NOHL needs an executive



North Okanagan Hockey League has an opportunity to become an important part of the sports community — and it probably doesn't realize how important.

After a couple dismal years, the NOHL made a comeback to respectability this season. Although the fan support remained poor, the product on the ice was much improved.

The small group of family, friends, and curious people who took in NOHL games this season, were treated to some pretty fair hockey.

Most of the "bush league" tactics are gone. There were only a few isolated incidents of hooliganism, and those, mostly involved one team.

Monashee Hockey League, recognized as the area's most competitive senior league, appears to be in serious trouble. Lumby Flying Frenchmen defected to the NOHL this year. Golden Rockets are rumored to be dropping out this season to join another league, and Grindrod Elks have expressed an interest in joining the NOHL. That leaves only Salmon Arm Aces, Nakusp Falcons, and Revelstoke Selkirks.

Reason for the Monashee's problems is the amount of travel involved, and the ensuing costs.

The NOHL is the only other loop which offers a highly competitive brand of hockey. The White Valley, Pleasant Valley and other leagues are designed basically for recreation.

EXPANSION POSSIBLE

A NOHL with Vernon sport Cougars, Price and Markle from Vernon, Lumby, Winfield Raiders, and Grindrod, could offer fans a decent product for their money. There have also been some rumblings from Armstrong about entering a team for the 1977-78 season.

Biggest task ahead for the NOHL is finding a hard-working executive. Since the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation District took over administration of the league three years ago, crowds have declined.

The city does a good job administrating the league, but not promoting. What is needed is three or four guys who are willing to donate their winter to helping the league.

Sponsors cover part of operating costs, but the clubs must rely on fan support for a large percentage of revenue. To get the support, promotion is needed.

Spectators paid to dollar to see players like Wayne Dye, Clay Anderson, Charlie Brinkham, Willy Bevan, Jeff Shirley, Bob Powell, and Graydon Brown play at juniors in Vernon, and there is no reason why they won't enjoy watching them play senior hockey.

As soon as playoffs end, the teams should put their heads together and come up with a battle plan. If the league doesn't surge ahead it may hold on to the "bush league" tag for life.

Fluke goal gives Portland victory

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

A fluke goal credited to Tony Currie gave Portland Winter Hawks cellar dwellers in the Western Canada Hockey League's Western Division a narrow 6-5 victory over Medicine Hat Tigers in one of five league games played Friday.

Tigers' John Hillworth knocked a goal into his own net at 11:48 of the third and the goal was given to Currie, the last Winter Hawk to touch the puck. Medicine Hat tops the league's Central Division.

In other games, bottom-place Regina Pats battled to a 5-5 tie with league-leading Brandon Wheat Kings; New Westminster Bruins took a scrappy 8-2 win over Saskatoon Blades; Lethbridge Broncos dumped Victoria Cougars 7-1; and Winnipeg Monarch's Kevin McCarthy scored with less than a minute remaining to give his team a 5-5 tie with Flin Flon Bombers.

MANY BLUNDERS

Defensive blunders by Tigers' goaltender Peter Peeters resulted in two other goals for Portland in the Medicine Hat game.

Peeters stopped a shot by Portland's Jeff Bandura late in the first period, but allowed it to trickle across the goal line. Peeters also misjudged a blue line shot by Dale Yakiwchuk which resulted in another Winter Hawk goal.

Dave Hathaway and Paul Mulvey also tallied for Portland, while Jim Nill, with two, Hillworth, Brian Hill and Merlin Malinowski added the other Tigers' goals.

Medicine Hat outshot Portland 43-24.

At Regina, Gerald Minor scored the only goal of the third frame to ensure the win for the Pats, who trailed 2-1 and 5-4 by periods.

Ron Parent had a pair for the winners while Greg Ing and Clark Bacala had singles.

The Wheat Kings got two goals from Don Bonar and singles went to Brian Propp, Jim Christian and Brad McCrimmon.

Regina outshot Brandon 40-37.

The fight-filled game in New Westminster saw trouble break out in the second period when Saskatoon goaltender Dave Parro high-sticked Stan Smyl of New Westminster.

Smyl then took on Blades' Wes George while Barrie Becke of the Bruins tangled with Mel Hewitt. Three other fights broke out in the period, but the players settled down during the third frame.

Smyl, Randy Betty, Brian Young, Mark Lofthouse and John Paul Kelly accounted for the Bruins' goals, while Brian Law and Hill McNaught replied for the Blades, who were outshot 34-20.

Each team was assessed five minor penalties and five fighting majors.

Rocky Saganiuk scored his 48th and 49th goals of the season to help Broncos to the home win.

Injury forces withdrawal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the first time in two weeks, Rik Massengale is out of the lead Arnold Palmer and Gary Player are out of the tournament. And, for an undetermined period of time, Jerry Pate is out of golf.

"You could see he was in physical pain," said Roger Maltbie, who played with Pate, the current U.S. Open champion, in Friday's second round of the $200,000 Glen Campbell-Los Angeles Open.

"You could see him flinch when he hit a shot."

Pate, the 1976 rookie of the year and winner of the Phoenix Open that kicked off the 1977 season, withdrew after nine holes with severe wrist pains. One physician who examined him advised surgery.

While Pate was struggling over the 7,029-yard Riviera Country Club course, Lanny Wadkins and Tom Purtzer moved into the lead at 135, seven under par, marking the first time in two weeks that Massengale had failed to lead the tour. Wadkins had a second-round 69 and Purtzer a wildly erratic four under par 67 that included seven birdies and three bogeys.

It's almost a relief not to be leading," said Massengale, a runaway winner of last week's Bob Hope Desert Classic and the first-round leader here. He had a 73 that included a three-putt bogey on his second hole.

GILCHRIST LEADS NELSON ATTACK

There is nothing like some extra support in the stands to give a player a lift.

Gary Gilchrist's family gave him all the lift he needed Friday as he scored three goals to lead Nelson Maple Leafs to a 9-6 victory over Cranbrook Royals in Western International Hockey League action.

Gilchrist a family which resides in Vernon travelled to the Kootenays to watch Gary play this weekend and obviously the visit is having a positive reaction on the big winger.

Mark Severyn added two goals for the Leafs.

In another WIHL game Friday Kimberley Dynamiters hammered Buckaroos 7-5 in the other game.

In Maple Ridge, the Bruins were leading 7-3 when the game was called and 500 fans went home early.

Folka was expected to report to league commissioner Ernie McLean today.

Folka tossed 11 players out of the game in the second period when every player on the ice except Bruins goalie Richard Martens joined in a donnybrook that started with an altercation between Gary Scott of Bellingham and Evan Williams of the Blazers.

PENALTY TOTALS SOAR

In the third period, another fight involving everyone on the ice except the goalies pushed the penalty total to 401 minutes and saw the main combatants— Mike Perovich of Bellingham and George Crookshank of Maple Ridge— ejected.

When officials had finished totalling the penalties, Bellingham had only three unpenalized players left and Folka decided the game couldn't continue. He had also tossed out Bellingham coach Jack Durston for coming out on the ice.

Frank Nagy led Maple Ridge scorers with two goals while the others were scored by Terry Kirkham, Randy Irving, Stewart Robertson, John Cardwell and Tom Cyr. Perovich, Jari Viitala and Tero Kapynen scored for the Blazers which were tied 1-1 after the first period and trailed 6-3 entering the third period.

Lakers' tall men lead attack



BRENT ZIMMER
... best game



LAURIE OGASAWARA
... 12 points

By DALE MAJOR
Daily News Correspondent

Penticton Lakers defeated Vernon Panthers 83-79 in an exciting senior high school boys' basketball game Friday before about 300 fans at VSSS.

Penticton, the third-ranked team in the province, had its trouble with the speedy Panthers. Vernon was in the game most of the way, even after losing three players in the second-half.

HURT ANKLE

Guard Steve King, the team's leader, twisted his ankle after only two minutes of the second-half. When King departed, Vernon was trailing only by seven. But, with Panthers' top ballhandler out of the game, Lakers pressed and quickly built that lead to 20.

Brent Zimmer, who enjoyed one of his best games of the season, and Mike Kormos, who had the job of shadowing Penticton's Gord Herbert, both fouled out.

Zimmer finished the night with 16 points, including 14 in the first-half. Dave Turner added 15 while Tom Davison and Kirk Christman sunk 13 apiece.

SCORES 30

Lakers' huge forward line dominated play inside. Herbert, who stands 6'5", scored 30 points while 6'5" Peter Van Oostram notched 20, and 6'6" Kelly Goheen added 10.

Vernon Coach Rick Inrig was pleased with his team's effort, despite the loss.

Inrig said, "We found Penticton is beatable, and we can do it. This game meant absolutely nothing in league standings because both of us have our divisions sewn up. Come playoff time, We'll be ready for them.

"Tonight we had a few key players who were nervous and just didn't relax. However, even after we lost King, Zimmer, and Kormos, the boys kept running."

One aspect of the game that killed Panthers was their inability to control the baseline. Van Oostram was deadly from that spot. However, on the boards, the shorter Vernon players held their own.

Turner, who came off the bench in the second-quarter, was a standout along with Zimmer and guard Kirk Christman.

ROYALS WIN

Meanwhile in girls' play, VSSS Royals thumped Penticton Lakettes 87-62.

Royals led 18-14 after the first-quarter, but decided the game's outcome in the second-quarter when they outscored the visitors 18-2. Vernon led 56-26 after three-quarters.

Royals' first string played perhaps its best game of the season, and could have added another 20-30 points if left in the game.

Leanne Wilms was Vernon's top sniper with 22 points while Laurie Ogasawara sunk 12 and Terri Rosman added 10.

Barb Kidd was Penticton's best sniper with 20 points and Meredith Laycock dropped in 12.

Besides the first string, Dawn Weltzel and Wendy Kramer came off the bench to play good games for Royals.

It was the final league game for the girls as the Panthers are idle on the court for their last game next Wednesday when they host Kamloops Red Devils at 7:30 p.m.

Vikings fight for jobs as playoffs draw near

Daily News

SPORTS Page

DON KENDALL Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

Vernon Vikings host Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action tonight at 8 p.m. in the Civic Arena.

As the BCJHL nears its completion, tonight's game means little. Vikings have clinched third-place in the Interior and Merritt has only a remote mathematical chance of catching Kamloops Braves for the fourth, and final, playoff berth.

However, the Vernon players will be fighting for something else — their jobs. General Manager and Coach Vern Dyck has made no secret of the fact he is not happy with the play of some of his troops. If Dyck isn't smiling within a couple weeks, a few Vikings may find themselves on their way home as juveniles fill the holes.

The Vernon coach said, "The juveniles are 100 per cent every time we bring them up. Some of our guys aren't giving us that kind of effort."

LAST VISIT

It is Merritt's last trip to Vernon this season, and your final opportunity to get out and heckle ex-Viking Coach Joe Tennant. Tennant may even heckle back at you.

It was a wild and exciting Friday night in the BCJHL with one game ending early because of fights and another going nine minutes and 49 seconds into overtime.

Referee Doug Folka suspended the game in Maple Ridge between the Bruins and Bellingham Blazers at 4:47 of the third period because Bellingham ran out of players.

In Langley, Glen Merkoski scored with 11 seconds remaining in overtime to give Kamloops Braves a 2-1 win over the Lords. Penticton Vees defeated Kelowna Buckaroos 7-5 in the other game.

In Maple Ridge, the Bruins were leading 7-3 when the game was called and 500 fans went home early.

Folka was expected to report to league commissioner Ernie McLean today.

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Owner given ultimatum by Cleveland players

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Barons players served up an ultimatum Friday to majority owner Mel Swig and the embattled San Francisco businessman reacted bitterly.

The players, first threatening not to play in Friday night's National Hockey League game against Colorado Rockies at the Coliseum, finally gave Swig the ultimatum to pay their overdue salaries or commit himself to sell the team, or they will become free agents next Tuesday.

Bob Stewart, Cleveland player representative, said he explained to Swig, in a telephone call to the owner's San Francisco home, the situation and Swig's initial reaction was: "I don't give a damn."

Stewart met with his teammates and also talked by telephone with Alan Eagleson, NHL Players' Association director, and NHL president Clarence Campbell on Friday before the team reached its decision.

The burly defenceman said the endorsement by the players' association was the key factor in their decision to play Friday night—which resulted in a 3-3 tie with the Rockies—and Sunday night at Pittsburgh.

FREE TO MOVE

"If by noon Tuesday of next week this situation has not been rectified, unless we are paid in full or Mr. Greenberg steps in, every player in the league will back our team in our decision not to continue playing," Stewart said.

Stewart said the Cleveland players were given an understanding from Eagleson they will become free agents if their demands are not met.

The Greenberg mentioned by Stewart is Washington businessman Sanford A. Greenberg, owner of the Richfield Coliseum, who has been involved during the last two weeks in on-again, off-again negotiations to buy all or part of the Barons.

The Barons, who were finally paid their Jan. 31 salary on Wednesday, missed another paycheque last Tuesday. Under league bylaws, they can petition the NHL to grant them free agent status in 14 days if the salary is not paid.

They did that after the initial payroll was missed, but the league came up with enough money for Swig to pay 27 of the 46 players under contract on the Barons and in the minor leagues, allowing the rest to become free agents Friday.

MIGHT BE HURT

"There was definitely a strong feeling among the players not to play against Colorado," Stewart said. "A majority of the players agreed. But then we talked to Mr. Eagleson and this arrangement was arrived at."

Stewart noted the Tuesday deadline was set because "we feel this will give Mr. Swig the time to make up his mind and do something about paying us."

Houston captain tells good news

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Houston Aeros captain Ted Taylor had the news Houston hockey fans wanted to hear Friday, both on the ice and off.

Taylor scored a second-period goal that helped the Aeros to a 4-2 win over San Diego Mariners, keeping the Mariners in second place behind the Aeros in the World Hockey Association's Western Division.

NHL

Campbell Conference	W	L	T	F	A	P
Patrick Division						
Phila	35	11	12	238	158	82
Islanders	34	16	8	199	143	76
Atlanta	25	22	11	191	189	61
Rangers	21	25	13	207	214	55
Smythe Division						
St. Louis	25	27	8	176	200	56
Chicago	21	29	10	184	208	52
Colorado	18	31	10	179	216	46
Minnesota	19	35	6	157	212	44
Vancouver	16	37	6	160	230	38
Prince of Wales Conference						
Adams Division						
Buffalo	34	17	7	210	157	74
Boston	34	19	6	236	189	74
Toronto	28	23	8	223	196	64
Cleveland	10	30	10	172	206	46
Norris Division						
Montreal	42	7	10	285	138	94
Pittsburgh	23	33	10	182	264	60
Los Angeles	20	27	11	186	187	51
Washington	16	32	12	161	237	44
Detroit	15	34	9	146	219	39

WHA

East Division	G	W	L	T	F	P
Quebec	34	21	11	2	204	68
Cincinnati	28	27	2	2	257	213	58
Indianap	26	26	6	2	196	217	54
New Eng	23	23	6	2	202	236	52
Birming	23	35	1	2	202	319	47
x Minn	19	18	6	5	136	129	43
West Division							
Houston	33	17	6	2	212	162	72
San Diego	33	24	2	2	202	197	68
Winnipeg	31	23	2	2	259	204	64
Edmonton	24	32	2	2	162	211	50
Calgary	22	29	3	2	178	192	49
Phoenix	22	33	2	2	194	262	46

x folded.

Taylor's goal at 15:00 of the second period tied the score at 2-2 and set the stage for a two-goal rally for the Aeros in the final period. Larry Lund scored what proved to be the winner at 9:49 of the third period and Cam Connor added the clincher at 13:58.

NAPIER SPARKLES

Defenceman Glenn Patrick, at loose by the NHL Cleveland Barons who have been having financial problems similar to those in Houston, showed up in Edmonton and earned two assists in the Oilers' victory over Winnipeg.

Patrick helped set up goals by Rusty Patenaude and Bryan Campbell as the Oilers stayed a point in front of Calgary in the battle for the fourth and final playoff spot in the West.

Calgary rookie Bruce Greig, in his third game of a 10-game trial with the Cowboys, got his first goal on a penalty shot as Calgary rallied from a 2-0 deficit against Cincinnati. Goalie Normand LaPointe was the victim on the shot.

Mark Napier scored all three goals in Birmingham's victory over New England, running his season total to 43. Napier's third goal of the night at 1:48 of the third period broke a 2-2 tie and the Bulls hung on despite being outshot 16-14 in the third period and 46-31 in the game.

Cleveland, playing before a home crowd of 5,191, appeared on its way to its second win over Colorado in a week after two goals by Rick Hampton tied the Barons to a 3-2 lead. But Colorado's Dave Hudson scored with less than six minutes remaining to gain the tie.

Cleveland Barons played to a 3-3 tie.

Soccer group to be formed

Soccer has become so big in the Vernon area that a controlling body is needed for here alone, says Keith Brookes, president of the Okanagan Valley Soccer League.

A meeting to organize such a body, and to elect an executive, will be held Monday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Coldstream Hotel. Soccer fans and players are invited, said Brookes, especially juvenile and senior executives, who will be expected to abide by the rules of the body.

Vancouver lands Derek Sanderson

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Canucks' general manager Phil Maloney Friday announced the acquisition of veteran centre Derek Sanderson from the St. Louis Blues.

Sanderson, 30, will be in the Canucks' lineup for their game tonight at Vancouver against the Atlanta Flames.

Following talks with Blues' general manager Emile Francis, Maloney said Vancouver has assumed Sanderson's National Hockey League contract.

He was to leave the Blues' farm club in Kansas City later Friday.

"I made a special trip into Kansas City last Sunday and watched him play against Tulsa," Maloney said. "I was impressed with the way he handled himself on the ice and after the game when we met for about an hour."

"He's acknowledged to be one of the better face-off men in the game, he can kill penalties and he handles the puck well. We hope he hasn't forgotten how to do these things."

Maloney added: "Derek indicated a strong desire to return to the NHL. He's got something to prove and we're giving him that opportunity."

WAIVERS CALLED

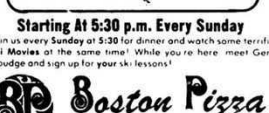
Sanderson was waived through the league by St. Louis during the first week of January after playing in 32 games for the Blues.

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GLEN SWIFT

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