

SPORTS

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THE OUTDOORS

Snowshoes are great

By NONIE FREY

No those aren't Saagutch tracks, they are bear paws. No, not bear paws, but snowshoes bear paws.

Once upon a time and long ago snowshoeing was strictly for trappers, timber cruisers, miners working their claims in the winter months, cougar hunters were big on snowshoes and sometimes father had to snowshoe out to the main road to get supplies for his family during a long snow winter. To-day, more and more people are snowshoeing for pleasure and every year we receive more and more enquiries on this subject.

If isn't everyone that can handle a pair of downhill skis, or even the cross country ones, but many sportmen are getting hours of good fun and exercise snowshoeing. The initial outlay is not too much when compared with some of our winter sports. Good bear paws or trail shoes sell around the \$50 mark locally, that is shoes and harness.

There is a small metal snowshoe, which is ideal for brush country, that sells for about \$40. I hear with these shoes you can hustle easily through the deepest brush and still stand on top of the snow and in an upright position.

Snowshoeing is ideal for the person who likes to look around, at the countryside while getting his outdoor exercise. Even cross-country skis aren't that easy to stand on in some situations. Snowshoes are nice, large, and flat and give a feeling of confidence while you admire some of the wildlife you encounter while standing quietly

In the outdoors, they are also steady enough for picture taking, and for me, they give me a feeling of being king of all as I survey. For reasons unknown to me, standing on top of the snow gives a person an exhilarating feeling. You do not get this same feeling standing up to your waist in the snow wondering how to get back on top of the situation.

Several of the local sport shops have snowshoes and will be happy to tell you what they know. It is a sport that is coming into its own, once it was a mode of travel, now it is a sport. If you want to get outdoors in the snowy time of the winter, look into the snowshoe business. If you don't feel up to the price of a snowmachine, try a pair of snowshoes.

For that new type of hunter we have, the wildlife photographer, snowshoes are an excellent way to get in amongst the wildlife. Snowshoeing is not a noisy sport. You can hug your camera around your neck and away you go. If you see something worthy of a picture, you just stop right in your bear paw tracks, and you and the camera are in business. Try it, or you'll never know what you are missing.

Ice fishing starting to pick up a little. At least the ice conditions are getting more reliable. Becker, Echo, Spanish, Bolean, Little, Finna, Deep, and Nonie's lakes are all producing a few fish, nothing spectacular but some fish are being taken. Why not give Swan Lake a try for Ling Cod?

Dress for the weather, it can be cooler than you think.

Ski club to hold caper on Sunday

North Okanagan Cross-country Ski Club will be holding its first annual Cross-country Caper on Sunday, starting at 1 p.m.

The caper was originally scheduled for Jan. 2, but was postponed due to lack of snow. The event will start at Stuesl Centre, on Cedar Hill Road, in Falkland. The course covers about six miles of marked trail.

There are age groups for males and females, 12 and under, 13 to 29, 30 to 49, and 50 and over.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in each class and each participant who finishes the course will receive a memento.

To get to Stuesl Centre, drive 22 miles west of Vernon, on Highway 97, and watch for the signs.

Panthers bombed in season opener

By DALE MAJOR
Daily News Correspondent

Back to the drawing board for Rick Inrg and his Vernon Panthers.

Panthers were far from impressive in their Okanagan Mainline League season

opener Wednesday as Kelowna Owls hammered the locals 93-28 at VSSS.

Inrg said after the game, "We just weren't ready. We didn't have jobs, particularly on defence."

The highly-ranked Owls



VERNON PANTHERS' forward Brent Zimmer, left, gets stuffed by Kelowna Owls Brian Mayzes during Wednesday's high school basketball game. Mayzes and his club used their superior height to crush the Panthers.

used their superior height advantage inside. Kelowna opened up quarter leads of 28-14, 45-31, and 75-44. Any hope Panthers had of a comeback was thwarted in the third quarter when Owls blew Vernon right off the floor.

Final tally led the Kelowna attack with 18 points while John Weider and 68° Brian Mayzes added 12 apiece.

OFF BENCH
Ed Waterhouse came off the bench to score 18 points for Panthers while Brent Zimmer dropped in 12.

Obviously upset with his club's play, Inrg pulled his entire first string late in the third quarter and went with his bench. The second string did an admirable job out scoring Owls 24-18 in the final quarter.

Inrg singled out Waterhouse as one of the Panthers' few bright spots, along with second string Andy Anderson, Dean Steimley, Jim Tilton, and Glen Sirgo.

To get a good job after they were inserted.

Meanwhile, Vernon Royals tipped off their season the right way by downing Kelowna Owlets 70-61 in girls' action.

The game was swayed back and forth for two quarters until Vernon guard Leanne Wilms caught fire in the third quarter. Wilms sunk 14 points, mostly from outside, to get Royals rolling.

Owlets led 13 after the first quarter, but over Royals led 31-27 at half-time, and 51-41 after three-quarters.

Wilms finished the night with 30 points while Laurie Ogasawara scored for Owlets. Roman added 13.

Cathie Treadgold replied with 18 points for Owlets.

Royals' Coach Delc., Routley was pleased with his team's offence, but called the club's defensive effort its worst of the year.

The Vernon coach praised the play of Wilms and Ogasawara.

He said, "It was Laurie's strong play in the first-half that got us going, and Leanne's outside shooting that put the game away."



Second victory for Star

The staff of Silver Star Sports too, first place, for the second consecutive week, in the Pepsi Cola Team Challenge Race at Tilticum Valley Ski Area.

The trio of Rob McNameer, Bill Cuthbert, and Frank Inghard swooped down the slope in a combined time of 63.80 seconds. Cuthbert has the best individual time of 20.80 seconds.

Karl's Sport Haus took second place in a time of 65.50, while Anderson Homes placed third in 68.65.

A total of 12 teams took part in the race.

Any group or company wishing to place a team of three skiers in next Wednesday's race is welcome.

PENICTON VEEES' danceman Shawn Dineen takes Vernon Vikings' forward Cam Torgeson for a rough ride into the Civic Arena. Torgeson

scored once as Vikings posted a 7-6 overtime victory. Vernon has the best record in the league against the second-place Vees. (Daily News Photo)

Theft of skis can be stopped

North Okanagan skiers have a chance to fight their number one enemy this weekend — theft.

RCMP, in co-operation with the Kinamen Club and the Vernon ski area, is holding its anti-theft marking program this weekend.

Ski theft was a hazard at both Silver Star and Tilticum Ski Area until the anti-theft program was implemented last January. The program consists of marking skis with an invisible marking ink giving the social security number and, or the name and address of the owner of the skis.

KINSMEN BEAT VERNON LEAFS
Kinamen hammered Vernon Leafs 10-2 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action this week at the Civic Arena.

Sam Desjone scored four goals for the winners with Irv Nixon adding three. Singles went to Warren Cunningham, Al Desjone, and Steve Peacock.

Toru Hosaki and Len Duchak scored for Leafs. Kinamen led 5-0 at the end of the first period and 8-1 after the second.

Leafs were outshot 40-28.

Zone final is postponed

Men's Zone Consols finals have been postponed until next week.

Vernon Curling Club Manager Ron Houston told the Daily News the match between Doug Chilton and Randy Brown, both of Vernon, will be played next Monday or Wednesday.

It was scheduled to be played Wednesday night, however, Chilton and John Taprowaki, twisted his leg and was unable to curl.

Winner of the game will advance to the BCCA Consols, to be held in February, in Kelowna.

An important message to 4 wheel drive owners

As owners of 4 wheel drives do you know that these units require extra maintenance such as repacking front axle stub shafts and bearings. Constant velocity joints also require more frequent lubrication to obtain longer life.

Our service department of Vernon Motor Products is offering this service to GM 4 wheel drive operators at 15% discount on parts and labor for the month of January.

For further information call us at Vernon Motor Products your 4 Wheel Drive Centre 545-0606.

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Gassoff's goal ends long slump

Gary Gassoff scored on a power-play at 8:17 of muddied death overtime Wednesday night to give Vernon Vikings a 7-6 victory over Penicton Vees in British Columbia Junior Hockey League action before 375 fans.

BCJHL STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
INTERIOR DIVISION					
Kelowna	48	32	14	1	67
Penicton	48	22	23	7	48
Vernon	50	25	25	2	48
Kamloops	48	13	30	2	26
Merrill	48	13	30	2	26
COAST DIVISION					
Nanaimo	48	32	12	2	66
Maple Ridge	48	22	21	1	47
Langley	48	22	24	4	44
Bellingham	48	19	27	4	42
Abbotsford	48	14	29	3	30

The victory halts Vikings' losing streak at five games. Penicton has lost only 13 times in 47 games, but six of those defeats have been at the hands of Vernon.

However, Vikings' Coach Gary Swanson can't be too happy with the way his club won. Early in the third period, Vernon held a 6-3 lead, but Vees fought back and forced overtime.

The three most dangerous forechecking that confused Penicton in the first 45 minutes of the game was not present in the third period as Vees were allowed to pay their style, wide-open.

WITH CASE
Darcy Wilkinson, playing with a cast on his wrist, scored the lone goal of the opening period at 5:42.

Jack Leffley put Vernon ahead 2-0 with a power-play goal at the eight-minute mark of the second period. Vees Ted Gassoff let a wicked slapshot go from the blue line,

just 14 seconds later, that eluded Vikings' goalie Keith Ferner.

Defenceman Brian Mawr picked up his 16th and 17th goals of the season late in the period, with a power-play goal from BCJHL scoring leader Kevin Maxwell, of Penicton, sandwiched in the middle. The period ended 4-2.

Randy Will scored the goal that should have broke Vees' back at 1:51 of the final period when his slapshot deflected off Penicton defenceman Dino Sita, while Vikings were short-handed.

Forty-three seconds later, Cary Eades put Vees back to within two with a power-play goal, but Cam Torgeson got that one back for Vernon after a great digging by Gary Mann.

ROARING BACK
Then, Penicton came roaring back. Andy Turner made the score 4-2, at 4:36. Ferner appeared to fan on the

long shot and Swanson immediately replaced his veteran goalie with rookie Rick Mallott.

Mallott looked a little shaky as Mick Bracko scored on a power-play at 6:35, and John Uvegas tied the game in a scramble at 14:15.

Gassoff had an excellent chance to end the overtime period, after only 10 seconds, when he was set up in front by Wilkinson. However, it was another six minutes before he was able to put in the winner.

Vees' Rob Feeble was in the penalty box, for interference, at the time of Gassoff's goal. The loss was a heartbreaker for Penicton goalie Pat Murphy who was exhausted after the game. The rangy netminder dropped a season-high of 56 shots, including 22 in the second period.

Ferner and Mallott combined to make 37 saves. Each team was assessed four minor penalties.

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