

Lack of snow proves costly



The SPORTS Page

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Draw limits the hunters

By NONIE FRISBY

Here we are, just after Christmas and just before New Year's, the weather is very unseasonable and what intelligent thing can I find to say today?

Regardless of the festive season I did find time to read a circular on the limited hunting draw results. Limited hunting is a method of restricting the number of hunters during the next five years and most of the money will be spent in Canada where waterfowl original. Just how much interest can we expect? Kind winter.

So far, the winter has been very kind to our wildlife. The pheasants, those that survive the last hunting season, are not having any trouble at all. Lots of wood-nests and gravel. We could do with fewer dogs. Just last week I saw no less than eight large dogs working a field near our place, and they weren't looking for sparrows. The way they were working any hunter would be proud to have them during the third season. Too bad dogs can't read the hunting regs, and even worse that their owners can't.

FINAL FIGURES

The limited entry moose season near Kamloops had 238 applications for 100 licences, and in Wells Gray Park there were 189 applications for 50 moose licences. These figures will show you that control is being exercised. In Wells Gray Park, 119 prospective hunters were not allowed to hunt, which means that the moose had had a better than average chance, and so did the hunters.

Ice fishing lots of inquiries, but no ice. There isn't enough ice on any lake that I'm going to go out in left field and suggest you try it. They are working near Lake, just enough ice, but no fish caught. Please do not venture onto unsafe ice, be safe not sorry. It may not be cold enough for safe ice, but it will be very cold if you find yourself in the water.

For those of you who have received, purchased, or borrowed the Northwest Sportman any time during the last 31 years, you will be sure to learn Jim Ralton, the publisher is retiring and putting the Northwest Sportman to bed. But Jim is going to continue to publish his very popular Fresh Water and Salt Water fishing guides each year.

Tennis earnings rising at a tremendous pace

NEW YORK (APF) — Professional tennis is a lucrative profession, and statistics published Tuesday show that the nation's top players earn are still rising fast.

Jimmy Connors of the United States, top earner and No. 1-ranked player in the world, has seen his tournament winnings rise to \$687,835 this season from \$280,000 two years ago. And more figures do not include the hefty advertising and endorsement bonuses that can more than double a successful player's actual prize money.

Among women players,



FUTURE NHL STAR?

As soon as she learns to hold her stick properly, 12 year-old Jamie David, of Summerland, may take a run at the big time; that is — they ever allow girls to play. Jamie is just one of hundreds of youngsters who are taking advantage of the Centennial Rink adjacent to the curling club, being open over the holidays.

Panthers from past return for Grad Game

Some of the best players to ever wear a Vernon Panthers' uniform will be back in action Thursday night in the basketball Grad Game at Vernon Senior Secondary School.

Panthers' Coach Rick Inrig told the Daily News the Grad Game will give his squad a real challenge.

Inrig said, "We don't know exactly who all is playing for the Grads, but we do know they've had a good season. We want to use this game as a prep for the Prince of Wales Tournament (in Vancouver) next week."

FROM VICTORIA

Heading the list of Grads will be Randy Forsyth, now playing for the University of Victoria's junior varsity team. Forsyth was one of the outstanding players on Panthers last year.



RANDY FORSYTH ... leads Grads

Canadian junior leagues to test contract validity

CALGARY (CP) — President Ed Chynoweth of the Western Canada Hockey League said Tuesday the three Canadian major junior hockey leagues will hire legal help to test the validity of the standard major junior player's contract and winged Blair Chapman of Pittsburgh Penguins will be used as a test case.

Chynoweth said Chapman is one of several players in the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association who has not fulfilled the terms of a contract calling for payment to his former junior league of \$25,000 after his first season in the NHL.

Chapman was Pittsburgh's first-round choice in the NHL draft and was drafted from Saskatoon Blades of the WCHL last season.

Chynoweth said Jim Wright, who owned the Blades when Chapman joined the team, had given him permission to start proceedings against Chapman.

Chapman is a legal consultant in Saskatchewan, where Chapman played three seasons in the WCHL.

Chynoweth said that the standard contract in the NHL was devised two years ago and was never kept, this year's could not reach agreements with the two major professional leagues over payment of development money.

"We are trying to hit the boys, but without development money, we are in deep trouble financially," said Chynoweth.

He refused to name other WCHL graduates in the same situation as Chapman but said several teams in all three junior leagues could be forced to pay the money he is not providing.

WCHL franchises in Kamloops, B.C., Calgary, Ft. McM., and Winnipeg have had small crowds and are at or near the point of losing money, Chynoweth said.

1976-77 season.

Rick Wilson and Morris Vardabasso, who both play in the highly competitive Dogwood League in Vancouver, will be among the starters. Other confirmed participants include former Vernon athlete of the year John Carr, Doug Lemicki, now playing volleyball at U of V.I.C., Bob Corbett, now in Dallas pro, and Mark Ingram. DAVIDSON MISSING

The current Panthers' squad will be missing Centre Tom Davison, who is holidaying in Hawaii.

Preceding the boys' game will be a girls' Grad Game, putting the best of past seasons up against 1976-77 squad. Girls play at 6:30 p.m., with the boys on the floor at 8 p.m.

The unusually warm winter has claimed the first victim of the ski industry.

Tod Mountain Recreation Ltd., owner-operators of the Tod Mountain Ski Hill, near Kamloops, has had to shut down its Canada to appoint a receiver-manager for its operations.

The reasons cited by owner-manager Peter MacKay-Smith were a lack of snow coupled with a lack of season's pass sales and high costs to repair the mountain's Burfield Chairlift.

President of the Canada West Ski Areas Association Royce of Tilloum Valley told the Daily News he knows of no other mountains in serious financial trouble.

"Dear," he said, "I would hope it doesn't happen at any other area, but I can't say for sure it won't. There are still several mountains not operating due to lack of snow, but I don't know the financial backgrounds. GOOD IDEA

"I look at Tod's move as an effort to stall off creditors — it's probably a good idea, if MacKay-Smith can't make a go of it, nobody can."

"This move ensures the continued operation of the mountain and guarantees the present season's pass holders that their passes will be good," MacKay-Smith said. "The employees will not have to be laid off."

"I feel this is a temporary situation only and will give us a chance to continue our investigations into the retrenching packages we have been working on," he said. "As I am sure everyone is aware, this lack of snow is affecting the ski industry seriously and has affected our business."

"Rather than be forced into this situation at a later date, I felt this move would be a better decision to ensure a continued operation and growth of Tod Mountain for the Kamloops area."

Silver Star Manager Woody Woodman said Tod's troubles date back a long way. Woodman said, "Tod has been in financial difficulty on several occasions and this year's lack of snow certainly hasn't helped."

While Silver Star and Tilloum are now both in full operation and attracting throngs of skiers, several other areas in the province may be asking for help.

NO GRANTS

Boyd said, "Our counterparts in the northwest United States are contemplating asking the government to set up a disaster fund for bad years, much like the farmers now have."

Personally, I don't think that is the answer, I would rather see the government do a job. However, the government probably could help by subsidizing loans, or providing a tax credit on several occasions.

"I'm sure our association will be discussing some type of move, in the near future, along these lines."

Russians rest in Banff after successive losses

By JOHN SHORT

The Canadian Hockey Union coach Boris Malorov took his team to Banff on Tuesday to help them forget successive 1-4 defeats in their first two games of the major junior international hockey tournament and to help him grow familiar with the team.

The young Soviet team, which has lost several players because of injuries, skated lightly after returning from the trip which Malorov said buoyed their spirits.

"I was glad for everybody to play two games in a row as much for young players such as these," he said in an interview while the interpreter who accompanies the team was occupied elsewhere.

He did not need perfect English to explain his problems as the Russians prepared for their game at Medicine Hat tonight against the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League all-stars who thumped Russia 7-4 in Sunday's opening game.

"We will make changes in our tactics if we have enough players to complete the team," he said.

The Russians lost goaltender Konstantin Gavrilin to Los Angeles Alexander Guryev in the opening game and defenseman Alexander Guryev and forward Sergei Tuck.

Malorov said the team was "resting" after the loss Monday night to Ontario's replacement team of the retired Kingston Canadians.

INJURIES 'ENOUGH'

"The injuries are enough for us," Malorov said. "This team was together for only four or five weeks before we came to Canada."

"I did not know all of the names of the positions when the team came together for the first time. They came to us in 10 teams, from Moscow, and I still do not know some of the names."

The Russians have not yet seen the Western Canada Hockey League all-stars, who won their first two games and face Ontario tonight in Calgary but he expects the favored contenders to be the best team here.

Youthful Braves to battle Vikings

The team with perhaps the most potential in the Kelowna Eukaroon moved west tonight to tangle with the Vikings at 8:30 p.m. at the Kelowna Civic Centre. The Vikings, who are 17 years old, may be a force to be reckoned with later in the season. They are big and skated well, but lack experience.

Kamloops took the third-place Vikings by 16 goals, but held only a four point edge over last-place Merritt Centennials.

In BCHL action Tuesday, Kelowna Eukaroon moved within one point of first place in the Interior with a 10-8 victory over Merritt.

Division-leading Penticon Vees have 60 points.

Kelowna grabbed a 3-0 lead by the end of the first period and with tight teamwork extended the lead to 8-1 by the end of the second.

Mike Wills, Scott MacLeod and Doug Davis each scored twice for the Eukaroon, while singles were scored by Les Buh, Robbie Wright, John Oliver and Rod Duchak.

Paul Chadwick, Gary Strick and Dale Adams scored for the Centennials which were assessed 8-15 minor penalties, one of them a major and a game misconduct.

Kelowna's Randy Struch blocked 29 shots, the same number stopped by Kelly Dubs and Doug Bupp combining in the Merritt goal.

Merritt had only 14 players when the game was underway with Kelowna's 18, because of injuries and players away for the holidays.

Horsley re-elected by Tigers

Art Horsley was re-elected, by acclamation, as president of the Vernon Lodge Tigers lacrosse club for the 1977 season.

Horsley, who was named the outstanding lacrosse player in the Interior in his seventh season with the Tigers.

Those elected at Tuesday's annual meeting were General Manager Wolfgang Gächter, Team Manager Laurie Jenner, Treasurer Bruce Allen, and Directors Norm Brown, Bob Duda, and Bob Duda. Gächter, going into his second year of GM, was elected by a vote of 10-0 at the Vernon Lodge Hotel, as the top sponsor in lacrosse in 1976.

Cincy called bandits

CINCINNATI (AP) — Coach Boris Kulagin of the touring Soviet Union hockey team, charged Cincinnati Stingers with tampering with hockey and blasted World Hockey Association officiating after his team outlasted Cincinnati 7-5 in an exhibition game Tuesday night.

Stingers coach Tom Sawyer agreed with Kulagin on his officiating but for different reasons, he said. "They call us bandits," he said, "they're laughing themselves over it. We're not laughing. Everytime they put a man on the ice, they had their sticks up in the air."

"We are more accustomed to hand stop style of hockey than they are," he said. "The Russian team won its first game in a series with WHA last week, but they were in England. Whalers in their opening game Monday night, they were in the team (Stingers) it doesn't matter which way they win in international competition, there is no such rough game."

Kulagin then criticized the officiating. "I don't think the referees want to get a feeling of dirty tricks, we can show them."

"If the officiating had been honest, said Slater, "we would have beaten this team. Everytime we came back, the officials would give us a penalty. They took the momentum away from us."

Stingers' center 5-2 to the moment away from us."

Stingers' center 5-2 to the moment away from us."

Petrov had three goals and two assists.

LAST CHANCE

This is your last week to save \$100 on a new membership at the Vernon Squash & Racquet Club. As of Jan. 1/77 there will be a \$100 initiation fee. A fit person is a happy person. SO JOIN NOW!

Vernon Racquet & Squash Club

2917 - 31st Ave. 545-3002

Teams battle to 3-3 draw

Kisumen battled to a 3-3 tie with Actall in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Tuesday at the Civic Arena.

At Des Moines, Doug Hackett and Murray Greenberg scored for the winners. Bob Clark, Ingie, Ed Polster, and Bob Stein captained Actall.

ROVIZEV WPK

SWITZERLAND (Reuter) — The Soviet Olympic goal mallet edged defeated Switzerland 6-1 in the five-country Spengler Cup hockey tournament.

NAMED FITTING COACH

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates of baseball's National League