

1947

Junior Champion Rods Dominate Grid Select

By JACK MATHESON

Reo Rods, alias Fort Rouge Rods, still reign supreme in junior football circles after two post-war seasons. Monday night the battling lads of Bob Divens and Chick O'Connell took their second straight junior grid crown, downing Weston Wildcats in the second game of a two-game series.

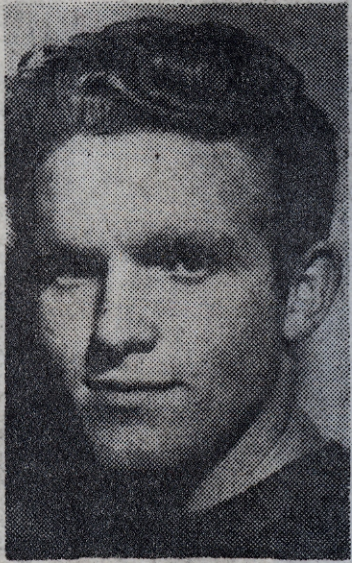
With the Clenched-Fistlers sitting pretty at the top of the heap for the second consecutive year, it is only fitting that the kids in the Maroon and White should dominate the 1947 Tribune junior football all-star select.

TAKE 2 AD—Reo Rods Six members of the Reo Wreckers nailed down starting posts on this year's dream team, while Weston Wildcats placed four men, and St. John's College Grads, who made a great showing in their first season of league competition, took two spots.

The team lines up as follows: CENTRE—Rod (Red) McDonald (Rods). GUARDS—Don McKenzie (Rods) and Ian McTavish (St. John's). Tackles—Ron Vaacher (Rods) and Harry Langford (Weston). ENDS—Art McKinnon (St. John's) and Jim Langford (Weston). QUARTERBACK — Ritchie Kolisnyk (Weston) HALFBACKS — Paul Cholakis (Rods), Cliff Kliewer (Rods) and Gene Zakala (Rods). FULLBACK —Nestor Tesluk (Rods).

Dropping down from Blue Bomber ranks to see more action with the juniors, McDonald was a 60-minute man in just about all eight games for the Rodmen. Although his snaps weren't faultless, the big redhead was a ball of fire defensively. Vic Solylo of Weston takes the runner-up nod.

At guard, big Don McKenzie, Kelvin graduate in his final fling at the junior circuit, is the most under-publicized lineman in the loop. But his devastating tackling and brute strength on the offence has helped the Rods out



DON MCKENZIE

of many tight spots. McTavish, who reached the Johnnians via St. John's College school squads and Gordon Bell last year, was the strongest link in the new entry.

Many pres-box quarterbacks rate Ron Vaacher the top lineman in the loop. The ex-Panther, unanimous tackle selection in last year's TRIBUNE inter-high select, won the nod hands down this year. At the other tackle slot, Harry Langford of Weston was in on at least half his team's tackles, which gives him the nod over such starry perform-

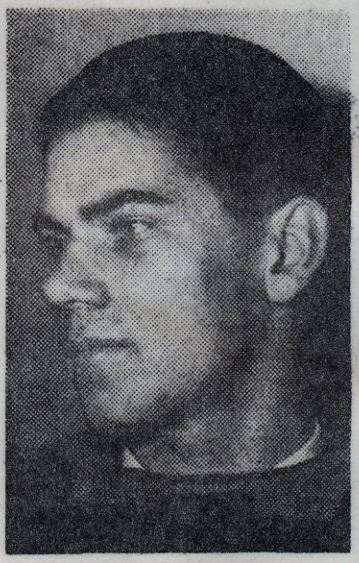


HARRY LANGFORD

ers as Jack Bouchard, Harry Cholakis, Lloyd Lockyer and Julius Minuk.

Art McKinnon and Jimmy Langford held down end posts over some talented opposition, including Bruce Pirt and Gordon Sturtridge of Rods and Don Sebastian of the Wildcats.

At quarterback, Ritchie Kolisnyk called few bad ones and displayed the best pitching arm in the loop, giving him the inside track. The three First-Swingers along the half line can't be dis-



ART MCKINNON

puted, with Gene Zakala moved from his usual signal-calling post to handle the punting. Nestor Tesluk was the fightingest operator on all three squads, and for a little guy, he took the strain with the best of them.

Other backfielders worthy of note (and there's a million of them) are Al Dryburgh, Jack Bryant, Russ Luining and Al Simcoe, of Weston; Ralph Watts and Rollie Lanthier of Rods; and Jack Katz, Dick Murphy and Rae Tallin of the Johnnians.