

Breakdown brings action



The latest equipment breakdown at the Vernon Civic Arena could be a blessing in disguise for the people who want to see improved ice facilities in the area.

Obviously, no arena-users are happy about the current shutdown, but the breakdown is the main compressor. However, this breakdown brings to the forefront the urgency of improvements to the existing facility and possibly the need for a new arena.

This is the second time in less than eight months that the compressor has broken down and forced an arena closure. The last time was in 1975, when it forced Vernon Vikings out of the arena just prior to B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs.

The ice started melting last Saturday and the rink had to be closed Sunday. If the temperature was about 10 degrees lower, the small compressor could possibly have maintained good ice. But, with the unusual warm weather, huge holes started appearing.

Vernon Parks and Recreation Director John Mahler applied for a new compressor in his budget for this year. But, the request was delayed according to Mayor Stuart Fleming.

Fleming said, "We worked on the assumption the equipment could be maintained until full renovations could be approved. Rather than doing a temporary job, we felt it would be better to do a full-scale replacement program."

STUDY UNDER WAY

North Okanagan Regional District recreation committee is currently compiling a feasibility study on upgrading the civic arena and construction of a new rink.

Fleming said, "Obviously in view of what has happened, we have a more urgent problem than we anticipated."

Right now, the city's work crew is not concerned with the future, but with the problem of getting ice back in the arena. Due to the age of the compressor, believed to be about 40 years old, local replacement parts is almost impossible.

If another bearing cannot be found, one will have to be manufactured. City officials have not confirmed when they hope to have the arena's doors open again, but it could be a few more days.

It has become apparent that the arena situation is not a problem that will go away if we forget about it for a while.

This shutdown could bring some action, in the very near future, to solve the worsening problem.

TICKETS ON SALE

Silver Star Ski Club will be holding a season opener dance on Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tillikum Valley Ski Lodge.

Advance tickets are on sale at Vernon Sport and Kar's Sport Haus.

Meanwhile tickets are on sale at the Vernon Lodge Hotel for the Vernon Sports Club Christmas party which will increase banquet and dance. The event, scheduled Dec. 29, is expected to attract about 200 people.

The SPORTS Page

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, DEC. 7, 1976

Hapless Barons blanked by Habs

MONTREAL (CP) - It's been tough going for Cleveland Barons in the National Hockey League season, and things don't appear to be improving anytime soon.

The Barons managed to stay close to Montreal Canadiens night, but close didn't count and the Canadiens recorded a 3-0 triumph.

Worse for the Barons than a 10th consecutive game without a victory, however, was the loss of two players with injuries.

Coach Jack Evans said winger Fred Abner suffered a suspected fracture of his lower leg forearm when he fell into the boards early in the third period. Defenceman Len Fric suffered knee injuries early last week and later was joined by Mike Fidler and Gary Sabourin.

The Canadiens made Guy Lafleur's 22nd goal of the season, at 8:07 of the first period, stand up in front of Ken Dryden's third shutout before 16,821 fans.

The injuries brought to six the number of Barons who have been put on the sidelines in the last eight days. Charlie Simmer and Dave Gardner suffered knee injuries early last week and later were joined by Mike Fidler and Gary Sabourin.

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Tigers thump Monarchs

WINNIPEG (CP) - Medicine Hat Tigers overcame an early lead by Winnipeg Monarchs Monday night to post a 5-2 win in the Western Canada Hockey League game of the night.

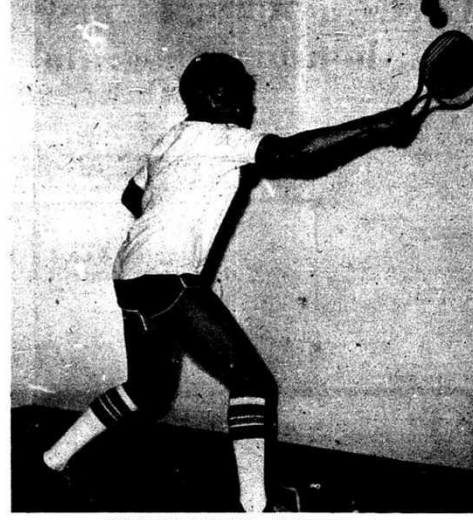
Tigers, who fell behind 1-0 early but emerged with a 2-1 first period lead and then added 3-1 after two, got goals from Ron Aresenhook, Brian Ross, Darrell Curran, David Hill and Tom Bast.

Dave Stekler scored both Winnipeg goals in a slow game that saw Medicine Hat take six of 11 minor penalties.

Peter Pedersen made 20 stops in the Tigers net while Tim Steele was called on to make 30 saves for Winnipeg.

BOWLERS IN THE WICK

This week's top female bowlers are Karlene Kowman of Chum in Friday 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. mixed league, and Lil Jamison, of Alley Croche in the Thursday morning coffee party league. Kowman rolled a 168 triple, 187 pins over her 113 average, while Jamison rolled a 71 triple, 183 pins over her 183 average.



DEBBIE SIGALE-PITMAN... fun for men and women

200 residents discover Vernon's newest sport

By DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

Just one week ago I couldn't have told you a thing about racquetball. Now, I'm a seasoned veteran.

Well, not quite, but I have discovered racquetball is a fun sport.

The recently-opened Vernon Racquet and Squash Club is a busy place these days. To date, more than 200 Vernon residents have discovered the North Okanagan's newest sport.

KEEP IN SHAPE

Besides being entertaining, it offers an excellent way to keep yourself in shape. By the end of a 45-minute session, you know you've had some exercise - believe me.

Racquetball is a unique game in that you don't have to keep yourself in shape. By the end of a 45-minute session, you know you've had some exercise - believe me.

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Ferner gets nod against Kamloops

Veteran Keith Ferner will be between the pipes tonight as Vernon Vikings travel to Kamloops to take on the Braves in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

Vernon Coach Gary Swanson told the Daily News he feels newcomer Rick Mallot is good enough that he can safely alternate his two goals.

Swanson said, "But, I've got to play Keith in Kamloops. It's his hometown and gives him a chance to relax. It is too tough on a goalie to play every game."

Vernon has two more games scheduled before this week ends. On Friday, Vikings will have to maintain their lead with the red-hot Vees, and Saturday night, Abbotsford Flyers are in town for an 8 p.m. game.

Bowlers turnout in mass

More than 280 bowlers took part in the Family Twoomeo Tournament on Sunday at Lincoln Lane.

In Mother and Daughter competition, Nicole Perlas and her mom Judith were 120 pins over average to capture the Jeta division.

In bantam competition, Rhonda Kravis and mother Irene took top honors with 101 pins over average. Top junior duo was Susan Clapp and mom Margaret with a plus-181.

Sandra Dinney and substitute mom Marcel Koenig topped the list of seniors with 103 pins over.

In Father and Son play, Bruce MacKenzie and dad Dave rolled 111 pins over average to top the Jans game group.

In bantams, Arnie Jensen and dad Arnold were 148 over, while top middle duo, with 128 over, was Barry Dooling and dad Tom.

Barry Koenig and dad Tom were a whopping 150 points over their averages.

On Dec. 19, the mothers will team up with sons while their daughters will play with their fathers.

Peewee Repls split two weekend games

Vernon Peewee Repls split a pair of games last weekend in minor hockey action.

Swanson said, "Having another goal is good for Ferner. It takes some of the pressure off him and gives him a chance to relax. It is too tough on a goalie to play every game."

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Raiders hammer Bengals

OAKLAND (AP) - Oakland Raiders assumed control of the National Football League playoffs, made sure Monday night that they will enter post-season "by with the respect they deserve."

Just as Cincinnati Bengals, "I just didn't believe they could move the football with the consistency they did."

Cincinnati coach Bill Johnson said after Oakland, on the strength of quarterback Ken Stabler's passing, downed the club 35-20 and virtually killed the Bengals' hopes of reaching the playoffs.

Stabler passed for 217 yards and four touchdowns, raising his touchdown-passing total to a league-high 27, while the Oakland running attack added 222 yards as the Raiders reeled off their ninth consecutive victory.

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Rangers close in on rest of pack

MONTREAL (CP) - Three weeks ago New York Rangers were last in the Patrick Division of the National Hockey League and appeared headed for a disastrous season.

Although the Rangers are still last in their division, they now trail the leading New York Islanders by only six points heading into this week's play.

After 18 games, the Rangers had won six, lost 10 and tied two in 10 games since, the Rangers have won six, lost only one and tied three. They are undefeated in their last eight games with five wins and three ties.

The Rangers, and their crossover rivals, the Islanders, are the only NHL teams with more points on the road than at home. And the Rangers have lost only once in their last 11 road games.

On Monday, on Saturday, the Rangers defeated the North Stars 11-4, only the third time a Rangers team has scored that many goals in the last six seasons.

The main reason for the Rangers' comeback is the scoring output by veteran Rod Gilbert and rookie Don Murdoch. Gilbert jumped into the thick of the scoring race last week with nine points in four games to move to fourth place in the standings with 41 points. Murdoch has scored 10 goals and left him in 10th spot in the scoring race.

HAS 100 GOALS

The Rangers' offence, with 109 goals, is second only to that of Montreal Canadiens, which has 140. The Rangers have the best power-play in the NHL with 32 goals on 112 opportunities.

In spite of the recent success, it appears the Rangers will have to maintain their current pace to remain in contention for a playoff berth in the Patrick Division where every team has a better than 500 record.

Society applies for four days

Vernon Agriculture Society has applied to the British Columbia Racing Commission for four racing days for July, 1977.

Lionel Valair, vice-president of the society, told the Daily News the proposed racing days are July 10-13.

Valair said, "Despite the application, I'm sure we'll only get three out of the four days. July 17 is a Sunday and we don't think that will get approved this year, maybe in 1978."

In past years, the society has sponsored two racing days.

Meanwhile, officials from five Interior tracks told the racing commission that unless some financial aid from the provincial government is received, the circuit will probably not survive after 1977.

Spokesman for the five centres - Osoyoos, Williams Lake, Kamloops, Princeton and Vernon said that 1976 wagering was up 22 per cent and attendance up 10 per cent over 1975 figures.

The tracks proposed in a bid to the commission that the provincial government's seven per cent wagering tax be rebated to the tracks. Total would handle for the 18 racing days at the five tracks in 1975 was \$461,897, which would amount to a rebate of about \$23,220. The tracks proposed to use the money to improve facilities.

Valair said the Vernon track needs the money not only to improve facilities, but also to raise the purse.

He said, "We did a little better than break-even this year. But, to make the improvements we need, we need the rebate. If the rebate is granted, a lot of work will be done around the track including enlarging the grandstand."

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