete of the year award, which was won by speed skater **Clara Hughes**. Chicago Black Hawks captain **Jonathan Toews** was named male athlete of the year and Bisons goalie **Steve Christie** was a



Murray Armstrong

finalist. The awards were presented at the Manitoba Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association annual dinner, Jan. 31...**George Poulter** made a good point in a letter to the *Winnipeg Free Press* editor last July. In commenting on the rush to rename the Dakota Community Centre after Toews, who had helped the Hawks win the Stanley Cup, he wondered why there is no recognition in Winnipeg for **Charlie Gardiner (HOF1985)**. His Uncle Charlie was the goalie and captain of the Hawks when the team won the Stanley Cup in 1934. Poulter mentioned that Winnipeg already has arenas named after **Billy Mosienko** and **Terry Sawchuk**, both 1985 HOF inductees, and suggested that the St. Vital Arena be renamed the Gardiner Arena...**Murray Armstrong**, who coached the Regina Pats from 1948 to 1956 before moving to the University of Denver, died in St. Augustine, Fla. on Dec. 8 just shy of his 95th birthday. Armstrong coached the Pats to the Memorial Cup final in 1950, 1952, 1955 and 1956. In the last series played at Winnipeg's Amphitheatre, Pats beat Monarchs in the 1955 Western final. During Armstrong's 21 seasons with Denver, the Pioneers won five NCAA championships and were the runner-up three times. He liked to recruit in Manitoba and his 1961 championship team that many college hockey experts consider to be the best in NCAA history included the late **Bill Masterton (1985)**, **Greg Lacomy(2009)**, **Ken Williamson**, all from

Winnipeg, and Flin Flon's **George Konik**. **Marshall Johnston**, who went into the HOF with Canada's National Team in 2009, also was on the team...The 1959 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Braves have received many honours, but perhaps the most exclusive took place in North Winnipeg on Jan. 20. The Braves became the first team to have its photo added to the photo gallery at the Kelekis Restaurant, the well-known hot dog and fries emporium. HOF directors **Jerry Kruk** and **Laurie Langrell** along with **Scotty Wales**, trainer **Jim Drury** and **John D. Perrin III**, the son of team president **Jack Perrin(1990)**, attended the unveiling... **Kevin McKinnon** is now the president of the Fargo-Moorhead Development Corporation, which means father **Frank(1992)** and our former board secretary **Pat** will have a shorter trip south for a visit. Kevin and his family relocated from St. Paul. Kevin played several years of pro in the US and Finland following graduation from UND in Grand Forks. Being a former Sioux player may have been the largest stumbling block before he was hired by communities that support the NDSU Bisons and the Moorhead Dragons...

Name Dropping (cont.)

The Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association is no more. As of January 1, it's to be called Hockey Winnipeg. Way back the word Greater was in front of Winnipeg to designate that the suburban areas were included. **Don McIntosh** is the president of Hockey Winnipeg taking over from **Doug Lischka**. The tireless **Russ Cassidy** continues as VP for AAA and **Dennis Atamanchuk**, who used to devote most of his energy to slo-pitch softball, is the VP for AA. Russ brought T&C up-to-date on his son **Keith**, who was a successful coach in the MJHL with Selkirk Steelers and coached Winnipeg Saints last season. Keith is devoting more time to his sporting goods business, but hasn't left the game completely. He's playing recreational hockey with a couple of teams...Former GWMHA and MAHA president **Don MacKenzie** has donated several binders of newspapers clippings, programs and photos going back to the early 1950s to the HOF. The research committee will find them very helpful in its work and we'll try to get some of the photos up on the HOF website in the near future. A program from the fifth annual International Midget Hockey Series in Grand Forks on Jan. 24, 1953 is one of the gems. Winnipeg was represented by the Isaac Brock playground team so the midget designation must have been a North Dakota one. The team was coached by **Gord Stratton(2007)**, who was playing for the junior Barons at the time. MacKenzie played defence while **John Manley** was the captain. The score: 7-6 Manitoba in double overtime on a goal by **Steve Weir**. Assistant captain **Don Bamburak** had scored twice in the first overtime period that wasn't sudden-death...The U-17 tourney brought out people we hadn't seen for years. That included Bamburak and his younger brother **Roger**, whose minor hockey days at Isaac Brock started them on the way to pro careers...**George West**, who was working as a volunteer, said his son **Joe** is back in the city and doing some instructing at The RINK training facility. According to George, who once scouted for the WHL Prince Albert Raiders where Joe played, he is also doing some scouting for his former junior team. The St. James product played college hockey at Northern Michigan and spent 15 years playing and coaching in Germany. **Dave Cameron** is now the program manager and head coach at The RINK. He spent 15 years as head instructor at the Edge of Excellence Hockey Schools... Ex-Portage Terriers star **Shane Moffatt** was inducted into the Manitoba Sports HOF on Nov. 6 for his hockey and baseball accomplishments. **Norm Crerar**, the captain of the 1967 Manitoba Centennial Voyageur Canoe Team that entered in the team category, played hockey for the Intermediate Flin Flon Warriors. He admitted to T&C that he made up for bad technique with fitness and speed. "I could either skate or shoot, just not at the same time," he said. A few years later without Crerar, Warriors won the Western Canada intermediate championship...**Mike Yaschuk** is still lacing them up at age 88 with the Winnipeg Steelers. Clearly he intends to keep playing for a few more years as he told Coffee at a Sports HOF reception that he had just bought a new pair of skates. Long-retired goalie **Don Collins**, who was sitting beside Mike, was very impressed. You may remember **Perry Miller(2007)** mentioning Mike as an inspiration during his Hockey HOF induction speech...T&C caught the film, Pond Hockey, that was shown at the Manitoba Museum on Nov. 26 as part of the Canadian Sport Film Festival. Former Charleswood Hawks all-star defenceman **Jeff Van Norman** enjoyed the show with his father **Murray**, whose one claim to hockey fame came when he played in Germany with the late **Major Al Ford's** Winnipeg Buffaloes. Jeff is an advocate of kids learning to play the game in an unstructured environment and said he planned to purchase a DVD to show to the parents of the team he coaches at River Heights CC. Part of the focus of the film was the massive outdoor tournament held each winter in Minneapolis. This year's event was held Jan. 21-23 on Lake Nokomis with 270 teams competing...The CBC reported in January that The Hockey Heritage Centre in Windsor, N.S. is broke. The museum in the Nova Scotia community that claims to be the birthplace of hockey has been closed indefinitely and likely will not reopen unless the board find new volunteers and gets an influx of cash...**Reggie Leach(1985)** always was noted for his scoring while with the Flin Flon Bombers and the Philadelphia Flyers. Now as coach of the Manitoulin Islanders of the Northern Ontario Junior A Hockey League, he's becoming better known for his ability to pile up game misconducts and the suspensions that go with them. He got a game misconduct and a one-game suspension on Oct. 9 and since then has added four two-game suspensions. The team's record may be the reason Reggie is getting riled. Early in February, the Islanders were in the league cellar with 4-win, 37-loss record. (Continued on page 7)



**Don MacKenzie of the 1953-54
Weston Bantam Bs**

The Final Face-off

Since the Summer 2010 newsletter, the hockey community has lost a number of Manitobans and others with a connection to the sport in our province. Also included are earlier deaths that were not included previously and 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 are noted with an asterisk*.



Phil Headley

March 10, 2010 - **Phil Headley, 68** - Played goal for the Brandon Wheat Kings of the MJHL and the Flin Flon Bombers of the SJHL. Played pro in the IHL and WHL and senior with several teams in B.C.

May 4 in Winnipeg - **Roy Halpenny, 73** - Served on the executive of the MNS Stars.

July 7 in Winnipeg - **Jake Epp, 89** - Coached and managed hockey and baseball teams at Isaac Brock Community Club and operated the St. James Sports Centre on Portage Ave. for many years.

July 13 in Green Bay, Wis. - **Brian Lunney, 67** - Winnipeg-born goalie who played in the MJHL with St. Boniface Canadiens and the Monarchs. With the Marquette Iron Rangers of the USHL from 1965-66 to 1974-75.

July 28 in Elma, NY - **Robert Hayes, 58** - Graduate of Windsor Park Collegiate, who was known as "Purple Hayes" when he played at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Later played pro in Switzerland and Italy.

Aug. 1 - **Ted Kelly, 58** - Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs and the Charleswood Hawks and later served as an assistant coach with the Hawks.

Aug. 4 in Winnipeg - **Ken Franklin, 67** - Played goal for many years with the Midnite Flyers oldtimers team.

Aug. 22 in Winnipeg - **Ernie Martin, 80** - Officiated at all levels for 15 years.

Aug. 30 in Winnipeg - **Reg Jeffrey, 76** - Winnipeg native who grew up in Neepawa where he played hockey. Moved back to Winnipeg to play for the Barons and later coached in North Kildonan.

Sept. 4 in Winnipeg - **Dick McCullough, 74** - Managed minor teams from 1973 to 2000 and served as a convenor for AA Bantam and a director for AAA Bantam from 2000 to 2003.

Sept. 4 in Winnipeg - **Don Hutton** - Born in Minnedosa, he coached the Kinsmen Midget All-Stars and served as president of the junior A Canucks while living in Moose Jaw. Later coached minor hockey in Thunder Bay and in Winnipeg for the Greendell Falcons.

Oct. 6 in Winnipeg - **Len Hilton, 79** - Winnipeg native who led the Flin Flon Bombers of the SJHL in scoring in 1950-51 and then played in Scotland with the Dundee Tigers.

Oct. 10 in Burnaby, B.C. - **Harold (Torchy) Pechet, 81** - Played for the Winnipeg Black Hawks of the MJHL in 1947-48 followed by a season with the Moose Jaw Canucks. Moved to B.C. in 1968 where he was a well-known sportsman.

Oct. 30 in Winnipeg - **Ray Fogg, 81** - All-around athlete in St. James who played hockey for the Sioux Hawks, Calgary Buffaloes, Trail, B.C. and in the Navy.

Nov. 23 in Winnipeg - **Al Haner, 72** - Served on the executive of The Pas Lumber Kings of the Nor-Man Junior Hockey League.

Nov. 29 in Stonewall - **Bruce McGowan, 76** - Played more than two decades with the Stonewall Oldtimers Hockey Club.

Nov. 29 in Winnipeg - ***Pete Langelle, 93** - Member of the 1937 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Monarchs. He played three seasons in NHL with Toronto and his last NHL goal was the winner when the Leafs came back from a three-game deficit to beat the Detroit Red Wings in the 1942 Stanley Cup final. He spent the next four years in military service and then returned to pro hockey and played five seasons with the Pittsburgh Hornets of the AHL. Inducted into the HOF with the first group of inductees in 1985.

Jan. 2 in Winnipeg - **Kelly Gruenke, 43** - Recognized by the Pembina Trails Hockey Association for outstanding service.

Jan. 4 in Winnipeg - **Bob Turner, 64** - Boissevain native who had played for the intermediate Border Kings. The retired Charleswood phys ed teacher was a member of the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.



Pete Langelle

Jan. 6 in Portage la Prairie - **Gordon (Gabby) Pankhurst, 78** - A star in Winnipeg playground hockey who played in the MJHL for the Winnipeg Canadians and the St. Boniface Canadiens. The 1952-53 St. Boniface team was inducted into the Hockey HOF in 2009. Also played for the North Bay Trappers and the Minnedosa Jets. (See below.)

Jan. 7 in Winnipeg - **Harry Pascoe, 86** - Involved with the St. Boniface Riels of the MMJHL for many years.

Jan. 7 in Brandon - ***Bill Maluta, 85** - Won seven provincial championships during 25 years coaching in Flin Flon. Later coached in Brandon and was a Western (junior) Hockey League scout. Inducted into the HOF as a builder in 2007.

Jan. 8 in Winnipeg - **Marlene Anderson, 70** - All-around athlete who taught skating for the Canadian Professional Hockey Schools and teams including SJR and the AA Twins, Suns and Hawks. Daughter of HOF builder (1990) Bill Allum.

Jan. 8 in Prince George, B.C. - **Ken Wishart, 78** - Portage la Prairie native who moved to Prince George in 1966. Spent more than 40 years as a referee at the local, provincial and national levels and served as referee-in-chief of the B.C. Minor Hockey Association from 1978 to 1987.

Jan. 11 in Winnipeg - **Lloyd Pederson, 63** - coached and managed teams registered with Hockey Manitoba and also refereed.

Jan. 18 in Winnipeg - **Barry Billington, 68** - Involved in various roles with the River East Minor Hockey Association for many years.

Jan. 18 in Winnipeg - **Alfred Senebald, 90** - A manager/trainer with the Manitoba NHL Oldtimers.

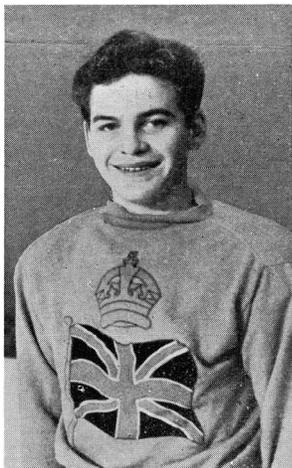
Jan. 19 in Winnipeg - **Noel Lanthier, 80s** - Played for the St. Boniface Canadiens.

Jan. 24 in Winnipeg - **Jack Matheson, 86** - Sports editor of the *Winnipeg Tribune* until it folded in 1980 and then a broadcaster with CJOB. Also wrote a sports column for the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association and *The Prime Times*.

Name Dropping (cont.)

To celebrate the team's 30th anniversary, the Winkler Flyers of the MJHL have established a hall of fame. Goalie **Ed Belfour(2009)** and skaters **Steve Harder** and **Wade Sambrook** will be inducted in the player category at a banquet in Winkler on Feb. 24. The team's first captain, **Peter Derksen**, who coached the team to the Centennial Cup final in 1992, goes in as the first coach. **Dan Giesbrecht**, a team founder, will enter the shrine as a builder...Farpoint Films is developing a documentary for MTS Winnipeg on Demand about the 1896 Victorias team that won a Stanley Cup challenge series. The title of the 20-24 minute film will be *Champion City*. The Hockey and Sports halls provided **Andrew Wall** of Farpoint with research assistance and he's been put in contact with historian **Morris Mott(2007)**, who has written about the Victorias...In **Gordon Pankhurst's** *Free Press* obituary, it mentioned that during an extended visit to England with his family, he played for the Wembley Monarchs and was the youngest

Photo/clipping below are from a Dec. 1947 program.



This is GORDON PANKHURST, and he's wearing his England jersey with justifiable pride.

will take place on Monday Day, when the Lions are at home to Harringay Greyhounds, the combination who administered the first real shock of the season by beating their rinkmates, the Racers.

This is a return match, for the teams drew 5-5 at their first meeting, when Greyhounds proved to all concerned that their previous win was no flash in the pan.

On the following day, Saturday, the 27th, Monarchs play the first of three home matches in eight days when they meet Streatham. Nottingham Panthers oppose them on New Year's Day, and they round off a strenuous week with a match against Harringay Greyhounds on Saturday, January 3rd.

England's Youngest International Joins Monarchs

Our picture is of a very youthful player who leapt to fame in a night by being the youngest player ever to represent England in an ice hockey international.

He is 14-year-old Gordon ("Gabby") Pankhurst, Wembley kit-boy who plays for the Terriers in Sunday matches.

After including Gordon in his daily practices, Coach Alec Archer has now taken him on the Monarchs' strength. Alec has a winner there.

player to play in an international league and was given the name of "Prince Puck." This peaked our interest so we contacted British hockey expert **Martin Harris**. By coincidence Harris had just purchased a Wembley program from Nov. 1947 that states that Pankhurst had come back (with his family) to England two months earlier and was training with the Wembley senior clubs and playing with the junior Terriers. In a April 1948 Monarchs team photo, **Bob Goring**, the father of **Butch Goring (1989)**, is standing next to Pankhurst. Captain **Sonny Rost**, **Ken McFerran**, **Don (Snapper) Stay** and **Roy Thompson** were the other Manitobans in the lineup. Coach **Alex Archer** had played for the Selkirk Fisherman.

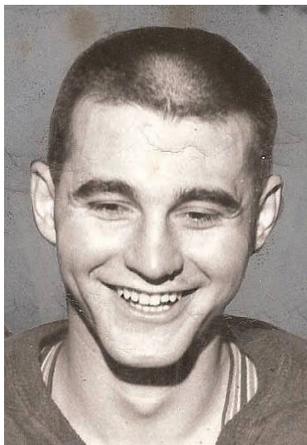
Skating Down Memory Lane With Ted Holland

Stranded Deep in the Heart of Texas

The Houston Huskies, coached by Toe Blake with Rudy Pilous as manager and a young trainer named Tiger Goldstick, won the 1947-48 USHL championship. The Huskies along with the Dallas Texans and Fort Worth Rangers gave it one more year and then folded. In his recent book *Eddie Shore and that Old Time Hockey*, C. Michael Hiam mentions that Shore owned the Rangers and "pulled out of the Texas hockey market (there being, it turned out, no Texas hockey market)."

Things have changed since then and hockey is on the rise in the Lone Star State. In addition to the Dallas Stars in the NHL, Texas has three AHL and five Central League teams. There are also three junior clubs and hockey is played in 79 high schools.

In 1959, however, there had been no hockey in a decade. Earlier in the season, Fort Wayne and Charleston of the IHL played two games in Houston in front of 12,500 spectators. With this in mind, the same promoter brought in two hockey teams from Winnipeg comprised of pros, amateurs and college players. They were billed as the St. Boniface Seals and the Winnipeg Hawks.



Dave Richardson

In the Seals lineup were Ron Gross, Joe O'Sullivan, Barry Larkin, John Guttormson, who both played and sent stories back to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Bob Currie, Wayne Stewart, Gerry Wilson, Bruce Carmichael, Dave Richardson, Don MacKenzie and Vic Shettler, who was in charge of the group.

The Hawks roster included Wilf McClusky, Tony Green, Ross Fargey, Walt Buchanan, Ted Lanyon, Don Hart, Bert Oig, Bill Wicklow, Clare Wakshinski, Frank Cormier and Ed Rewucki. Assisting Shettler with the teams were Frank Farnfield and Cass Tobin. Dick Todd and Jake Favel went along as referees.

The teams played three games in Dallas and two in Houston but as John Robertson said in a *Winnipeg Tribune* story, "The games were a dismal failure from a promotional standpoint, attracting only 750 fans." The \$1,500 guarantee, which was to take care of the hotel bill and bus transportation home, didn't appear, nor did the promoter and the players had no way to get home. By this time, the players were out of pocket money and some of them had to get back to jobs.

Houston Post sportswriter Mickey Herskowitz said there was little advance promotion and apparently the timing couldn't have been much worse. The Houston Buffs had just begun their Triple A American Association baseball season, the River Oaks Tennis Tournament featuring world-ranked players was underway and the opening round of the Houston Class Golf Tournament had begun, to which the Manitoba players and coaches were invited. In addition, a rock and roll show was scheduled for Houston.

Herskowitz was quoted in Robertson's story as saying, "The Winnipeg teams really put on a good show, two games went into overtime, and it's a shame that it couldn't have received better fan support."

Vic Shettler said people in Houston had been very good to the teams. Montague Hotel manager Dorsey Weir told the group to stay in the hotel and eat there until things were cleared up. They were given the Coliseum free of charge for a benefit game and movie star Nelson Eddy and the singing golfer Don Cherry agreed to be an added attraction. This brought in only an additional \$400, which Shettler said would be applied to the their food bill. The teams headed home by bus the next day. CJOB underwrote the transportation expenses to get them home and along with two other Winnipeg radio stations accepted contributions for the group.

Newspapers from both the US and Canada were inquiring about the teams and there was even a call from the Ed Sullivan Show. Nobody knew why unless they thought Ross Fargey, who later went on to organize polo matches at Bird's Hill, might have a horse act for the Sunday night show. One report out of Houston said the dilemma of the hockey teams rivaled the coverage of the divorce trial of actress Hedy Lamarr and Houston oilman Howard Lee.