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Hudson 'motivated' for coming NHL season

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Mike Hudson says he's more motivated opening training camp with the 1994-95 New York Rangers today (Wednesday) than he has been during his last two National Hockey League campaigns.

Achieving his boyhood dream of hoisting the Stanley Cup around an NHL arena might have something to do with it. However, it seems to be his desire to prove he deserves a regular shift with the defending Cup champs more than anything else.

"And I love the Rangers as a

team and don't want to go anywhere else, so I'm doubly motivated," said the Rockwood resident on Thursday. "The problem when I was in Edmonton (at the end of the 1992-93 season) was that deep down I didn't want to be there and it was hard to prove anything."

Put simply, the 27-year-old didn't want to be part of a rebuilding organization and still doesn't.

But first, he must hit the ice this weekend and prove that his languishing on the bench through last year's post-season was a mistake by then-coach Mike Keenan. He

must also improve upon an 11-point effort last season that was marred by the passing of his father, the breaking of the metacarpal bone in his left hand and a 10-game suspension for high-sticking Pittsburgh Penguins defenceman Kjell Samuelsson.

All the while, the 6-foot, 185-pounder must impress new coach Colin Campbell, who served as the team's assistant last year.

"He's got a lot of Keenan traits, but the one thing he has over (Keenan) is that he played the game for a lot of years, so he has a better understanding of the game," of-

ferred Hudson, whose relationship with Keenan became strained as the playoffs rolled along.

"Keenan drove us every day and that's really tough when you're playing an 84-game season."

But regardless of who's behind the bench, the situation remains the same: the Acton Minor Hockey product has to crack one of 12 forward positions.

Hudson said he will be competing against Nick Kypreos, Greg Gilbert, Mike Hartman, among others, for likely the fourth-line centre's job.

He says while the team has un-

dergone a few wholesale changes, the chemistry hasn't been disrupted much. And his desire to win the Cup again is as strong as it can be.

"We still have our core leaders in Adam Graves, Mark Messier and Kevin Lowe," Hudson said. "If Edmonton can win without Gretzky, I can't see why we can't."

NOTES: Hudson confirmed he is playing out his option this season that will see him earn a stipend of \$375,000. He revealed he never considered negotiating a new contract. Hudson also said he will live in a hotel until there's a settlement on the NHL labour front.

Mosquitos battle tough in hardball playdowns

Acton's Mosquito Selects hardball squad travelled to Cobourg over Labour Day weekend to take part in the Ontario Minor Baseball Association's championship tournament.

While the local side lost two of three contests, they were pleased to be competing against the best eight Mosquito hardball teams in the province.

Bright and early on Saturday morning the Acton side, which is sponsored by Denny's Insurance, the Lions Club and Zions Construction, matched up against a tough Lindsay club.

Acton lost this opening encounter by a 10-0 score, making too many errors in the field and not being able to get anything going at the plate.

Craig Lockwood and Darren Selihar were the Acton hurlers in the loss.

The Mosquitos, who are coached by Bob Cole, Les Lockwood and Brad Wells, then entered their second match against Val Caron.

It was a rejuvenated Acton side that dressed for this contest, as the locals won a hard-fought 5-3 game.

Chris Near started on the mound for Acton and went four strong innings. Joe McGrath then pitched two frames and Jason Wells came in to close the door in the seventh.

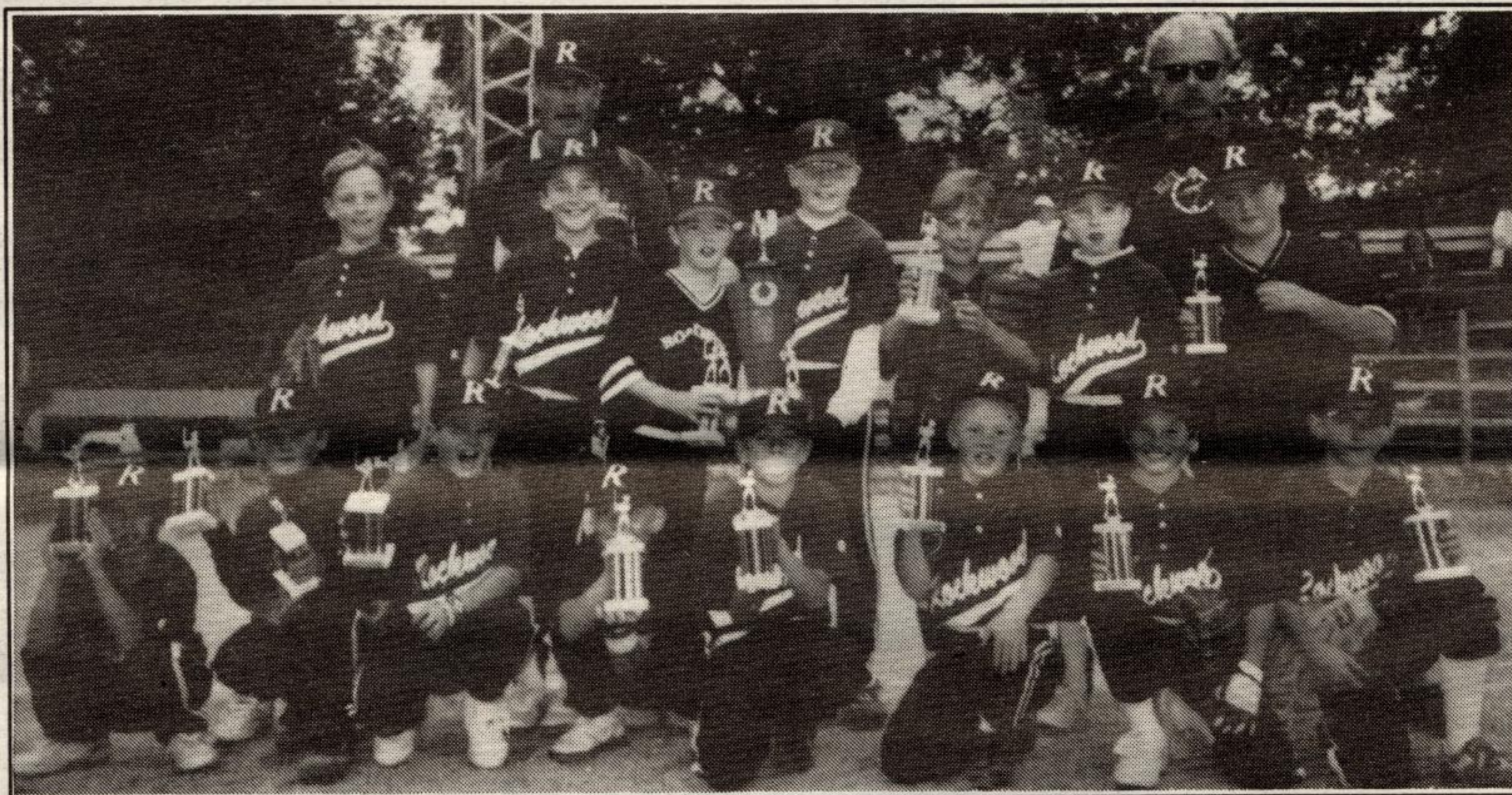
Lockwood was praised by coaches for his work behind the plate, while second baseman John Laing and first baseman Wells contributed strong defensive games.

Paul Schiller tripled and had a pair of big RBIs for the Acton Selects in the game, while Jeff Cole and Wells hammered a triple and double.

In what would be their final game of the tourney, the Acton side went on to drop a 10-0 decision to Kincardine.

McGrath, Chad Greenwood, Cole and Lockwood all did duty on the mound in this game.

To get to the Ontario finals, the Acton team defeated the Georgetown hardball rep squad in playdown action.



DIAMOND CHAMPS! Rockwood "Red" were the Tri-County Softball Atom league and tournament champions for '94. Team members got together recently to show off their hardware. Front row, from left: Mark Armstrong, Jeff Colquhoun, Josh Thompson, Jon Toonen, Scott Pettigrew, Jesse Hepburn, Alexander Hoad and Jeff Peart. Back row: Matt Geegar, Chris Mewett, Shawn Dunn, Paul Mothersole, Adam Hewitt, Joe Dunbar and Adam Usher. Behind the team are coach Randy Peart and assistant coach Rodey Geegar. (Submitted photo)

Rockwood Red are Atom champs

Rockwood Red were the Tri-County Minor Softball Association's Atom Boys (9 and 10-year-olds) 1994 champions, taking both the league and playoff tournament titles.

The Rockwood club took the seven-team league honours with a 14-2-2 record.

The double-knockout playoff tournament, which was held at Lloyd Dyer Park in Rockwood,

ran Aug. 19 to 21.

In the final game of the tourney the Rockwood side met up with Morrision (who had beaten the locals 12-7 earlier in the weekend).

The Big Red Machine came out on top in the final, however, downing the visitors 13-2.

MVP honours for the final game went to Rockwood's Joe Dunbar.



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