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Hudson 'frustrated' in press box in Cup final

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

In two years, Mike Hudson has gone from shadowing Super Mario in the Stanley Cup final to eyeing the play of post-season enforcers, Joey Kocur and Nick Kypreos high above in the press box.

"It's demoralizing and frustrating," said the New York Rangers centre after practice last Wednesday. "It's been tearing me up inside watching for the last three weeks (of playoffs). Fortunately, there's no trading now, but I don't want to rock the boat."

Hudson, 27, hasn't played since being handed a 10-game suspension late in the regular season for a two-handed high-stick to the head of Pittsburgh Penguins defenceman Kjell Samuelsson.

Furthermore, the National Hockey League trade deadline was looming and Hudson's worst fear rang true on March 28 when the

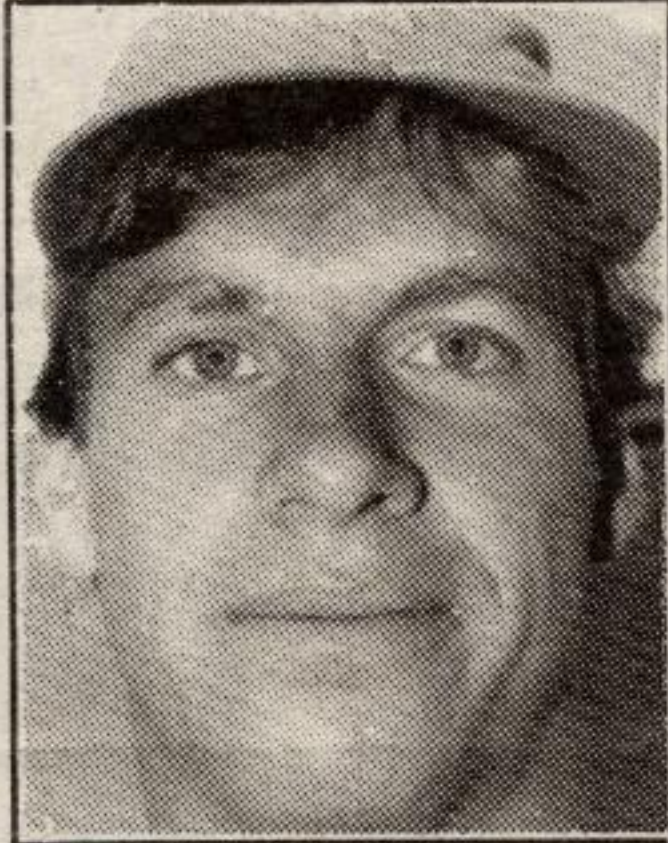
Rangers acquired centre Craig MacTavish from the Edmonton Oilers.

While sidelined, the Acton Sabre product figured his chances of grabbing a roster spot in the playoffs would only be jeopardized if MacTavish headed to Broadway.

"It (acquiring MacTavish) was a big, big part," said a discouraged Hudson of Ranger coach Mike Keenan's decision to leave the Rockwood native in his civvies. "But I'm not management, so it's not my decision."

Hudson realizes the Atlantic Division champions were struggling at the time of the trade and were without himself and another centre, Sergei Nemchinov, who was also serving a suspension.

Unfortunately, for the 6-foot-1, 185-pounder, the Rangers started to get hot and haven't looked back since, having swept the New York Islanders in four games and prevailing in seven against New Jersey.



MIKE HUDSON

"Mike (Keenan) talks to me regularly and says he's going to need me if someone gets injured. But we haven't had any injuries. It's been an amazing run. I've never seen anything like it," said the puzzled Hudson.

While Hudson practiced between MacTavish and Glenn Anderson last Wednesday following an injury to Kocur in Game 1, he wasn't getting his hopes up for Game 2 on Thursday.

"Anything can change in a night," Hudson laughed at the time.

He was right. Kocur returned.

Keenan has toyed with the idea of employing the seven-year veteran, who was effective in shadowing Lemieux in the '92 Stanley Cup final when the pair were members of the Chicago Blackhawks.

For two games in New Jersey, Hudson took to the ice for the pre-game skate only to be scratched by Keenan minutes before faceoff.

"So much for the theory that Keenan likes me," quipped Hudson. "I can complain and complain that I'm not playing, but if you're not playing it doesn't do anything," Hudson reasoned. "Mike's been loyal to the guys who have come in (to replace Hudson) and done well."

"But his main loyalty is to the team and winning the game at hand. And he certainly doesn't make it seem like you're not part of the team."

While sitting in press row, Hud-

son's duties are to determine the Canucks' tendencies. He figures his teammates should exploit the Canuck defencemen by playing them in the corners. He says this would allow the Rangers to cycle the puck and take it to the net.

So how does Hudson keep himself in game shape?

"Mentally it's hard. The first two shifts would be the toughest. I don't think you can keep in perfectly game-ready shape. Physically it's not so hard, because you're doing other work," said Hudson, referring to riding the stationary bike and skating drills.

Regardless of whether he gets ice time, Hudson is looking forward to the rest of this series and the off-season.

"I think we'll pull it (the Cup) out," he predicted. "Then I'm going to have my (Cup) parade before travelling to Australia for the month of July."



TOP BOWLERS: The Acton Five-Pin Bowlers Association (AFPBA) held its Second annual bowling bash at the Legion on Friday night. From left are Theresa Uiterwyk, high average in the Tuesday Night Ladies league; AFPBA president Cathie Ahearn, high average for Cee Jays; John Ahearn, winner of perfect game award; Angie Mowat, high triple, Tuesday Night Ladies; and AFPBA vice-president Jackie Ford, playoff champ for Cee Jays. (Lori Frechette photo)

Bonnell wins silver, bronze at OFSAA

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Before Friday's opening events of the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Associations (OFSAA) track and field meet, Acton High co-coach Anne Andrews figured Amanda Bonnell's best shot at a first was in the 300-metre hurdles.

She re-emphasized her beliefs to Bonnell's father after Amanda took third in the 400m hurdle in a time of 1:00.98 on Friday.

"Before I left the stadium I turned to her dad and said 'she'll get a medal tomorrow' and she

did," said Andrews on Monday following the Midget runner's silver medal finish of 45.67 seconds on Saturday. The Grade 10 student was only 39 hundredths of a second behind the winner, Anne Lebel of Samuel-Genest.

Both Bonnell's 60.29 second showing in the 400m heat and her final in the 300m were personal best times.

"There was a strong wind on the second curve (the race began at the first), so her time didn't appear that fast," said Andrews. "But it was nip-and-tuck, and run-

ning fourth, it was a photo finish.

Bonnell said the difference in the 300m was hitting a hurdle and the fact the race was too short to recover.

"We've had students win double medals from 1983 to '85, so it was nice for her to finish (the season) the same way," said Andrews.

"Everything was right for her and the weather was good. She's consistently looking for PB's (personal bests), so the medals are a bonus. We're certainly proud of her."

Turkosz loses to No. 1 seed at tennis final

BY DOUG HARRISON
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In baseball, it often takes a batter a few innings to adjust to a finesse pitcher after facing a 95-mile-per-hour heater.

The same applies to tennis as Steve Turkosz found out last Tuesday.

Turkosz, seeded No. 5 of 13, bounced his first round opponent from Moira Secondary School in Belleville 8-2 at the fourth annual all-Ontario tennis final at Mayfield West Racquet Club in Downsview.

"I didn't get started well, but I picked up the pace and I think I threw him off," says the 18-year-old, who got caught playing a slow-moving game in which his opponent continuously lobbed the ball over the net and kept it low.

Turkosz, an Acton High OAC student, then faced Brian Smith, the No. 1 seed from St. Elizabeth's in Vaughan. Smith, who jumped out to a 4-0 lead, caught a slow-moving Turkosz on his heels early in the match before the latter made the transition to a fast-paced match from a lobfest.

Turkosz had Smith at deuce in two of the games and lost both.

"If I win those two games it's a completely different match," says Turkosz, who closed the lead to 4-2, before Smith ran off four straight games for an 8-4 final.

Turkosz, who won at the Ontario final as a Junior two years ago, was forced to change his game after Smith returned a few shots that Turkosz usually blew by Halton opponents this season.



STEVE TURKOSZ

"I had to try to go for shots more," he admits, "instead of waiting and letting him mess up which is my style."

"He (Smith) had a couple of different serves — flat one and the other had a spin on it. When he served, it went in and out, but eventually I could read it."

Meanwhile, Turkosz took the advice of school coach Anne Andrews and joined a club this

year. Turkosz, who has seen more competition, has made great strides as a rookie at the Burlington Racquet Club, advancing to quarterfinal play recently at a club tourney.

He was the last unseeded player on the court, knocked off the No. 5 and No. 11 seeds, but reached the end of his rope against the fourth seeded player.

"I improved on my consistency this year and developed a better stroke. And playing regularly helps," mentions Turkosz, who will attend Sir Sandford Fleming College in September and enroll in the two-year Fish and Wildlife Technician program.

Zions beats Yanks

Acton's Peter Zions Construction Mosquito baseball team won its third game of the season, doubling the Waterdown I Yankees 10-5 at Prospect Park on Thursday.

Run scorers were not provided.