



## The Final Face-Off – 2023

### T. Kent Morgan

During 2023, the hockey community lost many Manitobans as well as people with a connection to the sport in our province. Information has been compiled from newspaper obituaries and other sources such as the Internet and the Society for International Hockey Research (SIHR). Individual honoured members of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame are noted with an asterisk\* and the year of induction by MHHFyyyy or just the year. If a reader is aware of any deceased hockey people not listed or any errors, please email information to [tkmorgan@mymts.net](mailto:tkmorgan@mymts.net) or call 1-204-489-6641.

Jan. 5, 2023 in Altona, **John Gerbrandt, 79** – Played for the Altona Maroons of the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League in the 1960s and early 1970s and later served on the executive.

Jan. 8 in Richer, **Brent Wray, 42** – Represented the Eastman region on the Hockey Manitoba female council.

Jan. 16 in Nanaimo, BC, **Gordon Thomas, 90** - Coached hockey in south Winnipeg and helped get the indoor rink built at the Fort Richmond Community Centre. While teaching in England, he was an assistant coach for a London team.

Jan, 22 in Winnipeg, **Jack Carnegie, 87** – Played for the University of Manitoba Bisons in 1956-57 and 1957-58 and later coached the Silver Heights Community Club midgets.

Jan. 23 in Rocanville, SK, **Don Donaldson, 82** – Played for his hometown Flin Flon Bombers of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) in 1959-60 and the Western Canada intermediate champion Flin Flon Warriors (MHHF2019) in 1966. With Denver University in 1960-61 and the Minneapolis Millers of the IHL in 1961-62.

Jan. 25 in Winnipeg, **Jim Kenning** – Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) in 1959-60 and for Denver University from 1961-62 to 1963-64.

Jan. 27 in Winnipeg, **\*Bob Chrystal, 92** - MHHF1995 inductee, who played pro from 1950-51 to 1958-59 including two seasons with New York Rangers of the NHL. With two teams inducted into the HOF - the 1948-49 Brandon Wheat Kings juniors (MHHF2007) and the 1956-57 Western Hockey League champion Brandon Regals (MHHF2023). Served on the MHHF board of directors for many years.

Jan. 28 in California, **Dick Douglas, 93** – Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs of the MJHL in 1946-47 followed by two seasons with the junior Calgary Buffaloes and two seasons in the Alberta Big 6 League. Later played oldtimers for the Hollywood All-Stars.

Jan. 30 in Wheaton, IL, **\*Bobby Hull, 84** – His illustrious career including playing for the Winnipeg Jets of the WHA from 1972-73 until 1978-79 plus 18 games for the NHL Jets in 1979-80. (MHHF1983).



Jan.30 in Winnipeg, **Jack Arklie, 85** - Refereed in the Greater Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association from 1959 to the mid-1960s and served a term as juvenile referee-in-chief. Linesman in the MJHL.

Feb. 1 in Des Moines, Iowa, **Travis Dunn, 65** – Transcona defenseman who played two years at the University of North Dakota winning the NCAA championship in 1980. Provided colour commentary on TV broadcasts for 12 seasons and hosted hockey shows on Grand Forks radio.

Feb. 7 in Winnipeg, **Ron Arklie, 90** – Played for the Deer Lodge Vanguards juveniles in 1949-50 and the Winnipeg Black Hawks of the MJHL in 1950-51. Also officiated like his younger brother Jack.

Feb. 15, in Omaha, **Paul Jerrard, 57** – Morse Place CC product, who played pro from 1987-88 to 1996-97 including five games in the NHL with Minnesota North Stars. Assistant coach in the NHL for Colorado, Dallas and Calgary and was an assistant at the University of Nebraska-Omaha when he died.

Feb. 25 in Winnipeg, **Ron McKechney, 86** – Captain at Bemidji State University in 1959-60 and then an assistant coach. In 1972-73 was an assistant coach at Lakehead University.

March 9 in Gimli, **Tryggvi Finsson, 89** – Played for the Arborg Falcons and coached, managed and served as president of Arborg minor hockey.

March 15 in Winnipeg, **Eddie (Swoosh) Dudych, 86** – Played for the St. Boniface Canadiens of the MJHL in 1952-53 (MHF2009) and 1953-54 and junior in Quebec the next two seasons. Pro from 1957-58 until 1963-64 in the IHL, WHL and EHL.

March 20 in Winnipeg, **Jack Mohr, 94** – Served as president of Morris Minor Hockey.

March 29 in Gilbert Plains, **Riley Robak, 17** – The assistant captain of the Roblin/Grandview/Gilbert Plains high school team, who also was a referee, was killed in a car accident.

April 10 in Winnipeg, **Danny Schur, 56** – Goalie at Riverview CC, who played against a visiting Ukrainian National Team. Produced a documentary about Terry Sawchuk and composed a related song titled Made in Winnipeg.

April 13 in Winnipeg, **Ken Esdale, 80** – Assistant trainer and occasional goalie for the Winnipeg-based Canada National Team in the 1960s (MHF2009). Played for the Fort Richmond Oldtimers for many years and finally with the Super Seniors at the Keith Bodley Arena.

April 28 in Pine Falls, **Lyle Velie, 83** – Served as manager of the Pine Fall Paper Kings.

May 17 in Long Island, **\*Gerry Hart, 75** – Defenseman for his hometown Flin Flon Bombers from 1965-66 to 1967-68 when he was the WCJHL defenseman of the year and was captain for two seasons. Played in the NHL between 1968-69 and 1982-83 with Detroit, the New York Islanders, Quebec and St. Louis. Coached the NY Islanders juniors. MHF1986.

May 20 in Winnipeg, **Gary Bigwood, 83** – Served as president of the Winnipeg Jets Booster Club.

May 30 in Winnipeg, **Ralph Lyndon, 88** – Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs in 1953-54 and 1954-55 and the Harringay Racers of the British National League in 1955-56. University of North Dakota from 1957-58 to 1959-60 winning a NCAA title in his second season. Played for the Western Canada intermediate champion Flin Flon Warriors in 1966.



June 17 in Winnipeg, **Billy Staub, 82** – Played for the St. Boniface Canadiens in 1958-59 and 1959-60. Denver University from 1961-62 to 1963-64 when he was a first-team All American. Played minor pro between 1964-65 and 1975-76 and later two seasons with the intermediate North End Flyers.

July 1 in Winnipeg, **Jim Nishikawa, 83** – Played for the Midnite Flyers, the River Heights Wednesday group winter and summer, and was captain of Sir John Franklin in the Inner City Oldtimers League. Served as a coach and hockey convenor at SJF.

July 14 in Charlottetown, **Billy MacMillan, 80** – Played for the Winnipeg-based Canada National Team from 1965-66 to 1969-70. Later played and coached in the NHL.

July 15 in Hartney, **Lew Morrison, 75** – Played for the Flin Flon Bombers in 1966-67 and 1967-68. His pro career from 1968-69 until 1977-78 saw him in the NHL with Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington, and Pittsburgh.

July 18 in Winnipeg, **Allan Sveinson, 81** – Served on the board of the Arborg Ice Dawgs junior B team.

August 3 in Calgary, **Bob Murdoch, 76** – Coached in the NHL from 1982-83 to 1992-93. Won NHL coach-of-the-year in 1989-90 while with the Winnipeg Jets.

August 6 in Winnipeg, **Maz Mazur, 54** – Played at the University of Prince Edward Island from 1991-92 to 1993-94. Son of HOF member Ed (Spider) Mazur.

August 17 in Winnipeg, **George Cadzow, 93** – Manager of the Midland Flyers, board member of the St. James Canucks, and life member of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL) where he had served as registrar. George Cadzow Trophy is presented annually to the outstanding defenseman in the MMJHL.

August in Winnipeg, **Ted Wainikka, 89** – Played with numerous teams including the EK Millionaires, Winnipeg Olden Boys, Winnipeg Jets Alumni, and the Winnipeg Club Oldtimers with whom he played in the Soviet Union. Inducted into Playmakers 80 and Over Club in Victoria when playing for the Super Seniors from Winnipeg.

Sept. 1 in Winnipeg, **Bob Wener, 69** – Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs of the MJHL in 1971-72 and the River Heights Cardinals of the MMJHL the next season.

Sept. 6 in Winnipeg, **Charlie Kurtz, 78** – Won a provincial juvenile championship with Kelvin CC in 1962 and played for the Winnipeg Braves of the MJHL in 1963-64.

Sept. 8 in Invermere, BC, **Milt Black, 74** – Played for the Winnipeg Jets of the Western Canada Junior Hockey League (WCJHL) from 1967-68 to 1969-70 followed by two seasons in the Central League with the Dallas Black Hawks. WHA Jets from 1972-73 to 1974-75 and then two seasons in Sweden and two in Germany.

Sept. 11 in Winnipeg, **Cliff Malzensky, 68** – General manager of the North Winnipeg Satellites junior B team and former president of the Capital Region Junior Hockey League.

Sept. 13 in Winnipeg, **Doug Overton, 78** – Played in the MJHL with the St. Boniface Canadiens and senior for the St. Boniface Mohawks and Warroad Lakers. Coached the junior St. Boniface Saints in 1972-73 and 73-74. Spent 18 years as a scout for the Dallas Stars of the NHL.



Sept. 18 in Minneapolis, **Henry Boucha, 72** – Warroad, Minnesota high school star, who played for the junior Winnipeg Jets in 1969-70. US National Team from 1970 to 1972 and pro primarily in the NHL until 1976-77. Inducted into the US Hockey Hall of Fame in 1995.

Sept. 23 In Nashville, **Nicolas Kerdiles, 29** – Traded to the Winnipeg Jets by the Anaheim Ducks in 2018 and played three games for the Manitoba Moose in 2018-19.

Sept. 24 in Belair, **Bert Fontaine, 85** – Played for Sagkeeng and for a Team Canada oldtimers team against Team Europe in Denmark.

Sept. 28 in Kelowna, BC, **David Laing, 78** – Part owner of junior Brandon Wheat Kings from 1986 to 1991.

Oct. 17 in Niverville, **Wilfred Curtis, 92** – While living in Steinbach served as manager of the hometown Huskies.

Oct. 28 in Winnipeg, **Roy Watkins, 77** – Played for the junior St. Boniface Canadiens in 1962-63 and 1963-64.

Nov. 21 in Winnipeg, **Cliff Lougheed 95** – Goalie for his hometown Foxwarren team that won the provincial junior B championship in 1945 and 1948.

Dec. 3 in Winnipeg, **Bill Hughes, 83** – Played for the Norwood Falcons, who lost the provincial juvenile final to Brandon in 1957. Junior for the St. Boniface Canadiens in 1959-60 and 1960-61. Rangers of the Manitoba Intermediate League in 1962-63.

Dec. 5 in Selkirk, **Bob Monkman, 68** – Played for in the MJHL for Brandon Travelers in 1973-74 and the St. James Canadians in 1974-75.

Dec. 6 in Winnipeg, **Guy Dandenault, 61** – Served as equipment manager for the St, Boniface Mohawks of the CASH League.

Dec. 11 in Newmarket, ON, **Randy Legge, 76** – Played pro from 1966-67 until 1976-77 including one game for the WHA Jets in 1975-76.

Dec. 13 in Los Angeles, **Gene Carr, 72** – Played for the Flin Flon Bombers in 1969-70 and 1970-71 and then in the NHL from 1971-72 to 1978-79 with five different teams. In Los Angeles, he was the inspiration for the Eagles hit song There's a New Kid in Town.

Dec. 14 in Winnipeg, **Merrill (Butch) Wozniak, 90** – Played for the Winnipeg Monarchs of the MJHL in 1953-54 and junior in Lethbridge and Thunder Bay. Coached minor hockey in Elmwood/East Kildonan.

Dec. 14 in Calgary, **Hideo (Sam) Yasamatsu, 87** – Junior Winnipeg Monarchs in 1953-54 and 1954-55.

Dec. 26 in Kamloops, BC, **Craig Russenholt, 67** – Played for the senior Minitonas Hornets before and after junior with the Dauphin Kings of the MJHL in 1969-70 and 1970-71. Later officiated in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba.

Dec. 26 in Winnipeg, **George West, 91** – Volunteer for hockey groups in St. James-Assiniboia and scout for Prince Albert Raiders of the Western Junior Hockey League.