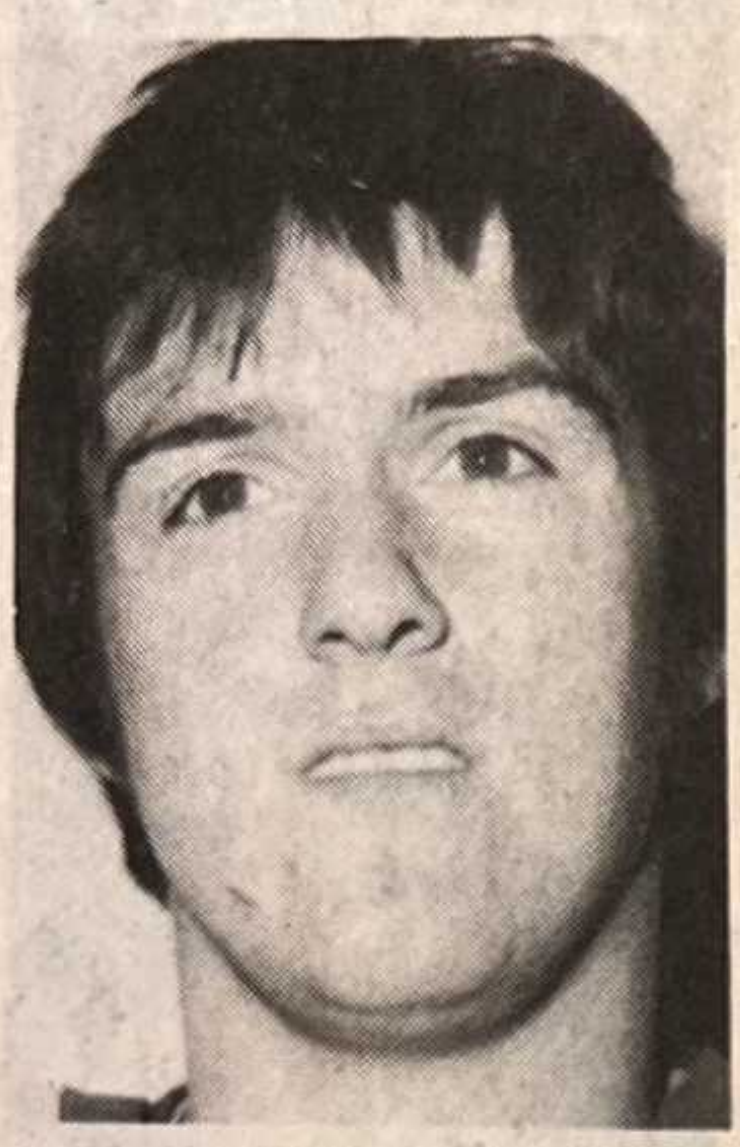
Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Edito



BRIAN GRIESE
. . . adds experience



GARY GASSOFF
. . . returns today

Two veterans back in Vernon

Vernon Vikings won one-of-three games last weekend on the coast and Coach Joe Tennant put the majority of blame, for the losses, on defensive lapses.

The fiery coach wasted little time in patching up the holes.

Veteran Brian Griese arrived in Vernon on Monday after being released by Medicine Hat Tigers. Griese, 20, is particularly adept at moving the puck out of his end, one of the Vikings' biggest problems on the coast.

Another veteran defenceman, Gary Gassoff, is expected back in Vernon today.

Gassoff, 18, returned home to Quesnel to think things over after being released by the Tigers 10 days ago.

100 MINUTES

He had 23 points last season with the Vikings, and more than 100 minutes in penalties.

To make room for the returnees, Tennant sent Wayne Bara, Don Borno, and Rick Adams to Chilliwack Bruins; and assigned Blair Donnelly and Morris Davidson to Grand Forks Border Kings, Vikings' farm club.

Tennant plans to release two more players by Thursday, cutting the roster to 19. Of the 21 players remaining, nine are veterans.

Only doubtful starter Thursday in Merritt is rookie winger Robbie Jacobsen who was injured on the coast. He could be out of the line-up for a week to 10 days.

Spallumcheen ladies' draw

9 a.m. — Mary Burgess, Pat O'Keefe, Rosemarie Von Pentz.

9:06 a.m. — Rae Banner, Faye De Wilde, Pam Ritchie.

9:10 a.m. — Betty Griffin, Rita Guidi, Irene Stark.

9:18 a.m. — Louise Heard, Ethel Caldwell, Phyl Phare.

9:24 a.m. — Frances Leng, Marg Hamilton, Mary Edwards.

LAST WEEK'S CALCUTTA WINNERS

First — Team No. 3, Pam Ritchie, Faye De Wilde, Rita Guidi.

Second — Team No. 5 — Shirley Emblau, Kay Coleman, Betty Griffin.

Third — Team No. 1 — Pat O'Keefe, Mary Burgess, Mary Edwards.

Longest Drive — No. 4 — Shirley Emblau.

Chip-ins — Mabel French, Mary Edwards, Faye De Wilde.

KENDALL'S KORNER



BCJHL in March

It is now time to look into the crystal ball and see what the final B.C. Junior Hockey League standings will be on March 7, after 263 games.

The picture of the Coast Division is almost clear, while the Interior Division final standings are a little foggy.

The Interior Division could go to any of the teams, but here is how I see it:

1. **VERNON VIKINGS:** Who is a homer. Vikings have more depth than any team in the BCJHL. Coach Joe Tennant is having one heckuva time cutting his roster down to 20.

He has enough experience in the form of goalie Darrell Furmanek, Peter Poeschek, Jack Lefley, Grant Sidnick, Gary Huth, Terry Anaka, and company, to settle down the youngsters.

And he probably has the best crop of young players in the league. Calvin Halasz, Darcy Wilkinson, Clyde Goodswimmer and Dean Pratico head the list of rookies.

The strength appears to be at forward, with an experienced but perhaps suspect defence. Furmanek had a good rookie year as a back-up but now has to prove he is a first-stringer.

2. **KELOWNA BUCKAROOS:** The defending Interior champions have lost 11 players from last year's team but appear to have done a good job filling holes.

The Schnarr brothers, Perry and Mark are back, and Perry is probably a good bet to win the league scoring title. So far this season, the elder Schnarr has been red-hot.

Veteran Wayne Krebs, 20, should also be good for 30 goals and Brad Owens, also a 20-year-old, adds a lot of spark up front.

Bucks lost both goalies this season but have two in camp who have been impressive at times.

Strength appears to be that they still have the guns up front who can score goals. Defence is inexperienced and could be a big problem, while the goaltending is unproven but should be adequate.

3. **MERRITT CENTENNIALS:** The Cents should be a lot stronger than last year when they spent all season in the league cellar.

Merritt lost a few key players but still have their big gun Darrell Zelinski, now 20 years old. Last year's second highest scorer, Greg Agar, also 20, had a pro tryout this season but is expected back with the team this week.

Among the other incumbents, Danny Rota is also counted on heavily.

You're going to have to score a lot of goals to beat Merritt because they have a lot of offensive players. But, on the other hand, the defence and goaltending could be weak.

4. **PENTICTON BRONCOS:** Coach Nick Iannone has made numerous changes this year, noticeably in recruiting a bigger club.

While he has several good looking new players, he has lost a lot of talent.

Tough guy Wade Jowett, along with Kirk Aulin, are both in Merritt this season.

Last year's captain Pat Severyn has defected to kelowna, and his brother Mark is attending college in the U.S. The coach's younger brother, also the league's scoring champ, Del Iannone, is overage.

Dennis "Tex" Ewanchuk gives the Broncos a good netminder but the defence is shy on experience. Up front, Gord McKay is back, joined by Clark Turney and Lori Cail, acquired from Langley Lords.

Sixteen-year-old Shawn Dineen can also put the puck in the net.

COAST DIVISION

1. **MAPLE RIDGE BLAZERS:** The defending B.C. champions have at least nine players back from last year's club.

They are big, well-coached, and play well as a unit. After Christmas, they will be even tougher when their big guys get in better shape.

2. **LANGLEY LORDS:** Lords should get off to a good start because they have a young club, and their players are in good shape.

They have lost quite a few veterans to Kamloops Chiefs, Penticton, and other teams. However, Coach Gil Lundhin has a lot of potential on his roster.

3. **NANAIMO CLIPPERS:** Clippers should be considerably better than last year when their rookie-filled club was last on the coast.

Their defence has a year of experience under its belt, and hopefully the forwards will have better shooting eyes this winter.

4. **CHILLIWACK BRUINS:** Bruins have recruited a lot of good, young, SMALL, players. Bruins biggest problem will probably be lack of size.

They have a good skating club, but when the going gets rough, they could be in trouble.