

MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICE

This is your final opportunity to vote for the improvement of your choice for the Vernon area. This ballot must be at the Daily News, Box 42, P.O. Box 4000, Vernon, by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Library-Museum _____
2nd Covered Ice Surface _____
Other improvements _____
No improvement _____

The SPORTS Page

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8 VERNON DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, SEPT. 28, 1976

KENDALL'S KORNER

BCJHL prediction



B.C. Junior Hockey League season got under way last weekend, however, Vernon Vikings don't swing into action until Wednesday night when they host Penticton Vees.

Last year, this korner picked Vernon Vikings to win the Interior Division and Nanaimo Clippers to capture the coast; right on both counts.

I'd like to say Vikings are favored to win the Interior again, but it looks like they will be fighting for a playoff berth rather than the division title.

Under the new BCJHL set-up this season, top four teams in each division make playoffs, with the fifth club getting an early holiday. This is the way the league standings should look next March.

INTERIOR DIVISION

(1) **PENTICTON VEES:** Vees came on strong in playoffs last season to oust the Vikings. This year, Penticton should be the team to beat.

Vees might possibly boast the best one-two goalie combination in the BCJHL with Pat Murphy and Jim Scammell. Coach Terry Martin also has devastating power on the forward lines.

Down the middle are Gary Huth, Jerry Thyssen, and Shawn Dineen. The wingers include Darrell Becker, Rob Feenle, John Uvegas, and the fantastic Gord McKay.

If Penticton has a weak spot, it will be defence.

(2) **KELOWNA BUCKAROOS:** Despite rumblings from the Regatta City that Bucks will be weak this season, Kelowna should give Penticton the most trouble in the battle for first place.

Coach Wayne Hornung has the most experienced, and probably best, defence in the league. It is led by Ken Calder, Ian Malcolm, Doug Davis, Bill Audycki, and Scott Lang, all with at least one year of junior A experience.

Goaltending is a bit of a question mark with ex-Merritt Centennial Randy Struch currently holding down the number one spot.

Up front, goal scoring could be a problem. After league scoring champ Mike Wills, Phil Logan, John Oliver, and Rob Wright, the picking gets slim.

(3) **VERNON VIKINGS:** Vikings will probably get off to a slow start and improve as the season progresses.

As long as Keith Ferner stays healthy, Coach Gerry Wenman shouldn't have to worry about goaltending.

The defence appears adequate with sophomore Ken Oulton and highly-rated rookies Brad McDonald and Randy Wills. Twenty-year old Gary Criss and Jim Misener will fight for the fourth spot.

Up front, Vikings have some good defensive forwards, but a definite lack of goal scorers. To be a contender, Vernon must find some players who can find the opposition's net.

(4) **KAMLOOPS BRAVES:** Braves' biggest problem is going to be a lack of experienced players.

The new Interior franchise boasts a young line-up that should improve as the year progresses. However, their parent club, Kamloops Chiefs, lost a lot of good players this year and any good prospects will be up with Chiefs.

(5) **MERRITT CENTENNIALS:** Merritt went with the oldest club in the BCJHL last season, and they are paying for it this year. Gone are the likes of Darrell Zelinski, Greg Agar, Danny Rota, and Gord Cochrane.

In fact, Cents have only two players from last year's squad back this time around. It could be a long season for the boys in the Nicola Valley.

COAST DIVISION

(1) **BELLINGHAM BLAZERS:** Blazers with their 12 Finnish players, a Finnish coach, and a manager from Finland, is the team to beat.

Besides having an exciting team, Bellingham will get a big boost from the huge crowds there. Blazers expect to average 1,200 to 1,400 fans per game.

(2) **NANAIMO CLIPPERS:** Clippers will probably get off to a bit of a shaky start because they lost so many players to the parent Victoria Cougars. However, Victoria will help Clippers as the year progresses.

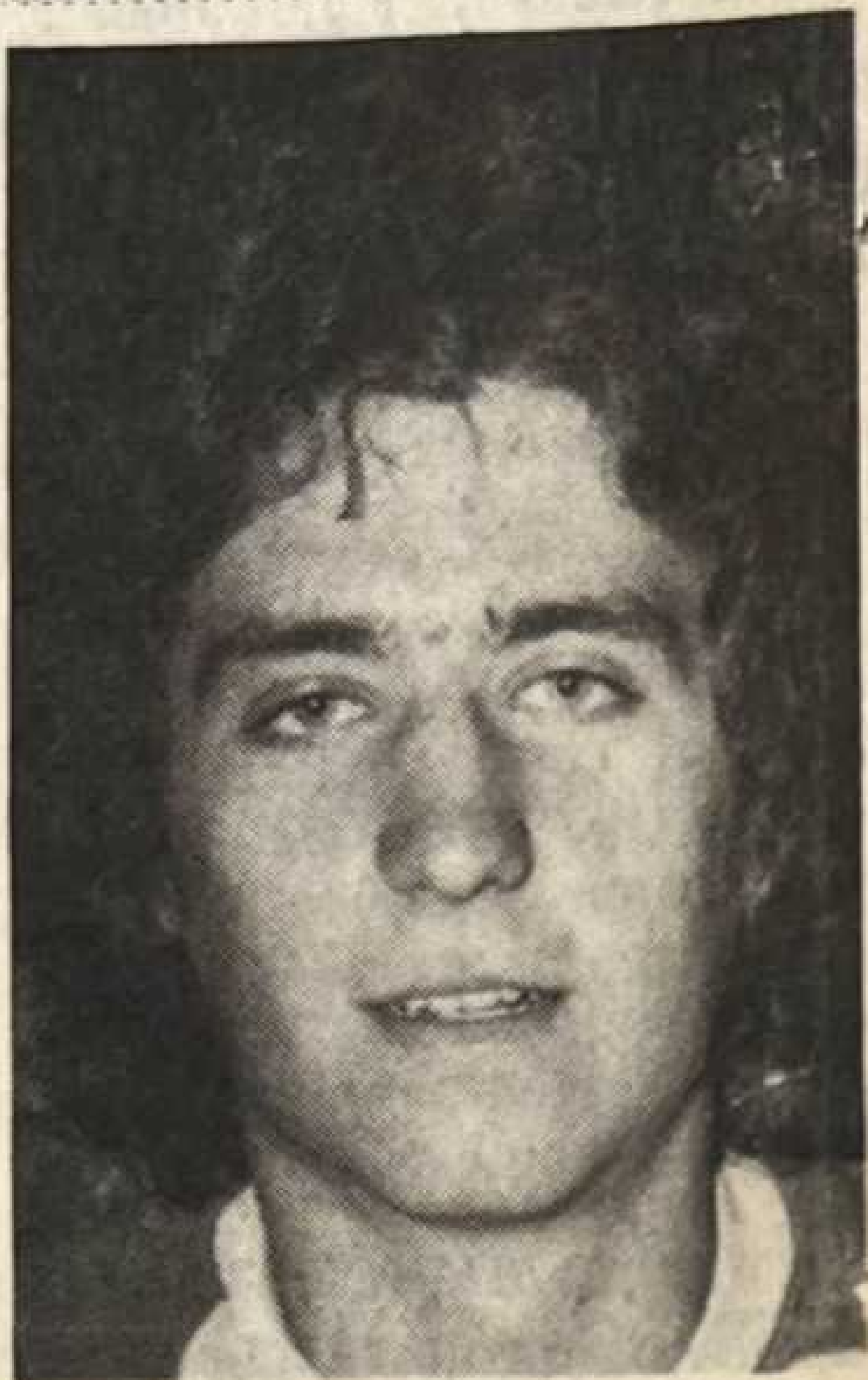
(3) **LANGLEY LORDS:** Lords no longer are affiliated with Kamloops Chiefs, but over the years, Langley has built up a great scouting system on the Lower Mainland.

(4) **maple ridge:** Like their parent club, New Westminster, Maple Ridge Bruins are big and tough. However, unlike New West., Maple Ridge lacks goal scorers.

Goaltending, with Richard Martens, and defence is adequate. But, Bruins need forwards.

(5) **ABBOTSFORD:** Like every new franchise, Abbotsford has a lot of work ahead.

However, with New Westminster and Victoria, of the WCHL, feeding Abby a few players, they could squeak into the final playoff berth. Fan support should be super in the Fraser Valley city.



STEVE DANSHIN
... may go south

DANSHIN ATTENDS WORKOUT

Vernon Vikings had a surprise visitor at their practice Tuesday night.

Centre Steve Danshin, recently released by Medicine Hat Tigers, worked out with the club. However, Danshin is still trying to land a spot with a college team in North Dakota.

The 19-year-old forward told the Daily News he was returning home to Grand Forks today to wait for a phone call from Dakota. If nothing can be worked out with the U.S. team, he plans to return to Vernon.

Danshin was second highest scorer of Vikings last season with 83 points.

Meanwhile, Vikings are working hard in preparation for their league opener Wednesday against Pen-ticton Vees. Vees are considered the team-to-beat this year in the Interior.

Vernon Coach Gerry Wenman hopes to have his team's lack of scoring power offset by tough checking.

Game time is 8 p.m.

Murdoch scores two for Rangers

By NEIL CAMPBELL

The Canadian Press

Chances are general manager Emile Francis of St. Louis Blues has already had his fill of World Hockey Association teams for this season.

Francis, trying to build the Blues into a contender, watched his National Hockey League club take a 4-1 beating from Calgary Cowboys on Monday night.

The Cowboys beat the Blues just 24 hours after another WHA club, Winnipeg Jets, sank the Blues 6-2 at Winnipeg.

In other exhibition games Monday, both all-NHL contests, New York Rangers tied Philadelphia Flyers 3-3 and Montreal Canadiens crushed Boston Bruins 7-1.

Francis, the former Rangers leader who is both coach and general manager of the Blues, will be glad to get back to NHL opposition. The Blues have three wins and a tie against teams from their own league.

LAWSON SCORES TWO

Captain Danny Lawson scored two goals for the Cowboys and drew an assist on a goal by Richard Lemieux. Lynn Powis was the other Calgary scorer while Red Berenson had the St. Louis goal.

No. 1 draft pick Don Murdoch scored twice to give the Rangers their tie with Philadelphia. Murdoch, who scored 88 goals last year with Medicine Hat of the Western Canada Hockey League, got New York its tie with less than two minutes to play.

Phil Esposito was New York's other scorer. Bob Kelly, Larry Goodenough and Reg Leach scored for the Flyers.

Jacques Lemaire and Steve Shutt scored two goals each to help the Canadiens hand the Bruins their fourth loss in five exhibition outings.

Peter Mahovlich, Mike Polich and Gord McTavish were the other scorers for Montreal, which has a 5-2 mark. Terry O'Reilly was the Boston scorer.

Spallumcheen hosts tourney

Spallumcheen Golf Club ladies' division will be holding a closed Mini-Calcutta on Wednesday.

Registration is 8 a.m., with pari-mutual bidding from 8 to 8:50 a.m.

First tee-off is 9 a.m.

Teams are posted in club house and pro shop.