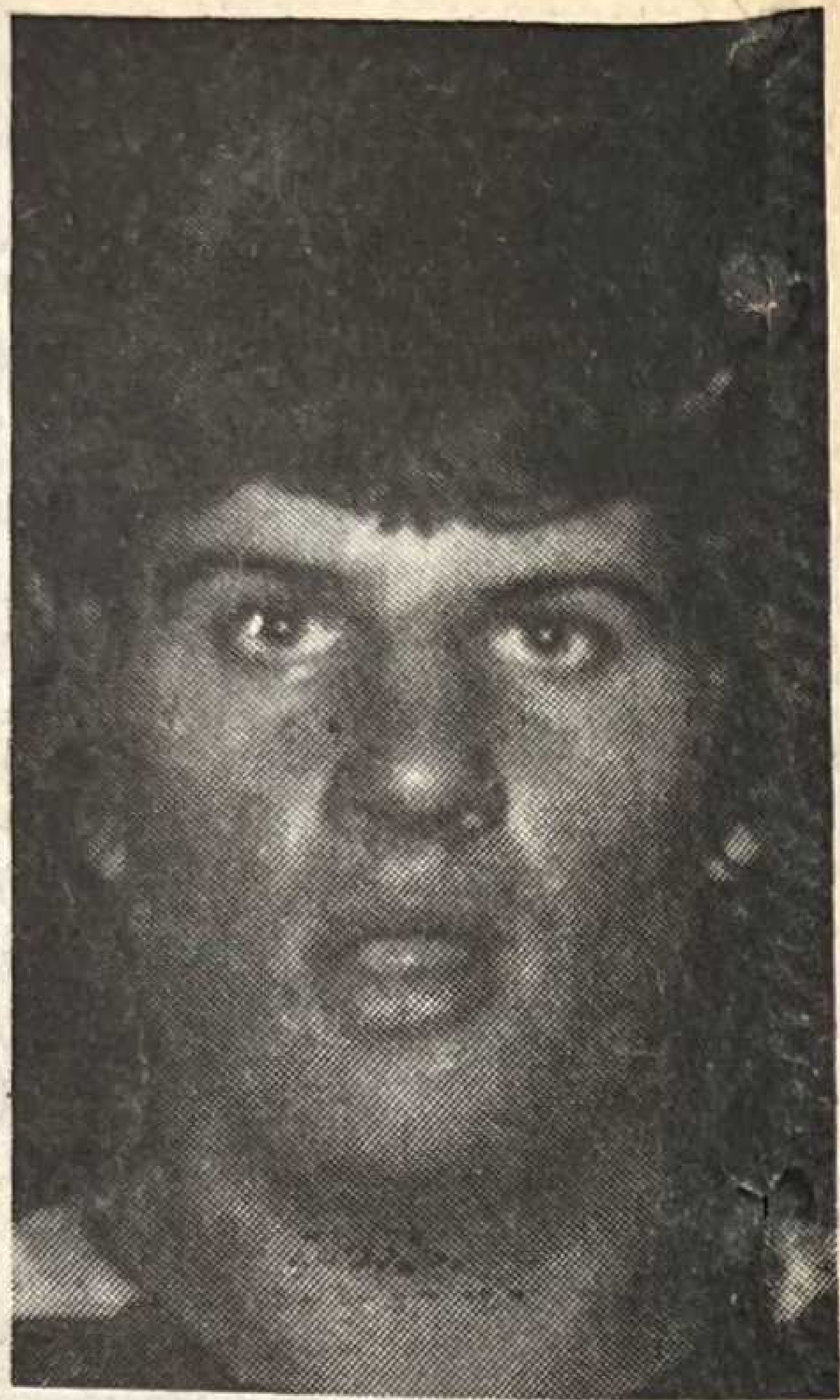




JOHN SCHMITZ

. . . returns

Streak on line tonight

Vernon Vikings will be trying to stretch their unbeaten streak to seven games tonight when they host Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at 8:30 p.m.

It will also give Vikings a chance to reach the .500 mark for the first time this season. They currently have six wins, seven losses, and a tie.

On the other hand, Merritt has lost five consecutive games including a 6-1 drubbing Tuesday, inflicted by Penticton Vees.

Vernon will be without captain Gary Gassoff, still hampered by a hand injury. However, big winger John Schmitz rejoined the club this week.

Schmitz quit the team 10 days ago in hopes of getting more ice time with Abbotsford Flyers.

Murdoch sets his sights on rookie of year award

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don Murdoch was junior hockey's highest goal scorer last season and the New York Rangers rookie hasn't slowed down now that he's in the National Hockey League.

Murdoch scored 88 goals and 77 assists for Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Canada Hockey League last season, more goals than any other junior player in Canada or the United States.

NHL						
Campbell Conference						
Patrick Division						
	W	L	T	F	A	P
Islanders	6	2	1	32	20	13
Phila	5	3	1	30	29	11
Atlanta	5	4	1	34	38	11
Rangers	5	5	0	42	40	10
Smythe Division						
St. Louis	6	4	0	36	40	12
Chicago	5	5	0	33	27	10
Minnesota	3	5	1	27	37	7
Vancouver	3	7	0	26	46	6
Colorado	2	6	1	25	31	5
Prince of Wales Conference						
Adams Division						
Boston	7	2	0	41	28	14
Cleveland	3	3	2	28	24	8
Buffalo	4	4	0	21	20	8
Toronto	1	4	3	30	37	5
Norris Division						
Montreal	9	2	0	59	21	18
Los Angeles	5	3	3	42	31	13
Pittsburgh	2	5	2	28	47	6
Detroit	2	5	1	25	25	5
Washington	1	5	2	20	38	4

On Tuesday night, Murdoch, 20, scored his 10th and 11th goals of the season—tops in the NHL—to lead the Rangers to a 5-2 win over Cleveland Barons.

He scored two goals in his first NHL game, one in his second and a club-record five goals in his fourth. He scored the winning goal in three of the Rangers' first four victories of the season.

His five-goal game against Minnesota North Stars was something no other Ranger had done in the club's 51-year history, and something only one other rookie—Howie Meeker—previously had accomplished.

Meeker was 23 when he scored five goals on Jan. 8, 1947, midway through the season. He won the Calder trophy

for the rookie of the year, an award Murdoch is aiming for.

In other games Tuesday night, St. Louis Blues downed Vancouver Canucks 5-2 and Los Angeles Kings edged Detroit Red Wings 3-2.

The Rangers victory was their fourth in five road games and ended a three-game unbeaten string for the Barons.

Charlie Simmer gave Cleveland a 1-0 lead at 10:01 of the first period but Pat Hickey, with the first of two goals, tied it two minutes later with assists from Phil Esposito and Rod Gilbert.

Gilbert then took advantage of a bad pass by the Cleveland defence to put the Rangers ahead to stay with 1:31 left in the opening period.

Murdoch scored at 8:37 of the second period with the Barons two men short. He added another goal later in the period to give the Rangers a 4-1 lead.

Esposito had two assists in the game to raise his career total to 701.

Red Berenson scored two goals and added an assist and linemate Ted Irvine scored one goal and two assists as the Blues defeated Vancouver.

ODDLEIFSON GETS TWO

Chris Oddleifson, with his third and fourth goals of the season, scored the Canuck goals.

Garry Unger's power-play goal, his sixth of the season, with 2:36 remaining in the second period gave the Blues a 3-2 lead after Irvine and Berenson had moved St. Louis into a 2-2 tie.

Berenson scored his second goal of the game 42 seconds into the third period for a 4-2 St. Louis lead and Larry Patey's breakaway goal midway through the period completed the scoring.

Tommy Williams scored the winning goal with 11 seconds left to play as the Kings battled from behind to defeat Detroit.

Williams, who connected for his sixth goal of the season, took a pass from Marcel Dionne at the mouth of the goal on a power play and shoved the shot past goalie Ed Giacomin.

Butch Goring shot the Kings into a 2-2 tie with 1:41 remaining in the game when he took a pass from Williams and scored from 20 feet out.

