

# A look back at the last 2 months

Highlight of the 1976 sports year in Vernon had to be the winning of the city's first national sport championship in 20 years. Vernon Lodge Tigers captured the Canadian Senior B Lacrosse championship, and few people will forget how they accomplished that feat. Winning 38 consecutive games was not enough for night before the game, they needed a little more excitement.

At 12,000 feet, over Plover Creek, Alta., the Tigers chartered airplane caught fire and a precarious landing saved the lives of the entire team.

After it was over, Art Horsey, the club's president, was named executive of the year in C.I.B. and the Vernon Lodge Hotel was named sponsor of the year.

Another team which will stick out in the people's memories is the 1975-76

Vernon Vikings. Vikings broke close to a dozen B.C. Junior Hockey League records including most wins, most points, and longest winning streak.

**VSSB SECOND**  
Vernon Senior Secondary School teams enjoyed an exceptional year. VSSB boys volleyball team failed in its bid to capture a second straight provincial title, but did place second behind a star-studded Prince George squad.

Women girls placed eighth in the B.C. championships and were selected as the Most Sportswomanlike Team.

Another team which surprised a lot of people was the Doug Chilton rink. Chilton's foursome qualified for the consolation final in the third annual Vernon Clearing O'Keefe Car Spiel.

It was the first local rink to stand out, against some of the best curlers in the

world, at the car spiel. Also in curling, Joan Morrison's rink captured the Interior Senior Ladies' Curling Crown.

In girls' basketball, Salmon Arm Jewels won the B.C. high school title for the eighth time in nine years. Vernon Royals qualified for the provincial tourney for the first time.

Vernon Cougars captured the provincial title for the second straight season. Also in hockey, Westway Totems won the annual All-Indian Tournament. Pentlicon-Kelowna took first place in the first annual Vernon Oldtimers' Tournament.

**BRONZE MEDALS**  
In bowling, Vernon senior girls captured the B.C. title and returned home from the national championships with bronze medals.

Okanagan Baseball All-stars placed fourth in the B.C. Amateur cham-

ionships in Vancouver, while the Okanagan Selects soccer team, made up mostly of Vernon players, did extremely well on a trip of Europe.

Besides the numerous team titles, there were some tremendous individual efforts.

**McLEAN HONORED**  
Vernon cowboy Kenny McLean received the recognition he deserves when he was presented with the Order of Canada.

Archers Tammy McDowell and Tim Ryan returned home from the national championships in Winnipeg with silver medals.

In bowling, Rod Brabin and Alex Frick qualified to compete in the world five-pin championships in Saskatchewan. Linda Koenig continued her long string of awards by capturing the B.C. High School singles' bowling title.

In skiing, Tim Attridge, Bob Bibby and Cindy Clark qualified to compete in the National Amateur Eastern Nationals.

Goiter Patti Murray won enough awards to start a trophy store, and volleyball player Colleen Chiu was named to the Canadian junior women's team.

Goalie Ken Holland got his pro hockey career off to a flying start by winning nine of his first 10 starts with Blightmouth Dusters.

Marvin Joyce of Kelowna, Mont. captured the all-round cowboy award at Falkland Stampede; and more than \$6,500 in prize money was handed out at the Armstrong Roddeo.

In minor sports the two biggest happenings were Rod Deer winning the annual Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament and more than 1,000 athletes

participating in the Okanagan Relay at Pelson Park. As usual, Vernon Racing Days was a huge success with more than \$55,000 wagered.

The visit of the Senahu High School girls' volleyball team, from Japan, delighted hundreds of spectators with their near-perfect execution of the game.

In the area of development, Silver Star led the way with a \$1 million improvement program. Not far behind was Tilticum Valley with the construction of a driving range and nine-hole golf course.

Right downtown, the Vernon Squash and Racquet Club Centre opened its doors and already has 200-plus members.

Minor football enjoyed another great season and plans expansion, to 12 teams, next year.

But, there were some

disappointments. The biggest blow to the sports community was the hold-up in construction of a new arena, or renovations to the old one. Like last year, and the years before, we are still waiting.

Another disappointment was the lack of activity at the proposed Newcombe North Tennis Ranch. The ranch just got started and money ran out. Hopefully, 1977 will see the project get rolling.

Collapse of Vernon Vikings in the playoffs had to be the biggest team setback. After a remarkable year, Vikings didn't even reach the league finals.

We may have seen the last of the Okanagan Baseball League. Vernon Lakers, and the league's other two teams are in trouble. The league was just reborn two years ago.

Happy New Year!

... Tiger of year



VIKINGS CAPTURED THE PUCK FROM IN FRONT OF SPRAWLING NETMINDER, KIM FENNER

## SPEARING PENALTY CALLED

# Vikings fall to Braves

Kevin White, of Vernon Vikings, picked up the spearing penalty in BCHJHL action Wednesday night before 200 fans at the Civic Arena when the Vikings dropped a 2-1 decision to the Kamloops Braves.

The automatic match penalty means a three-game suspension for White.

**EARLY TIE**  
Kamloops led 1-0 after the first period on a goal by Glen Merklosky and after a scoreless second period, Vikings' Stacy Semader

notched his first goal of the season to tie it up early in the second period.

Braves Norm Meyers put it away for Kamloops midway through the third and Vikings were unable to mount a sustained offensive in the latter stages of the game.

Kamloops outshot Vernon 39-31.

**SEVEN MINORS**  
Vernon picked up seven minors and one fighting major in addition to the spearing penalty to White. Kamloops was assessed three minors

# The SPORTS Page

DON KENDALL—Sports Editor  
PHONE 545-0671

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## Keon heads list of WHA all-stars

TORONTO (CP) — Centre Dave Keon of Minnesota led the list of 17th season professional hockey, heads the list of eight players selected for Rookie of the Year World Hockey Association's Eastern Division all-star team.

Keon, who starred with Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League before joining Minnesota for the 1975-76 season, was named by Eastern Division coach Jacques Demers to back up Eddie Shuptrug.

Goalie Lou Levasseur (Minnesota), John Garret (Birmingham), Defence—Ron Plumb (Cincinnati), Pat Stapleton (Indianapolis), Rick Ley (New England), J.C. Tremblay (Quebec), Gordie Roberts (New England), John Hughes (Cincinnati).

**Forwards—Serge Bernier (Quebec), Marc Tardif (Quebec), Rick Cleator (Quebec), Richie Leduc (Cincinnati), Hugh Harris (Indianapolis), Steve Napien (Cincinnati), Michel Parizeau (Indianapolis), George Lyle (Indianapolis), Steve St. Louis (Cincinnati), Dave Keon (Minnesota), Rick Harty (Cincinnati), Blair MacDonald (Indianapolis).**

**DANNY HOLTE**  
... top scorer



**GILLES BEZEAU**  
... Tiger of year

**JAMIE MCKENZIE**  
... most deserving

**GARY GILCHRIST**  
... policeman

## IN THE NHL

# McNab and hot Boston Bruins humble hapless Vancouver

**VANCOUVER (CP)** — Boston Bruins, led by Peter McNab's three goals, defeated Vancouver Canucks 8-1 in a National Hockey League game before 15,870 fans at Pacific Coliseum Wednesday night.

**NHL**  
Campbell Conference  
Patrick Division  
W L T P A P  
Boston 22 8 5 125 84 49  
Pittsburgh 17 12 5 116 127 28  
Rangers 15 14 10 142 132 40

Smyme Division  
St. Louis 15 17 10 131 35  
Chicago 12 20 5 118 130 25  
Detroit 12 22 9 130 127 28  
Vancouver 10 26 7 103 158 23  
Winnipeg 12 20 9 126 122

Price of Watson Conference  
Adams Division  
Buffalo 24 8 3 123 82 51  
Boston 23 11 6 116 127 28  
Toronto 17 15 4 142 136 40  
Montreal 11 25 10 131 29 29

Harris Division  
Cleveland 27 5 5 174 81 39  
Pittsburgh 15 14 116 127 28  
Los Angeles 12 20 10 120 134 24  
Detroit 12 20 9 126 122  
Washington 10 22 4 98 148 40

fourth goal, connecting for four unanswered goals to take a commanding 8-1 lead entering the final period. McNab followed his two-goal effort in the second period with a breakaway goal early in the third and took completed the rout with a shot from 20 feet after two Canucks defencemen collided at the side of their own net.

Gilles Gilbert was tested only 21 times in the Boston net while Manigo faced 30 shots.

In other NHL games, Boston Bruins beat Vancouver Canucks 8-1, Toronto Maple Leafs defeated Cleveland Barons 6-2, Chicago Blackhawks dominated Detroit Red Wings 6-3, Colorado Rockies beat Washington Capitals 3-1 and Pittsburgh Penguins held Montreal Canadiens to a 3-0 tie.

## Russians whipped in junior game

**BY JOHN SHORT**  
The Canadian Press reported that the Soviet Union had its team change its tactics Wednesday night when it started to lose in the major junior international hockey tournament but the result was the same.

The Soviet team, younger and less experienced than the three Canadian entries, took an 8-0 whipping from the Quebec Major Hockey League all-stars at Medicine Hat, Alta., despite brilliant goaltending by Konstantin Gavrilov.

He faced 52 shots, bringing the total shots faced by Russian goalies in the tournament to 145.

The winless Soviets dropped deeper into the cellar in the double-roster tournament while the unbeaten Western Canada Hockey League all-stars retained their hold on first place with a 6-2 triumph at Calgary over the three-time defending Canadian Canadians.

Malrovo said young goalie was not as good as he can be — and perhaps he was not as overwhelming as in an opening game 7-4 loss to Quebec — but he was easily the top Russian player.

A biggest problem throughout Soviet hockey is the shortage of goaltenders. "Our team played bad."

The Russians showed the tempo and quality of the first period with only a 1-0 lead on the first two goals by Richard Yzerman and Rod Rivières. But Michel Bouché of Laval—who also had a pair—scored the tie goal in the second period and Quebec never looked back.

## Tigers select Holte as most valuable player

Danny Holte was named Wednesday as the Most Valuable Player on the Vernon Lodge Tigers lacrosse club.

Harry Lapointe, the pilot who flew the Tigers' chartered aircraft in an Alberta cornfield after the plane caught fire, presented the MVP trophy, named in his honor.

About 300 people were on hand for the Tigers' championship banquet in the Vernon Lodge Hotel.

Holte also picked up the club's top scorer trophy. The stocky winger collected 119 points in 22 games.

Goaltender Rich Zeceul, who scored eight goals during the regular season, was presented with the Vernon Trophy House Trophy for combining playing excellence with dedication.

Gilles Bezeau, a player who had to travel to the east seven times during the season for business commitments, was given the newly-donated, "Tiger of the Year Award." The trophy was contributed by Club President Art Horsey and his wife Helen.

Team captain Jamie McKenzie picked up the "Captain's Trophy," for the most deserving player.

In past seasons, the captain had presented the trophy to another player, but this year, the players felt McKenzie contributed the most to the club and gave him the award.

Gary Gilchrist was given a unique presentation as the team's policeman. Gilly led the league in penalties, for the second straight year, but "as valuable as any man on our club," said Horsey.

Don Kendall was given a special award, presented by several players, for helping members of the club find jobs.

Special guests at the award included North Okanagan MLA Pat Jordan, Interior Lacrosse Association Commissioner Fred Williamson, and Lapointe.

Radio Station CJIB and the Vernon Daily News were present with plans for Outstanding Contributions to the team.

## Fincups still winning

**PRAGUE (CP)** — St. Catharines Fincups, representing Canada, scored their fourth victory in the world junior hockey championships Wednesday, bombing West Germany with 80 shots in a 9-1 decision.

The win gave the Fincups the lead in the tournament standings with four wins and a tie, one point ahead of the Soviet Union which has four wins in four games going into today's match against the United States.

Today's other game was the host Czechoslovakians facing Finland.

Sweden's other action was Sweden beat Poland 6-5.

Fincups captain Dale McCourt scored his eighth goal of the tournament Wednesday and leads the scoring race with 12 points.

Other goals came from Steve Haskett with two, and Ron Duguay, Joe Costini, Ric Seiling, John Anderson, Hunter, Ernat Hoefner

## Prague defeats Barrie

**BARRIE, Ont. (CP)** — Prague defeated Barrie in the second consecutive game of a nine-game North American tour, scoring a 5-1 victory over the defending Bobby Smith drive unit. Cesare Manigo with the Canucks shorthanded at the 3-46 mark of the first period.

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