

MANITOBA HOCKEY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, 2005

2005 Induction Dinner

Dinner chairman Frank McKinnon reported that 580 tickets for the 2005 Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame induction dinner were sold at press time. He is shooting for a crowd of 700 on Oct. 21 at the Canad Inns Polo Park. Anyone interested should purchase tickets by Oct. 14. After that there is no guarantee of a seat. Tickets are \$75 with a \$40 charitable tax receipt. Call McKinnon at 253-6982 for tickets.

Cocktails are at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Broadcaster Bob Picken will introduce the inductees and Lt. Gov. John Harvard will assist with the presentations. There will be no guest speaker. Moose Jackson and Bill Pounder will provide musical interludes.

Cop Now Cop in New Orleans

Former CBC announcer Lionel Moore reports that his son Dean has gone from being a policeman in minor league hockey to being a real policeman in, of all places, New Orleans. The hardnosed Moore, a graduate of Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Sask., played in Knoxville, Charlotte and New Orleans and briefly with the Manitoba Moose before serving as Director of Player Liaison for the ECHL. Last winter he returned to New Orleans and joined the police department. In the thick of Hurricane Katrina, he has been shot at and his captain was one of the officers who committed suicide.

"Dean is now homeless, himself. He has only seen his pregnant wife and two children once in a month," Lionel said. They were evacuated to Houston. His parents lost track of him for 11days but knew he was okay when they were informed that Christie Blatchford had written a front page story on Dean in *The Globe and Mail*.

Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame To Honour 16 Individuals and Four Teams in 2005

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame will induct nine players, three builders, two officials, one member of the media and its first historian on Oct.21 at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg.

Jordy Douglas, Dean Evason, Randy Gilhen, Grant Ledyard, Steve Patrick and Cliff Pennington will enter the HOF in the regular players category and the late Bill Heindl Sr. will be inducted as a veteran player. The special Winnipeg Jets category will welcome its final two members, Dale Hawerchuk and Thomas Steen. (See page 2 for bios).

The three builders are Ralph Borger and Ray Frost of Winnipeg and Jim Mann of Brandon. Called "the ultimate fundraiser," Borger operated the St. Boniface junior Saints for 28 years and was named a life member of Hockey Manitoba this year. Frost spent 40



Grant Ledyard

years as a coach and manager in minor and junior hockey and managed Winnipeg Rangers to three MJHL titles. A member of the Brandon University Hockey HOF, Mann coached the Bobcats for seven years during a career that spanned more than 35 years.

Joe Vinet, who refereed from the 1950s to the '70s, and Earl Ormshaw, who was been involved for 40 years both on and off the ice, will be honoured as officials. The late Dallis (Knobby) Beck will join his fellow scribes in the media section and researcher/writer Ed Sweeney will be inducted as a hockey historian

Four championship teams also will be saluted at the induction dinner. The Winnipeg Monarchs teams that won the Memorial Cup emblematic of Canadian junior hockey supremacy in 1934-35, 1936-37 and 1945-46 and the 1973-74 Selkirk Steelers squad that captured the national junior A title will receive official recognition by the HOF for their accomplishments.

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1985 and held annual induction ceremonies every year until 1993 with the exception of 1991. Since 1995, the new members have been welcomed to the HOF every second year.



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Mission Statement

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

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Mini-Bios of the 2005 Hall of Fame Players

Jordy Douglas, LW: Winnipegger who played junior for Flin Flon of the WCJHL. Drafted by Toronto of the NHL, but signed and played with New England Whalers in final WHA season followed by 268 NHL games with Hartford, Minnesota and the Winnipeg Jets.

Dean Evason, C: Flin Flon native who played junior with Spokane and Kamloops of the WHL and for Canada's national junior team. Drafted by Washington in 1982 and played more than 880 NHL games with five teams and for Canada's national team.

Randy Gilhen, C: Played junior for Saskatoon and Winnipeg of the WHL. Played with seven NHL teams including the Winnipeg Jets and won the Stanley Cup with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1990-91. Finished career with the Manitoba Moose.

Bill Heindl Sr, D: One of the few Manitobans to play for two Canadian junior championship teams winning the Memorial Cup with the 1940-41 Winnipeg Rangers and 1941-42 Portage Terriers. Played more than 500 senior and minor progames.

Grant Ledyard, D: Played in the MJHL with the Fort Garry Blues. After being named the CHL's most improved defenceman in 1984, signed as a free agent by the New York Rangers and played 1028 games over 18 years in the NHL with nine teams.

Steve Patrick, RW: Winnipeg native who played for Brandon of the WHL. Drafted in the 1st round by Buffalo Sabres of the NHL and went on to play with the Rochester of the AHL and 250 NHL games with the Sabres, New York Rangers and Quebec.

Cliff Pennington, C: Played junior with St. Boniface and Flin Flon and for Canada's silver medallists in the 1960 Olympics while still junior age. Played 101 NHL games with Montreal and Boston during his 14-year pro career.

Players in Special Winnipeg Jets Category

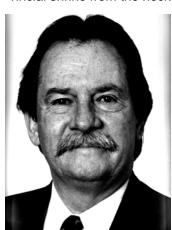
Dale Hawerchuk,C: Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Selected number 1 overall by Winnipeg in the 1981 NHL draft and named NHL rookie of the year in 1981-82. Scored 930 pts during his nine seasons with the Jets.

Thomas Steen, C: A world junior all-star with Sweden who was drafted by the Winnipeg Jets in 1979. Joined the team in 1981 and played his entire 14-year NHL career in Winnipeg. Tallied 296 goals and 553 assists in 950 games.

Name-Dropping by Toast and Coffee

Editors Ted and Kent were labelled Toast and Coffee when they wrote a sports column for the *Winnipeg Sun* under that title from 1997 to 2001. They now write the Kent and Dutch on Sports column for *The Prime Times* newspaper.

The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame announced its 2005 induction class on Sept. 13. Going into the provincial shrine from the hockey world on Nov. 5 at the Canad Inns Polo Park will be **Grant Ledyard**, **Don**



Don MacKenzie

MacKenzie and the three Winnipeg Jets teams that won WHA championships in 1976, 1978 and 1979. Ledyard has promised HOF officials that he will travel from his home in Clarence, NY for his induction into the Hockey HOF on Oct. 21 and for the Sports HOF dinner on Nov. 5. Former MAHA president MacKenzie is being inducted as a builder for his contributions to sport that included presidency of the Manitoba Sports Federation and the 1999 Pan Am Games Host Society...Can it be 26 years since Toast&Coffee worked on the minor officials and statistics committee at the 1979 Air Canada Cup Midget Hockey Championship that MacKenzie chaired?...Frank McKinnon reported that the Rick Blight memorial golf tournament and auction in Carman raised more than \$24,000 for charity. The Foundation donated \$200 to the cause...HOF member Ab McDonald travelled to Chicago to play in the Black Hawks Alumni Association annual charity golf tournament on Aug. 29. Ab's centre **Stan Mikita** also played in the event that raises scholarship funds for high school players in Illinois... Former St. Boniface Mohawks centre **Wayne Wiste** had a busy summer. The Daniel McIntyre teacher traveled to Denver where he hooked up with

several of his University of Denver teammates from the mid-1960s. After a few skates, they were off to Santa Rosa, Cal. to play in the 60+ division of the Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament. A tournament in Edmonton was next on the itinerary for the Pioneers alumni. Wayne's brother Jim, who played for Chicago in the WHA and NHL, came up from Colorado to coach the team. The Denver squad reached the finals of the 50+ division, but lost to a team from Edmonton. Wiste's team was understaffed for the final so they called for help and former Jet Rich Preston, another Pioneer, came up from Calgary. The Flames assistant coach scored twice, but it wasn't enough against the champions who had 81 players try out for the team...Individuals from the hockey world were prominent when the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame held its 2005 induction on May 7 in Winnipeg and the Manitoba Baseball shrine inducted its 2005 class on June 4 in Morden. Hockey HOF member and British Hockey League star Chick Zamick was inducted into the Softball HOF with the 1950-1954 Northern Hotel/Ukrainian Legion Branch 141 senior men's teams. Tod Thurston, who also played in Britain, went in as a coach of the 1948-50 Morden Whiz-Bangs girls. Vic Pidhirny, former Portage Terriers and 2000 World Junior Hockey Championship board member, was inducted as an individual. Toast&Coffee served as duelling MCs...In Morden, hall-of-famers Bob Kabel and Bill Murray were inducted with the 1958-63 Dauphin Redbirds. The late Red Atkin of Carberry, who was prominent as a player and official in hockey as well as baseball, was inducted as an individual. Several of the 1962-67 Pilot Mound Pilots also played hockey with Rod Collins perhaps the most recognizable name. The 1959-64 The Pas TeePees teams included a number of players from the intermediate Huskies. The late Claude (Cobra) Kozik and Ticky King along with Ron Cox anchored both teams and another important component was the late Jack Giles. He's the father of 1999 HOF inductee Curt Giles, who was born in the northern community. Huskies goalie Ron Chalmers, who was the MAHA president from 1976 through 1979, ex-Winnipeg Monarch Hugh Turnbull and Edgar Rivalin, who helped U of M Bisons win the CIAU championship in 1965, also wore TeePees green. McKinnon, Coffee and HOF member Gladwyn Scott were among the presenters and Gladwyn received a special award in recognition of his contributions to the baseball hall.



Don Rope, who was a member of the Winnipeg Monarchs in 1946-47, has celebrated his 75th birthday in Cambridge, Ont. Rope, a retired school teacher, played senior hockey in Ontario with Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen and helped Canada won bronze in the 1956 Winter Olympics and silver in 1960.

Rope, second from left in photo, visited with Manitobans Alex Kurceba, Eddie Mazur, Bill Mosienko and Don Raleigh at the Snoopy's Senior Tournament in Santa Rosa, Cal. in 1990

Name-Dropping by Toast and Coffee (continued)

It's old news, but the Stonewall Old Buffaloes won the 65-and-over division of the Pacific Western Hockey Tournament in April for the third straight year. When you see Foundation director Laurie Langrell, please ask him why the Buffaloes recruited players from Saskatchewan this year when there are so many "old" oldtimers in our province. One rookie was retired Winnipeg police sergeant Bob Essery, who in his early days as a cop played on a line in Red Lake with **Ted Rock**, another TeePee/Huskie from The Pas...Spotted ex-Winnipeg Monarch Billy Smyth gliding about at CanLan Ice Sports (Highlander to most people) in early September. Smyth, who skates better than most teenagers, plays Tuesdays with Langrell and Buffaloes teammate Murray Wilkie at River Heights with Ross Parke's group. He said he may add Fridays at Stonewall to his schedule and is a definite candidate for Victoria in the spring as he reaches the magic age in 2006... Rheostatics guitarist Dave Bidini did a reading and signed his new book, The Best Game You Can Name, at McNally Robinson Grant Park on Sept. 15. He told us that 2003 inductee Dennis McDonald was very helpful when he doing his research. The book includes comments from Jets alumni Joe Daley, Anders Hedberg, Tod Hartje, Mike Smith and Igor Kuperman, local journalists Bartley Kives and Chuck Molgat and Dan Diamond, an ex-Winnipegger who has published a long list of hockey books...Brett Bruneteau, the grandson of 1999 HOF inductee Ed Bruneteau, is a member of the US under-17 team. In other news from the Omaha area, the Omaha World-Herald reported that the "Godfather of hockey keeps skating." The paper was referring to 79-year-old Motto McLean, who ran his summer youth hockey camp for the 25th consecutive year. The camp is held at the arena that now bears his name. McLean, whose long pro career included a period with Bruneteau on the Omaha Knights, coached the Flin Flon junior Bombers in 1958-59 and played for the senior Bombers...Gus Bodnar passed away on Canada Day in Oshawa, He 's not a Manitoban, but he is attached to Bill Mosienko's NHL record of scoring three goals in 21 seconds. Bodnar drew assists on all three thereby establishing his own record. He also holds the record for the fastest goal at the start of his career. In October 1943, he scored 15 seconds into his first shift. He went on to win the Calder Trophy as the league's outstanding rookie that season...Manitoba Bisons coach Mike Sirant spent a week in September as a guest coach at the Nashville Predators camp. Sirant said it was an excellent experience and that he was treated very well. Nashville coach Barry Trotz, who once coached the Bisons, had an ulterior motive in mind when he extended the invitation. Sirant is experienced in coaching without a red line and with the new NHL rules allowing a "two-line" pass, Trotz wanted to pick his brains...Barry Thorndycraft, who passed away on Sept. 22, coached the freshman team at the University of North Dakota and then coached the varsity for five vears starting with the 1959-60 season. His Sioux squad that included Manitobans George Chigol, Wayne Gurba, Jack Matheson and John Sutherland beat Denver 6-5 to win the NCAA championship in 1963. Greg Lacomy, Billy Staub and Jim Kenning played for the Pioneers. Thorndycraft also was an assistant to Bob May when UND took the title in 1959 with a 4-3 overtime win over Michigan State. Steve Thullner and Ralph Lyndon, who had a goal and assist in the victory, were on that team. His fans will be surprised to learn that Ralph was in the penalty box when Reg Morelli scored the winning goal in OT.

Foundation News

Development is continuing on the Foundation website that eventually will open the doors of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame to the world. Hockey Manitoba and the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association are gold-level sponsors and McDonalds Restaurants of Canada and Ice Kube Systems have signed on as silver sponsors. Support from Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation has been received through a grant and access to bingos. The board is hoping to give guests a preview of the website at the HOF dinner on Oct. 21.

As for the physical hall in the MTS Centre, visitors can expect to see the bios of the 2005 induction class in place shortly after the dinner. The new team Wall of Champions will be erected soon. The Winnipeg Falcons exhibit that was unveiled by the Falcons Forever committee in April is across the corridor from the HOF displays.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so immediately. The board also wants members to provide referrals. Surely, most members could come up with at least a half dozen names of people who might be interested in joining the Foundation. Call director Len Morrow at 261-5366 with phone numbers or addresses. The annual fee is \$15 and a lifetime membership can be purchased for \$100. Payment should be made to the Manitoba Hockey Foundation and sent to the office.

For those of you wondering about the annual reunion that is usually held in the fall, the board decided not to hold it because of the proximity to the induction dinner. Plans are underway to hold a different type of Hockey Night in Manitoba event in the spring of 2006 when all the hockey snowbirds are back from Arizona, Florida and Texas.

Grey Cup pool tickets are now available from the directors. If you can't find one, director Gary Cribbs says to call 837-4159 for your "Lucky Chance."

Stanley Cup Visits MTS Centre



Chuck Lefley, Ab McDonald, Randy Gilhen and Bill Juzda all have their name on the Stanley Cup. Gilhen will be inducted into the Manitoba Hockey HOF on Oct. 21 while the other three are honoured members of the Hall.



Bill Juzda was pleased to sign the Maple Leafs sweater worn by Elsie Holigroski, who was first in line to see the Cup and collect autographs.



Chris Nicolson has been photographed with the Grey Cup and now she has one with the Stanley Cup.

Kelvin High Grad World Oldest Hockey Player?

Is John Burnosky at age 93 the world's oldest hockey player? Winnipegger Jim Burnosky says that his uncle John, who lives in Detroit, plays regularly for the Bruno's Dive Shop team sponsored by his son's dive and hockey shop. The team won gold in the 70+ recreational division at a 2004 National Senior Games Association competition in Minneapolis and Jim plans to travel to the Twin Cities next month to watch his uncle play. John is hoping to be officially recognized as the world's oldest hockey player by Guinness or Ripley's.

John was born in Winnipeg in 1911 and played for Kelvin High School championship teams in 1929-30 and 1930-31. He then moved to Detroit where he reportedly had a tryout with the Red Wings. You can read more about him on the Internet by searching Google or by going to the website brunosdiveshop.com/hockey.

Apparently the only problem John has being a 93-yearold hockey player is that he can't call up his peers to come out and play. They aren't around anymore.

The Final Face-Off

The hockey community has lost many members in 2005. Information below was compiled from obituaries and other sources. Complete obituaries on many of the following can be found in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by searching the online archives. Individual members of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame are noted with an asterisk. Please let us know about any 2005 deaths that have been missed.

Oct. 18, 2004 – **Ken Loewen, 36** – Level 5 official who officiated in all levels from minor to senior and was involved in the Eastman region for many years as a player and official.

Jan. 30, 2005 in Winnipeg – **Abe Wall, 70** – Former oldtimers goalie and 10 pin bowling champion. Feb. 6 in Winnipeg – **Wally Cardinal, 70** – a founding father of the North Winnipeg Junior B Satellites and the MNS Stars.



Feb. 9 in Hershey, Pa – ***Frank Mathers, 80** – Winnipeg-born Hockey Hall of Fame member who played pro for 14 years and was the coach, GM and president of the Hershey Bears of the AHL. Member of the 1943 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Rangers.

March 11 in Beausejour – **Bill Litke, 62** – Played junior with Flin Flon Bombers and played and coached Beausejour Beavers. Son Dean won a NCAA championship at UND.

March 12 in Winnipeg – **Ed Corbeil, 80** – Owned the Winnipeg Monarchs juniors in the 1960s and operated Corby's Skate Shop as well as the popcorn concession in the Winnipeg Arena and Stadium.

March 13 in Portage la Prairie – **Moe Cartman, 74** – Retired sports editor of the Portage Daily Graphic who covered the Portage Terriers for many years. March 14 in Steinbach – **Gordon Gibson, 68** – Inglis native who excelled in several sports including hockey where he played defence.

March 18 in Fitchburg, WI – **Dr. Ken Devries, 51** – East St. Paul native and U of M graduate who moved to Madison, WI in 1985 where he coached minor

hockey and played oldtimers.

March 18, in Winnipeg – **Harry Livingstone**, **86** – Military Cross recipient who won several city championships as a hockey coach.

March 24 in Winnipeg – **Bob Fraser**, **68** – Tunder Bay native who played in the Boston Bruins organization and coached St. James Canadians.

March 30 in Winnipeg – **Clarence Sveinson**, **73** – President of the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association from 1971-74 and honorary life member. Also refereed minor hockey.

April 11 in Winnipeg – **Art Coulter**, **88** - Labour leader who served on the Winnipeg Jets board. April 16 near St. Ambroise – ***Rick Blight**, **49** – Played junior for Portage Terriers and Brandon Wheat Kings and pro for eight years primarily with Vancouver Canucks of the NHL.

April 22 in Winnipeg – **Ab Bruce**, **73** – Member of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame who played junior with Canadians and with Johnstown Jets of the IHL.

May 6 in Winnipeg – **Dr. Leonard (Cheevers) Easton, 63** – 1969 Manitoba men's curling champion who played goal for Sir John Franklin and for Deer Lodge coached by Foundation president George Depres. May 9 in Winnipeg – **Pete Carroll, 80** – Colourful sportsman who sold laminated hockey team photos at sports collectibles shows.

May 13 in Winnipeg – **Tony D'Errico**, **40** – Goalie for the Crestview and St. James Canadians AA teams.

May 14 in Winnipeg – **Jim Huber, 61** – Minor hockey assistant coach and manager for more than 20 years.

May 21 in Hamiota – **Garth Strachan**, 77 – Prominent Hamiota sportsman who played for the Hamiota intermediates of the Riding Mountain Hockey League and was involved in baseball, curling and golf. May 26 in Selkirk – **Peter Chenkie**, 76 – Manager of the Selkirk Fisherman Hockey Club for many years including 1965-66 when the team contended for the Allan Cup.

May 29 in Winnipeg – **Ron Doyle, 46** – Played hockey for many years including with the Hawerchuk team. Once shot a 58 at the Windsor Golf Course.

June 1 in Brandon – **Bob Smith**, **68** – Cypress River native who played for the Treherne/Holland team that won the provincial minor bantam B championship in 1952 and for Hamiota in 1957-58. Coached at the Maples Community Centre in Winnipeg. A founding father of ringettte in the province.

The Final Face-Off (continued)

Alex Shibicky

June 11 in Kingston, Ont. – ***Scott Young, 87, -** Manitoba native who had a distinguished career as a sportswriter. Author of several fiction and non-fiction books about hockey. Inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame media section in 1988.

June 16 in Winnipeg – **Bill Hayes**, **80** – Avid athlete who excelled in several sports including hockey and also coached.

June 20 in Winnipeg - Billy Wawryk, 47 - Played goal for many years.

June 25 in Winnipeg – **Gerry Franc**, **62** – Founding member of the St. James Tuesday 55+ hockey group.

June 27 in Ottawa – Jack Coyne, 87 – Winnipeg native and Rhodes Scholar who played for Oxford

University in the Spengler Cup hockey tournament after World War II.

June 28 in Toronto – **Matthew Frost**, **33** – Former public relations director of the Manitoba Moose who was a member of the media relations department of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

July 9 in White Rock, B.C. – ***Alex Shibicky**, **91** – Winnipeg native who

played junior with Columbus Club and Selkirk Fisherman and in the NHL for several years with the New York Rangers where he won a Stanley Cup in 1939-40. Coached the Flin Flon Bombers and in B.C.

July 12 in Winnipeg – **Frank Pertson** – Coach who served as chair of the St. James Minor Hockey League and the St. James AA hockey club and on the executive of of the St. James Canadians and St. James Canucks junior teams.

July 13 in Winnipeg – **Ed Bergner**, **71** – Manitoba speed skating champion who also played hockey at an elite level in his youth.

July 17 near Weyburn, Sask. – **Michael Coates, 40** – All-around sportsman in the Carman area, who played goal for the Carman Cougars high school team and the Beavers intermediates.

July 21 in Winnipeg – **Effie Neubauer**, **72** – Former president of the River East Minor Hockey Association.

July 27 in Winnipeg – **Bill Kaye**, **84** – Coached at Bourkevale Community Club and served as president of the St. James Canadians juniors.

Aug. 4 in Calgary – **Bruce Dryburgh**, **58** – Kelvin teacher and coach who excelled in soccer and hockey and coached at Crescentwood Community Club.

Aug. 20 in Kenora – **Dr. Allan Macdonald Torrie, 82** – Inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his voluntary work as team physician for the Kenora Thistles Hockey Club from 1951 to 1960.

Aug. 26 in Winnipeg – **Harry Sulkers**, **85**, - An outstanding junior and senior defenceman who turned down a tryout with the Chicago Black Hawks. With Altona Maroons intermediates from 1955 to 1963 and coached Altona midgets to the 1956-57 provincial B title. Won a Canadian senior curling championship with Dr. Bill McTavish's team from Elmwood.

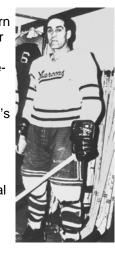
Aug. 27 near McMunn – **Alex Josephson**, **20** – Provincial all-star for the St. John's Ravenscourt team that won the provincial high school hockey championship in 2003. Sept. 4 in Winnipeg – **Ed Page**, **69** – All-around athlete who made the cover of *Toronto Star Weekly* as a Little NHL hockey goalie and excelled in soccer and several other sports. Coached at Winakwa Community Club and served as president.

Sept. 14 in Winnipeg – **Wes McAmmond**, **94** - Long-time educator who coached youth hockey and baseball in Neepawa.

Sept. 19 in Winnipeg – **Gordon Horner, 71** – Kelvin Community Club product who excelled in lacrosse and hockey and played until middle age.

Sept. 22 in Victoria - **Barry Thorndycraft** - Winnipegger who played with the Cincinnati Mohawks and Montreal Royals. Coached at the University of North Dakota where his team won the NCAA championship in 1963 and in Switzerland.

Sept. 22 in Winnipeg - Jack Ellis, 88 - Played and coached and was the manager of a Playground A championshipteam at Crescentwood Community Centre.



Harry Sulkers

Skating Down Memory Lane With Hockey Historian Ed Sweeney



The Hockey Hall of Fame recently announced the 2005 inductees and the name of Bill Reay was conspicuous by its absence once again. William (Billy) Reay passed away on Sept. 23, 2004 at the age of 86 without realizing his dream of being a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Reay had a distinguished 40-year hockey career as a player and coach and the one question remains – was it a Hockey Hall of Fame career? Many of us in the hockey world concur that Mr. Reay should be in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Reay was born in Winnipeg on Aug. 21, 1918. He first gained notice in 1938 with the St. Boniface Seals when he scored the winning goal as the MJHL team captured the Memorial Cup. He signed a contract with Detroit in 1939, but only got into four NHL games over six seasons with the Red Wings organization. In 1944 with the Quebec Aces, Billy won the QSHL scoring crown while leading his club to the Allan Cup championship.

In September of 1945, Reay was traded by Detroit to Montreal Canadiens and was part of their Stanley Cup winning team that campaign, He went on to play another seven seasons with Montreal and culminated his NHL playing career in 1953 with another Stanley Cup victory. In total, he played 479 NHL games over 10 seasons and finished with 105 goals and 162 assists for 267 points. In 63 playoff games, he recorded 13 goals and 16 assists for 29 points.

His coaching career spanned some 24 years. He was playing coach with the Victoria Cougars of the WHL after his NHL career and in 1957 was named AHL coach of the year while at the helm of the Rochester Americans. In 1957-58, he made his NHL coaching debut with the Toronto Maple Leafs, but was replaced by George (Punch) Imlach early in his second year. In 1963, he piloted the Buffalo Bisons to the AHL championship and the Calder Cup. This led to his return to the NHL the following season as coach of the Chicago Blackhawks. During his 14 seasons in Chicago, he led the team to six first-place finishes.

Reay retired from the game of hockey in 1977 having coached 1102 NHL games. His coaching record in the NHL was 542 wins, 385 losses and 175 ties and he received a milestone award from the league. At the time, his 542 victories placed him second all-time behind Dick Irvin Sr.

Billy Reay was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in 1985 and into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. This leaves his election to the Hockey Hall of Fame some 25 years overdue.

* * *

Teeing It Up (with apologies to Steady Eddie Dearden): Almost lost in the newspaper small type was word that Ed Sweeney scored a hole-in-one on Aug. 19 at Fantasy Lake. Not being golfers, your editors assumed that Fantasy Lake is a miniature course and that Ed had scored his ace either through a windmill or a clown's mouth. Always wanting to get the facts straight, we went straight to Ed, who stated that Fantasy Lake is a "real" 18-hole par three course on #1 Highway East. He made his perfect shot on the 115-yard 11th hole with a 7 iron. Scoring a hole-in-one is nothing new to our historian as he previously had one at HOF member Chuck Arnason's layout off Waverley.

The Manitoba Hockey
Foundation needs your
support to enable us to
continue our efforts on
behalf of the hockey
community of
Manitoba.