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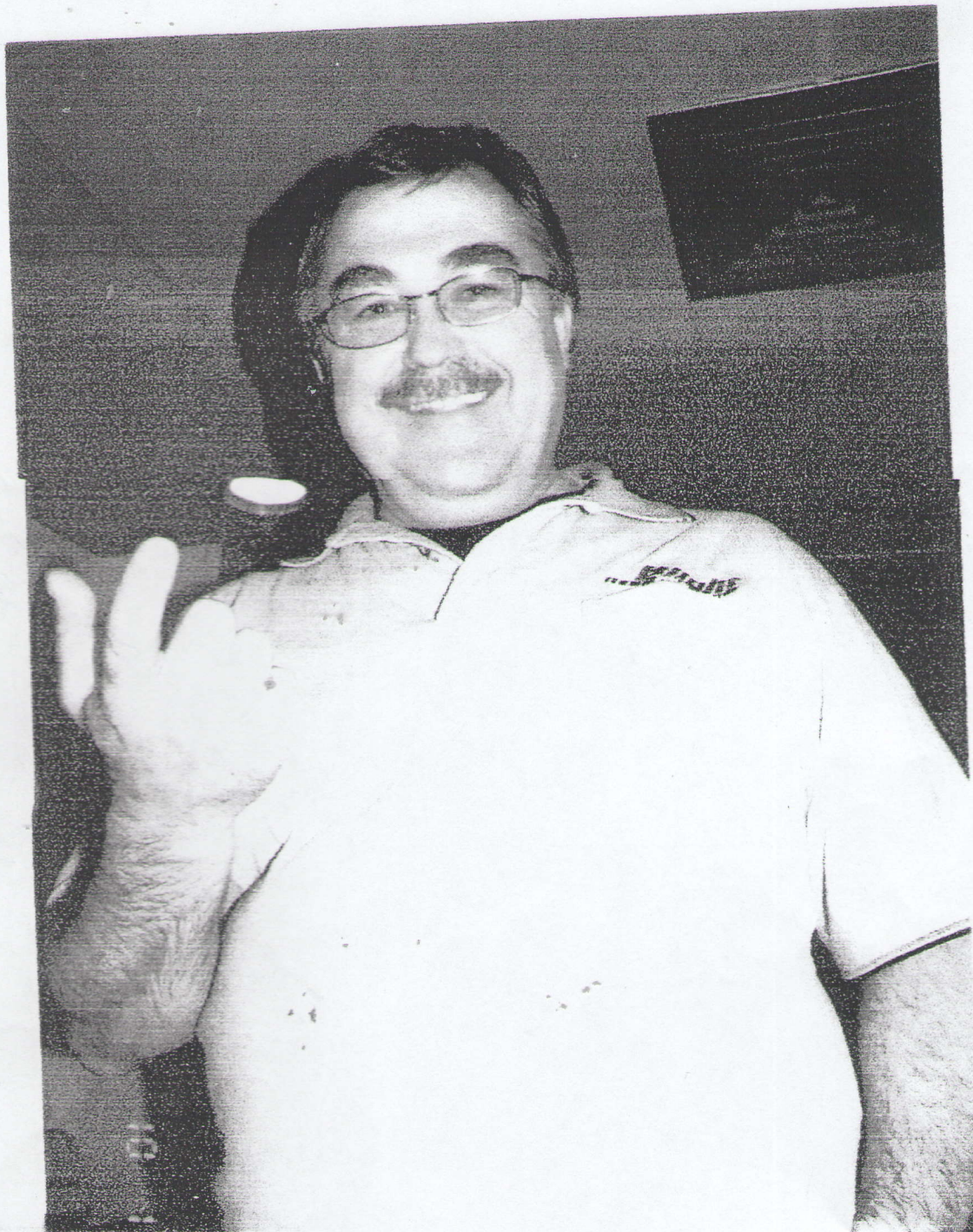
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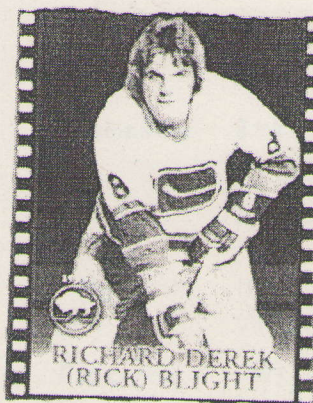
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Richard Derek (Rick) Blight

DOB - October 17, 1955

Born in Portage la Prairie, this right winger played his junior hockey with the Portage Terriers and the Brandon Wheat Kings. He turned pro in 1975-76 with the Vancouver Canucks. In six NHL seasons he played 324 games had 96 goals, 125 assists, for a total of 221 points. Rick Blight's last pro hockey season was 1982-83 with the Los Angeles Kings, and Moncton and New Haven of the AHL.



RCMP seek clues on missing ex-NHL star

Winnipeg Free Press
Thursday, April 14, 2005
Page: A5
Section: City
Byline: Kevin Rollason

A former NHL hockey star who is also a member of one of the province's best curling rinks is missing.

Portage la Prairie RCMP are asking for the public's assistance to find Richard Derek **Blight**, commonly known as Rick **Blight**. The 49-year-old **Blight** has been missing since April 3.

Portage la Prairie RCMP Const. Neil Bailey said yesterday **Blight's** wife last saw her husband drive off in his 2004 grey Dodge Ram pickup truck that day.

The truck has the name of **Blight's** farm equipment business written on both doors and the Manitoba licence plate is CAG 549.

"There was no argument before he went missing. This is unusual for him," Bailey said.

Blight played for the Brandon Wheat Kings from 1971 to 1975 before being selected 10th overall in the first round of the 1975 NHL amateur draft by the Vancouver Canucks.

Playing right wing for the Canucks, **Blight** was named the club's rookie of the year in the 1975-76 season, scoring 25 goals and 31 assists.

The next season, **Blight** scored four goals in the season opener, going on to lead the team in goals, with 28, and total points, with 68.

But **Blight** missed part of the 1978-79 season after suffering a strained knee ligament injury during training camp, before missing most of the next season with the same injury.

Blight signed with the Edmonton Oilers as an unrestricted free agent in 1982, but was traded to the Los Angeles Kings before playing a game. He only played two games for the Kings.

During his NHL career, **Blight** scored 96 goals and 125 assists in 326 games.

For the last 10 years, **Blight** has been a member of the Don Spriggs curling team in Portage.

"Rick liked to travel and it was nothing for him to go for a ride and visit someone, but this is too long," Spriggs said.

Spriggs, who rooms with **Blight** every weekend during the curling season, said "he's a good fellow who would do something for everybody. He's a very warm-hearted man."

Anyone with any information on **Blight** is asked to phone the Portage la Prairie RCMP at (204) 857-4445.

Blight disappearance shocks Portage area

Winnipeg Free Press
Friday, April 15, 2005
Page: A6
Section: City
Byline: Kevin Rollason

ONE day after issuing a public plea for help, and 12 days since former NHL star Rick **Blight** was last seen driving off in his grey 2004 Dodge Ram pickup truck by his wife, police have no new leads.

Portage la Prairie RCMP Const. Neil Bailey said yesterday nobody has contacted them with information about **Blight's** whereabouts.

"We've got a few (who said) 'I saw a grey truck,' but nothing to say that's the one. There are thousands of grey trucks," Bailey said.

"We're still treating this as a missing person."

Bailey said **Blight's** family is hoping for the safe return of the 49-year-old father of two.

Bailey said anyone with any information on **Blight** is asked to phone the Portage la Prairie RCMP at (204) 857-4445, but they can also phone any other RCMP detachment in the province.

Blight, who is described as about 6-foot-2, 245 pounds, with short light brown hair and a full moustache, disappeared on April 3.

In an interview from Ottawa, Portage-Lisgar MP Brian Pallister said **Blight's** disappearance has shocked the entire community.

"I was in the riding during the weekend and everybody is just on pins and needles just hoping we can get this guy back in our midst," Pallister said.

"He has a lot of friends in the community. He's a big personality and such a successful presence in his community and in the sports world -- he's hard to miss."

kevin.rollason@freepress.mb.ca

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X-NHL star Rick Blight found dead in pasture

Winnipeg Free Press
Sunday, April 17, 2005
Page: A5
Section: City

A former NHL star and a member of one of the province's top curling teams has been found dead.

The body of 49-year-old Rick **Blight**, who was also a prominent businessman in Portage la Prairie and Carman, was found in a community pasture with his pickup truck near St. Ambroise yesterday morning.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Steve Colwell said foul play is not suspected. He said an autopsy will be conducted.

Blight was last seen by his wife driving off in his grey 2004 Dodge Ram pickup truck on April 3.

Blight was a star player with the Brandon Wheat Kings before the Vancouver Canucks chose him 10th overall in the first round in 1975. The next year, **Blight** was the NHL team's top scorer, but his hockey career was sidelined two years later with an injured knee.

For the last decade, **Blight**, whose family owns a farm implement dealership, has been a member of the Don Spriggs curling team in Portage.

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NDAY, APRIL 17, 2005

PROVINCE

A5

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Blight

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For the last decade, Blight, whose family owns a farm implement dealership, has been a member of the Don Spriggs curling team in Portage.

nt was natural athlete, great friend, ex-teammates say

Winnipeg Free Press
Monday, April 18, 2005
Page: C3
Section: Sports
Byline: Rob Henderson

Obituary / Rick Blight

FORMER teammates of Rick **Blight** remembered their friend as a natural athlete and a good-natured kidder after hearing the body of the ex-Brandon Wheat King and National Hockey League player had been discovered northeast of Portage la Prairie on Saturday.

Blight, a 49-year-old farm implements dealer and member of one of Manitoba's top curling teams, was found dead in a community pasture near St. Ambroise after leaving his Southport home April 3 and disappearing. Police do not suspect foul play.

For friends of the married father of two, the news was difficult to accept.

"You don't want to assume (the worst)," said Dean Moxham, who curled with **Blight** for nine years on a team skipped by Don Spriggs. "You're just hoping that you're going to get a phone call from him saying, 'I'm OK and I'll be home shortly'..."

Blight played seven full and partial seasons in the NHL with the Vancouver Canucks and Los Angeles Kings after starring for the Brandon Wheat Kings from 1972-75.

"He's been on my mind a lot today, and when I remember Rick, I just remember a guy that loved to play sports," former Wheat Kings teammate Doug Murray said yesterday. "He was a very gifted athlete at not only hockey, but golf and curling as of late. He just had a lot of fun, loved to have a good time, loved to laugh."

Blight's scoring prowess made him one of the top snipers in junior hockey. He was the league's rookie of the year in 1972-73, when he scored 93 points, and he broke the 100-point barrier in each of the next two seasons, totalling 141 goals and 335 points in 201 games as a Wheat King.

"He had one of the best shots in the Western Canada Hockey League when he played and (was) a great playmaker," said Scott Hetherington, who played one season for the Wheat Kings with **Blight**. "He was a very happy-go-lucky kind of guy. It's hard to believe."

Drafted in the first round of the 1975 National Hockey League entry draft by the Canucks, **Blight** scored 96 goals and 221 points in a 326-game NHL career that was limited by injury.

At the conclusion of his hockey career, **Blight** returned to Manitoba and took up curling in Carman. After moving to Portage, he teamed up with Spriggs, Moxham and Dale Michle, and the team came close to winning the provincial title on a number of occasions.

A natural athlete, **Blight** took to curling quickly and was renowned for his tenacity as a sweeper.

was not a polished curler by any means, but he was very good at what he was supposed to do far as his position," Moxham said. "There wasn't many that could play lead any better than him.

Despite his athletic accomplishments, Moxham said **Blight's** best attribute was his compassion as a friend.

"He wouldn't tell you about it, but he would do things behind the scenes to help you out if he could ... and he never asked for any credit for anything that he did and just went about his business," Moxham said. "He helped a lot of people out that probably don't even know it."

-- Brandon Sun

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UP FRONT

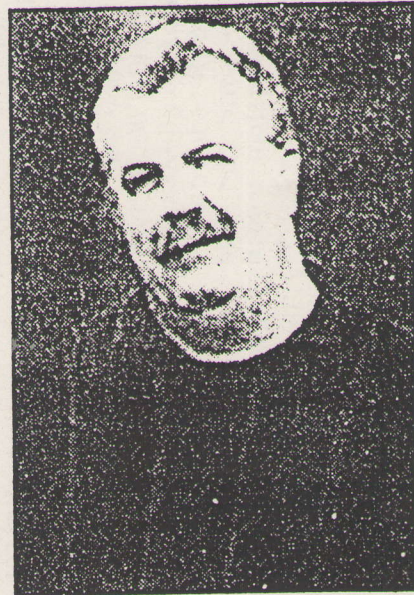
Wheat Kings remember their former player

From Page 1

"He was an outstanding member of the Portage Curling Club, always ready to help out by volunteering his time or by sponsoring our many events. His presence will be sadly missed," Askin said.

Blight was one of the owners of Blight's - Portage, a Case International implements dealer on Highway 1A West. He was also a former NHLer who played for Vancouver Canucks and Los Angeles Kings. Blight was a top player with Brandon Wheat Kings before being drafted by the Canucks. He went on to play in the NHL for eight years.

Blight distinguished himself as the Canucks' rookie of the year in 1975-76. He also still occupies ninth place on the Brandon Wheat Kings all-time scoring list, with 141 goals and 336 points in three years.



RICK BLIGHT

Rick Dillabough, Wheat Kings' director of marketing and media relations, said the organization is saddened by the loss.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with Rick's family," he said. "Rick will be remembered by Wheat King fans for a long time."

Funeral arrangements for Blight have been made by his family, but were not confirmed by press time today.

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File photo
Rick Blight, seen here in January of 2002, was reported missing by his family earlier this month.

Community mourns

Rick Blight's
body found near
St. Ambroise on
Saturday

By Daily Graphic Staff
Family and friends are mourning the death of a prominent Portage la Prairie businessman whose body was found near St. Ambroise on the weekend.

Portage RCMP Const. Fred Forest confirmed yesterday Rick Blight, 49, was found dead with his 2004 grey Dodge Ram pickup truck in a community pasture near St. Ambroise at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

RCMP Const. Neil Bailey

said Blight's body was found south of St. Ambroise by an area resident who was out cutting wood. His body was discovered near his truck.

Bailey said an autopsy will be conducted.

Police announced a Canada-wide search last week after Blight's family reported him missing on April 4.

Manitoba RCMP spokesman Sgt. Steve Colwell confirmed foul play is not suspected.

Ken Blight, Rick's uncle who lives in Oakville, said the family is in shock.

"I think that it's the same as it would be for most families going through a thing like this," said Blight, adding the family is overcome with "deep sadness and sorrow."

Friend Dean Moxham

played on the same Portage curling team as Blight and expressed his profound sadness about the tragedy.

"It's a shock to everybody," he said. "We all hoped that he would be found alive, that he would be able to come home sometime. I've been with him, a reasonably close friend, for nine or 10 years. I've known him for a long time and it's hard, especially on the family and us as friends, too."

Ray Askin, president of Portage Curling Club, was also saddened by Blight's death. He has known Blight for the last 10 years.

"Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Donna, children Ryan and Sarah, and family and many friends," Askin said.

See WHEAT KINGS/P. 2

Blight was natural athlete, great friend, ex-teami

By Rob Henderson

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OBITUARY

RICK BLIGHT

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