

NDAY, APRIL 17, 2005

PROVINCE

A5

Ex-NHL star Rick Blight found dead in pasture

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.

R C M P
spokesman Sgt.
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conducted.



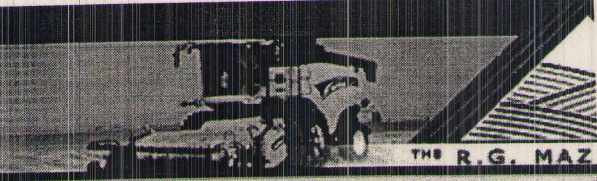
Blight

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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.

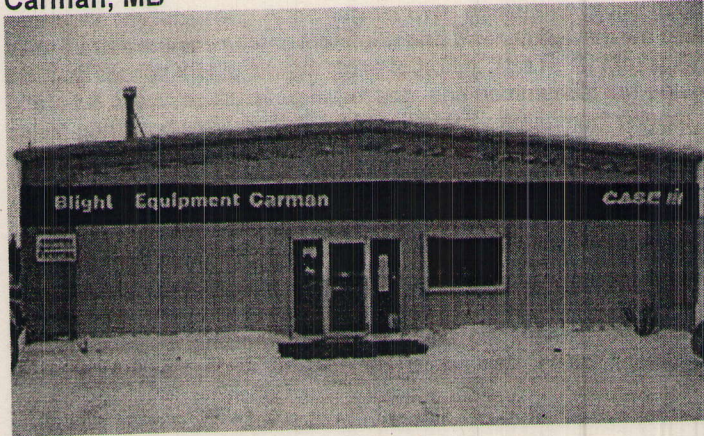
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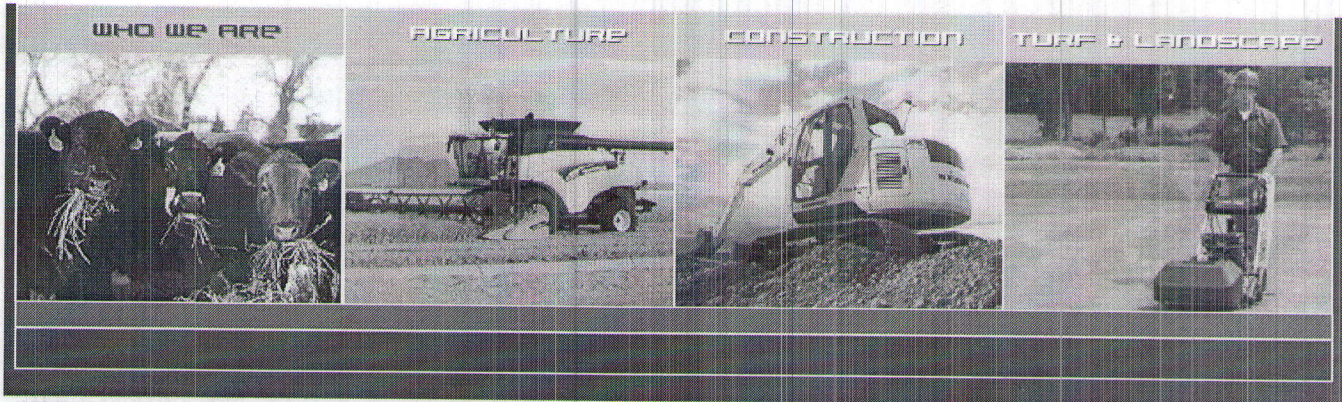
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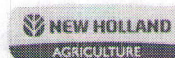
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**Robert G. Mazer
President & CEO**



Bob Mazer, born in 1950, started his love for agriculture on the farm in Radville, Saskatchewan. His family moved to Brandon, Manitoba where his father established a Massey Ferguson dealership. After leaving school in 1968, Bob started farming with the purchase of

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Mazergroup, a major retailer of farm equipment, turf management products and construction equipment based in Brandon, Manitoba and operating 13 retail outlets in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan is seeking a person to assume responsibilities for the newly created position, Manager, Advertising and Sales Promotions.

This person should have a good working knowledge of both print and air media and be capable of negotiating both short and long term contracts on behalf of individual locations, operating divisions or Mazergroup in whole. Assuring co-op advertising is in compliance with CNH and other manufactures will be an integral part of this position.

Reporting to the President & CEO and V.P. of Sales & Asset Management, and working with our Executive Committee, you will be responsible to develop and implement an annual strategic advertising and marketing plan that will strengthen our image, inform current and potential customers of Corporate and Mazergroup promotions and bring consistency in all apparel and branding endeavors.

The position will involve travel to work with the location Sales Supervisor or Team Leader to understand, develop and initiate local and regional promotional initiatives.

The successful candidate will be in charge of all Farm Shows, Plant Tours and local Customer Appreciation Events when called upon by Team Leaders. This position will also include the challenge of insuring that consistent branding of vehicles, facilities and other visible entities take place in a timely and professional manner.

In this position, you will work with our Executive Committee to insure a very specific and focused budget and plan is prepared, and timely and visible results are attained.

We are looking for someone with a creative mind, an upbeat and outgoing personality, motivated, who can withstand pressure situations, tight timelines and is looking for a career with a fast moving, progressive, community minded organization.

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Our thanks to all who apply, however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

Please forward a resume with references to: Mazergroup
Attn: Bob Mazer
President & CEO
1908 Currie Blvd
Brandon, MB R7B 4E7
Fax: (204) 726-9158
bob.mazer@mazergroup.ca

128-2244-Brandon
Cell: 729-5311-Brandon
email

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The R. G. Mazer Group is the largest CNH dealership group in Canada. With 13 dealerships across Manitoba and Saskatchewan, we offer award winning service that is always close to home. The R. G. Mazer Group offers full line agricultural, construction, and commercial turf equipment sales, parts and service. See us for all of your equipment needs.

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Visit your local R. G. Mazer Group dealership today to see for yourself why the R. G. Mazer Group is the leader in agricultural, construction, and turf equipment sales and service.



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Blight, Rick

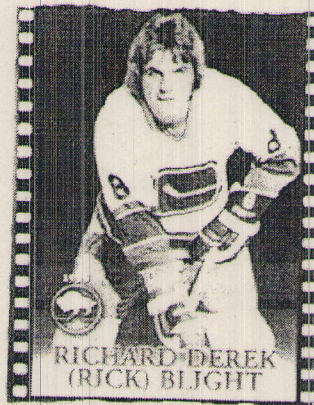
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Richard Derek (Rick) Blight

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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Ex-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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Blight 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 Michie, 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.

"He was not a polished curler by any means, but he was very good at what he was supposed to do as 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."

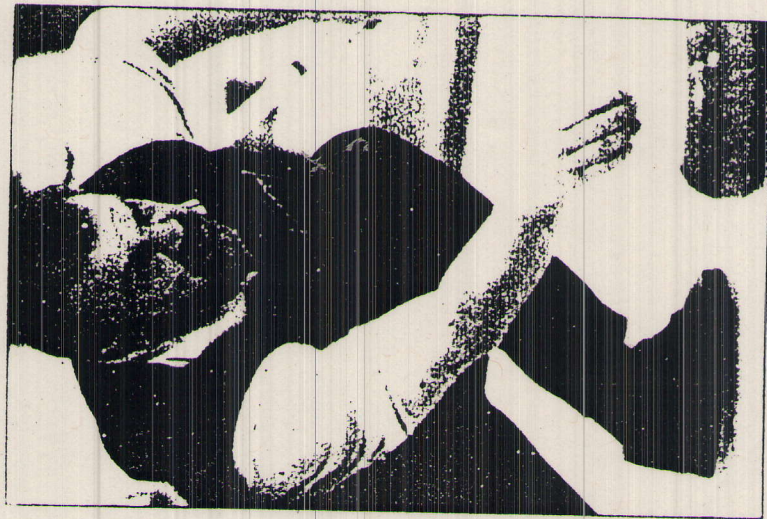
Funeral arrangements for Blight have been made by his family, but were not confirmed by press time today.

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

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

Community mourns

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-team

By Rob Henderson

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.

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OBITUARY

RICK BLIGHT

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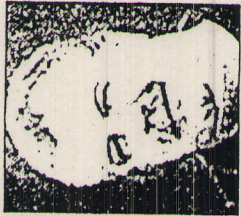
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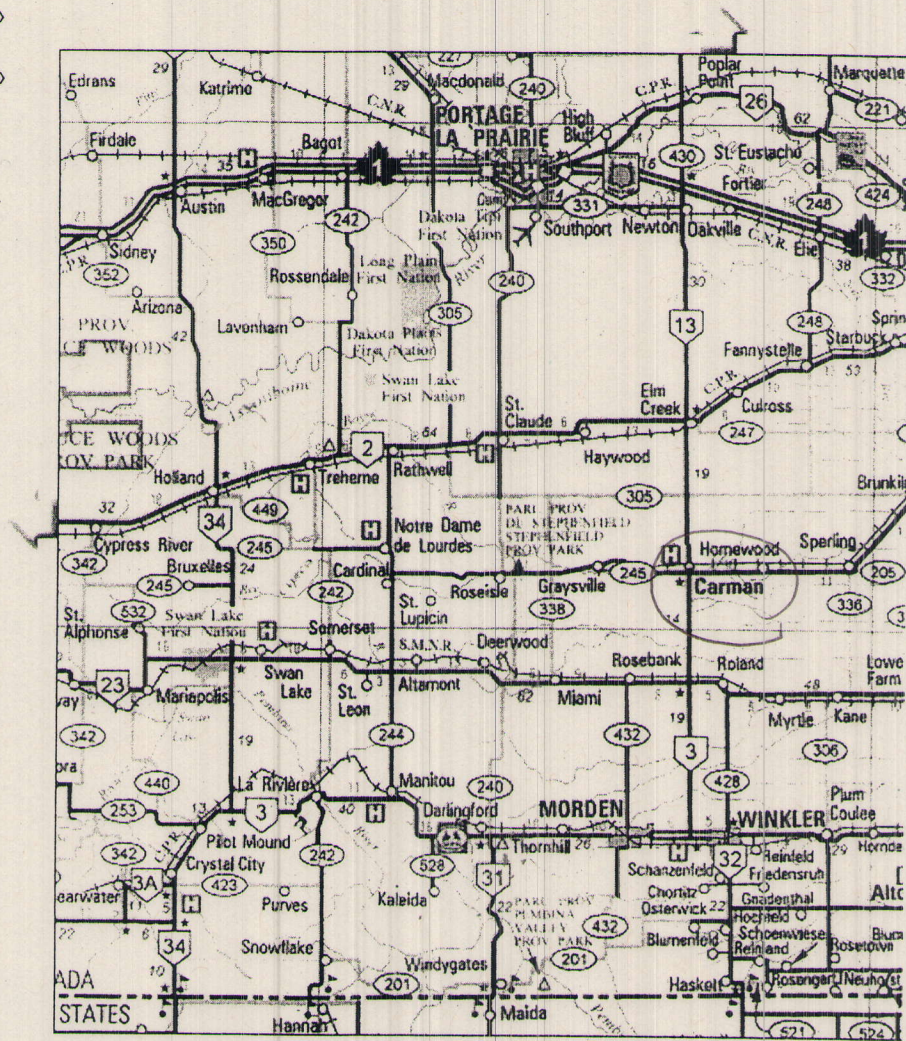
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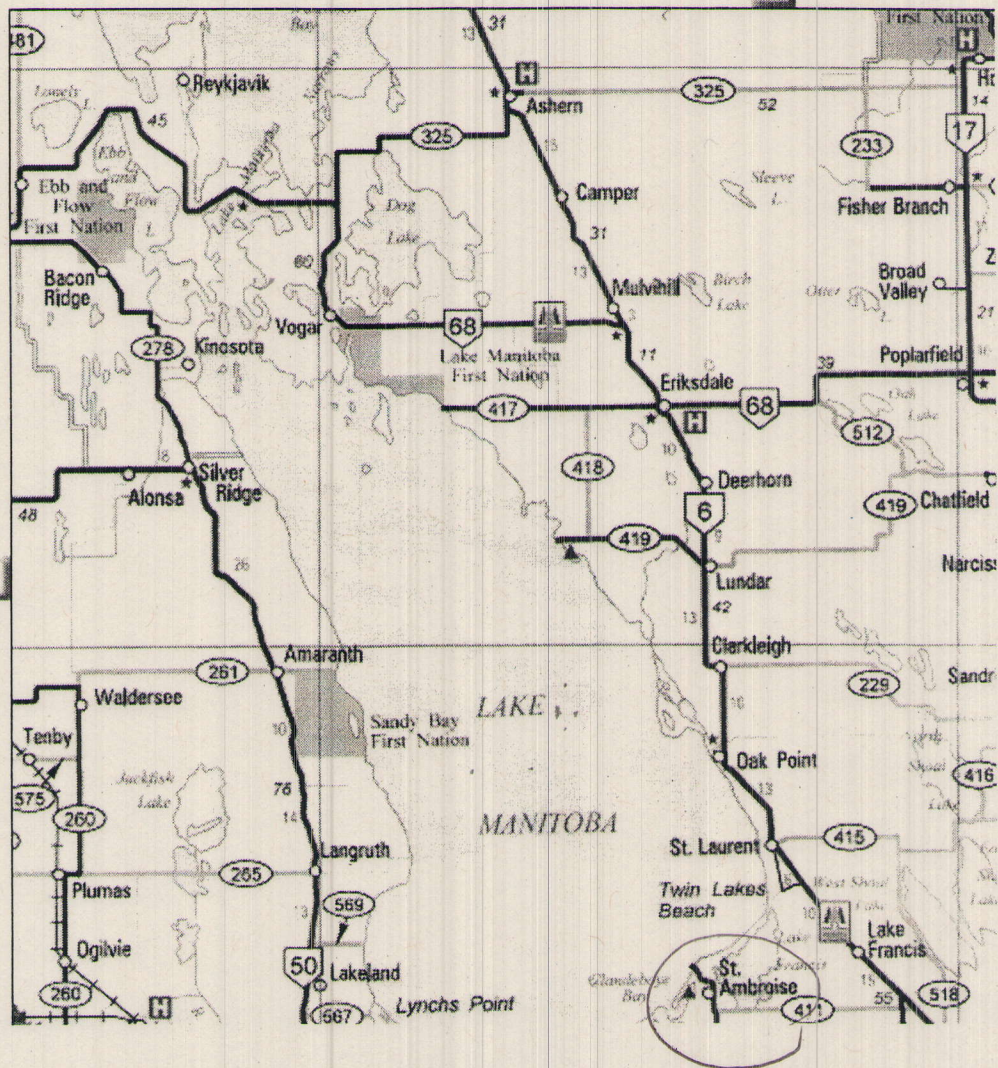
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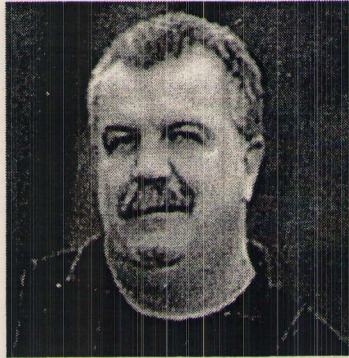
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Passages

Obituary

RICHARD DEREK BLIGHT (published on April 20, 2005)



RICHARD DEREK BLIGHT The family of Richard Blight is devastated by the recent passing of Rick on April 16, 2005. Rick passed away at the age of 49 years. Rick was a loving husband and best friend to Donna, a wonderful father to Ryan and Sarah; a caring son to Don and Doddy; an only brother to Kathy (John), Leslie (Doug), Kelly (Jim) and fun-loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. Also he leaves father-in-law, Don Kerr; mother-in-law Jean Thompson; and brother-in-law Steve Kerr. Rick was born in Portage on October 17, 1955 and attended Oakville Elementary School and Arthur Meighen High School. He grew up playing hockey and at the age of 14 began with the Portage Terriers. At the age of 16, he was playing with the Brandon Wheat Kings and later was drafted in the first round by the Vancouver Canucks. He played with the Canucks from 1975-1980. He was married to Donna in 1978 in Vancouver, and two years later they gave birth to their first child, Ryan. In 1984, their daughter Sarah was born and Rick moved his family back to Manitoba to run the family business in Carman. Rick was a skilled golfer, with many tournament victories to his name. His passion then switched to curling, which continued after his move to Portage to run the Portage shop. He excelled at curling; making several appearances at the Safeway Select with the Don Spriggs rink. Rick loved to spend time with his wife and kids; whether it was barbecuing at home or meeting them in Winnipeg. Rick had a great sense of humour, which his family and numerous friends could all attest to. Rick lived a life that most people could only dream of. He will be greatly missed by all that were lucky enough to have known him. Service to celebrate Rick's life will be held on Thursday April 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Portage Curling Rink, 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W., in the Canad Inn, Portage la Prairie with Rev. Dee McEachern and Rev. Chuck Ross officiating. Interment will follow for family in the Oakville Cemetery. There will be a gathering to follow in the Oakville Community Hall. As expressions of sympathy, if friends so wish, donations may be made in Rick's memory to Portage Junior Curling Club, P.O. Box 337, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3B7 or Portage Junior Golf Club, P.O. Box 715, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3C2 or to a minor hockey association of your choice. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight. The Prophet. A tree will be planted and cared for in memory of Rick by McKenzies Portage Funeral Chapel who are in care of arrangements. 857-4021.
www.mckenzieportagefuneralchapel.com

Rick Blight

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Rick Blight (October 17, 1955 – April 3, 2005) was a professional hockey player.

A native of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Blight had a long and varied career in the sport of hockey, playing the position of Right Wing for teams in the NHL, MJHL, WCHL, CHL, and the AHL hockey leagues. At 6' 2" (1.87 m) and 195 lbs (88 kg), Blight was selected by the Michigan Stags (round 2 #19 overall) in the 1974 WHA Amateur Draft and the Vancouver Canucks (round 1 #10 overall) in the 1975 NHL Amateur Draft.

Contents

- 1 Playing career
- 2 Awards & achievements
- 3 Career statistics
- 4 See also
- 5 External links
- 6 References

Playing career

Blight was the Canucks' top scorer over his first three years in the NHL, finishing fifth, first and second in team scoring in 1975, 1976 and 1977 with a total of 187 points.

Blight, who also played hockey in Switzerland, was the recipient of the WCJHL Rookie of the Year Award in 1973, and was a member of the CHL Second All-Star Team in 1981.

Blight retired from playing hockey in 1983 and began a career as a stockbroker and marketing consultant, as well as managing his family farm in his native Manitoba. In 1995, Blight was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame.

On April 3, 2005, Blight disappeared. Two weeks later, on April 18, after a Canada-wide search, Blight was found dead in a field on his farm near Lake Manitoba, with his pickup nearby. Blight had committed suicide. He was only 49 years old.

Awards & achievements

- 1973: WCJHL Rookie of the Year
- 1981: CHL Second All-Star Team
- "Honoured Member" of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame

Position	Right Wing
Shoots	Right
Height	6 ft 2 in (1.88 m)
Weight	195 lb (88 kg; 13 st 13 lb)
Pro clubs	Vancouver Canucks Los Angeles Kings
Nationality	 Canada
Born	October 17, 1955 Portage La Prairie, MB, CAN
NHL Draft	10th overall, 1975 Vancouver Canucks
Pro career	1975 – 1983

Career statistics

Season	Team	League	Regular season					Playoffs				
			GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1971–72	Brandon Wheat Kings	WCHL	1	1	0	1	0	--	--	--	--	--
1972–73	Brandon Wheat Kings	WCHL	68	31	62	93	70	--	--	--	--	--
1973–74	Brandon Wheat Kings	WCHL	67	49	81	130	122	--	--	--	--	--
1974–75	Brandon Wheat Kings	WCHL	65	60	52	112	65	5	2	3	5	6
1975–76	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	74	25	31	56	29	2	0	1	1	0
1976–77	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	78	28	40	68	32	--	--	--	--	--
1977–78	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	80	25	38	63	33	--	--	--	--	--
1978–79	Dallas Black Hawks	CHL	15	8	7	15	7	--	--	--	--	--
1978–79	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	56	5	10	15	16	3	0	4	4	2
1979–80	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	33	12	6	18	54	--	--	--	--	--
1980–81	Dallas Black Hawks	CHL	74	46	49	95	122	6	0	3	3	9
1980–81	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	3	1	0	1	4	--	--	--	--	--
1981–82	Cincinnati Tigers	CHL	37	16	23	39	21	--	--	--	--	--
1981–82	Wichita Wind	CHL	16	18	14	32	18	7	3	0	3	6
1982–83	Moncton Alpines	AHL	19	8	7	15	6	--	--	--	--	--
1982–83	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	47	17	24	41	8	12	2	3	5	4
1982–83	Los Angeles Kings	NHL	2	0	0	0	2	--	--	--	--	--
NHL totals			326	96	125	221	170	5	0	5	5	2

See also

- List of NHL players
- List of NHL seasons
- List of AHL seasons

External links

- Profile at hockeydraftcentral.com
- Rick Blight's career stats at The Internet Hockey Database
- Rick Blight's biography at Legends of Hockey
- Rick Blight's biography at Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame
- Rick Blight's Memorial on Find-a-grave.com

References

- News of death

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Blight"

Categories: 1955 births | 2005 deaths | Brandon Wheat Kings alumni | Canadian ice hockey right wingers | Ice hockey personnel from Manitoba | Ice hockey players who committed suicide | Los Angeles Kings players | Moncton Alpines players | National Hockey League first round draft picks | New Haven Nighthawks players | People from Portage la Prairie | Vancouver Canucks players | Manitoba Junior Hockey League players | Suicides in Manitoba

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Richard Derek 'Rick' Blight

Birth: Oct. 17, 1955
Death: Apr. 3, 2005

Professional Hockey Player. A native of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, he played Right Wing in the National Hockey League. He was selected by the Michigan Stags round 2 #19 overall 1974 WHA Amateur Draft and the Vancouver Canucks round 1 #10 overall 1975 NHL Amateur Draft. He played for the Canucks from 1975 to 1981, and the Los Angeles Kings from 1982 to 1983. He retired from playing hockey in 1983 and began a career as a stockbroker and marketing consultant, as well as managing his family farm in his native Manitoba. In 1995 Blight was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame. On April 3, 2005, Blight disappeared. Two weeks later on April 18, 2005, Blight was found dead in his pickup truck in a field on his farm near Lake Manitoba. He who was only 49 years old was suspected of dying of a heart attack.