CURLING CLUB NEWS



By RON HOUSTON
Vernon Curling Club Manager

Ralph Dangerfield rink of Vernon won the Zone Four senior men's playoff last weekend in Armstrong.

Dangerfield defeated clubmate Horace Webb in the final. Curling with the winning rink were Joe Mullen, Jack Schattler, and Jack Thompson.

Dangerfield now completes in the BCCA finals, in Cranbrook, in late January.

EIGHT ENDER SCORED

Last Monday, in business girls' curling, Maureen Weir, Carol Prentice, Nellie Van Grootel, and Veda Arit, scored a perfect end against the E. Myler foursome.

The Weir team was two down, playing in the ninth end, and in need of a couple points.

It was the third eight-ender at the club, but the first in league play.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The club will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 and 31, and Jan. 1. There will be curling Dec. 28-30 with a small Christmas spiel.

Zone Four Consols finals are being held in Vernon Jan. 9 and 10. Teams are asked to enter as soon as possible.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas Marie.

The SPORTS Page

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MALONEY REMAINS AS GM

Kurt becomes Canuck coach

VANCOUVER (CP) — Orland Kurtenbach, Vancouver Canucks' first captain when they entered the National Hockey League, will be behind the bench tonight in Los Angeles as the club's fifth coach.

General manager Phil Maloney handed over the coaching responsibilities to Kurtenbach Tuesday stating: "I am disappointed with my record as coach this year and can no longer tolerate it."

Kurtenbach, who was coach of the year in the Central Hockey League last season with Tulsa Oilers, flew to Los Angeles Tuesday night and will take charge of Canucks at a practice today in preparation for a game with the Kings.

Kurtenbach takes over a club that is tied with Colorado Rockies for third place in the Conn Smythe Division, but which has the 17th worst record in the NHL—nine wins and three ties in 35 games.

Maloney said he approached club president Bill Hughes on Nov. 22 concerning a coaching change, but at that time it was decided to leave things as they were and review the situation following Vancouver's game in Minnesota on Dec. 18.

"That gave me 12 games and I set a private target of 16 points out of a possible 24," Maloney said. "We fell short by six points, and I felt that wasn't good enough."

Maloney appeared relaxed and relieved after the decision was announced.

"I have only one regret—that I didn't go out a winner. I feel I took this club from a hopeless position in the dressing room and the front office and built a solid base."

Maloney was appointed coach of Canucks on Jan. 14, 1974 when Bill McCreary was fired. Seventeen days later he was appointed general manager as well.

Although the club finished seventh in the eight-team division, Canucks played over .500 hockey for the remainder of the season and finished with their best-ever point total—59.

Next season in the realigned NHL, Canucks finished first in the Smythe Division with 86 points. Last season they slipped to second with 82 points.

Maloney's over-all record with the Canucks is 95-105-32.

"I'm looking forward to concentrating fulltime to general manager," he said. "Kurt will have 100 per cent backing from me and our entire organization.

"Starting today, it's a whole new ball game."

Kurtenbach, who apprenticed as a pro with Vancouver of the Western Hockey League, played 11 seasons in the NHL with New York Rangers, Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs and the Canucks.

He will be getting a pay raise to coach in Vancouver but his contract will not be extended at this time. Maloney will take a substantial pay cut now that he has just one job.

"We have been grooming Kurt for this job," said Maloney.

"He was a natural. He lives in Vancouver and he is respected here as a player by the fans and media. He also knows our personnel very well."

Kurtenbach was asked why he would take the Canuck job at this time. "I was asked. I thought it over, and I decided it has been my ambition since retiring as a player."

Maloney said Kurtenbach will be free to handle the Canucks exactly as he sees fit and there will be no immediate player changes on the club.

"We'll take a period for Kurt to get acclimatized and then get together and talk things out," said Maloney. "I want to go on the road and watch teams play in several games.

STUDY PLAYERS

"I want to study players we might be interested in and then meet the other GMs face to face and talk trade. It's too hard trying to do it on the telephone 3,000 miles apart."

While Maloney got to the point where he considered the two jobs too much, he said that at the time he took them it was the only thing to do.

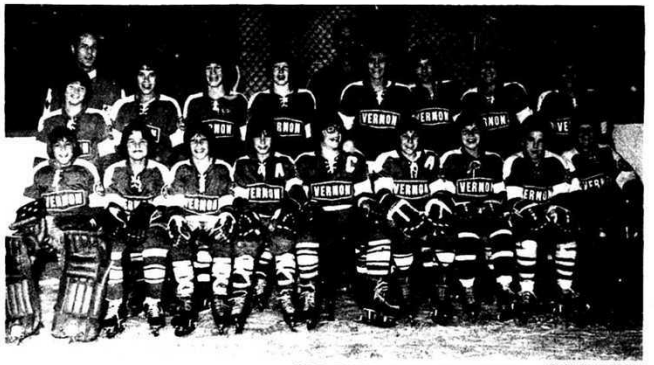
"The front office situation at the time was a mess," he said. "We had Hal Laycoe, Bill McCreary and Larry Regan all going after the general manager's job at the time.

"I knew where I would be if any of them got it, so I decided to apply for it."

Kurtenbach's replacement in Tulsa will likely be announced today. Canucks operate the CHL franchise along with Atlanta, and Maloney feels the Flames should have the first chance to make a replacement.



ORLAND KURTENBACH . . . up from Tulsa



PEE WEES VISIT ALBERTA (Daily News Photo)

First-place Vernon Pee Wee Reps will be taking part in the first annual Red Deer Invitational Hockey Tournament next week. Team members are from left, back row, Manager George Beck, Coach Hank Wensley, and Assistant Coach Al Kowal. Middle row, Greg Kowal, Kevin Savitsky, Scott Leir, Kent Adams, Gordon Olson, Jeff Wejr, Kevin Aelchele, and Rodney Duchscherer. Front row, Todd Beck, David Wensley, Nick Kapicki, Kevin Miskosky, Bob Mordon, Tom Day, Ron Sparks, Robbie York, and Norm Schwing.

Canada's best is high jumper

By MEL SUFRIN
CP Sports Editor

Greg Joy, the tall, slender high-jumper who won Canada's first Olympic track and field medal in 12 years at the Montreal Games in July, is the Canadian male athlete of the year of 1976.

The 20-year-old native of Portland, Ore., who was raised in Vancouver and attends the University of Texas at El Paso edged Hockey Sandy Hawley in the annual year-end poll by The Canadian Press.

Guy Lafleur of Montreal Canadiens, who led the National Hockey League in scoring last season, was third, and Tony Gabriel, the Ottawa Rough Riders tight end who led the Canadian Football league in pass receiving was fourth.

More than 150 sports writers and sportscasters in all 10 provinces cast ballots. Joy received 41 first-place votes, 21 seconds and 21 thirds. Based on a 3-2-1 value, they gave him 188 points. Hawley, 27-year-old native of Oshawa, Ont., who now lives in Mississauga, Ont., received 28 firsts, 25 seconds and 19 thirds for 147 points.

The youngest jockey ever to win 3,000 career races in North America, Hawley was the winner of an Eclipse Award as the leading rider in 1976.

Lafleur, who won the scoring title with 56 goals and 69 assists for 125 points for the Stanley Cup winners, received 24 firsts, 21 seconds and nine thirds for 123 points.

And Gabriel, who caught the game-winning touchdown with 20 seconds to play in Ottawa's 23-20 victory over Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Grey Cup game, was 15-23-17 for 108 points.

The six-foot-four Joy ended Canada's Olympic track and field medal drought on the final Saturday of the Montreal Games before more than 68,000 spectators in the rain-pelted Olympic Stadium. Millions more watched on television around the world.

His best jump of 2.23 metres was good for a silver medal and he pushed 19-year-old Jacek Wszola of Poland to 2.25 to win the gold.

Danny springs for hat trick

CRANBROOK, B.C. (CP) — Cranbrook Royals, led by a three-goal performance by Danny Spring, topped Kimberley Dynamiters 6-2 in Western International Hockey League action Tuesday night.

Other Cranbrook goals went to Brian Dicke, Chris Becker and Terry Tarnow.

Scoring for Kimberley were Brian Mackith and Aurel Beaubin.

Wayne Bell made 31 saves in the Kimberley nets, while Leo Karchie blocked 28 shots for the Royals.

PLAYS GOLF TOUR

George Burns, 1973 Canadian amateur golf champion, is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and now plays on the PGA golf tour.



SPORTS BRIEFS

FIREMEN WIN

Firefighters thumped Raiders 13-1 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Tuesday at the Vernon Civic Arena.

REFS NEEDED

Four basketball leagues, sponsored by the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, are in need of officials. Anyone interested is asked to phone 545-6035. Refs are paid $5 per game.

HELP COACH

Coaches are needed to assist athletes in preparation for the 1980 Wheelchair Olympics. Help is needed in swimming, weightlifting, basketball, obstacle racing, and field events. Anyone interested is asked to phone Sydney Fox at 545-4439 or 542-3781.

PIN POINTS

December 13
Monday Mixed 9-11 p.m.

Women's high single — Peggy Turek 254; high triple — Peggy Turek 739; high average — Peggy Turek 214.

Men's high single — Archie Turek 275; high triple — Jake Wierenga 680; high average — Gordy Ellinson 216.

Team high single — Jake's Mistakes 1257; high triple — Flyers 3591.

"700" Club — Peggy Turek 739.

TEAM STANDINGS

Ill Eagles	337½
I.R.A.'s	328
King Eagles	325
Bald Eagles	305½

December 13
Monday Mixed 7-9

Women's high single — Maxine Graham 306; high triple — Maxine Graham 704; high average — Lil Jamieson 220.

Men's high single — Marcel Gallon 293; high triple — Marcel Gallon 753; high average — Glen Fey 236.

Team high single — Rigormortis Five 1255; high triple — Pin-Ups 3580.

"300" Club — Maxine Graham 306.

TEAM STANDINGS

Pin-Ups	474
Seymour "400" Club	412
Shufflers	392
Happy Gang	379

December 14
Tues. 7-9 Mixed

Women's high single — Sybil Tinkham 307; high triple, Sybil Tinkham 785; high average — Sybil Tinkham 214.

Men's high single — Hank Kranz 314; high triple — Archie Turek 832; high average — John Tyklovich 240.

Team high single — Sharks 1333; high triple Geniers TV Masters 3744.

"200" Club Hank Kranz 314, Sybil Tinkham 307, John Tyklovich 300.

TEAM STANDINGS

Geniers TV	455
Marv's V1	450½
Wirsomes	432
Triple K	411

Bad year gets worse for Silver Star boss

Just when it appeared things couldn't get any worse for Silver Star Ski Area Manager Woody Woodman — it did.

Woodman's family was involved in an accident Tuesday on Silver Star Road. His wife Roxanne suffered a broken foot and his daughter Tammy received a skull injury and is in Kelowna Hospital. Two other passengers were slightly hurt.

The Star has been plagued by a lack of snow this year which is costing the area thousands of dollars per day.

GROSS DOWN

Woodman said, "Our gross intake must be down at least $100,000 so far this year. That is not including season pass sales. The pass sales are down 50 per cent."

Woody estimates Vernon is being hit even harder than Silver Star. He said, "For every $1 we lose on the mountain, people in town lose about $10. If the tourists aren't here, the motels, restaurants, stores, and gas stations all suffer."

On the bright side, Woodman says Silver Star is a lot better off than other areas. Most ski areas in the province are still closed, or operating on a very limited basis.

Woodman said, "We're not doing too badly considering the conditions. The skiers aren't complaining — I guess they are just happy to be skiing."

FOUR LIFTS

Four lifts; the wee tee, mid tee, poma, and Yellow Chair are in operation.

Meanwhile, at Tillicum Valley, the bottom-half of the hill was started today for the first time this year. The handle tow is also in operation.

Conditions are listed as fair, at Tillicum, with much of the base provided by snowmakers.

BCJHL teams hit with fines

B.C. Junior Hockey League Commissioner Ernie McLean levied fines totalling $400 Monday as the result of two bench-clearing incidents in games last week.

McLean fined coaches Doug Sauter of Abbotsford Flyers and Murray Hanson of Kelowna Buckaroos $100 each for not controlling their teams in a Dec. 16 game at Abbotsford.

Goaltender Randy Struch of Kelowna was suspended for three games after being detected as the first player to leave the bench during the brawl.

McLean also fined Kamloops Braves and Penticton Vees $100 each after an incident, in a Dec. 18 game, when the benches cleared.

Meanwhile, Vernon Vikings host Merritt Centennials tonight at 8:30 p.m.

Santa Claus will be on hand for the game as part of a special Christmas promotion. Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News Santa will have a special treat for Merritt Coach Joe Tennant.

Dye said he hopes to have veteran Grant Sidnick in the line-up tonight. Sidnick had been working out-of-town, but more recently, could not play due to a registration hassle with the BCAHA.

In league play Tuesday, Gord McKay led Penticton to a 6-2 win over the Centennials in Merritt.

McKay scored three goals — two of them on power plays — to boost his league-leading total to 52.

A third-period brawl resulted in penalty totals soaring past 100 minutes.

In Langley, 1,060 fans watched the Lords down Maple Ridge Bruins 8-1.

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