

# Vikings need playoff peak

The British Columbia Junior Hockey League's 1976-77 season is rapidly approaching the homestretch. More than three-quarters of the 335 scheduled games have been completed.

Vernon Vikings are firmly entrenched in third place. In the interior division, Viking is one game behind their remaining 16 games and probably still is in third place. Or, they could lose their remaining 16 games, and be still in the same position.

Second-place Penticon Vees lead Vernon by 18 points, while fourth-place Kamloops Braves trail the Vikings by 18 points.

So, with their regular season finish almost complete, Vernon can get down to the serious business of peaking for playoffs. With the exception of a few veterans, none of the Vikings have reached their potential.

So, Coach Gary Swanson should be able to look forward to bigger things to come. Only five members of the club have more than 10 goals, and that quintet should easily reach 20. Jack LeFevy has scored times, Gary Huth 24, Gary Gassoff 19, Darcy Wilkinson 18, and Brian Maser 17. In sixth spot, with just nine goals, is Eric Torgeson.

## GOALS NEEDED

Vikings' problem is obvious — they have to score more goals. They have the best goal average in the 10-team BCHJHL, just 3.78. The goals-against average of 4.48 is third best in the league, behind only Penticon and Kelowna.

Swanson has to find, in a hurry, a few more players he can rely on to put the puck in the net. Some players he had counted on to work out, veteran forward Danish Danish decided he didn't want to play hockey, and winger Grant Sidnick couldn't get along with Swanson, so he quit.

Wingers Kevin White, and Byron Smith are currently playing with the Vernon Juniors, to get some more experience, after their goal scoring proved superior.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Pyle has a couple iron in the fire, which he hopes will arrive early this week. However, Swanson is going to have to look to the forwards he has to pick up the production.

Garry Mann, Harry Lang, Sneyce Smeader, Derek Rideout, and Torgeson need a lot of ice time. In the next few weeks, to give them the experience and confidence to go into playoffs and do a good job. All five have ability, or they wouldn't be on the team. But, too often they have sat on the bench while the veterans were sent out to do the job.

The veterans have all enjoyed good seasons, and responded well to the ice time. But, the simple fact is, five players to make a team. In the next few weeks Swanson can afford to experiment and give the rookies some ice time. Come playoff time they might reward their coach.

## MAY MEET VEES

It looks like Vernon will be up against Penticon Vees in the opening round of playoffs. Vees trail first place Kelowna Buckaroos by five points and are currently on a three-game losing streak.

Under the new format this season, first place club meets the fourth place team, while second takes on third, and fifth place club is out of playoff competition. Not until the league finals does inter-division play occur.

Vees have a dismal record against Vernon this season, with only three wins in nine games. On the other hand, if Kelowna happens to score, Buckaroos would definitely have the upper hand because Vikings have only won twice this season.

A good playoff year should be all that saves Vernon. The club has been suffering in the pocketbook again this year and the crowd aren't getting any better. Only an excellent playoff finish will cure the city of a headache towards its hockey team.

Penticon and Kelowna are both scared of Vikings in the playoffs. The division of the city of Kelowna would come on like gangbusters. But, as forementioned, the locals need a team effort.

## NEARING RECORDS

Two teams appear to have a chance to shatter two records in the 1976-77 edition of the Vikings new hold.

Nanaimo Clippers and Kelowna have both played 50 games. Clippers have 34 wins and 70 points, while Bucks have 38 wins and 71 points. The league records are 47 wins and 96 points for the Kelowna.

Kelowna would need 12 wins in its last 16 games to tie the record, while Nanaimo will require 13 victories to tie the win record, and break the points record.

# Williamson leads Blues to victory

Vernon Blues trounced Kamloop 9-5 in Plesian Valley Hockey League action Monday at the Civic Arena.

Tom Williamson and Bruce Blues' attack with three goals while George Watson and Bruce Ritchie scored two apiece. Singles went to John Ross and Lou Joly.

Murray Greenart, with two, Irv Nixon, Bob Belter, and Warren Cunningham countered for Kamloops.

On Sunday night, Vernon Flames scored two goals in one period on the way to a 4-1 win over Tr-Lake Cougars.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

**AUDBALLS WIN**  
Two games were played Monday in All-Employee Volleyball League action at Kai School. Audballs dumped Trubsters 10-4, 10-8, and 2-1, while Sun Auto beat the winners 15-6, 15-13, and 17-15.

**B.C. FINALS**  
B.C. championship snowmobile races are scheduled to be held Feb. 12 and 13 in Revelstoke.

**FOUR GAMES**  
In ladies' Monday night volleyball play at the Vernon Recreation Centre, Audballs thumped Heroes 10-6, 10-4, and 10-9. Speakers blasted Operators 10-0, and 10-0. Spartans hammered Jugglers 10-5, 15-4, and 10-1, and Hightines downed K-10's 9, 15-10, and 10-15.

**SKI CAPER**  
Stig Keskinen placed first overall in last weekend's Cross-country Ski Caper in Kaikiangi group winners were girls and boys from Kaskimaki, boys 12 and under, Stig Keskinen Jr., ladies 12-20, Lila Keskinen, and 20-29, Philip Wallenstein; ladies 30-49, Joan McNeil; men 50-59, Stig Keskinen; men 60 and over, Carl Wylie.

**RY BROOMBALL**  
Raiders battled to a scoreless draw with Okanagan College in a recent Men's Popeye Broomball League



## LUMBY SNOGOLF WINNERS

Don Gallacher, right, was overall winner of the Vernon Snogolf Tournament, to be held during Winter Carnival Below. Sandra Ingils, junior girls' winner, Madeline Dyck, first in women's competition, and Kenny Dyck, who topped junior boys play, (Daily News Photos by Alleyne Tull)



## MINOR HOCKEY ROUND-UP

**Legion settles for tie with stubborn Enderby**

Vernon Legion preserved its undefeated record Saturday by battling to a 4-4 tie with Enderby in Okanagan-Mainline Juvenile Hockey League action in Enderby.

Enderby came up with its best effort of the season and only some outstanding saves by netminder Wayne Sliak kept Legion in the game.

Scoring for Legion were Tom Ouchi, with two, Gary Edwards, and Gary Field. Mike Melin, Roland Davyduke, Bernie Price, and Gary Oberer replied for Enderby.

In a weekend exhibition game, Vernon thumped Rick Creamer led the winners, and with two goals while Byron Smith, Larry Martel, Kelly Kaneda, Glen Easter, Gary Field, and Edwards added singles.

Legion is back in action Saturday when they travel to Penticon for a 7:15 p.m. game.

**NEAR TITLE**  
Meanwhile, Vernon Watkin Movers Pees Wee Zeps moved to within one game of clinching the Okanagan-Mainline title over the weekend with two victories.

Vernon, which beat Kamloops Chis 8-1, Merritt 6-1, leads second-place Penticon by four points, with only three games remaining on the schedule.

In Kamloops Rod Duchacher picked up three goals while David Wenzley and Nick Kapicki added two apiece. Greg Kowal added a single.

On Sunday in Merritt, United, Nottingham Forest, and Tom Day scored two goals each with

**Armstrong will host playdowns**

The top female curlers in the interior will be competing in the District Two playdowns in Vernon on Monday.

Play gets underway, in three divisions, on Friday. Games are scheduled Sunday at 1 p.m.

In the junior ladies' competition, the North Okanagan zone will be represented by Helen Elgie of Kamloops. She will be up against the Cariboo camp from Quenel and the South Okanagan winner from Kelowna.

Merritt's Deena Gage will tangle with 100 Mile House and Kelowna teams in the ladies' event.

In senior ladies' competition, the North Okanagan will tangle with Williams Lake and Penticon.

Winners in all three categories advance to the provincial finals, scored by

# WHA suggests hockey dictator

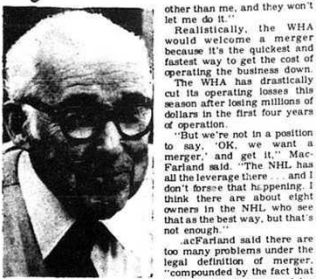
HARTFORD, Conn. (CP) — Hockey needs a benevolent dictator to force a merger of the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association, says WHA president Bill MacFarland. "I would be willing to concede to Clarence Campbell if I thought he could be benevolent towards the WHA," MacFarland said Monday in an interview during the WHA all-star break here.

He ruled out Allan Eagleson, executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association, as a possible candidate for the position.

"Al has quite a few conflicts of interests and is not too benevolent toward the WHA. If you analyze the situation," the president said.

Both Campbell, president of the NHL, and Eagleson have said in recent statements that a merger is out of the question.

MacFarland agrees that the joining of the two leagues is not possible at this time, but he detects a softening of attitude on the part of some NHL owners, and even



CLARENCE CAMPBELL ... out of question

Campbell himself. "It would be a best thing for hockey, he said.

"If someone could agree to a benevolent dictatorship in professional hockey, we could sit down and make it work. We can't find anybody benevolent

other than me, and they won't do it."

Realistically, the WHA would welcome a merger fastest way to get the cost of operations down. "The WHA has drastically cut its operating losses this season after losing millions of dollars in the first four years of operation."

"But we're not in a position to say, 'OK, we want a merger,' and get it. MacFarland said. "The NHL has all the leverage there, and I don't foresee that happening. I think there are about eight owners in the NHL who see that as the best way, but that's not enough."

MacFarland said there are too many problems under the legal definition of merger, "compounded by the fact that we're dealing in two countries with two different governments and two sets of anti-trust laws."

But there could be arrangements, he added.

There would be a position — a common draft, two separate leagues, inter-league trading and a playoff — that would be a lot easier than a merger."

## Seaton captures awards

W. L. Seaton Junior Secondary School was selected Most Sportmanlike Team in an exhibition game in the Chilliwack Invitational Girls' Basketball Tournament last weekend.

MEI, from Abbotsford, won the tournament by defeating the host team 32-24 in the championship game.

After an opening game 45-43 loss to McNicol Park, Chilliwack, Seaton came back with two straight wins.

The Vernon school defeated Mead 39-21 in the consolation game, 31-23 and hammered Sardis 39-21 in the consolation game.

Seaton's leading scorer in the tournament was Laurie Ferguson who sunk 38 points, for an average of 12 per game. Pat Wilson scored 25 for Seaton while Tanya Kapicki dropped in 13.

Top rebounders were Sheila Aloisi with 15, Nina Leonard 16, and Lynda Jones 11.

Ferguson was named the tournament all-star team.

The two wins, coupled with the girls' first loss of the season, brings their record to 11-1.

**COACH HAPPY**  
Seaton Coach Ray Wesley told the Daily News he is pleased with his team's play in Chilliwack, and particularly with winning the sportmanlike team award.

Wesley said, "The award was presented after a poll of coaches, referees, and tournament organizers. It is a real honor to win an award like that."

## Daily News

# SPORTS

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8 VERNON DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, JAN. 18, 1977

# Eight straight for Armstrong

Armstrong stretched his winning streak to eight games with a 7-07 victory over Vernon Blues in Men's Commercial Basketball League action Monday at Vernon Senior Secondary School.

It was the most exciting game of the season as the hustling Blues rallied in the second-half and almost upset the league leaders.

Armstrong led 39-31 at halftime, but Blues outscored them 28-31 in the second-half. **SCORES 30**

One player Blues could not stop was veteran Tony Wolcott. Wolcott sunk 30 points, including 11 in the first half. He put in 10 of 17 foul shots.

Lance McGregor scored 10 for the winners while a Fulton and Calvin White added eight apiece.

Sandy Stoiny was Blues' top shooter with 12 points while Mike Sorbs and Wally Fisher dropped in 11 each.

Armstrong finished the game with one on the bench after two players fouled out.

In another game, Gulf bombed last-place Lumby 75-52.

Rick Kobort dominated the game for Gulf with 33 points while Gary Pruden scored 16. Pete Warden was Lumby's big gun with 18 points and Jack Yarnoka sunk 12.

# Tom Mountain may be closed

VANCOUVER (CP) — A foreclosure action has been launched in British Columbia Supreme Court against Tod Mountain Recreation Ltd. operators of a ski resort 35 miles north of Kamloops.

Skyline Investments Ltd. and Highland Development Co. Ltd. are plaintiffs in the action involving a mortgage of \$900,000.

They claim that Tod Mountain Recreation Ltd. has defaulted on mortgage payments and seek an accounting of what is due.

Judgment and sale of the land and premises with the proceeds being applied to payment.

# Bruins continue to defeat Habs

BOSTON (CP) — Boston Bruins are one team that doesn't cringe at the thought of playing Montreal Canadiens.

The Boston netminder made 20 saves in the first period as the Canadiens clung to a 1-0 lead on Mario Tremblay's 12th goal of the season at 2:38 until Rick Dingy tied it for the Bruins with his 13th, two minutes before the period ended.

The Bruins broke the tie with three goals in the first eight minutes of the middle period from Don Marcotte, Jean Ratelle and Brad Park.

After Pierre Bouchard and Rejean Houde had narrowed it to 4-3 for the Canadiens with three goals less than two minutes apart midway through the period, Peter McNab scored the first of two goals on the night with 17 seconds remaining in the period.

He added his 20th of the season on Feb. 18 when he tied with Schmutz during the final goal.

The proposed arena will handle all types of equestrian events and will include lounge facilities and a cafeteria. Also planned are facilities for boarding of members horses, and scheduled riding and training sessions.

The initial membership meeting for all interested parties will be held on Monday, January 24th 7:30 p.m. at OKANAGAN HORSE TRAILERS on Highway 6

# Munson surprises Yankees

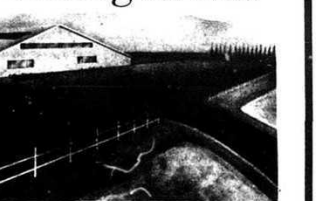
NEW YORK (AP) — New York Yankees expressed shock that Thurman Munson, Boston's goaltender, was named Valuable Player, said he may ask to buy his contract or be traded from the American League champions.

"I'm surprised. I don't know anything," said a Yankee spokesman Tuesday. "I can't say anything until I talk to Thurman."

Munson, who batted .302 in 17 home runs and 105 runs batted in during the 1976 season, said Monday night at a dinner in Hamilton, Ont., that the Yankees weren't living up to two verbal agreements.

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# Four Seasons Indoor Riding Arena



PROPOSED ARENA

Four Seasons is a proposed indoor riding arena which will be located at the end of French Road.

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For further information call: Andy at 542-9478 days or 542-8012 eves. Dave at 545-7271 days or 545-5204 eves.