



Brian Propp broke a number of Western Hockey League records during his incredible 194-point season. (Brandon Sun file photo)

Propp's last season like none before it

BY GREGG DRINAN

This story originally appeared in the March 27, 1979 edition of the Brandon Sun.

No one player made more of an impact on the Canadian junior hockey scene this winter than Brian Propp.

A left winger with Brandon Wheat Kings, Propp — who turned 20 on Feb. 15 — had a season unequalled in the history of the Western Hockey League.

By the time the 72-game schedule reached a conclusion, Propp had smashed four single-season records and tied another. And he also became the WHL's career leader in assists and points.

That's pretty respectable for someone who "never used to follow hockey."

Brian Propp grew up in Saskatchewan, in places like Lanigan, Jansen and Neudorf. And, like most Canadian boys, he practically grew up on skates. But, unlike others, he did not have a favourite National Hockey League team. Thus, he did not have a favourite player; a player he would possibly fashion himself after in later years.

"I just wasn't interested then," Propp said Monday night, adding that he follows the pros a bit more now, mainly because some of his Wheat King teammates keep him supplied with reading material in the form of various hockey magazines and newspapers.

But, one of the reasons for Propp's interest in the professional game now is an ongoing affair known as merger. Having completed his 19th year, Propp is eligible for the NHL's universal draft in June and it is expected that he will be an early first-round selection. The question at the moment is how much bargaining power will Propp, and other early selections, have if the NHL absorbs four World Hockey Association teams, leaving but one major pro league?

"I think the value of almost all contracts will go down," offered Propp. "Guys who go early in the draft will play anyway and it won't hurt them much. But, it will hurt the guys picked in the later rounds."

With things like this in mind, Propp has spent the past season doing what he does best — playing hockey.

As Brandon general Jack Brockest says: "He comes to play. He sets out to finish what he starts to do and he'll do

fine next year. When he came to the Wheat Kings he faced a challenge, and was successful. He'll do the same next year."

Propp came to the Wheat Kings as a 17-year-old, after setting a Saskatchewan Junior League scoring record that still stands. In 57 games with the Melville Millionaires, Propp fired 76 goals and added 92 assists, for a record 168 points.

"I played all my minor hockey in Neudorf," explained Propp. "Then I went to Melville and played for their Junior B's. I started the next season with the Millionaires, but didn't get much ice time and went down and played with the midgets. We went to the Wrigley tournament in Oshawa that year."

The next season, 1975-76, the 16-year-old Propp got lots of ice time and it paid off in 168 points and the SJHL one-season scoring record.

The success story continued a year later in Brandon.

In his first WHL season, Propp picked up 135 points, including 55 goals, and was named rookie-of-the-year. Then, last year, he upped his point total to 182, including a league-leading 112 assists, and ran away with his first scoring championship.

But, Wheat Kings and their fans hadn't seen anything yet.

When Wheat Kings wound up their 1978-79 season on Friday, Propp's totals showed 94 goals, 100 assists and a record 194 points. He fell two short of tying the WHL record for most goals in a season, but broke the three-year-old point record by eight.

"I really wanted to break the points record," said Propp. "I wasn't especially concerned with the others. They just came."

"The others" were most winning goals in a season (16), longest goal scoring streak in games for one season (15) and for overlapping seasons (19) and he also tied the mark for most three-goal games in a season (13).

In only three WHL seasons, Propp earned a total of 511 points, on 219 goals and 292 assists. He now is No. 1 on the WHL's all-time list for points and assists. And only two former Wheat Kings, Ron Chipperfield and Bill Derlago, lit more red lights in their careers.

Propp spent most of the past season playing with centre Laurie Boschman and rightwinger Ray Allison. But, in the latter part of the sched-

ule, coach Dunc McCallum went into a bit of a juggling act, something Propp says didn't bother him.

"I'm used to playing with different players," he says. "Last year, for example, I played with (Don) Hobbins and (Don) Gillen, and with Allison and Derlago. I get more scoring chances with Boschman and Allison, but it really doesn't matter to me who I play with."

While Propp was on his record-breaking course, so were the Wheat Kings. And Propp, for one, says this team is better — offensively and defensively — than the last two.

"We've got more depth," he explains. "We've got three solid lines this year and they all can score."

When it comes to playing defensive hockey, Propp says this team is "more conscious of coming back and helping out. Dunc reminds us all the time about coming back."

Propp also admits that, because this is his draft year, he has worked a little harder on the defensive aspects of his game. And he feels it has paid off.

Now, Wheat Kings are on the verge of post-season play. They won the Eastern Division crown by a country mile and also took the league's overall title, for the third year in a row. The first step on what they hope is the trail that will lead them to the Memorial Cup is a double home-and-home round-robin series with Saskatoon Blades and Edmonton Oil Kings. Wheat Kings play the first of their eight games on Thursday against the Oil Kings in Lloydminster, Alta., and Propp says "we're just going to go out and play."

As far as last year's quick exit from the playoffs is concerned, he adds that "sometimes you think about it ... it's in the back of your mind. But, that was last year and now it doesn't matter who we play."

Win or lose, Propp will head for Regina, where his parents now make their home, once the trail ends. He spent last summer there working for a petroleum company and playing fastball — third base and pitching — in Regina's best senior league.

"I'll go home," he says, "but other than that I'm not sure. I haven't really given next year much thought."

One thing is for sure: Next year, Brian Propp will have a definite interest in professional hockey.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Tampa Bay	68	44	607	—
Boston	65	49	570	4
New York	61	50	550	6 1/2
Toronto	60	50	545	7
Baltimore	38	72	345	29
Central Division				
Chicago	66	46	589	—
Cleveland	54	55	495	10 1/2
Detroit	54	60	474	13
Kansas City	48	62	436	17
Minnesota	48	64	429	18
West Division				
Houston	66	46	589	—
Oakland	64	48	571	2
Seattle	59	54	522	7 1/2
Los Angeles	56	56	500	10
Texas	39	73	348	27

Monday's Games
Cincinnati at Cleveland, N
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, N
N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, N

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Angels (Rodriguez 2-1) at Toronto (Matz 9-6), 5:07 p.m., 1st game
Detroit (Matz 6-6) at Baltimore (Akin 0-5), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Manaea 8-7) at Cleveland (McKenzie 1-5), 6:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Patiño 2-3) at Boston (Rodriguez 8-6), 6:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Keuchel 7-5) at Minnesota (Jax 2-1), 7:10 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 7-7) at Houston (Odozorzi 4-6), 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cortes Jr. 0-0) at Kansas City (Lynch 2-3), 7:10 p.m.
Toronto (Stripling 5-6) at L.A. Angels (Suarez 5-4), 9:07 p.m., 2nd game
Texas (Allard 2-10) at Seattle (Gilbert 5-3), 9:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES				
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 12:10 p.m.	Colorado at Houston, 1:10 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.	Detroit at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.	Oakland at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:10 p.m.	Toronto at L.A. Angels, 8:38 p.m.	Texas at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.		

WEST DIVISION				
San Francisco	71	41	634	—
Los Angeles	67	45	598	4
San Diego	64	49	566	7 1/2
Colorado	51	61	455	20
Arizona	35	78	310	36 1/2

Monday's Games
Cincinnati at Cleveland, N
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, N
Miami at San Diego, N

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Dodgers (Scherzer 9-4) at Philadelphia (Nola 7-6), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Happ 5-0) at Pittsburgh (Braulit 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Washington (Espino 3-3) at N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Gray 4-6) at Atlanta (Smily 7-3), 6:20 p.m.
Milwaukee (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 2-0), 7:05 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 7-7) at Houston (Odozorzi 4-6), 7:10 p.m.
Arizona (Gallen 1-6) at San Francisco (Gausman 10-5), 8:45 p.m.
Miami (TBD) at San Diego (Stammen 5-2), 9:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Colorado at Houston, 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Atlanta, 6:20 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 7:05 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 8:45 p.m.

BASEBALL BEFORE AUG. 10

1901 — Frank Isbell of the Chicago White Sox set an AL record by stranding 11 teammates on the baselines.
1944 — Charles A. "Red" Barrett of the Boston Braves threw only 58 pitches to beat the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 in a nine-inning game.
1957 — Mickey Mantle became the first player to clear the center-field hedge at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium when his 460-foot homer hit the base of the scoreboard. The Yankees beat the Orioles, 6-3.
1969 — Cesar Tovar of Minnesota broke up the second no-hit bid against the Twins by a Baltimore pitcher. Tovar singled with no out in the ninth off Mike Cuellar. Earlier in the year, Tovar singled with one out in the ninth to spoil Dave Maltby's bid.
1971 — Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins hit his 500th home run in the first inning off Baltimore's Mike Cuellar to become the 10th player to hit 500 or more in a career. Killebrew also hit No. 501 off Cuellar but the Orioles won 4-3.
1981 — Major league baseball resumed play after a two-month strike. In the St. Louis Cardinals-Phillies game at Philadelphia, attended by 60,561 fans, Pete Rose broke Stan Musial's NL hit record when he singled for his 3,631st hit. It came off Mark Littell in the eighth inning.
1987 — Philadelphia's Kevin Gross was ejected in the fifth inning after umpires discovered a strip of sandpaper glued to the heel of his glove to scuff balls. The Phillies had a 4-2 lead over the Chicago Cubs. Gross would be suspended for 10 games the next day.
1995 — Ball Night at Dodger Stadium turned into the first forfeit in the majors in 16 years. Los Angeles forfeited a game to the St. Louis Cardinals after fans threw souvenir baseballs onto the field three times. The game was called with one out in the bottom of the ninth.
2003 — Atlanta Braves shortstop Rafael Furcal turned the 12th unassisted triple play in major league history against the St. Louis Cardinals. With runners on first and second in the fifth inning, Furcal made a leaping grab of pitcher Woody Williams' liner. The runners were going, and Furcal stepped on second base to double up Mike Matheny before tagging out Orlando Palmeiro.
2004 — Barry Bonds became the first player in major league history to hit 30 home runs in 13 consecutive seasons, hitting a solo shot off John Grabow in the seventh inning of San Francisco's 8-7 loss to Pittsburgh. Bonds has now hit 30 homers in 14 seasons, one shy of Hank Aaron's record.
2006 — Boston's Curt Schilling tied the AL record by allowing 10 extra-base hits in a 5-4 loss to Kansas City. Schilling gave up nine doubles and a home run, matching the mark set by Washington's Dale Garen in 1901 and equaled by Cleveland's Luis Tiant in 1969.
2009 — Troy Tulowitzki had five hits, hit for the cycle and had a career-high seven RBIs to help Colorado beat the Chicago Cubs 11-5.
2018 — Kole Calhoun and Justin Upton hit two-run homers. Albert Pujols reached another milestone and Los Angeles rallied past Oakland for 4-3 win. With a single in the sixth inning, Pujols recorded his 1,000th career hit with the Angels. He became the ninth player all-time with at least 1,000 hits in each league after getting 2,073 with St. Louis.

CPL STANDINGS

All Games at Winnipeg's IG Field	GP				GF				GA				Pts				
	W	L	T	OT	W	L	T	OT	W	L	T	OT	W	L	T	OT	
Victoria	11	6	2	3	19	12	3	19	12	15	20	11	15	20	11	15	20
Calgary	11	6	3	2	11	6	3	2	11	6	3	2	11	6	3	2	11
Winnipeg	11	6	5	0	14	9	18	11	6	5	0	12	9	18	11	6	5
Hamilton	11	6	5	0	12	9	18	11	6	5	0	12	9	18	11	6	5
Yorkton	11	4	4	3	11	15	15	11	4	4	3	12	12	12	12	12	12
Edmonton	11	3	5	3	12	12	12	11	3	5	3	8	12	11	7	11	7
Halifax	10	3	5	2	8	12	11	10	2	7	1	8	17	7			
Ottawa	10	2	7	1	8	17	7										

Wednesday's Game
Victoria at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Thursday's Game
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Saturday's Game
Halifax at Ottawa, 2 p.m.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt	GP	Pt
New England	19	12	3	4	35	22	40		
Orlando	18	8	4	6	28	23	30		
New York City	17	8	5	4	28	28	30		
Nashville	18	6	2	10	26	17	28		
Philadelphia	19	7	5	7	25	19	28		
D.C.	18	8	7	3	27	21	27		
Columbus	18	6	6	6	21	23	24		
Montreal	18	6	7	5	24	23	23		
N.Y. Red Bulls	17	5	8	4	21	22	19		
Atlanta	18	3	6	9	21	25	18		
Chicago	16	4	9	5	20	20	17		
Miami	18	4	8	6	15	26	16		
Cincinnati	17	3	7	7	18	30	16		
Toronto	18	3	9	6	23	38	15		

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Kansas City	18	10	4	4	33	20	34
Seattle	18	9	3	6	26	14	33
L.A. Galaxy	18	10	6	2	29	28	32
Colorado	16	8	4	4	22	16	28
Minnesota	17	7	5	5	21	21	26
Portland	17	7	8	2	23	29	23
Los Angeles F.C.	18	6	7	5	24	25	23
Salt Lake	17	5	6	6	26	20	21
Dallas	18	5	7	6	23	25	21
San Jose	18	5	7	6	21	27	21
Houston	18	3	6	9	19	25	18
Austin	17	4	9	4	13	20	16
Vancouver	17	3	7	7	19	28	16

Sunday's Late Game
Vancouver 1 L.A. Galaxy 1

Friday, Aug. 13
Vancouver at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 14
L.A. Galaxy at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
New York at Montreal, 7 p.m.
New England at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Miami at New York City, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Austin at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 15
Los Angeles FC at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 5 p.m.
D.C. at Nashville, 6 p.m.
Seattle at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Goals — Gustavo Bou NE, 11; Raul Ruidiaz Sea, 11; Javier Hernandez LAG, 10; Ola Kamara DC, 10; Daniel Saloi KC, 10; Nani Ori, 9; Adam Buksa NE, 8; Cristian Dajome Tor, 8; Gonzalo Higuain Mia, 8; Damir Krejciach SL, 8; Ricardo Pepi Dal, 8.
Assists — Carlos Gil NE, 15; Mauricio Peryera Ori, 7; Valentin Castellanos NYC, 6; Cristian Espinoza SJ, 6; Fabio NYRB, 6; Aaron Herrera RS, 6; Nani Ori, 6; Joao Paulo Sea, 6; Emanuel Reynoso Mmn, 6; 10 players tied with 5.

GOLF

PGA TOUR		
REDEX CUP LEADERS Through Aug. 8:		
	Points	Money
1. Collin Morikawa	2,171	\$7,039,768
2. Jordan Spieth	2,139	\$6,401,464
3. Patrick Cantlay	2,066	\$5,725,030
4. Harris English	2,039	\$6,078,406
4. Jon Rahm	2,003	\$6,793,333
6. Abraham Ancer	1,926	\$5,539,525
7. Bryson DeChambeau	1,910	\$3,354,490
8. Louis Oosthuizen	1,877	\$6,268,679
9. Justin Thomas	1,758	\$6,042,362
10. Sam Burns	1,721	\$4,769,738
11. Viktor Hovland	1,717	\$4,882,997
12. Jason Kokrak	1,631	\$4,952,379
13. Xander Schauffele	1,623	\$5,071,458
14. Hideki Matsuyama	1,594	\$4,902,319
15. Brooks Koepka	1,562	\$5,060,211
16. Cameron Smith	1,539	\$4,766,254
17. Dustin Johnson	1,510	\$4,671,011
18. Joaquin Niemann	1,491	\$3,850,831
19. Stewart Cink	1,445	\$3,462,527
20. Daniel Berger	1,444	\$4,163,959
21. Scottie Scheffler	1,409	\$4,377,814
22. Patrick Reed	1,381	\$4,019,044
23. Tony Finau	1,348	\$3,863,847
24. Billy Horschel	1,292	\$3,959,827
25. Rory McIlroy	1,291	\$3,903,034
26. Max Homa	1,220	\$3,404,108
27. Bryson DeChambeau	1,212	\$2,087,633
28. Sungjae Im	1,151	\$3,312,867
29. Charley Hoffman	1,127	\$2,915,972
29. Kevin Na	1,141	\$2,825,667
31. Marc Leishman	1,103	\$3,059,346
32. Brian Harman	1,052	\$3,141,546
33. Cameron Davis	1,0	