

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

6 VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1975

No tickets left for seventh game

Tonight's seventh, and deciding game, in the B.C. Junior Hockey League quarter-finals, in Kelowna, is a sellout.

By 10 a.m. today, there were no tickets available for the final game of the season, for either the Kelowna Buckaroos or the Merritt Centennials.

Winner will advance to the semi-finals against Vernon Vikings, while the loser will get an early summer holiday.

Starting date for the semi-final series has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, but as yet, it has not been confirmed. If Bucks win tonight, the series will start in Kelowna, but if Cents win, Vernon will get the first home game.

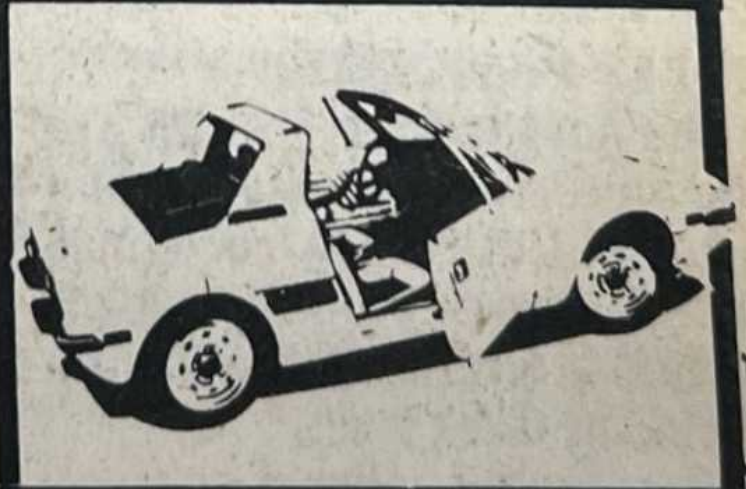
Meanwhile, on the coast, Thursday's scheduled semi-final game between Bellingham Blazers and Nanaimo Clippers was postponed because of a problem at the Bellingham Arena.

The arena, which has been in receivership since last fall,

had power, gas and insurance cut off Thursday afternoon.

The two clubs will now open their best-of-seven series tonight, in Nanaimo. Bellingham will play its home games in Langley, starting Sunday.

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VERNON NEWS

KENDALL'S KORNER

Alf's job demanding



Probably the most frustrating and demanding job in minor hockey, in this area, belongs to Alf Grahame.

Alf is the equipment manager for the Vernon and District Minor Hockey association.

His biggest problem is goalie equipment. The equipment is never returned on time, and often, there is not enough goalie's gear at the arena to strip two netminders.

At \$500 per set, you can see why Alf gets a little worried when some is missing.

The main fault lies not with the players, but with the coaches and parents. It is up to the coaches to return the gear promptly and it is up to the parents to be sure their boys aren't running around the yard with \$500 worth of goalie's equipment.

Sweaters is just about the same story as equipment. Every summer boys are seen in playgrounds throughout the city in minor hockey sweaters. The sweaters belong to minor hockey, not to the boys.

Make Alf's job a little easier and return all equipment promptly.

TWO-FOR-THREE

Who ever guessed that the last-place Nanaimo Clippers would upset the first-place Langley Lords in the B.C. Junior Hockey League semi-finals.

In the pre-playoff forecast, yours truly picked Langley to defeat the Clippers. But, fortunately for Nanaimo, I was wrong.

However, Vikings did take Penticton in six games as predicted, and Bellingham did defeat Chilliwack. So, two-for-three isn't bad.

In the other series, Kelowna was supposed to defeat Merritt in five games. Here they are going into the seventh game tonight.

On one hand, it would be nice to see Kelowna meet the Vikings so the crowds would be larger. A Kelowna-Vernon series would almost guarantee a sellout every game.

But, on the other hand, Vikings might have a better chance of beating the Centennials in a best-of-seven series. Vernon had a lot of trouble with Kelowna at the end of the season and Merritt does not have the depth of the Buckaroos.

EXCITEMENT SATURDAY

Yelling, screaming, shouting, and excitement will be the order of the day Saturday at Lincoln Lanes.

Vernon's bowling alley will be the scene of the provincial Bantam Youth Bowling Congress championships, and if you don't like noise, keep well away.

Youngsters from throughout the province will be bying for the chance to represent B.C. in the Canadian championships.

If you are a bowling fan, or just enjoy good competition, go out and cheer on the young bowlers. Two Vernon teams will be representing the Okanagan in the competition.