

Return to old stomping ground just the ticket for Konkle

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CHANGE OF SCENERY: Jarrett Konkle is enjoying a fresh start with the Elmira Jackals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK BACMANSKI

ECHL centre revitalized since being traded to Elmira; beats old team on New Year's Eve

There's nothing like a homecoming to revitalize one's career.

Of course you don't need to tell Jarrett Konkle that.

The Milton native was mired in a lukewarm 2009/10 season in the East Coast Hockey League until the Elmira Jackals came calling three weeks ago.

Acquired from the Johnstown Chiefs a day before he turned 27, the natural-scoring centre is now back in an area where he's enjoyed the bulk of his hockey success — which includes a productive run at Elmira College and a stellar 2005/06

season with the Jackals, when they were part of the United Hockey League.

No sooner did Konkle return to his old stomping ground than he began finding his old form.

He has five goals and four assists in eight games since his return, a stretch highlighted with a goal and an assist in a New Year's Eve victory over the Chiefs.

Konkle delivered an insurance tally midway through the third period and assisted on an empty netter to help dump Johnstown 6-3.

He has eight goals and 15 helpers

overall this season.

The move to Elmira also gives Konkle a better chance at seeing the playoffs, as the Jackals sit 10 points ahead of last-place Johnstown in the American Conference's East Division.

Longtime friend and former Elmira College/Jackals teammate Craig Macdonald continues to sit among the International Hockey League's top scorers.

He has 16 goals and 17 assists with the Bloomington PrairieThunder, which puts him tied for fourth in league scoring.

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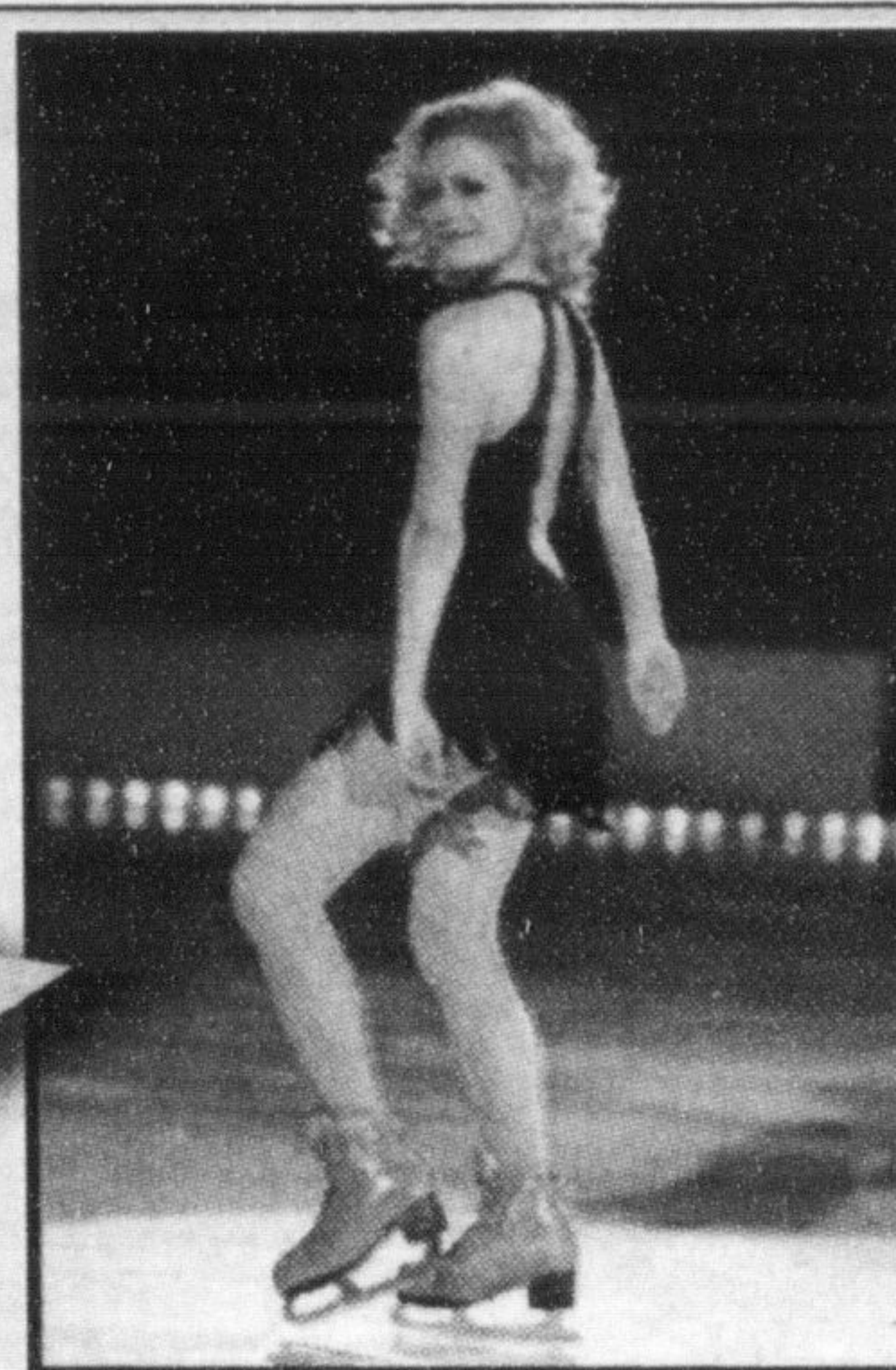
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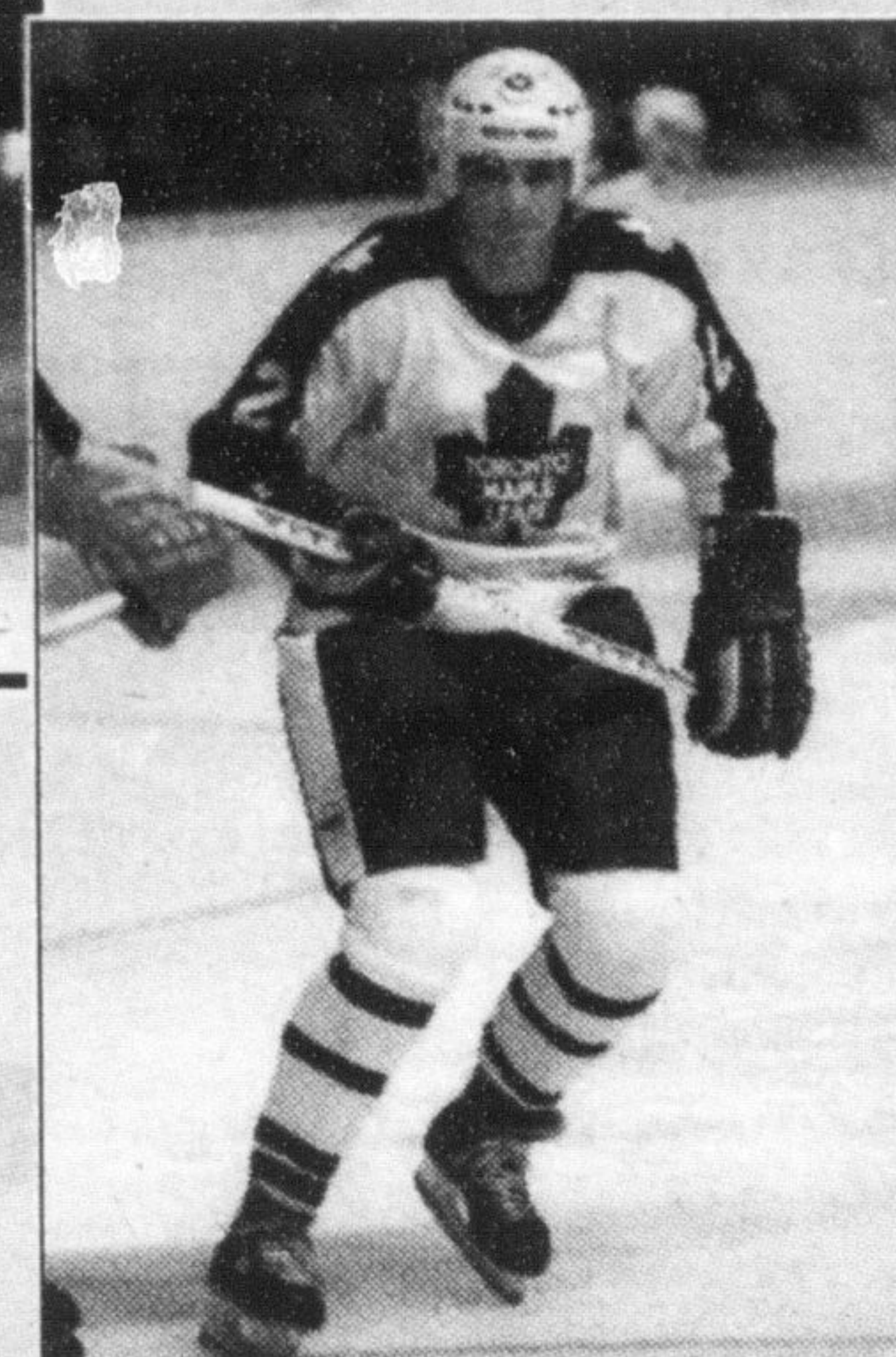
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