

Marrs Out To End Drought

By BILL GUY

PORT ARTHUR (CP)—Port Arthur Marrs will be out to end a 19-year Memorial Cup final drought when they start the best-of-seven Western Canada junior hockey final tonight against New Westminster Royals.

It was in 1947-48 that a Port Arthur team last gained the national final. That season the West End Bruins rolled over the favored Barrie Flyers in four straight games in Toronto to bring home the city's lone Memorial Cup.

Port Arthur's last western finalist was the North Stars in 1955-56. They lost to Regina Pats in a seven-game series with the last game going into overtime. The last Lakehead entry in the western final was Fort William Canadiens and they bowed to Flin Flon Bombers, Memorial Cup champs, in 1956-57.

Marrs handily won the Thunder Bay Junior League this season and went on to oust Fort William Canadiens in five games in a best-of-seven final. They next shelved Geraldton Gold Miners, Northwestern Ontario Junior League champs, in straight games in a best-of-five

branch final. Flin Flon Bombers were next and the Manitoba champs bowed out in six games.

"We don't know much about New Westminster," admitted Marrs coach Albert Cava. "I just know it's going to take a pretty good hockey team to beat us."

"I see they've made us underdogs again in this series. That's the way we like it. They didn't think we'd have much of a chance against Flin Flon either but we fooled them."

A big factor in the team's success to date has been a strong forechecking game and they plan to keep it up against Royals.

If Marrs have a weakness it may be lack of depth. They have a nucleus of half a dozen or so experienced veterans.

Ray Adduono, a five-year junior, is the leader on the attack. He has three league scoring titles in five years and was runner-up once. In 28 league games this season he counted 81 points. He's maintained about the same pace in the playoffs, totalling 41 points in 14 games. Adduono, after almost five seasons at centre, was switched to right wing late this season.

Sophomore Dave Merritt, a 17-year-old, centres Adduono and Tim McCormack. McCormack, in his fourth year with the team, is its top goal-scorer in the playoffs with 15 and also led during the regular season.

Ron Busniuk, a pickup from Fort William Canadiens, centres the second line. Cliff Stewart is on the right side and Chuck Kelner, a pickup from Geraldton Gold Miners, on the left wing. Rookie Johnny Healey is between rugged Bob Kelly and Rick Klukie, another rookie, on the checking line.

The defence is anchored by Ken Rodgers and John Ferguson. Rodgers is a B.C. native

and played the last three seasons with Kamloops. Thus far in the playoffs he has 22 points, including eight goals, three of them game winners. Ferguson is a five-year veteran and a pickup from Fort William Canadiens. John Crocker, in his third season of junior, and Jack Owchar and Bill McCracken, two-year men, round out the defence.

In goal is Johnny Adams, a four-year veteran considered by many as the best in Western Canada.

The Lakehead portion of the western final will be played in Fort William Gardens.