



Players get a raw deal

January is the time of the year when sports fans get wrapped up in the excitement of all-star games. Not only does the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association have their all-star encounters, but there is the National Basketball Association all-star game, the Western Canada Hockey League all-star game, and dozens of others.

Closer to home, the teams have now been picked for the upcoming B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star game to be played in Kelowna.

Vernon Vikings' captain Greg Walmsley should be on the all-star squad. Walmsley is the club's leader, on and off the ice. He is the team's third highest scorer, has more than 20 goals, is one of the Vikings' policemen, and the main cog in Vernon's high-scoring WAG line.

JUST TOP SCORERS

No less than three tier one teams were interested in Walmsley this year, but because of his age (he is 19), he remained in Vernon. The tier one clubs elected to go with younger prospects. However, that should not effect his selection to the all-star squad.

However, it is not hard to see how the all-star squads, for both the coast and interior divisions, were selected.

Vernon's top two scorers Dwight Bailey and Grant Sidnick were selected to the squad. Defencemen Brian Griese and Terry Anaka will also play in the all-star game. Griese and Anaka are the Vikings' two highest scoring defencemen.

Obviously the coaches and managers did little more than to pick the top scorers from each team. The BCJHL, in its wisdom, has the teams pick the all-stars. But, why almost every other league, in every sport, allows the press and radio to select the all-star teams?

DEEPLY HURT

One player who was not named to play in Tuesday's Western Canada Hockey League all-star team is bitter.

Ex-Viking Don Murdoch said last week he is deeply hurt about not being selected to the WCHL's west division all-stars.

Murdoch is the highest scoring right winger in the west division with 81 points. He is third in the entire league in scoring and leads the WCHL in goals with 47, eight more than Victoria's Mel Bridgman, who is second.

Everyone in Vernon knows Donny is not the greatest two-way winger in the world, but certainly with scoring credentials like that, he should have at least been a pick-up.

Medicine Hat Tigers Coach Jack Shupe thinks enough of Murdoch that he feels the speedy winger will be drafted by the pros this year, although he has one year on junior eligibility left.

But, the disappointment doesn't seem to be hurting his play. He scored three goals in the Tigers win over Flin Flon Sunday.

PREDICTION TRUE

Speaking of all-stars, last summer Philadelphia Flyers' defenceman Joe Watson was in Vernon to visit his old coach Joe Tennant.

At that time, Watson said his younger brother Jim, also a member of the Flyers, was going to be an all-star in the near future.

It seemed like a bit of brotherly pride at the time because Jim was the Flyers' fifth or sixth defenceman last year. But, Joe insisted his little brother was going to be one of the NHL's best.

Well, right now Joe could probably get a job as a fortune teller. Jimmy will be playing in the NHL all-star game Jan. 21 in Montreal.

He has blossomed into a solid, all-round defenceman and could be an all-star for many years to come.



JUVENILES HOT

One of the big reasons the Vernon Juvenile Reps have been red-hot lately has been

the outstanding play of goalie Leon Nowek. Juveniles, who have won

their last six games, will be out to stretch their streak Sunday when they travel to

Penticton. Nowek robbed Bruce Townsend on this play in practice Tuesday. (Daily News Photo By Don Kendall)

BUT WON'T PAY

Merritt fined \$1,000

Tonight may be the final opportunity to see the Merritt Centennials play hockey this season.

Vernon Vikings host Merritt Centennials tonight but, for the Cents, it could be their last game of the season.

B.C. Amateur Hockey Association Monday fined Merritt \$1,000 for using players not properly registered with the association. If the fine is not paid by Friday, the team will be suspended by the BCAHA. After that time, any team playing against the Centennials would also be suspended.

Merritt President Don Dewintz said today his club will not pay the fine.

Dewintz said, "As far as I am concerned we have done nothing wrong. We had some players on tryouts, but none of which were not first approved by our league office. We have been running a fairly marginal operation for the past few months and cannot afford that type of fine."

"As yet, we have not been advised as to which players were allegedly used against BCAHA regulations."

The BCAHA will not grant the Centennials an appeal.

Vernon Vikings' Coach and General Manager Joe Tennant termed the fine as, "Ridiculous and unjust."

Tennant said, "Merritt has been struggling all year to become a competitive team and they have now reached that point. Then the BCAHA comes along and hits them with a fine like that."

"It is rulings like that which made the Western Canada Hockey League decide to break away from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and become independent next season."

BCJHL President Bryan Couling said today he would not make any official comment on the fine or suspension until Friday. However, he did say a league meeting will be held prior to the payment deadline.

Meanwhile, in Vernon tonight, three fans will go home \$500 richer.

Holders of special tickets, being sold at the door or in advance from players and executive members, will have

the opportunity to win \$500 each period in a draw.

VIKINGS' SCORING

PLAYER	G	A	Pts.
Bailey	32	28	60
Walmsley	21	28	49
Areshnekoff	20	28	48
Sidnick	19	30	49
Gilchrist	18	22	40
Stein	14	24	38

Billsten	16	21	37
Anaka	2	33	35
Booth	14	18	32
Griese	5	24	29
Schultz	13	14	27
Lloyd	4	16	20
Boychuk	12	7	19
Lefley	11	8	19
Gassoff	5	14	19
Poeschek	1	4	5
Teske	1	2	3

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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Frazier gets 30 in all-star game

PHOENIX (AP) — Walt Frazier, the silky-smooth New York guard, scored 30 points Tuesday night and a determined East team virtually negated the opposing team's being sold at the door or in advance from players and executive members, will have

While the Knicks' captain was killing the West with his bullseye shooting, the underdog East's dogged defence held the West's three towering centres — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bob Lanier and Sam Lacey — to a total of 15 points. And the smaller East team of

WCHL to withdraw from CAHA affiliation

VICTORIA (CP) — Western Canada Hockey League governors agreed unanimously Tuesday to withdraw from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

In a conference prior to Tuesday's 10th annual WCHL allstar game, the governors also agreed to increase the age limit by at least one year for the 12-team league and to seek separate agreements with the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association.

The changes will become effective after the Memorial Cup playoffs later this year in Kitchener, Ont.

League president Ed Chynoweth told a news conference the decision was prompted by recent moves by the CAHA and the federal government, and failure of the pro leagues to live up to the current one-year agreement.

"We now will control our own destiny and we're through with dealing through a third party (CAHA) comprised of

people who have no direct investment in the sport," Mr. Chynoweth said.

NO LEADERSHIP

He cited lack of leadership shown by the CAHA over non-payment of development monies by pro clubs; increased involvement by the federal government in hockey and, in particular, reports that Alan Eagleson and Father David Bauer had been asked by federal Health Minister Marc Lalonde to negotiate further international series.

Eagleson, executive director of the National Hockey League Players Association, would deal on the professional level while Father Bauer, former head of the now-defunct national team program, would work with the amateur side of such events.

Chynoweth termed the reports "an insult to us" as the WCHL had not been consulted by the government.

On the development money issue, the WCHL claims the two pro leagues owe \$640,000 for players drafted last summer under the agreement negotiated by the CAHA.

"Eight NHL clubs and six from the WHA have yet to pay for players they've been using since October," Chynoweth said, "although there's a good chance we'll be able to get some of it through direct negotiations."

Goalies superb in all-star game

VICTORIA (CP) — Goalkeepers stole the spotlight Tuesday at the 10th annual Western Canada Hockey League all-star game.

The Western Division scored its third straight win, a 4-1 decision over the Eastern Division, but the 3,452 fans, including many professional scouts, cheered netminders on both teams equally.

Ed Staniewski of Regina Pats, selected the top goalkeeper, was unbeatable in his 31-minute stint while Roger Swanson of Flin Flon Bombers, although allowing all four goals, also played a strong game for the east. Staniewski made 16 stops, Swanson 14.

Former teammates Doug Soetaert of Edmonton Oil Kings and Larry Hendrick of Calgary Centennials were also spectacular. Soetaert saved 16 of the 30 shots directed at the Western Division net.

Soetaert gave up the first goal of the game, to Saskatoon's Danny Arndt early in the second period, before Terry McDonald of Edmonton Oil Kings replied for the west later in the same period.

GOT WINNER

Mel Bridgman of Victoria Cougars, selected the top forward, scored the winning goal on a power-play early in the third period and also set up scoring shots by linemate McDonald and Brad Gassoff of Kamloops Chiefs.

Rookie defenceman Gordie Roberts of Victoria closed out the scoring with only .75 seconds to play, booming a slapshot from the left point.

Victoria defenceman Rick LaPointe, who set up Bridgman's goal, was named top defenceman. The three stars were selected by Vancouver Canuck executive Walter Babe Pratt.

