

Habs sign Trotter to pro deal

BY DAVID LARKINS

Brock Trotter was understandably distracted when reached on his cell phone Thursday afternoon as he went about dealings at a Denver bank.

Those trips to the bank, by the way, are about to get a lot more enjoyable.

The Brandon Sun has learned that Trotter, the 21-year-old Brandonite, has signed a three-year deal with the NHL's Montreal Canadiens, ending a short but fruitful run with the University of Denver Pioneers.

Trotter skipped last weekend's DU road trip to Mankato, Minn., and this week it came to light that he was in talks with the Canadiens, who will assign him to their American Hockey League affiliate, the Hamilton Bulldogs.

"The last couple of days I've kind of been on pins and needles to see how it all works out," Trotter said. "We got an offer today that we liked and I'm definitely looking forward to playing back in Canada. It's been awhile for me."

In 24 conference games with the No. 7-ranked Pioneers, Trotter had led the team in scoring with 13 goals and 31 points and a +12 rating. He was tied for 13th among NCAA Division I skaters in scoring.

“Playing for a Canadian team — the original six, the Montreal Canadiens — they're kinda the New York Yankees of hockey.”
— Brock Trotter

Trotter said he will head to Hamilton in the next couple of days and — despite being in the Mile High City for just two-plus seasons — said it was going to be tough to say goodbye to a team that, with Trotter, looked very much like a national championship

contender.

"I love those guys on the team and I hope they end up winning a national championship," Trotter said. "They deserve it, they're a great bunch of guys, but for me right now I've got an opportunity elsewhere and I've gotta look forward to that and put the past behind me and look on to the future."

The chance, however, to play for the hallowed Canadiens one day is one he is relishing.

"Playing for a Canadian team — the original six, the Montreal Canadiens — they're kinda the New York Yankees of hockey, if that's how you'd say it," Trotter said. "So I'm really excited for the chance that they gave me and I'm really looking forward to being a part of the organization."

The graduate of the Brandon Midget AAA Wheat Kings came to DU in 2005 and played in five games before severing his Achilles tendon, ending his season.

He bounced back, however, and played in all 40 games the next season, scoring 16 goals and adding 24 assists.

» dlarkins@brandonsun.com



Former Dauphin King Brock Trotter (right) left university early when he got an offer he couldn't refuse. (FPNS)

Peewee Wheat Kings fall to Lions

BY DEREK JORY

That's certainly not the way the Peewee AA Brandon Wheat Kings wanted to start the 40th annual Maple Leaf Tournament of Champions.

Despite a hat-trick from Brandon's Ryan Linto, the Wheat Kings couldn't hold off the Lumsden/Bethune Lions, losing 4-3 Thursday evening at Optimist Arena in the opening Peewee AA game.

"It would have been nice to get the win," said Brandon head coach Perry Brykaliuk. "But I just finished telling the kids that they've improved a lot since Day 1 and they're really playing well."

Mark Lustig opened the scoring for Lumsden/Bethune midway through the first period, but the Lions didn't really come alive until five minutes into the second period. With the score knotted at 1-1 thanks to Linto's first goal, Steven Jacobson, Carter Hansen and Kristin Boan each beat Brandon goaltender Jaylan Blad within a two-and-a-half minute span to give the Lions a commanding 4-1 lead.

Linto scored his second goal of the game for Brandon, a tricky wrist-shot over the shoulder of Lumsden/Bethune's Aaron Morran, a few minutes later, but that didn't faze the highly energized Lions as they continued controlling the play into the third.

Up by two with just over ten



Wheat Kings' Cole Fraser beats Virden Oil Kings' goaltender, Kyran Gerring, on a break-away during Thursday afternoon's Tournament of Champions game at the Kinsmen Arena. (Bruce Bumstead/Brandon Sun)

minutes to play, the Lions had their lead cut to one when Linto scored a nice breakaway goal that had him fighting off two defenders before burying the puck in the top corner. That was all the offence Brandon could must though, as Morran remained solid in net, turning

aside a flurry of late shots to seal the win.

"We played well in the first and second and then I thought Brandon brought a lot more intensity in the third, but overall we're pretty happy with our play," said Lumsden/Bethune head coach

Brad Schmidt, who added that he's looking for a more complete game from his team on Friday.

The Wheaties will also be looking for a better effort in their next contest (6:30 p.m. Friday night against Moose Jaw at the Sportsplex) as they

struggled to move the puck for most of the game.

"We had a couple lapses today but we made some corrections and made some adjustments in the third period and then I thought we outplayed them," said Brykaliuk. "We're just going to

try and get a bit of a jump on Moose Jaw and hopefully forecheck hard after that and take it to them."

Blad finished with 26 saves for the Wheat Kings, while Morran turned aside 15 shots for the Lions, who went 0-for-3 on the power play. Brandon also failed to convert with the man advantage going 0-for-2.

Brodie Schuette, who collected two assists in the win, was the player of the game for the Lions, and Linto was the player of the game for Brandon.

In other PeeWee AA action from Thursday, the Yorkton UCT Terriers waxed the Lorette Comets 10-1 led by Zach Zadoronziak who scored three times and added an assist. Tanner LeSann and Kailum Gervais each chipped in with two goals, while three others netted singles as the Terriers outshot the Comets 34-5.

The Fort Frances Knights of Columbus were also victorious as they scored four second period goals en route to a 9-7 win over the Regina Stars. Fort Frances forward Jordan Larson almost single-handedly shot down the Stars with seven points (six goals and one assist), and Danielle Jean chipped in with two helpers. Tyson Predinchuk replied with four goals and two assists for Regina, with five other players recording at least two points.

» Brandon Sun

Offence lights up Tournament of Champions games

Brandon AA Atom Wheat Kings forward Shane McKay was in a giving mood as he tallied five assists to lead Brandon to a 12-0 win over Boissevain Thursday in the 40th annual Maple Leaf Tournament of Champions.

Marshal Burgess scored three times, while Keaton Jameson and Brendan Squires each scored twice and combined for six points for the Wheat Kings. Tyson Verhelst turned aside nine shots for the shutout. Here's how the other teams performed on Thursday:

ATOM

Virden Oil Kings 12 Brandon Wheat Kings A 2

A 13-player line-up didn't stop the Oil Kings from taking down the Wheat Kings as Montana Masson scored four goals and added two assists, and Wyatt Kalynuk scored four times for Virden. Four other players scored for the Oil Kings, who outshot Brandon 35-11 and converted twice on the power play. Brendan Kokorudz and Cole Fraser replied for the Wheat Kings.

St. Boniface Seals 8 Lumsden/Bethune Lions 7

Julien Koga's three goals led the way for the Seals, with Alex LaBossiere and Dustin Kehler combining for seven points for St. Boniface. Kehler scored the winning goal midway through the final period and helped St. Boniface pepper Lumsden/Bethune netminder Robert Ermel with 42 shots. Tyce Bennett scored four goals for the Lions, including a late third period marker, but it was too little, too late for Lumsden/Bethune.

McDonald Twisters 7 Estevan Canetic Bruins 0

Carter Chambers scored early and often for the Twisters, collecting four goals in the contest. Chase Dreger scored twice, Brandon Bartley added a goal and Bennett Dalke had two assists for McDonald, who outshot Estevan 32-12.

PEEWEE A

Neepawa Natives 7 Brandon Wheat Kings 0

Kyle McDonald was the go-to player for Neepawa as he scored twice and added two assists in the win. Wyatt Salmon also scored twice and added an assist, while Jesse Adams, Matt Sneesby and Halli Krzyzaniak each scored once. Jordan Kennedy recorded the shutout for the Natives.

Estevan Bruins 4 Brandon Wheat Kings 1

A strong power play helped the Bruins take down the Wheat Kings in the second game of the day for both teams. Paul Dornian and Jan Lingelbach each scored twice, helping Estevan go 3-for-3 with the man advantage.

Estevan Bruins 6 St. James Canadians 4

Connor Mack scored twice and had an assist for the Bruins as they outshot the Canadians 31-14. Austin Sarrasin, Cole Fichter, Austin Spencer and Dylan Lay also scored for the Bruins, who finished 2-0 on the day. Dane Schioler had two goals and Chase Harrison and Cole McCartan also scored for the Canadians.

Neepawa Natives 9 St. James Canadians 0

Zac Chivers' goal :58 seconds into the first period helped set the tone for another dominating Natives win. Chivers finished with two goals and an assist, but it was Quinton

Lisoway who led the way with six goals for Neepawa. Jordan Kennedy was once again perfect between the pipes for the Natives.

McDonald Twisters 5

Elkhorn Jr. Canadians 2

Despite being outshot 22-12, the Twisters scored three first period goals to take down the Canadians. Codi Lashewicz and Derek Millar netted a pair of goals each, with Carson Warkentin scoring the other McDonald goal. Bradley Bowles and Shawn Bowles replied for the Canadians, who played with only 13 players.

Weyburn Point Wings 4 Moose Jaw 1

Konrad Proszak was the player of the game for the Wings as he scored a late goal to help Weyburn beat Moose Jaw. Justin Dreis, Rhett Williams and Reece Williams had the other three goals, while Braeden Gray replied for Moose Jaw. The Wings outshot Moose Jaw 30-13.

McDonald Twisters 8

Weyburn Point Wings 1

Codi Lashewicz had a hat-trick and added an assist for the Twisters, as they won their second game of the day. Derek Millar, Cale Anseeuw, Chad Millar, Olivia Hewett and Devin Muir also scored for McDonald, who got a strong performance from Bronson Ammeter in net.

Rhett Williams scored the lone Weyburn goal, his second in as many games.

Elkhorn Jr. Canadians 8 Moose Jaw 0

The Canadians rebounded from an early day loss with a strong outing against Moose Jaw. Bradley Bowles scored four times and Taylor Sanheim lit the lamp twice, while Tanner Kyle and Shawn Bowles had a goal each, with Bowles also adding two assists. Mac Gregoire

recorded the shutout for the Canadians.

FEMALE BANTAM

Winnipeg East Saints 3 Brandon Wheat Kings 1

Two first period goals were enough to pace the Saints over the Wheat Kings. Danielle Verbrugge had a goal and an assist, while Kelsey Nolin recorded two helpers. Teghan Martin and Janelle Comte scored the other Winnipeg goals. Laura Popplestone scored the only goal for Brandon, who were outshot 34-16.

Saskatoon Comets 3 Thunder Bay Queens 2

Dobler Alyssa's second period goal stood as the game winner for Saskatoon. Karst Lindsey scored once and set up another, while Hanke Erika also scored for the Comets.

Brittany Zuback scored both goals for the Queens, and collected five penalty minutes in the loss. Saskatoon outshot Thunder Bay 19-12 overall.

Winnipeg Twins 3 Deloraine Royals 2

Katie Zacharias scored with :28 seconds remaining in the third period to lift the Twins to a win over the Royals. Danielle Leslie and Alex Hebert also scored for Winnipeg. Krista VanCauwenberghe and Marlee Stewart replied for the Royals, who tied the game at 2-2 late in the final period, but couldn't complete the comeback.

Regina Ravens 2 Selkirk Fishermen 1

A second period goal from Petra Kujawa helped the Ravens sneak past the Fishermen. Haley Belyk had a goal and an assist, while Adria Gorski and Nichole Mitchell picked up assists for Regina. Kelsey Hoffmann scored for Selkirk.

» Brandon Sun

WHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	SO	GF	GA	P
xz-Calgary	56	39	13	1	3	206	127	82
y-Regina	56	33	18	3	2	167	162	71
Lethbridge	54	34	15	2	3	184	133	73
Moose Jaw	54	30	15	4	5	175	157	69
Kootenay	55	31	18	4	2	172	165	68
Medicine Hat	55	31	18	5	1	173	152	68
Swift Current	56	31	20	0	5	194	161	67
Brandon	53	31	19	1	2	197	156	65

Edmonton	55	18	27	4	6	129	187	46
Saskatoon	56	18	32	3	3	126	186	42
Prince Albert	55	18	32	3	2	149	192	41
Red Deer	55	15	34	4	2	113	183	36

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	SO	GF	GA	P
xz-Spokane	54	39	10	1	4	190	113	83
yz-Vancouver	54	36	12	1	5	191	121	78
z-Tri-City	54	39	12	1	2	189	133	81
Kelowna	55	31	17	2	5	205	163	69
Seattle	52	27	18	5	2	156	131	61
Everett	56	29	25	0	2	160	160	60
Kamloops	56	25	28	1	2	167	197	53
Chilliwack	53	23	24	3	3	153	171	52

Prince George	54	15	35	1	3	133	236	34
Portland	56	9	45	1	1	100	243	20

x-y: Division leaders are seeded 1-2 in the conference standings. The top eight teams in each conference will make the playoffs (1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5). **z:** Clinched playoff spot.

Wednesday Late Results

Kootenay 3 Prince George 2 (SO)
Vancouver 7 Portland 2
Spokane 4 Everett 1

Thursday Results

No games scheduled.

Friday Games

Prince Albert at Brandon, 7:30 p.m.
Regina at Moose Jaw, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Saskatoon, 7:05 p.m.
Medicine Hat at Lethbridge, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Red Deer, 8:30 p.m.
Kootenay at Chilliwack, 9 p.m.
Kelowna at Kamloops, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Spokane, 9 p.m.
Tri-City at Portland, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday Games

Brandon at Saskatoon, 7:05 p.m.
Moose Jaw at Regina, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Prince Albert, 7:30 p.m.
Swift Current at Red Deer, 8:30 p.m.
Lethbridge at Medicine Hat, 8:30 p.m.
Chilliwack at Kelowna, 9 p.m.
Tri-City at Spokane, 9 p.m.
Kootenay at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Prince George at Everett, 9:05 p.m.
Portland at Seattle, 9:05 p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY

Koot. 3 at P.G. 2 (SO)

First Period
1. Prince George, Hunt (D.Tyrell, Maylan) 12:17 (pp)

2. Kootenay, Jacquemet 18 (DaSilva, Sylvester) 16:40 (pp)

Penalties — C.Tyrell PG (hooking) 5:59, Jacquemet Ktn (tripping) 10:42, D.Tyrell PG (holding) 13:43, Thiessen PG (roughing) 15:09.

Second Period

3. Kootenay, Maxwell 5 (Boomer) 15:24

Penalties — Bailey Ktn (hooking) 1:44, Frere Ktn (roughing) 8:47, McNabbs Ktn (holding) 12:14, Deagle PG (checking) 16:30.

Third Period

4. Prince George, Reige 7 (Stanfield, Sagert) 7:37

Penalties — Watson PG (cross-checking) 2:54, Maxwell Ktn (cross-checking) 4:10, Sylvester Ktn (checking from behind), Magnusson PG (roughing) 9:15, Bailey Ktn (holding) 10:06, D.Tyrell PG (tripping) 10:23, Thiessen PG (slashing) 12:45.

Overtime

No Scoring.

Penalties — Deagle PG (hooking) 4:53, Bailey Ktn, Sagert PG (fighting) 5:00.

Shootout

(Kootenay wins 2-1)

Kootenay (2) — Maxwell, miss; DaSilva, miss; Sylvester, goal; Bailey, miss; Jacquemet, goal.

Prince George (1) — D.Tyrell, miss; Watson, goal; Poulter, miss; C.Tyrell, miss; Hunt, miss.

Shots on goal by
Kootenay 12 16 10 2 — 40
Prince George 8 11 16 3 — 38

Goal — Kootenay: Heemskerk (W,12-4-3); Prince George: Cyr (L,8-19-3).

Power plays (goals-chances) — P.G.: 1-6; Kootenay: 1-9. **Attendance** — 2,329.

Van. 7 at Port. 2

First Period
1. Vancouver, Machacek 27 (Repik, Bliznak) 7:32 (pp)

2. Portland, Dietrich 13 (King) 8:46

3. Vancouver, Henry 4 (Cloud) 17:24

4. Vancouver, Bliznak 10 (Machacek, Schira) 17:52

Penalties — Vancouver bench (too many men served by Goal) 4:14, Hunt Vcr (fighting), Gabriel Por (roughing, fighting) 6:32, Cunningham Vcr (interference) 9:06, Schermerdorn Por (high-sticking) 10:54, Repik Vcr (hooking) 14:50, Hunt Vcr (charging) 19:40

Second Period

5. Vancouver, Machacek 28 (Nunn, Pierrozabote) 7:38

6. Vancouver, Kane 19, 9:25

Penalties — Voytchek Por (hooking) 10:44, Repik Vcr (goaltender interference) 18:17.

Third Period

7. Vancouver, Bliznak 11 (Machacek) 0:28

8. Portland, King 7, 4:00

9. Vancouver, Hunt 4 (Machacek, Henry) 14:21

Penalties — Schira Vcr (interference), Hunt Vcr, Swystun Por (unsportsmanlike conduct) 1:53, Schneider Vcr, Walker Por (roughing, unsportsmanlike conduct) 3:13, Regner Vcr (closing hand on puck) 4:00, Gabriel Por (high-sticking) 9:21, Gabriel Por (roughing), Ponich Por (interference) 12:18, Ponich Por (elbowing, misconduct) 15:26.

Shots on goal by
Vancouver 22 17 21 — 60
Portland 5 4 6 — 15

Goal — Vancouver: Sexsmith (W,33-10-5); Portland: Mucha (L,7-29-1).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Vancouver: 1-7; Portland: 0-6. **Attendance** — 2,234.

Kam. 3 at Sea. 6

First Period
1. Kamloops, Dulle 15 (Weibe, Kalinski) 0:28

2. Seattle, O'Brien 12 (McKenzie) 11:23

3. Seattle, Richard 13 (Schappert) 13:27

Penalties — Wray Kam, Acoltase Sea (fighting) 14:01.

Second Period

4. Seattle, Scott 23 (Nielsen, Holloway) 0:27

5. Kamloops, Wray 2 (Hall, Golin) 7:03

6. Seattle, O'Brien 13 (McKenzie) 13:30

Penalties — Puustinen Kam (slashing) 4:11, Wells Sea (cross-checking) 8:11, Olson Sea (kneeing) 10:29, Wiebe Kam (hooking) 14:31, Calla Kam (boarding) 17:06.

Third Period

7. Kamloops, Golin 4 (Weibe, Bubnick) 3:27

8. Seattle, McKenzie 13 (Jackson, Wells) 17:16

9. Seattle, Richard 14 (O'Brien) 19:49 (en)

Penalty — McKenzie Sea (goaltender interference) 11:05.

Shots on goal by
Kamloops 13 15 13 — 41
Seattle 12 16 9 — 37

Goal — Kamloops: Leclerc (L,19-21-1); Seattle: Helenius (W,16-14-1).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Kamloops: 0-3; Seattle: 0-3. **Attendance** — 2,704.

Ever. 1 at Spok. 4

First Period
1. Spokane, McCrae 15 (Spurgeon, Bruton) 7:00 (pp)

Penalties — English Evt (roughing) 3:52, de la Lande Evt (hooking) 4:59, Hamill Evt (hooking) 6:15, Kieffer Evt (tripping) 7:41, Gendur Evt (slashing) 9:11, Cowen Spo (hooking) 16:25, Spurgeon Spo (high-sticking) 17:49.

Second Period

2. Spokane, Glass 7 (McCrae, Blackwater) 13:37

Penalties — Ulmer Spo (hooking) 1:59, Bauer Evt (roughing) 7:46, English Evt, Letts Spo (fighting) 10:13.

Third Period
3. Spokane, Bruton 21 (Reddington) 1:46

4. Everett, Vartovnik 8 (Ius, Hartly) 4:30

5. Spokane, Koper 10 (Johnson, Glass) 8:18

Penalties — English Evt, Letts Spo (fighting) 3:07, Reddington Spo (interference) 5:04, Bauer Evt (fighting), Hamill Evt (cross-checking), McCrae Spo (instigating, fighting, misconduct) 9:01, Compton Spo (hooking) 16:34.

Shots on goal by
Everett 11 9 11 — 31
Spokane 17 9 12 — 38

Goal — Everett: Irving (L,21-21-2); Spokane: Tokarski (W,23-5-2).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Everett: 0-5; Spokane: 1-6. **Attendance** — 3,616.

CENTRE ICE SURGE



Brandon's Robert Hechler (6) makes a move at centre ice during Thursday afternoon's Tournament of Champions game against the Virden Oil Kings at the Kinsmen Arena. (Bruce Bumstead/Brandon Sun)

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Philadelphia	53	30	18	5	172	150	65
Pittsburgh	54	30	19	5	159	147	65
New Jersey	54	30	20	4	140	131	64
N.Y. Rangers	57	27	24	6	140	144	60
N.Y. Islanders	55	24	25	6	131	160	54

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Ottawa	55	33	18	4	190	163	70
Montreal	55	29	17	9	175	154	67
Boston	53	27	21	5	139	142	59
Buffalo	55	25	21	7	158	150	57
Toronto	56	22	25	9	154	182	53

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Washington	55	26	24	5	160	172	57
Carolina	56	26	24	6	165	178	56
Atlanta	57	26	27	4	155	185	56
Florida	56	25	26	5	149	158	55
Tampa Bay	55	23	27	5	160	183	51

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Detroit	56	41	11	4	188	120	86
Nashville	55	28	21	6	156	147	62
Columbus	56	26	23	7	138	143	59
St. Louis	52	24	21	7	135	149	55
Chicago	54	24	25	5	148	157	53

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Minnesota	54	30	20	4	149	144	64
Colorado	55	29	21	5	156	152	63
Calgary	55	27	20	8	157	160	62
Vancouver	57	27	21	7	144	137	61
Edmonton	56	25	26	5	150	166	55

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	PT
Dallas	58	33	20	5	168	145	71
San Jose	53	29	17	4	140	129	65
Anaheim	58	29	22	7	143	147	65
Phoenix	55	28	23	4	151	151	60
Los Angeles	56	23	30	3	160	184	49

Thursday Results

Toronto 4 Montreal 2
Vancouver 2 Atlanta 1
Ottawa 5 Florida 4
Chicago 3 Calgary 1

Anaheim 4 N.Y. Rangers 1
Los Angeles 5 Detroit 3
Pittsburgh 4 N.Y. Islanders 3
Dallas 1 Minnesota 0

Columbus 2 Phoenix 1
Tampa Bay 2 Nashville 1 (OT)

Friday Games

Anaheim at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 6 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m.
Columbus at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

N.Y.I. 3 at Pit. 4

First Period
1. N.Y. Islanders, Comrie 15 (Hilbert, Guerin) 4:31

2. Pittsburgh, Whitney 10 (Sykora, Malkin) 9:04 (pp)

Penalties — Bergenheim NYI (tripping) 8:23, Comrie NYI, Talbot Pgh (fighting) 9:19.

Second Period

3. Pittsburgh, Malone 16 (Whitney, Malkin) 2:24

4. N.Y. Islanders, Fedotenko 9 (Hunter, Meyer) 6:30 (pp)

5. Pittsburgh, Whitney 11 (Malkin, Gonchar) 11:33 (pp)

Penalties — Beech Pgh (tripping) 5:13, Sutton NYI (interference) 10:22, Sutton NYI (interference) 12:36, Ruutu Pgh (hooking) 17:09.

Third Period