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Hudson suspended 10 games; fined \$500

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Viewing the video replay of his two-handed high-stick to the head of Pittsburgh Penguins' defenceman Kjell Samuelsson in a recent National Hockey League game makes Mike Hudson sick and not proud of his actions.

Nevertheless, the New York Rangers' centre was slapped with a 10-game suspension and fined \$500 after meeting with NHL senior vice-president and director of hockey operations Brian Burke last Tuesday.

"I had no intent to injure him (Samuelsson). It was more of a reaction than anything," says the Rockwood native, whose first look-see at the high-stick was with Burke. "I never wanted to hit him where I did. I was thinking of the

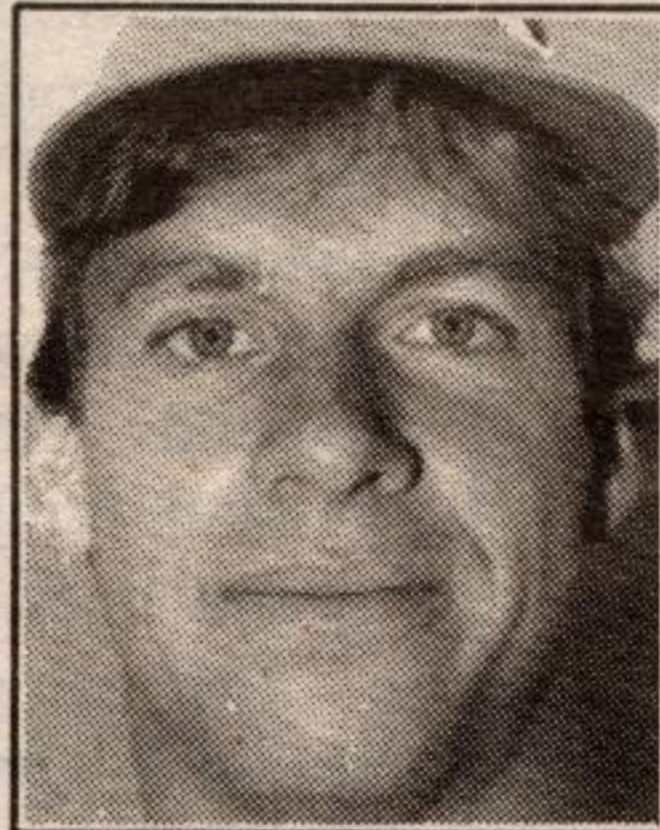
wrist or arm. It makes me sick and I have no intentions of watching it again."

The incident occurred two minutes into the second period of a game Hudson described as a typical hard-hitting, frustrating battle with the Pens.

The Acton Minor Hockey product was jostling with Samuelsson for the puck on the side boards when Hudson turned around to give the feisty rearguard a 'let go of me' whack instead of the two-hander.

"It could have been a more damaging play, but that doesn't make it right," says Hudson, 27, looked upon as a most sportsmanlike

player rather than the dirty-type. "I was surprised by the length of the suspension, but (Burke) was fair about it. He's just trying to clean up the league by enforcing things more strictly."



MIKE HUDSON

Hudson, though, has the dubious honour of receiving the second longest suspension this year. Los Angeles Kings' winger Tony Granato was handed a 15-game suspension for a high-stick infraction earlier this season.

Unfortunately, Hudson's absence from the lineup hurt the Rangers immediately. With centre Sergei Nemchinov already serving an eight-game suspension for high-sticking, Mark Messier

suffered a thigh injury in a game last Wednesday, leaving the Rangers with one centre in the lineup, Mike Hartman.

"That hurts the team more," offers Hudson, who adds neither of the interim replacements, Alexei Kovalev and Esa Tikkanen, are natural centres.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound Hudson doesn't feel 10 games on the sidelines will hurt his chances at getting a regular shift to start the playoffs. However, he points out, the acquisition of centre Craig MacTavish from the Edmonton Oilers before the NHL trade deadline on Monday, might.

"(Coach) Mike (Keenan) likes me to play a tough game — not necessarily the style in the Pittsburgh game," Hudson says. "There's a fine line between play-

ing well and playing a little dirty and I crossed it.

"But Mike's not going to hold a grudge. It (the high-stick) will be long forgotten by playoff time."

Before the suspension, Hudson — who has scored four goals and added seven assists for 11 points in 48 games — centred a promising fourth-line with Greg Gilbert and Joey Kocur.

"We had points in three straight games and were really coming together," comments Hudson. "Mike was going with three lines for about month, but those players were tiring, so he put us together. It's been great for us."

Hudson will skate in Guelph this week before rejoining his Ranger teammates — who are presently on a west coast trip — in New York on the weekend.



WHO'S GOT IT? Acton Nellis Construction Novice I hockey player Chris Jowett, right, prevents a Tillsonburg player from touching the puck in Game 3 of their OMHA final at the Community Centre on Sunday. Acton lost 2-1. (Mike Albano photo)

Skaters McGilloway, Vancek finish 6th, 9th at Ontario final

BY DOUG HARRISON
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Cindy Currie believes Cara McGilloway and Stasha Vancek have nothing to hang their heads about after finishing sixth and ninth overall at the Ontario Interclub skating championships in Sudbury on the weekend.

McGilloway, competing in the Junior Ladies' Bronze Freeskat, finished second in figures and eighth in her freeskat, while Vancek, skating in the Senior Ladies' Silver Freeskat placed ninth in figures and eighth in the freeskat.

"They did good in my eyes," praises the Acton Figure Skating Club (AFSC) coach. "Their results were good, but it can't al-

ways be your day."

Currie mentions McGilloway skated well during her two-and-a-half minute performance, but more cautious than normal. "She didn't let herself go, but her spins were good and the jumps were there (she missed one)."

Vancek's program spanned

three-and-a-half minutes on the Olympic ice surface.

"They both know they could have done better," she says, "but getting to the all-Ontario championship is a bonus."

McGilloway and Vancek both have solo performances this weekend in the 1994 AFSC Carnival.

Bowler Newell enjoys Provincials

It just wasn't Daniel Newell's day on Sunday.

The 11-year-old Bantam bowler didn't place among 16 bowlers at the Youth Bowling Council (YBC) Provincial championships of "Four Steps to Stardom" in Scarborough.

Newell, a Rockwood resident and Acton YBC bowler, rolled games of 136, 174, 141, 191, and 129.

The five-game average of 154 was well below his 172 YBC average and 38 pins short of the 192 Newell attained when he qualified for the Provincials in late February at the zone finals in Bramalea.



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