

EX-NETMINDER ELEVATED

"This gave me a chance to offer my thanks."

Ken Dryden

Dryden joins Canadiens immortals

NO. 29 RETIRED

'I was really lucky to play for Montreal'

PAT HICKEY
THE GAZETTE

Ken Dryden never showed much emotion as a player, but he admitted to being a tad misty-eyed as he hugged his family and watched his No. 29 hoisted to the rafters at the Bell Centre last night.

"It was a special moment and they're a part of my life," said Dryden, whose number was retired prior to last night's game between the Canadiens and Ottawa Senators.

"I knew what the events of the night would be, but I didn't know what the reactions from the fans would be, and I didn't know what my reaction would be," he said. "As I walked from the dressing room, I couldn't see because the arena was dark, but I could certainly hear the arena.

"How do I thank you? Comment-vous remercier?" Dryden asked repeatedly as he thanked the people who touched his life while in Montreal.

"That's what this night was about," he said later in the evening. "I've received thanks for the past 35 years. Having that banner raised was thanks. But this gave me a chance to offer my thanks."

There was the usual thanks to his teammates, coaches and team officials. He described Scotty Bowman, who sent a taped message of congratulations, as "the best coach in the world" and Sam Pollock as the "best general manager in the world."

But he also remembered team doctors Doug Kinnear and David Mulder, equipment manager Eddie Palchak and Romeo Riopelle, who presided over the wives' room at the Forum. He was among the 30-odd people who received personal phone calls from Dryden inviting them to attend the game.

"They say when you get lucky, you can get really lucky and I was really lucky to play for the Montreal Canadiens and to play for fans like you," Dryden said.

Dryden thanked Montrealers for making him and his wife, Linda, welcome when they arrived as newlyweds in 1970. He noted that he has made only two brief visits to Montreal but was soon im-



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI REUTERS

Former Canadiens goaltender Ken Dryden acknowledges the crowd as his wife, Lynda, and daughter, Sarah, with her baby look on during a ceremony to retire his number last night.

mersed in a culture which included tourtiere, coquille St. Jacques, Schwartz's and DiLallo.

Other speakers during the 45-minute ceremony were Dryden's brother Dave, a former NHL goaltender who spoke on behalf of the family, and former rival, Vladislav Tretiak.

Dryden and the former star goaltender of the Soviet national team and Red Army, reminisced at a reception earlier in the evening and Tretiak presented Dryden with a Red Army sweater with his name and the No. 29.

"We're friends," said Tretiak, who said he was invited to the ceremony by Dryden.

"He called me up and said I'm leaving right away," said Tretiak. "He was one of the best goaltenders ever, very smart. And I always loved Montreal. It's the greatest hockey city in the world." The two met on the ice in Montreal twice, once during the 1972 Summit Series and again in the famous New Year's Eve game between the Canadiens and Red Army in 1975. Neither game is among Dryden's favourite memo-

ries.

"We lost that first game against the Russians, 7-3, and that was the worst moment of my hockey career," said Dryden. "But 27 days later, it was a different story."

The Canadiens went on to win the eight-game series. When the Canadiens met the Red Army three years later, the teams played to a 3-3 tie but Tretiak was the better goalie by far.

"You're defined by your opponents," said Dryden, when asked about the decision to include Tretiak in the festivities. "Our great rivals were the Boston Bruins and players like Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito tested us. You don't appreciate your opponents and the time but you need them to challenge you."

Tretiak said it wasn't possible for the two to be friends at the height of the Cold War in the 1970s.

"It was a different time," he said. "Russia is a different country today."

Dryden noted that he waqs joining legends like Guy Lafleur, Jean Béliveau and Maurice (Rocket)

Richard, who conjured image of power and pride.

"If there's an image of me, it's of a goalie leaning on his stick, standing and doing nothing. That was what the 1970s were all about, that and a whole lot of Stanley Cups.

Dryden received a three-minute standing ovation when he was introduced by Al McNeil, who was the coach of the Canadiens when Dryden made his National Hockey League debut late in the 1970-71 season. Dryden won six regular-season and went on to lead the Canadiens to the Stanley Cup. It was the first of six Stanley Cups in Dryden's short — eighth seasons — but brilliant career.

The Dryden family included his daughter Sara's three-week-old daughter, Kayla. Dryden's first grandchild wore a hand-knit Canadiens' sweater which was sent to the goaltender by an anonymous fan in the 1970s and worn by both Sara and son Michael when they were infants. Also on hand were Sara's husband Scott and son Michael and

his wife, ex-Canadian Olympic team star, Tammy Shewchuk.

"I was glad we were able to find that in a box," said Dryden. "One of our favourite photos is picture of Sara when she was one year old sitting on the net wearing that sweater."

Dryden became the 12th player to have his number retired and he's the fifth player to be honoured over the past two seasons as the Canadiens prepare for the celebration of their history in preparation for their 100th anniversary in 2007.

The Canadiens retired Serge Savard's No. 18 earlier this season. Last season, they retired No. 5 worn by the late Bernie (Boom Boom) Geoffrion and No. 12 worn by Dickie Moore and Yvan Cournoyer.

The nostalgia theme carried through to the opening of the game. After a moment of silence for another Hall of Fame goaltender — Lorne (Gump) Worsley who died last Friday at the age of 77 — there was a taped rendition of O Canada by the late Roger Doucet.

FROM PAGE ONE

ISRAEL Factions ignore pleas for truce and keep shooting

CONTINUED FROM A1

The number of casualties might have been much higher had several Israelis not called police to alert them to the bizarre sight of a man walking around in a winter coat in a Red Sea town celebrated for its warm temperatures.

The bomb went off as police arrived to investigate.

There was no calm in Gaza, either, yesterday.

Armed Hamas and Fatah factions ignored Arab pleas for a truce and continued shooting at each other as terrorist groups in the Palestinian territories rushed to claim credit for the attack in Eilat.

Islamic Jihad said it had dispatched 21-year-old Mohammed al-Saqsaq from Gaza to redirect Hamas's and Fatah's focus from the bloody internal battle that killed five more people yesterday, bringing the death toll to 30 in less than a week and once again raising the spectre of civil war be-

tween the two bitter enemies.

Israel rejected Islamic Jihad's claim that the unemployed labourer had entered Israel from Jordan. It said he left Gaza and entered Egypt, then crossed its Sinai desert border with Israel about 20 or 30 kilometres north of Eilat.

According to the Israeli timeline, Saqsaq had been picked up when he was hitchhiking near Eilat by a colonel in the Israeli army reserve who abruptly ordered his passenger out of his car before reaching the centre of town after he became suspicious the man might be carrying a bomb.

Saqsaq's family told Palestinian journalists they were proud of what he had done. They said he had been despondent over the deaths of his infant daughter and best friend in a recent Israeli attack.

Saqsaq's mother told the Jerusalem Post she had wished him "good luck" when he left home three days ago and that she prayed "to Allah that Mohammed

will be accepted as a shaheed (martyr)."

The Israeli newspaper also reported that a crowd of Gazans showed up at the family home to congratulate them on their son's suicide.

The last such suicide blast killed nine Israelis in Tel Aviv in April.

Fatah — which, unlike Hamas, recognizes Israel's right to exist — denounced the bombing in Eilat. But Fatah's armed wing, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, boasted that it had participated in the operation.

The Army of Believers, which might be a new player in Middle East terrorism, said it, too, was involved in the attack.

While claiming a part in the bombing, Hamas said it was justified by Israeli policies toward Palestinians in the territories.

"So long as there is occupation, resistance is legitimate," said Fawzi Barhoum, one of many spokesmen for Hamas in its Gaza stronghold.

After emergency meetings with his top generals, Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz called the attack "an escalation."

Israel will respond by increasing the tempo of military operations against terrorist organizations in Gaza, Amir said.

"Israel has shown extraordinary restraint in order to give the Palestinians an opportunity to fight terror and stop the attacks," Israel's foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, said in a statement.

Livni is to hold peace talks soon with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Israel intends to spend nearly \$1 billion to provide better security and surveillance measures and barriers along its long border with Egypt, which mostly runs through unpopulated desert. But the funds for the project have not yet been approved.

Despite attempts by Saudi Arabia, Syria and Egypt to arrange a truce between Hamas and Fatah, gunfire continued

overnight and into this morning in Gaza.

Three more fighters and a bystander were reportedly killed, bringing the number of dead to 30.

Several bombs went off in Gaza near the homes of political leaders, including Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who represents Hamas.

Several relatives of a senior Fatah security officer were kidnapped.

Unusually, even the Palestinian grand mufti, Mohammad Hussein, entered the political debate, issuing an edict saying "spilling blood is forbidden."

ONLINE EXTRA: The U.S. State Department says Israel may have violated an arms agreement with the use of cluster bombs in Lebanon. montrealgazette.com

Lack of a few shekels saves Israeli woman from suicide bomber

MEHDI LEBOUACHERA
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS

EILAT, ISRAEL — Muriel Zohar owes her life to a few shekels — the amount she was short of when she went to her local bakery to buy fresh bread yesterday, minutes before a suicide bombing ripped the place apart.

She had intended to buy bread

at the Lehamim Bakery near her house in the Red Sea resort of Eilat, but was forced to return home because she was 2.4 shekels (67 cents Canadian) short.

"Like every morning between 9:30 and 9:35 a.m., I went to buy a baguette at the bakery," 39-year-old said after the blast that killed the bakery owner and two em-

ployees, along with the suicide bomber.

"The shopowner told me that I needed more money, so I went back home to get it," Zohar said. "When I came out of my house and was on my way back to the shop, I heard the explosion.

"I saw bits of flesh flying through the air," she said, shaking and crying nearly seven

hours after the blast. "I saw a hand on the ground. I couldn't move. My whole body froze. I was shaking. Bits of flesh were on my T-shirt."

Yesterday's suicide bombing was the first such attack inside Israel in nine months and the first in this resort town, which had been a safe haven for Israelis fleeing suicide attacks through-

out the country over the years.

"I came to Eilat to flee the attacks, but they found me," said Etti Nizri, 51, who moved here four years ago from Tel Aviv, her home for 25 years.

"I no longer feel secure here. The security in Eilat is finished," she said. "We provide the Arabs with work and they thank us with the bombs."

APPRECIATION

Barbaro captured hearts

EUTHANIZED

Injury robbed sport of one of the greatest racehorses

ANDREW BEYER
WASHINGTON POST

PHILADELPHIA — Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, whose struggle to overcome injuries he suffered in the opening moments of the Preakness Stakes captured the sympathy of millions, was put to death yesterday after his owners and veterinarian decided the latest complications had put the horse in too much pain and he had little hope of recovery.

The 4-year-old colt survived for more than eight months after shattering his right hind leg on what most believed was a simple misstep at the start of the Preakness last May 20. As recently as last month, his veterinary surgeon, Dean Richardson, said the horse was close to being released from the hospital.

But Barbaro, who had survived a near-fatal crisis in July, suffered the latest of several serious setbacks last weekend when the foot on his surgically repaired right hind leg developed a deep hoof abscess. Veterinarians operated to install an external metal brace in what they called a risky attempt to diminish the weight the horse had to bear on the foot. After a bad night for the horse Sunday, Richardson and owners Gretchen and Roy Jackson made the decision they had tried so long to avoid.

"It was the right thing to do," Roy Jackson said.

Unlike movies and books about the sport, real-life horse racing does not often produce stories with happy and satisfying endings. Modern thoroughbreds are so fragile that people who spend their lives around the animals always brace themselves for the worst outcomes.

But even for the most hardened racetrackers, the death of Barbaro was a depressing loss.

His injury robbed the sport of a horse who might have been one of the best, one who had the potential to accomplish feats without precedent. His death cost the thoroughbred world a stallion who might have made a lasting imprint on his species.

Now we can only speculate: What kind of racehorse or stallion could Barbaro have been? How will history remember him?

It is almost impossible to make a definitive assessment of a horse whose career ends too soon. Three other recent Triple Crown contenders — Aflleet Alex (2005), Smarty Jones (2004) and Point Given (2001) — were retired prematurely, and their places in racing history are uncertain. Barbaro accomplished no more than any of the three; his reputation rests principally on his victory in the Kentucky Derby. His winning margin was the largest in 50 years, but he beat a below-average group of 3-year-olds and his winning time, while good, was not extraordinary.

Yet Barbaro was quite possibly better than any of the above-named colts and was very likely the best U.S. 3-year-old since Spectacular Bid. He accomplished his Derby victory so authoritatively that the performance only hinted at his ability on dirt.

He will, of course, be remembered as a horse who captured the public's interest more than any thoroughbred in at least 20 years. And he will be remembered for helping to show the very best aspects of the sport.

Critics of horse racing often say that owners and trainers exploit the animals in their care, but Barbaro's final eight months demonstrated the usual nature of these relationships. People in the sport love these fragile creatures and are devastated when they are hurt.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT