

VEES' GOALIE UNBEATABLE

Vikings eliminated by Penticton

THE OUTDOORS

No fatalities in 1975

By NONIE FRISBY

1975 was the first year in the history of the Fish and Wildlife Branch that we had no fatal firearms hunting casualties. There were 140,839 licensed hunters in the field.

We also had quite a few non-licensed hunters. 266 were prosecuted, and I well imagine there were a good number that didn't get checked.

Could be all the table pounding is having some effect. The C.O.R.E. program may be showing results, and perhaps hunters are just getting wiser. Whatever, British Columbia hunters have set themselves a goal and I hope they will strive to keep the score what it is, and even higher. There were 15 serious and non-serious hunting accidents in 1975, so we still have a way to go.

NOT IDIOTS

The general non-hunting public seems to feel hunting is the most dangerous sport. They often make hunters look like a bunch of idiots with no concern for their actions. The man who goes for a weekend hunting trip is the same man that gets behind the wheel of a big powerful car on Monday morning and drives to work. Accidents happen in every walk of life, but they are not always intentional, sometimes they are what the word implies, accidents.

Firearms licence sales, for resident and non-resident hunters, was down in 1975 and has decreased for the last three years. Reasons seem to be varied. One thought is the high price of gas, but this seems hardly likely to me. If a man can afford to go hunting in the first place, then he will find that extra few dollars for gas.

Lack of game was another reason, but the average hunter got more game last year than previously.

A third thought is that many of our older hunters have either died or given up the sport due to old age, and we do not have as many ardent younger people to take their

place. There is a very strong feeling among the younger generation that animals should be left to themselves as there is no need in this day to hunt for food. Men of my father's age did hunt to supplement the family diet and passed on to their sons the same need, but young people of my children's age know they do not have to hunt for food, only recreation. The age old need to hunt has passed, — golf and tennis are fine recreation.

FOR FUN

Fishing is a little different. People fish for the fun of fishing. Many fishermen do not like fish to eat, it is just a relaxing passtime, but no less a challenge.

Swan Lake is a popular body of water at this time of the year and many local fishermen never fish any other lake. By the time this is being read, Swan should be clear of ice, a little wind is all it needs. While waiting for it to clear, it is still an area of activity.

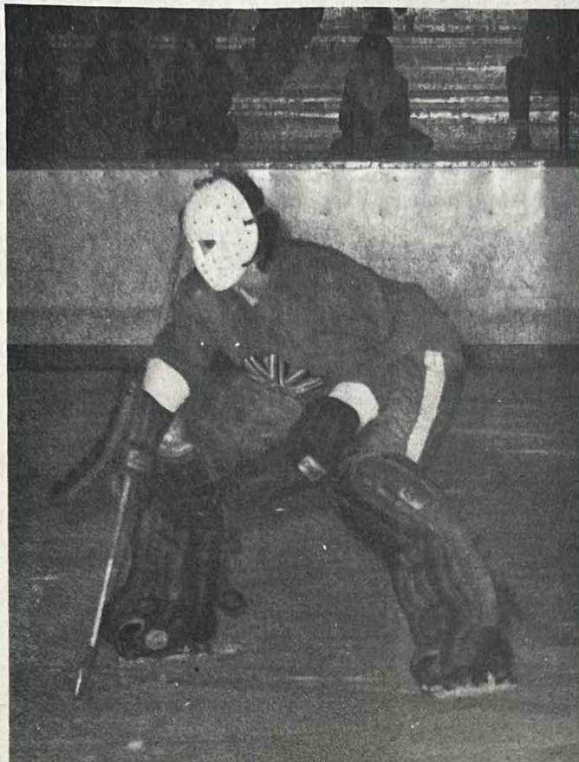
Twenty-five Whistling Swans have come to rest on the open water around the edge and Blue Herons are standing up to their knee joints in open water looking for food. More than 2,000 waterfowl are making Swan Lake home for a while, and when the ice clears, there will be plenty of boats out fishing.

STILL ICY

Contrary to rumors, Sugar Lake is not free of ice, far from it in fact. Last week, there was also about 40 inches of snow. Two or three warm days does not melt a winter's accumulation of ice and snow.

It is unlawful to use more than one line while angling, except a person may use two lines when alone, in a boat, on a lake, excepting the west arm of Kootenay Lake. This is on page four of your sport fishing regulations, please don't look amazed when checked by a member of the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

We are a week into April, past time for your new fishing license.



PAT MURPHY...stopped 53 shots

The
SPORTS
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Flyers withstand barrage

SPOKANE, Wash. (CP) — Spokane Flyers withstood a five-goal Cranbrook barrage in the third period Wednesday night to record a 7-6 victory and take a 2-1 lead in their Western International Hockey League playoff final.

Vernon Vikings 1975-76 season ended sadly Wednesday night before 2,117 fans at the Civic Arena.

Penticton Vees dumped Vikings 5-2 to win their B.C. Junior Hockey League eight-point semi-final series 9-1. There is no way Vikings deserved to lose 5-2, but they did.

Vees' netminder Pat Murphy was nothing short of sensational. He blocked a total of 40 shots before defenceman Brian Griese was able to beat him late in the second period.

MURPHY ARRIVES Best thing that happened to Penticton all season was when goalie Dennis Ewanchuk was injured in January. Vees had to go shopping for another netminder and came up with Murphy. The tall puck-stopper had just quit Vancouver Junior Canucks, of the Pacific Coast League, and fit right in with Penticton.

Ewanchuk returned from his injury, and the duo gave Vees great goaltending as the season ended, and remarkable netminding so far in playoffs.

Murphy finished the game with 53 saves, including 21 in the second period. Vernon goalie Keith Ferner blocked 28 shots.

Jerry Thygeson gave Vees a 1-0 lead early in the first period when he banged Gord McKay's rebound past Ferner.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant

Chiefs knock off Winnipeg

Kamloops Chiefs eliminated Winnipeg Clubs from further Western Canada Hockey League play Wednesday, handing Clubs a 6-3 loss at Kamloops.



JERRY THYGESON ...scored three

created a little excitement at 17:44, of the opening period, when he took his team to the dressing room to protest a call by referee Frank Broders. Broders gave Vikings two minutes to return to the ice, and they did. That strategy seemed to lift the Vernon players, but they were unable to beat Murphy until 16:29 of the second period when Griese let a slap shot go from the point that deflected off a Penticton defender.

HIT POST Steve Danshin had an excellent opportunity to put Vikings in the lead with 52 seconds to go, but he rattled a shot off the post from point-blank range.

Second period ended with the score 1-1, but if not for Murphy, it could have been 1-1.

McKay put Vees back in the lead with a slap shot goal, from a bad angle, at 1:59 of the final frame.

Thygeson, then combined with McKay to stretch that margin to 3-1, and Vernon appeared to be finished. But, the Vikings never said die. Calvin Halasz moved Vernon back to within one goal with a rink-length dash, on a power-play at 14:32.

SCORES THIRD For a few seconds, there appeared to be some hope, but Penticton's veteran captain Thygeson, scored his third goal of the night, just 24 seconds later, to put the game out of reach.

Darrell Becker later added an insurance goal. For Vikings, it was a frustrating end to a fantastic season. Vernon set a handful of BCJHL records on route to winning the league on route to winning the title.

Tennant said after the game, "This is one of the most disappointing losses in my hockey career. With the talent we had, I thought we could go all the way."

"But you have to give credit to Penticton, they worked damn hard. Their goalie was great, but we took a lot of bad shots at him too."

FINAL GAME For at least three Vikings, Peter Poeschek, Terry Anaks, and Griese, it was their final BCJHL game. All three veterans are 20 years old, and ineligible next season.

Griese said, "After four seasons in Vernon, I'm not proud of the way I went out."

Vees now wait for the winner of the Nanaimo Clippers-Merrit Centennials series.

Clippers whipped Cents 7-1 Wednesday in Victoria to take a 6-4 stranglehold in that series.

