

TRY TO BEAT THAT!

» Brockest: Club's future is solid

Continued from Page B1

Until the 1974 restructuring took place Wheat Kings had been swimming in a sea of red ink. But, Brockest and coach Dunc McCallum — who joined the fold shortly after Brockest — have turned things around and now the books show only black ink.

As far as selling to Brockest, Cornell said that “with two or three owners wanting out it only made sense. And as long as the hockey club stays in Brandon we thought that was fine.

“We couldn't think of anyone better who should get the hockey club,” Cornell added. “We thought that if Jack wanted the club then that's the way we should go. In fact, all the directors have expressed that anytime Jack needs help, we're there.”

Brockest was just as complimentary towards his ex-partners.

“As a board they've been a treat to work for,” Brockest said. “I don't like to hassle my coach because he's a pro ... and I've been treated the same way.”

While Brockest is the principal owner, he says Cornell will “hang in there with me at least until the end of the year. He's the governor and I'm the alternate governor. It was really Bob who put the package together and it was ratified at a board meeting Wednesday night.”

As far as Brockest is concerned the biggest change is that “before there were eight people who could vote on matters such as dispensing of money and the like and now there's just one.”

Brockest added: “I don't think things will change, though. I don't expect the structure (of the team's front office) to change at all. And, it doesn't make any difference as far as the players are concerned.”

Naturally, no purchase price was mentioned at Thursday's press conference. But, prior to the start of the 1978-79 season, Gerry Brisson sold Calgary Wranglers to Jim Morley for just over \$300,000. And, Brockest bought a hockey club that's a hell of a lot better than Calgary Wranglers.

Brockest purchased possibly the best junior team in Canada. Wheat Kings are running away with the Eastern Division, having lost just once in 36 outings, and right now are the best team in the league, by a country mile.

More importantly, though, the long-term outlook is great. When asked about the team's player list, Cornell grinned and said: “Other teams are calling us the Montreal Canadiens!”

Brockest, who only five short years ago was managing the arena — the Keystone Centre — that his team plays in, was emphatic in stating that “I'm in this strictly by myself.” In other words, he is not the

front man for an organization; nor are there any silent partners.

Brockest is not the sole owner, though, as there still are some 'B' shareholders in the picture.

“I think there's a future there ... I think that the club is solid and that the future is solid,” Brockest stated. “Some people make a living doing something else. I make mine running a hockey team. I've been an equal partner, with the others, since the Lawson brothers retired and buying this club has always been in the back of my mind. I think you'd always rather work for yourself if you had your drawers.”

Although Brockest now owns the hockey club, he is quite adamant in saying the team is the Brandon Wheat Kings, and the emphasis is on Brandon.

“If anything has changed since I've become involved with the team,” Brockest said. “It's that volunteer help has become harder to get (because the team has made a profit the last couple of years). But there still is a lot of community involvement and I would hope we never lose that.”

Then, with a chuckle, Brockest added: “Actually, the reason I bought the team was that I read in The Sun where it was predicted McCallum and I would be fired in 1978. I wanted to control my own destiny ... so I bought the team.”



Winnipeg Blue Bombers linebacker Adam Bigbill celebrates winning the 107th Grey Cup against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Calgary on Nov. 24, 2019. The Bombers will finally have a chance to celebrate with their fans when they open the CFL season at home on Thursday. (The Canadian Press)

Blue Bombers finally get to unfurl Grey Cup banner

BY NEIL DAVIDSON

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers finally get to unfurl their Grey Cup banner Thursday, some 620 days after earning it.

Waiting to knock heads when the season-opening festivities end at IG Field are the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who were at the wrong end of the 33-12 score at the 107th Grey Cup on Nov. 24, 2019, in Calgary.

“Obviously the energy in the building will be very electric,” said Bombers head coach Mike O'Shea. “It will be exciting for the players. It will be exciting for all the players in the CFL to get back out on the field and get to play again.

“And even if it's an away game for them, I just think the overall emotional level across the league amongst all the players and coaches and staff and fans will be at an all-time high. I think everybody's missed the game terribly.”

The pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 season and prompted a shortened 14-game campaign this year.

“I know there's still a lot of things going on outside these walls and we're thinking about that with family members and everybody else,” said Winnipeg offensive co-ordinator Buck Pierce. “But we're excited to run out on that field and do what we love to do.”

Given what has happened since, the Grey Cup triumph seems a long time away. O'Shea is not one to rest on his laurels or worry about having a championship target on his team's back.

“We believe that is a whole new season. It's been a long time coming. Too long to get started, with a new team,” he said. “We believe and we respect every opponent. We believe they're going to come in and give us their absolute best. All the time. That's the only way you can really approach any game.”

“If you short-change any opponent, you'll get beat,” he added.

The 2019 season was an eventful one for Winnipeg. The club started out 8-2 before ending on a 3-5 run to finish third in the West. Still, the Bombers dispatched Calgary and Saskatchewan on the road en route to the Grey Cup.

Injuries to quarterbacks Matt Nichols and Chris Strevler meant Zach Collaros was in charge for the business end of the season. A full training camp with Winnipeg can only help the 32-year-old Collaros, who was dealt to the Bombers by Toronto just prior to the league's trade deadline in October 2019.

The Bombers have looked to keep their championship roster together. But offensive co-ordinator Paul LaPolice left to take over the Ottawa Redblacks with Nichols, a free agent, joining him there. Nichols was released in January 2020, one day after Collaros signed a contract extension -- a deal that was re-structured this January.

Strevler, who played 35 games in two seasons (2018-19) with the Bombers, signed with the Arizona Cardinals in April 2020. Sean McGuire is the likely backup.

Pierce takes over for LaPolice while retaining his quarterback coaching duties.

Star running back Andrew Harris is coming off a 134-yard rushing, two-touchdown performance at the Grey Cup that made him the first player to win game MVP and top Canadian honours. The 34-year-old Winnipeg native led the league during the regular season for the third straight campaign, with 1,380 yards on 225 carries.

In 2019, Harris moved past Normie Kwong as the league's Canadian career rushing leader (9,038 yards). He also passed Ben Cahoon to become the CFL's career leader in yards from scrimmage by a Canadian.

A five-time CFL all-star, Harris was the league's most outstanding Canadian in 2017.

Harris's return may have to wait, however. The normally durable runner has seen little practice time due to a calf issue. Brady Oliveira, a 23-year-old who attended the University of North Dakota, could fill in for Harris. A second-round pick (14th overall) in the 2019 draft, Oliveira fractured his ankle in the 2019 home opener.

“We're excited about where Brady's going and what he can do,” said Pierce.

Harris and Oliveira both attended Oak Park High School in Winnipeg.

» The Canadian Press

TODAY IN SPORTS

ON TELEVISION

- **OLYMPICS** — Action from Tokyo, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CBC)
- **MLB** — Cleveland Indians at Toronto Blue Jays, 6 p.m. (SNW)
- **MLS** — Toronto FC at Philadelphia Union, 6 p.m. (TSN5)
- **TENNIS** — Citi Open, 1 p.m. (TSN5)

IN LOCAL HISTORY

- **50 YEARS AGO** — Craig Bell's three-run homer gave the Riverside Canucks a 5-2 victory over Souris Cardinals to advance to the MSBL's South Division final.
- **40 YEARS AGO** — Angela Chalmers of Brandon was fourth in the women's 800-metre race at the Canadian Track and Field championships in Regina.
- **30 YEARS AGO** — Dean McBride had a double, single and two RBIs as the Neepawa Farmers beat the Brandon Cloverleafs 6-2 in the MSBL.
- **20 YEARS AGO** — Curtis Morrison pitched seven marvelous innings last night — allowing one run on two hits and five walks with six strikeouts — to lead the Cloverleafs to an 8-1 win over Brandon's Ora Dental Marlins.

IN OTHER NEWS

OLSON HOMERS IN DELORAINE VICTORY

Jeff Edwards threw a complete game three-hitter and one of Mitch Olson's three hits was a home run as the Deloraine Royals beat the Wawanessa Brewers 8-1 on Tuesday in South West Baseball League action.

Laughlin McKinnon and Jake Weidenhamer each went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles for the Royals.

Connor Cory took the loss for the Brewers, allowing six runs in four innings while fanning six. Avery Cullen had a double for Wawanessa.

In Brandon, Garrett Popplestone had two hits and two RBI while also earning a save as the GW Vacuum Truck Service Young Guns beat the RNOW Cardinals 7-6 in Andrew Agencies Senior AA Baseball League action on Tuesday at Andrews Field.

Andrew Janz had two hits for the Guns, including the game-winning hit in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Jeff Wiebe took the loss. Shayne MacGranachan had three hits for the Cards.

Meanwhile, Randell Wasicuna threw a complete game shutout with seven strikeouts as the Murray GM Cubs blanked the Simard Industrial Giants 8-0 at Summer Field on Tuesday.

George McNeill tripled and drove home four runs, John Nostedt scored twice and

Andrew Richardson had a pair of singles for the winners. Chris Hendrickson took the loss, allowing eight runs in six innings on seven hits. He struck out six.

Zane McConnell had two of the Giants' four hits.

SOFTBALL HALL PLANS REUNION

The Westman Border Fastball Museum has some exhibition games planned when it holds a fastball reunion from Aug. 14 to 15 at the Assessippi Beach and Campground.

On Saturday, the Inglis Nitemares will face the Roblin Hoods at 11 a.m., with Team Manitoba playing Team Saskatchewan in a hall of fame game recognizing past greats at 1 p.m.

On Sunday, the Fleming Jets will take the field against the Borderline Selects in exhibition games at 11 a.m., and 2 p.m. The Westman Fastball Museum will be on display, with beer gardens and a food concession on hand.

Campsites are available, with serviced 30-amp and water spots going for \$40 per night and unserviced sites available for \$30 per night, with a minimum of a two-night stay.

Spots can be booked by calling (204) 773-6797. » The Brandon Sun

DE GRASSE, BROWN ADVANCE TO 200 FINAL

TOKYO — Canada threatened to add to its medal total Tuesday at the Tokyo Olympics but, despite a few close calls, the nation was left without any hardware to celebrate for the second straight day.

Once again, however, Canadian athletes set themselves up for success in the coming days. Sprinters Andre De Grasse and Aaron Brown both won their semifinal heats in the men's 200 metres.

De Grasse cruised into today's 200 final with a Canadian-record time of 19.73 in his semifinal. The 26-year-old from Markham, Ont., made it look easy and in classic De Grasse style, he got off to a pedestrian start before laying down a scorching second half, easily reeling in the competition. » Wire Services

OLYMPICS

WHAT CANADA DID

TOKYO — What Canada did at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic games:

TUESDAY ATHLETICS

Women's 400 — Kyra Constantine, Brampton, Ont., was 2:18 overall in qualifying (51.69) to earn a semifinal berth; Natasha McDonald, Brampton, Ont., was 36th (53.54), did not advance. Women's hammer throw — Camryn Rogers, Richmond, B.C., was fifth in the final with a best toss of 74.35 metres. Women's javelin — Elizabeth Gleadie, Vancouver, posted a mark of 58.19 to rank 23rd in qualifying, did not advance. Men's 200 — Andre De Grasse, Markham, Ont., set a Canadian record in winning his semifinal heat (19.73); Aaron Brown, Toronto, posted a season-best in a three-way tie for first in his semi (19.99) — both will compete in the final; Brendon Rodney, Toronto, was sixth in his qualifying heat (20.60) and his time was not enough to advance. Men's 500 — Justin Knight, Toronto, had the third-fastest time in qualifying (1:30.22); Mohammed Ahmed of St. Catharines, Ont., placed 13th (1:38.96) — both will compete in the final; Lucas Bruchet, Vancouver, was 27th (1:34.08), did not advance. Men's shot put — Timothy Nedow, Brockville, Ont., ranked 31st in qualifying with a best mark of 19.42, did not advance.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Women — Melissa Humana-Paredes, Toronto, and Sarah Pavan, Kitchener, Ont., who did not lose a set during the group stage, were beaten in the quarterfinals by Mariafe Artacho del Solar and Taliqau Clancy, Australia, 2-1 (21-15, 19-21, 15-12); Heather Bansley, Waterdown, Ont., and Brandie Wilkerson, Toronto, also fell in the playoffs to Tina Gjudina and Anastasiya Kravchenko of Latvia, 2-1 (21-13, 18-21, 15-11).

CANOE/KAYAK (SPRINT)

Women's K1 200 — Andrdanne Langlois, Lac Beauport, Que., was ninth in the medal race (40:473); Michelle Russell, Fall River, N.S., tied for fourth in the B-final (40:527); Men's C2 1,000 — Connor Fitzpatrick, Dartmouth, N.S., and Roland Varga, Aurora, Ont., were sixth in the final (3:30.157).

CYCLING (TRACK)

Women's team pursuit — Canada (Allison Beveridge, Calgary; Ariane Bonhomme, Gatineau, Que.; Annie Foreman-Mackey, Kingston, Ont.; Georgia Simmering, Vancouver; Jasmin Duchting, Coquitlam, B.C.) lost the bronze-medal race to the United States (4:10.552). Men's team pursuit — Canada (Vincent De Haître, Cumberland, Ont.; Michael Foley, Milton, Ont.; Derek Gee, Osgoode, Ont.; Jay Lamoureux, Victoria) defeated Germany in the first round by 2:09 seconds (3:46.769). Based upon their times, they will meet again in the fifth-place race.

EQUESTRIAN (JUMPING)

Individual — Mario Deslauriers, Bromont, Que., and Barbolina 2, advanced to the final with a clean run of 84.76 to place fourth in qualifying.

GYMNASTICS

Women's balance beam — Ellie Black, Halifax, was fourth in the final with score of 13.866, just 0.134 behind Simone Biles of the U.S. for the bronze medal.

SAILING

Men's Finn (one-handed heavyweight dinghy) — Tom Ranshaw, Toronto, finished seventh in the medal race.

Men's 470 (two-handed dinghy) — Oliver Bone, Montreal, and Jacob Saunders, Chester, N.S., were 17th and 14th in the day's races. At the conclusion of the preliminary round, they ranked 7th overall and will not advance to the final.

SPORT CLIMBING

Men's combined — Sean McColl, North Vancouver, B.C., placed 17th in qualifying with an overall score of 1,680, did not advance.

SWIMMING (ARTISTIC)

Women's duet — Claudie Holtzer, Calgary, and Jacqueline Simoneau, Saint-Laurent, Que., are ranked fifth following the technical routine with a score of 182.7131 and qualified for the final.

VOLLEYBALL

Men — Canada finished the event fifth overall after losing in the quarterfinals to the ROC, 3-0 (25-21, 30-28, 25-22).

WATER POLO

Women — Shae La Roche, Winnipeg, scored two goals as Canada lost 16-5 in the quarterfinals to the United States.

CANADIAN MEDALLISTS

TOKYO — List of the Canadian medallists at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic games (distances in metres unless specified; date of event in parentheses):

GOLD (3)

ROWING (1)
Women's coxed eights — Susanne Grainger, London, Ont.; Kasia Gruchalla-Wesierski, Calgary; Kristen Kit, St. Catharines, Ont.; Madison Mailey, Lions Bay, B.C.; Sydney Payne, Toronto; Andrea Proske, Langley, B.C.; Lisa Roman, Victoria; Christine Roper, London, Ont.; Avalon Wasteneys, Campbell River, B.C. (July 30)

SWIMMING (1)

Women's 100 butterfly — Margaret MacNeill, London, Ont. (July 26)

WEIGHTLIFTING (1)

Women's 64 kg — Maude Charron, Rimouski, Que. (July 27)

SILVER (4)

DIVER (1)
Women's three-metre springboard synchronized — Jennifer Abel, Laval, Que., and Melissa Citrini-Beaulieu, Saint-Constant, Que. (July 25)

SWIMMING (3)

Women's 100 backstroke — Kylie Masse, Lasalle, Ont. (July 27)

Women's 200 backstroke — Kylie Masse, Lasalle, Ont. (July 31)

Women's 4x100 freestyle relay — Canada (Penny Oleksiak and Kayla Sanchez, Toronto; Margaret MacNeill, London, Ont.; Rebecca Smith, Red Deer, Alta., and Taylor Ruck, Kelowna, B.C., in qualifying) (July 25)

BRONZE (7)

ATHLETICS (1)

Men's 100 — Andre De Grasse, Markham, Ont. (Aug. 1)

JUDO (2)

Women's 57 kg — Jessica Klimkait, Whitby, Ont. (July 26)

Women's 63 kg — Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard, Montreal (July 27)

ROWING (1)

Women's pairs — Caleigh Filmer, Victoria, and Hillary Janssens, Cloverdale, B.C. (July 29)

SOFTBALL (1)

Women's: Jenna Cairn, Toronto; Emma Entzminger, Victoria; Larissa Franklin, Maple Ridge, B.C.; Jennifer Gilbert, Saskatoon; Sara Groenewegen, Surrey, B.C.; Kelsey Harshman, Delta, B.C.; Victoria Hayward, Toronto; Danielle Lawrie, Langley, B.C.; Janet Leung, Mississauga, Ont.; Joey Lye, Toronto; Erika Polidori, Brantford, Ont.; Kaleigh Rafter, Guelph, Ont.; Lauren Regula, Trail, B.C.; Jennifer Salling, Port Coquitlam, B.C.; Natalie Wideman, Mississauga, Ont. (July 27)

SWIMMING (2)

Women's 200 freestyle — Penny Oleksiak, Toronto (July 28)

Women's 4x100 medley relay — Kylie Masse, Lasalle, Ont.; Sydney Pickrem, Halifax; Margaret MacNeill, London, Ont.; Penny Oleksiak, Toronto (Aug. 1)

MEDAL COUNT LEADERS

After action on Tuesday (Japanese time)										
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total						
United States	24	28	21	73						
China	32	21	16	69						
Russia	13	21	18	52						
Great Britain	13	17	13	43						
Japan	19	6	11	36						
Australia	14	4	15	33						
Germany	8	8	14	30						
Italy	6	9	15	29						
France	5	10	8	24						
Netherlands	6	7	7	20						
South Korea	6	4	9	19						
New Zealand	6	4	5	15						
Canada	3	4	7	14						
Brazil	3	3	8	14						
Switzerland	3	4	5	12						
Hungary	4	4	3	11						
Cuba	4	3	4	11						
Taiwan	2	4	4	10						
Spain	1	4	4	9						
Czech Republic	4	3	1	8						
Croatia	3	3	2	8						

LOCAL GOLF

WESTMAN JUNIOR TOUR

Week 6, Tuesday at Wheat City Golf Course

GROUP A (17 years and under)

Colby Lowe, Russell def. Foxx McColl, Elkhorn, 3up
Dru Mushumanski, Rosburn def. Hayden Delatoye, Neepawa, 3up
Alden Wilson, Brandon def. Sebastian Stone, Boissevain, 4up

Bryce Bryant, Virden def. Zackary Mudrewich, Wawota, 2up
Tyler Huston, Russell def. Richard Everett, Minnedosa, 6up
Zos Giordani Gross, Brandon def. Foster Couvier, Miniota, 2up

Lukas Jensen, Brandon def. Ulrich Moller, Brandon, 1up
Drake Star, Marius def. Max St. Pierre, Brandon, 4up

GROUP B (14 years and under)

1. Kaeson Fisher, Brandon 72
2. Jaxon Jacobson, Brandon 74
3. Kale Jones, Brandon 79
4. Ethan Stanley, Brandon 83
5. Ryan Gower, McCreary 88
5. Brodie Cameron, Virden 88
7. Payton Oakden, Brandon 90
8. Tate Bercier, Brandon 91

GROUP C (12 years and under)

1. Hunter Oakden, Brandon 84
2. Brayden Watt, Brandon 86
3. Nicol Jensen, Brandon 94
4. Brayden Hamm, Brandon 96
5. Payton Bailey, Brandon 97
6. Dexter White, Virden 104

Closest to the Hole:

Group A: Foxx McColl, Elkhorn
Group B: Kaeson Fisher, Brandon
Group C: No Winner

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	64	44	.593	—
Boston	63	45	.583	1
New York	57	49	.538	6
Toronto	55	49	.529	7
Baltimore	38	68	.358	25
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	62	44	.585	—
Cleveland	52	50	.509	9
Detroit	52	57	.477	11 1/2
Kansas City	45	59	.433	16
Minnesota	45	62	.421	17 1/2
West Division				
	W			