

# Scads Of Sports During That Dead And Gone Year Of 1963

Yesterday saw a robust youngster name of 1964 give the heave-ho to a creaky-kneed old gent shouldering a scythe who went by the moniker, 1963.

And while the old boy toddles off into oblivion let's just grab a gander at the somewhat beatup diary he left behind and find out what went on in the Vernon sports world during his 365-sojourn.

So we won't get mixed up with dates, months and assorted chronological impedimenta we'll conduct our post-mortem, sport by sport. First, hockey:

**HOCKEY:**—It was a so-so year for hockey in Vernon, some success, some failure. Plenty of interest.

## Off With Wallop

The Vernon Blades started out 1963 with a wallop, blasting visiting Penticton Junior Veas 15-1 in an Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League fixture New Years Day. However they didn't continue in like form against either Kamloops Rockets or Kelowna Buckaroos and consequently ended the regular season with a dismal 9-22 record.

Hap Schaefer took over the reins of the club from Bill Brown in mid-January but the switch failed to be a winning one. The Blades, largely sparked by the super-colossal goaltending of Cranbrook recruit Gary Holland, fought the Buckaroos hard and well in the playoffs but lost a best-of-seven semi-final set four games to one.

Later on in June the Penticton Jr. Veas found the going too stiff and dropped out of the OJHL for the 1963-64 season departing with a tentative promise to return the following year. Efforts were made by league officials to revive the moribund Veas but they succumbed, leaving Vernon, Kamloops and Kelowna to continue.

The league resumed in October and the Blades continued to come up losers and, to

date, they are still having troubles, win-wise.

Vernon Canadians, revamped and revived, got their lumps too during the early part of 1963 in the Okanagan Intermediate Hockey League. At one stretch they suffered seven straight losses.

They came alive again, however, in the February OIHL semi-finals, dumping Kelowna Packers twice in a best-of-three series with some well-needed assistance from two old Canadians, Walt Trentini and Johnny Harms. Nevertheless, Odie Lowe's crew came a cropper when they met Kamloops Chiefs in the playoff finals. They lost three straight and the best-of-five series. The Chiefs later took the B.C. Coy Cup. **League Failed**

The intermediate loop failed to reform in September and, at present, only the Chiefs are contesting the Coy Cup again from the Okanagan-Mainline area.

The big winners in Vernon hockey in 1963 were Tom Stecyk's Midget All-Stars. Starting in early February the Midget Blues rolled over Kelowna Summerland, and Kamloops to win the Okanagan-Mainline title, then lambasted Quesnel in another series. They got their comeuppance, however, from a powerful New Westminster contingent which rolled back from a first-game 5-2 deficit to take the B.C. semi-finals 12-8 early in March.

The first part of the 1963-64 season sees the Midgets once more rolling along atop the Okanagan loop. They ended 1963 in successful fashion, winning the Quesnel tournament for the second straight year.

In the North Okanagan Hockey League Lumby Flying Frenchmen emerged as holders of the Mc and Mc Cup again, taking the final series from Grindrod Elks.

As for Clark Marshall's Kal Hotel Juniors, they had their troubles too—at the plate and weather-wise. Frequent rain-outs loused up the schedule but they somehow muddled their way through, finishing third behind Kamloops and Summerland.

Sharp pitching by Daryl Douglas and Howie McNeil highlighted the season. In the semi-finals the Kals were eliminated by the Jay-Rays and coach Marshall announced (again?) his firm intention to call it quits.

Reg Main was a tall figure in 1963. The ace right-hander successfully got through the New York Yankees' training camp and eventually ended a successful year at Harlan in the Rookie League as a reliever-starter.

**SOFTBALL:**—Not much of note. The senior girls McCulloch failed to materialize for 1963. The City crew won the Commercial Softball League silverware in June.

**SOCCER:**—Success, success and more success. The National Royalites had probably their best year ever, winning just about everything in sight.

They won the National Hotel Trophy in April at a local tourney, the Okanagan Valley Soccer League title in June as well as the playoff Royal Cup.

## Won Tourney

Later in August they scorched past Seattle and Spokane in 90-degree heat to win the first annual Inland Empire Soccer Tournament at Spokane. Spokane visited the 'Lites on the Labor Day weekend and were toppled 4-1.

But this didn't end it. Resuming the regular OVSL fall round (first half of 1963-64 schedule) they swept through undefeated and presently hold a 31-game unbeaten streak stretching back to last spring.

**FOOTBALL:**—Repeat, more success. The Vernon Panthers, led by rookie quarterback Rick Suggan, clawed an

**BASKETBALL:**—Vernon Panthers and Pantherettes more or less finished with identical records early in 1963—good but not good enough to make it to the B.C. finals.

Jim Webster, so far, has had lesser luck in the fall round. His Christmas Tournament met with success and so did Penticton Golden Hawks, winning the championship trophy from Kamloops Red Devils.

**TRACK AND FIELD:**—For the first time in years Vernon High School saw the Valley Track and Field title go elsewhere—to Penticton, after a 16-year drought.

In August the Canadian Legion's JOTP meet was held in blistering heat at Polson Park. Top tracksters were Vancouver's Jana Lundy with two new Canadian jumping records and Prince Rupert's fleet Bill Hardy.

## Swim Club Organized

**SWIMMING:**—A big year for Vernon. A Swim Club was formed in the spring and by the end of the summer had itself a racing pool at Kal Beach.

Vernon City Council and the Recreation Commission assisted greatly in getting the club on its feet financially.

**GOLF:**—In golf, a young 22-year-old named of Jim Nolan was the standout figure. He burned up various courses throughout the Interior, winning the Interior Men's tourney at Revelstoke.

In a hot final with Wally Janicki he lost out for the Men's Club Championship, four and two in match play. George Watson won the Junior Men's title and also had fair success with father Clem in various tournaments.

Vic Swain of Edmonton won the Vernon Open and (yes, again) Jim Nolan finished in the runner-up spot.

**TENNIS:**—Bill Barlee of Penticton won the Men's Singles title and Joan Batterton of Kamloops copped the Ladies' Singles event in the

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# Blades Enter 1964 Still Stuck In Losing Groove

**Kamloops 10, Vernon 3**

Vernon Blades obviously didn't make any New Year's resolutions yesterday — they're still stuck in the losing groove like a well worn phonograph needle.

Giving a holiday crowd of 200 or so little to cheer about, the Blades were splattered 10-3 by the visiting Kamloops Rockets in an afternoon Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League fixture at Vernon Civic Arena.

For the Rockets it meant the end of a long jinx put upon them by the local Blues this season. In three games here previous to New Years the Blades have rocked the Rockets three times in a row and four times in six meetings.

But they would have none of it New Year's Day and there was little the Blades could do (or possibly find) to stop them.

Winning yesterday also meant the Rockets regained a plush six-point lead over second place Kelowna Buckaroos. They presently have 17 wins and a tie for 35 points, Kelowna 14 wins and a tie for 29.

The Blades struck first in the afternoon contest, Bobby Stein scoring unassisted, and it looked like the Vernonites were set to come through again.

But no. Starting at 11:16 of the first period the Rocketeers found the range and the back of the net three times to take a 3-1 lead, extended

their margin to 6-1 in the middle stanza with another hat-trick and outscored the hapless Blues 4-2 in the final 20 minutes.

Slick centre Murray Owen, the Regina Pat cast-off, was perfection personified for the Rockets, scoring five goals to lead their barrage. Winger Eddie Begg fired in a pair, while singles went to Larry Roberge, Dale Sandyke and Rick McShane. McShane also picked up four assists.

For Vernon it was Stein twice and one assist and Buck Sherk with a singleton.

The game was fast moving but too lopsided to give fans enjoyment. Only two penalties were called, both to Vernon's Gordie Nuyens. The Blades were bested in total shots on goal, 30-27.

## Lynne Sawicki Seeking B.C. Skating Title

Vernon's Lynne Sawicki will be one of the top contenders from the Okanagan-Mainline area competing in the B.C. Figure Skating Championships at Kelowna this week.

Lynne will be seeking the B.C. Senior Ladies' figure skating crown. She earlier won the Okanagan-Mainline Senior Ladies' title in the championships held early in December.

She will be the only one competing from Vernon in the B.C. championships.



# Rockets Soar Along With Six-Point Lead

Kamloops Rockets continue to dominate Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League statistics in every important category.

In league standings they are cruising along on top with a six-point cushion over second-running Kelowna Buckaroos, centreman Eric Shishido and four compatriots are grouped in the top ten in individual scoring and goaltenders Lee Simpson and Harvey Budarick have the best averages in the league.

To date the hot-shot Rockets have 17 wins and a tie for 35 points, the Buckaroos trail with 14 wins and a tie for 29 points and Vernon Blades are far back in the dust with a mere five wins and 10 points.

Shishido is having trouble holding sole possession of the scoring lead. He presently has 16 goals and 29 assists for 45 points but is being hotly pressed by a rival Rocket centre Larry Roberge who has amassed an even score 22 goals and 22 assists for 44 points, just one behind.

Then there's a traffic jam in third spot with Rocketeers Brian Fourt and Glen Richards tied with Kelowna's John Strong. They each have 43 points, Fourt on a league-leading 24 goals and 19 assists, Richards on 14 goals and 29 helpers and Strong on 21 goals and 22 set-ups.

Vernon's pivot Bobby Stein had surged into a tie for fourth spot with 37 points on 22 goals and 15 assists. Kelowna's Harvey Stolz also has a 22-15 record and also deadlocked with 37 points is Kamloops' Dale Sandyke with a 21-16 mark.

Simpson is the top goaltender with a neat 3.66 average based on 55 goals given up in 15 games. Budarick is second with a 4.00 average. The most penalized player in the league is Vernon's fiery defenceman Gordie Nuyens with 86 minutes all told.

## League Scoring (Top 20)

	G	A	PIM	P
Shishido (K)	16	29	2	45
Roberge (K)	22	22	23	44
Fourt (K)	24	19	32	43
Strong (Kel)	21	22	49	43
Richards (K)	14	29	54	43
<b>Stein (V)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>
Stolz (Kel)	22	15	38	37
Sandyke (K)	21	16	15	37
Bulach (Kel)	13	22	22	35
<b>Agar (V)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>
Owen (K)	19	11	0	30
Strong (Kel)	9	21	16	30
Steinke (K)	7	21	65	28
Rinaldi (K)	5	23	59	28
McShane (K)	11	15	4	26
Begg (K)	9	17	2	26
<b>Sherk (K)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>
Schnepf (Kel)	16	7	30	23
Verna (Kel)	14	9	23	23
Kasubuchi (Kel)				
	10	11	26	21

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