



BRIAN SPIELMAN... Vernon Winter Carnival will be one of the runners to beat in the third annual Six-mile February

KENDALL'S KORNER

160 players out of work

The days of the huge bonus, multi-year hockey contract may soon be history. After years of players being able to name their price and pick a team, things are starting to get tough. There were less jobs in pro hockey this year than in 1973-74, and the number of pro teams will probably drop substantially before next season. An entire eight-team league, the Southern Hockey League, folded last weekend. The teams couldn't meet the financial obligations. Vernon product Tom Servino was captain of Tidewater Sharks, a member of the SHL, for much of this season. However, the well-travelled Servino got out of there just in time. About two weeks ago he was called up to Calgary Cowboys and an official of that World Hockey Association team tells us he will probably be with Cowboys for the remainder of the season. With the folding of the SHL, about 160 hockey players are looking for employment. Several other minor league teams are experiencing monetary problems and have trimmed rosters to a bare minimum.

TWO IN TOP 10

Statistics released last weekend by the NHL showed two defencemen were among the league's top scorers. Unless you have been following the NHL every day this season, you probably wouldn't guess the duo. We all know Bobby Orr has missed most of the season and isn't even close. The next best players are Denis Potvin, Brad Park, and Guy Lapointe, are having good years, — but it isn't them.

Three other possibilities would be Montreal's slick Serge Savard, Buffalo's hard-shooting Jorelyn Guevremont, and New York veteran Carol Vadnais, — wrong again. You might guess Borje Salming — and you would be right. Salming is currently the highest scoring defenceman in the NHL. He could be a good bet to win the Norris Trophy this year as the best blue liner in the league.

The other defenceman in the elite scoring group is Montreal cruncher Larry Robinson. Canadians, with Lapointe and Savard, have had a high scoring defensive corps for years, but until this season, Robinson's claim to fame was his bone-jarring checks.

END OF AN ERA

Minnesota Vikings made their fourth unsuccessful trip to the Super Bowl on Sunday. Coach Bud Grant said after the game, "We've lost to Miami, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, and now Oakland. I guess we're going to have to keep looking for an AFC team we can beat."

However, there is a good possibility we won't see Minnesota back in the Super Bowl for quite a few years. The team's blood and guts, Chuck Foreman, wants a new contract or he won't be back next season. And, the veterans are getting old. On offence, quarterback Fran Tarkenton is getting on in years. Linemen Wally Hilgenberg, Ron Yary, and Mick Tingelhoff, at 36, aren't getting any younger. The defensive line is still one of the best in the business, but Jim Marshall is 30, Carl Eller 35, and Alan Page 31. In the backfield, Paul Krause and Bobby Bryant have probably only a couple good years left. Foreman best summed up his team's feelings when he said, "Most people never get here. I don't know if we'll get another chance. When you get here as many times as we have, and can't win it, what can you say?"

Flames thumped by contractors

Actual Contracting hammered Vernon Flames 6-2 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Monday at the Civic Arena. Wally Murray led the Actual attack with three goals while Bob Stein, Gary Hote, and Herb Rideout added singles. Pat Mick scored both goals for Flames. In league play Sunday, Raiders defeated Tri-Lake Cougars 6-4 and Blues hammered Firefighters 11-5. Tom Williamson and Bob Hawkins scored three goals each for Blues while George Watson and Calvin Ford blinked the red light twice. Bruce Ritchie added a single. Ray Bouchie, Dennis Brown, Graham Elliot, Rick Garbutt, and Bob Brett countered for Firefighters. Arnold Breitkreutz was Tri-Lake's top sniper with three goals while John Sutherland, Ben Yakelashuk, and Bob Henderson notched solos. Roger Martin, with two, Art Johnson, and Tom Bydlowski replied for Raiders.

Vernon Lodge wins two in minor hockey action

Vernon Lodge recorded two wins in Bantam House League action last week. The Lodge beat Goodwin Burniston 4-2 and 6-5. In other games, NOCA edged Vernon Daily News 4-3 and Pee Wee Hops blanked Ernie's Esso 5-0. In Pee Wee House League play, Elks tied Archie Fleming 2-2. Gentles fought to a 5-5 draw with Universal Welders. Butcher Boys dumped Vernon Sport 3-1. Tradeland thumped Pup Rebs 6-5 and Flemingaced Elks 4-3. In Senior Pup House League action, Village Green topped Boston Pizza 4-2, Red Top smothered Athens Pizza 10-2, Tradeland drubbed Standard Oil 5-2, and Bear Alignment shipped by Rendall Tractor 4-3. Exhibition games saw Enderby down Delta 10-2, 5. Red Top tied Lumby 5-5. Armstrong edged Rendall 7-6. Stumblers hammered Lumby 2-2, and Lumby ace Tradeland 6-5.

The SPORTS Page

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Howard heads list of entrants

The third annual Six-mile Marathon promises to be one of the sporting highlights of the 1977 Vernon Winter Carnival. An impressive list of competitors, led by one of Canada's top marathon runners Tom Howard, will be on hand for the Feb. 6 event. Howard set the race record in 1975 when he covered the course, which winds through the Vernon area, in 30 minutes, nine seconds. Since running here he has placed fourth out of 2,200 runners in the Boston Marathon, placed 16th in the 26-mile Montreal Olympics Marathon, and finished fourth in the Hawaiian Marathon in October. About 20 runners, including 1976 Vernon Marathon winner Brian Spielman, will be on hand from Calgary. Spielman covered the course in 30 minutes, 42 seconds last year. He is a previous winner of the Alberta Marathon and placed second in the 21-mile Rolling Hills Alberta Race. Craig Storey, one of Alberta's best distance runners and always a tough contender, will be here for the third straight year. Among the women competitors who have confirmed their entries are Mrs. Tom Howard, winner of the Prince George Nine-mile Marathon, and Pauline Molesky, one of the top female runners in Calgary. Runners leave the Ice Palace, adjacent to city hall at 1 p.m.

RESCHEDULED GAME Buckaroos host Vikings tonight

Vernon Vikings are hoping to put a stop to their four-game losing streak tonight when they travel to Kelowna to tangle with the Buckaroos in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at 8 p.m. Tonight's game was originally scheduled in December, but was postponed when a power failure shutdown the Kelowna Arena. Vikings had lost only once in eight games prior to last weekend's disastrous four-game coast swing. General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News with a little luck his club could have won two games on the coast. Dye said, "We were in the games against Langley and Maple Ridge. The puck just didn't bounce our way."

ROGERS HURT
Vernon will probably be missing two regulars for tonight's game. Defenceman Ron Rogers picked up a concussion on the coast and is a doubtful starter this week. Centre Darcy Wilkinson is still hampered by bone chips in his wrist and could miss a few more games. Prior to club returns being frozen on Monday, Vikings did a little juggling.

BANISH CLUT
Centre Steve Danahin, who quit the club a month ago, was dropped from the protected list. Merritt Coach Joe Tennant was given permission, by Dye, to talk to Danahin, but apparently the 19-year-old just doesn't want to play. Dye also kept a couple player cards open with the hope of adding some firepower. He said, "We are talking to a couple players, but I can't say who at this time. However, I can say they would help us."

Vikings are back in action Wednesday night when they host Pentticon Vees at 8:30 p.m. **LEADS BCJHL**
Meanwhile, BCJHL statistics released this week show Pentticon's rookie sensation Kevin Maxwell is still leading the league in scoring. The smooth 16-year-old has 100 points in 46 games.

Armstrong posts men's hoop win

First-place Armstrong dumped Vernon Art's Gulf 70-55 in Men's Commercial Basketball League action Monday at VSSS. League-leading scorer Tony Wolcott led the winners' attack with 22 points while Bob Shannon, Lance McGregor, Kim Pullon, and Paul Quesnel sunk eight a piece. Martin Ware led Gulf's offence with 14 points while Gary Lang and Rick Kobart dropped in 10 points each. Armstrong led 38-26 at half-

time and outscored Vernon 18-4 in the opening minutes of the second half. In another game, Vernon Blues defeated last-place Lumby 41-32. Lumby showed lots of hustle, but had no hot shooters. Jon Roaman scored nine points for Blues while Mike Sorba and Bob Herring added eight each. Jack Yamaoka was Lumby's top shooter with 12 points and Pete Warrus scored 11. Blues led 23-14 at half-time.

BOXING EVENT PLANNED

For the first time in several years, boxing fans in the North Okanagan will have a chance to watch some bouts live. Vernon Boxing Club has scheduled a nine-fight card on Friday night, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Recreation Complex. Club Coach Don McDonald told the Daily News, as far as he knows, the last boxing card in this area was about eight years ago. McDonald said, "Our fighters have been working hard for these matches. Some of the boys have been in club for three years."

The boxers and weight classes will be: Shawn Hutchison (Vernon) vs. Wesley Hutchison (Ver) vs. Tim Jack (Ver) 55 lbs.; Carey Viala (Ver) vs. Randy Alex (Clinton) 95 lbs.; Homer Alexis (Ver) vs. Rick Smith (Merritt) 105 lbs.; Donovan Palmer (Ver) vs. Dan Gulickson (Clinton) 105 lbs.; Don Louis (Ver) vs. Bill Pollard (Clinton) 115 lbs.; Allan Loun (Ver) vs. Rene Rourouche (Clinton) 130 lbs.; Don Raffan (Ver) vs. Mike Watson (Clinton) 147 lbs.; Jody Potras (Ver) vs. Nolan Windsor (Merritt) 147 lbs.



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