

THE LOOK OF ANGUISH on the face of Vernon Coach Hank Wensley tells the story. Vernon was dumped 7-2 by Fort St. John in the opening game of the British Columbia Pee Wee Hockey championships today in Enderby. The round-robin tourney continues daily until Sunday. Vernon was slated to meet Terrace today at 2 p.m. (Daily News Photo by Dave Bond)

BY FORT ST. JOHN

Vernon thumped in series opener

Vernon got off to a dismal start in the opening game of the British Columbia Pee Wee Hockey championships today in Enderby.

Fort St. John, considered one of the teams to beat, hammered Vernon 7-2.

The teams played through a scoreless first period and Fort St. John led 4-2 after the second.

Bill Hamilton and John Bacso scored two goals each for the winners while Scott Fraser, Kevin Churchanski, and Curtis Kramer added singles.

Gordon Olsen and David Wensley replied for the locals.

HOT GOALIE

Vernon played well, particularly in the first period, but some bad breaks and a red-hot goalie led to the downfall.

Fort St. John netminder Mike Maisonnguve was a standout with 27 saves, while Vernon goalie Todd Beck blocked 26 shots.

Vernon was slated to be back on the ice at 2 p.m., against Terrace. Other games today have Trail against Fort St. John at 4:30 p.m., Burnaby tangling with Cranbrook at 7 p.m., and Terrace meeting Saanich at 9:30 p.m.

ON WEDNESDAY

Play resume Wednesday with Trail vs. Burnaby at 6:30 a.m., to be followed by Fort St. John vs. Terrace at 9 a.m., Penticton vs. Cranbrook at 11:30 a.m., Burnaby vs. Saanich at 2 p.m., Terrace vs. Trail at 4:30 p.m., Cranbrook vs. Vernon at 7 p.m., and Penticton vs. Fort St. John at 9:30 p.m.

The round-robin tournament continues daily until Saturday.



EDDIE JOHNSTONE ... an all-star

VERNON PLAYER HONORED

A Vernon native has been named to the American Hockey League's second all-star team.

Right winger Eddie Johnstone, who plays for New Haven Nighthawks, joins team-mates Paul Harrison, John Bednarski, and Larry Sacharuk on the second squad.

Johnstone, who played with Vernon Essos before graduating to Medicine Hat Tigers of the WCHL, is second in the AHL in scoring with 92 points.

Also named to the second team were Springfield Indians centre Andre Peloffy and Rhode Island winger Walt Ledingham.

League scoring lead Doug Gibson of Rochester is joined on the first all-star team by former Hershey goalie Don Edwards, Rod Schutt, Brian Ingblom, and Gilles Lupien of Nova Scotia and Jacques Cossette of Hershey.

Edwards, now with Buffalo Sabres of the NHL, was named Most Valuable Player.

NHL veteran selected to coach Team Canada

TORONTO (CP) — Johnny Wilson, a veteran of 16 National Hockey League seasons a player and coach, has been named head coach of Team Canada '77.

In announcing the appointment of the Colorado Rockies coach to handle Canada's representative at the world hockey championship in Vienna next month, Team Canada chairman Alan Eagleson said Monday that Wilson's "work this year with the Rockies made him our choice."

Eagleson said he consulted with team general manager Derek Holmes and Bill Watters, assistant general manager, and several candidates were discussed. However, there was unanimous agreement Monday morning to approach Wilson.

"We were unable to approach him until his team was officially eliminated," Eagleson added.

The Rockies were eliminated from playoff contention Saturday night when they lost 2-1 to Atlanta Flames.

Wilson, a native of Kincardine, Ont., began his coaching career in 1963 with Ottawa Montagnards, a senior team, following 11 years in the NHL with Detroit Red Wings, Chicago Blacks Hawks, Toronto Maple Leafs and New York Rangers.

In 1967, he joined Springfield of the American Hockey League in the joint capacity of coach and general manager.

SUMMONED BY KINGS

He was summoned by the parent Los Angeles Kings as interim coach in 1970 following the firing of Hal Laycoe, but returned to Springfield the next season.

Wilson coached the Red Wings during the 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons. His brother Larry now holds that position.

Johnny subsequently jumped to the World Hockey Association with Michigan Stags and followed the club when it was shifted to Baltimore. He then coached for two seasons with Cleveland Crusaders before they moved to Minnesota and folded as the Fighting Saints.

"Johnny has the total respect of all his players," said Colorado vice-president Bud Palmer. "He is a hard driver. He expects results and he rewards them accordingly."

Tom McVie, coach of Washington Capitals, Cleveland Barons coach Jack Evans and John Ferguson, coach of New York Rangers, were also considered for the Team Canada job.

Team Canada officials are expected to announce the nucleus of their 30-man roster at a news conference here Thursday.

Nine Cleveland players have said they will play in the world championship starting April 20 if asked, but Watters emphasized Monday that no decisions have been announced.



ALAN EAGLESON ... hard worker

Daily News

SPORTS Page

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Compressor long overdue



A lot of interesting things happened last weekend — the Vernon Civic Arena closed its winter season 10 days early, the Enderby Arena became the most sought-after facility in B.C., and local hockey officials got a lot of practice yelling.

The compressor at the Civic Arena broke down, for the umpteenth time, and the second annual Oldtimers' Tournament had to be moved to Enderby. Last Tuesday an arena maintenance worker noticed an ammonia leak and reported it.

The leak didn't become a problem until Friday when the ice started melting and the Oldtimers hit the ice. Tournament Organizer Chris Nelson said he felt the ice would stand up for the weekend. However, early Saturday morning it became apparent the ice would not make it through the day, so, the games were moved.

But, that is only part of the problem. The five-day B.C. Pee Wee Hockey championships were slated to start today in Vernon. Due to the breakdown, the games have been moved to Enderby.

NAME-CALLING

There was a lot of finger-pointing and name-calling after it became obvious the ice would have to be removed. It may be a little hard to swallow, but people should be pointing the finger at themselves.

Parks and Recreation Director John Mahler has been the target of most of the abuse. His phone rang off the hook over the weekend and there was more than a few unpleasant comments thrown his way.

Nelson said, "It is not Mahler's fault. He has asked for a new compressor for the last two years."

Mahler confirmed Monday that he has asked the recreation committee to approve purchase of a new compressor in his last two budgets. However, both times it has been a victim of the knife. Mahler said, "There just hasn't been the funds."

But, the funds could have been found if the politicians had deemed it necessary. There are little chunks of money, known as reserve funds, that crop up whenever an emergency arises.

FIVE BREAKDOWNS

There have been problems with the compressor for the past four or five years. Since the ice was installed last September, there have been five breakdowns. Luckily, in the first four instances, it was cold enough outside to preserve the ice. If that isn't a necessary expenditure — what is?

The cost of a compressor two years ago was high, but now it is higher. The price of machinery and labor has also gone up. And when you consider the amount of revenue lost by the shutdowns, the budget trimming has proved costly.

But, you can't blame Mahler or the politicians for not installing a new compressor. It is the public's fault. If we had screamed loud enough and long enough, city council would certainly have reconsidered the purchase. The taxpayers just didn't unite and fight.

It is a shame an incident like this has to occur to get people upset. New machinery will have to be purchased now and the cost could be quite substantial. No longer is it a problem that might go away if we forget about it.

College coach retires on top of the world

ATLANTA (AP) — For a team that was going nowhere earlier this season, Marquette Warriors certainly ended up in the right place.

Marquette reversed its field at just the right time and followed its own yellow brick road to the top of the college basketball world.

Coach Al McGuire couldn't explain it — he could only enjoy it after Monday night's 67-59 victory over North Carolina gave him the national championship in his last game as a college coach.

"I honestly don't know what happened to our team," said McGuire after winning his first National Collegiate Athletic Association championship. Maybe they stopped listening to the coach.

McGuire, who is retiring from basketball to go into private business, never thought he would be at the NCAA playoffs this year, much less be wearing the winner's crown.

North Carolina, which got several easy shots with its four-corner offence during Saturday's semi-final victory over Nevada-Las Vegas, simply could not do the same thing against Marquette.

Butch Lee finished with 19 points for Marquette and Jim Boylan and Bo Ellis had 14 each, while Jerome Whitehead contributed 11 rebounds. Walter Davis led North Carolina with 20 points and Mike O'Koren had 14.

Marquette's victory had added impact because of the team's erratic season.

New chairman for car spiel

John Taporowski has been elected as chairman for the fourth annual Vernon Carlin O'Keefe Car Spiel.

Taporowski, who previously served as a director on the spiel committee, replaces Ted Luciuk.

At a recent meeting, Wayne Laface was named co-chairman. Ten-to-12 directors will be appointed this week.

Taporowski told the Daily News his committee has a huge task ahead of it to make this year's spiel the best ever.

The new chairman said, "We have a lot of ideas to improve the event. One of our priorities is raising the prize money. We'd like to get sec. 1 prize up to about $5,000 as well as increase money for the next six finisher."

In past years, second-place money has been $3,200 while third-place team picked up $1,600 and third-place rink captured $1,200. Fifth-to-eighth place prizes were $500.

Taporowski said, "We want to increase the prizes to ensure we continue to get the big-name curlers. We will be going after Canadian champion Jim Ursel, of Quebec, as well as defending world champ Bruce Roberts, of the U.S."



JOHN TAPOROWSKI ... busy year

SPORTS BRIEFS

SOCCER MEET

Vernon District Soccer Association will hold its constitutional meeting on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Royal Canadian Legion. The recently-formed group is in charge of all soccer in Vernon. For further information phone John Zonneveld at 546-3506.

APPLE CUP

Don Dowdy, in a Plymouth Scamp, won the Apple Cup race last weekend, for the fourth consecutive year, at Yakima Speedway. Harry Jefferson of Naches, Wash. placed second while Don Hume of Olympia finished third. Top Canadian competitor was Connie Letornneau of Edmonton who placed sixth in a 1972 Nova.

SPARTANS WIN

Spartans captured the Vernon ladies' Monday Night Volleyball League championship by dumping Sneakers at the Recreation Complex. Operators won the consolation round by hammering Heroes 15-3 and 15-7.

TOP CURLERS

Bob Folk rink, of Kalamalka School, captured the 'A' event in the recent School District 22 Curling League playoffs. Curling with Folk were Rick Dedora, Herb Erickson, Ken Bailey, and Bob Davidson. 'B' event was won by Harold Peterson's foursome, from VSSS. On the Peterson rink were Nat and Anne Stokes and Merle Reagh.

TENNIS STARTS

Spallumcheen Tennis Club will be holding a general meeting on April 5, at 7:30 p.m., in the clubhouse. All persons interested are invited to attend.

WINFIELD BEAT

Vernon Motor Products dumped Winfield 4-1 in a fourth division minor soccer exhibition game on Monday. Brian Buggey and Cam Mithot scored two goals each for the winners.

ROYALS ALIVE

CRANBROOK, B.C. (CP) — Cranbrook Royals stayed alive in their best-of-seven Western International Hockey League semi-final series with Spokane Flyers Monday by drubbing Spokane 10-3 before 1,350 fans.

Spokane leads the series 3-2, and plays at home tonight.

THE RECORD

PORTLAND, Ore. (CP) — Tony Currie tied a club goal-scoring record and Bart Hunter turned in a fine performance in goal as Portland Winter Hawks skated to a 10-2 drubbing all-soccer in Vernon. For further information phone John Zonneveld at 546-3506.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) — Defenceman Denis Potvin of New York Islanders was named National Hockey League player of the week Monday. Potvin, the Islanders' leading scorer with 21 goals and 48 assists for 69 points, had four goals and four assists in four games last week as New York moved within two points of first-place Philadelphia in the Patrick Division.

FLETT REJUVENATED

TORONTO (CP) — Bill Flett, veteran winger who appears to have rejuvenated his career since joining the World Hockey Association this season, is the WHA's Player of the Week, the league announced Monday. Flett, 33, continued a recent scoring binge last week that has given his Edmonton Oilers a slim edge in the battle for the fourth and final playoff berth in the Western Division.

MAROTTE CALLED UP

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Veteran defenceman Gilles Marotte has been recalled by St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League because of injuries to Bob Plager and a suspension to Bob Gasoff. Marotte was assigned to Kansas City of the Central League earlier this season.

POOL ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK (AP) — A record playoff pool of $1,150,000 was announced Monday by Lawrence O'Brien, commissioner of the National Basketball Association. The top six teams in the Eastern and Western conferences who qualify for the playoffs will share in the pool. The team with the highest percentage in each conference will receive $50,000. The NBA champions will earn $150,000.

FRWALEY CALLED

CAMPBELLTON, N.B. (CP) — Goaltender Mike Frawley of Campbellton Tigers was called up Monday by the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League for a 10-day trial.

Canada opens with victory in curling championships

KARLSTAD, Sweden (CP) — Jim Ursel skipped his Montreal rink to a 9-3 victory over West Germany at the world curling championship Monday night and put Canada in the top half of opening-round standings.

"I wasn't nervous — I'm never nervous before a game," Ursel said of his first appearance at the world title event. "Maybe five or six hours before the game I'm a bit edgy, but I calm down OK."

King Carl Gustaf of Sweden was barely back in his seat after officially opening the world championship at The Farjestads arena before Ursel stole two in the first end against West German skip Mickey Kanz, and the Canadians were off and sweeping.

"We had been worried about the ice after our practices on the weekend," said third Art Lobel. "But it turned out all right."

In other games, the defending champions from the United States, skipped by Bruce Roberts of Hibbing, Minn., defeated France 8-3, Scotland's Ken Horton dumped Tommy Stjerne of Denmark 7-5, Jon Carl Rizzi of Switzerland beat Norway's Kristian Sorum 7-5 and host Sweden, skipped by Ragnar Kamp, downed Italy's Giuseppe Dal Molin 10-7 despite giving up a five-ender in the eighth that produced a 7-6 Italian lead.

MEETS SWITZERLAND

In second-round play starting at 8 a.m. EST today, Canada meets Switzerland, the U.S. plays Norway, Sweden faces France, Scotland goes against West Germany and Denmark opposes Italy.

In their third-round game tonight in the round-robin portion of play, Ursel's crew goes up against the Roberts rink. "We're looking forward to playing them," Ursel said of the North American rivals. Canada is generally rated as having as good a chance as anybody at denying Roberts a second consecutive title.

The U.S. skip denied that two championships in a row would satisfy him, although he said he's happy enough just to be back after his win at Duluth ... last year.

"I'd like to win it five times," Roberts said when it was pointed out only four skips — Canadians Ernie Richardson twice, Ron Northcott and Don Duguid — have won two consecutive world crowns.

Roberts suffered from a serious head cold and second Gary Kleffman battled with an ear infection, but the Americans held off a late French rally and scored three in the 10th for their victory.

Canada's medical report was a factor as well, with Lobel still complaining of the muscle spasms in his back that curtailed his sweeping at the Canadian championship in Montreal. He did some broom work against the West Germans but took frequent rests.

Manager decked by upset player

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Disgruntled second baseman Lenny Randle punched his way out of a job Monday, decking his Texas Rangers manager, Frank Lucchesi, with what one witness called "a vicious attack" that left Lucchesi in a hospital with a concussion and a fractured cheekbone.

Randle had been disheartened about losing the second base job to rookie Bump Wills. He said he walked over to Lucchesi on the field before an exhibition game to talk about it and Lucchesi referred to him as a "punk."

Randle decked Lucchesi with one punch, a witness said, then continued to rain blows on the 49-year-old manager. Shortstop Bert Campaneris broke up the altercation and outfielder Ken Henderson had to be restrained by team-mates from going after Randle.

"I had one hand in my pocket and the other one by my side," Lucchesi said from a hospital bed. "I was looking down at the ground. I never saw or knew what hit me."

Later, a subdued Randle told sportswriters: "I never thought it would come to this. I'm just not that kind of person."

RECEIVES SUSPENSION

Ranger owner Brad Corbett suspended Randle when he learned of the incident. The 28-year-old Randle's suspension will be the subject of a hearing among Ranger executives.

"My only wish is that I was 10 years younger so I could handle this situation myself," Lucchesi said.

Doctors admitted Lucchesi to hospital for at least 24 hours. They said he suffered a cerebral concussion, a triple fracture of the cheekbone that may require plastic surgery, a lacerated lip and an undetermined back injury.

Randle changed to street clothes after the fight and watched the Rangers beat Minnesota Twins 6-5 in an exhibition contest.

Lucchesi said he never referred to Randle as a "punk" — the word Randle said pronipted the fisticuffs.

Randle is starting the second year of an $80,000-a-year contract.

Local team splits games

Vernon Sport and Marine, of the Pee Wee House League, won two and lost two in the sixth annual Nakusp Invitational Hockey Tournament held last weekend.

Sport and Marine lost its opening game to Beaver Valley 3-0, before dumping Castlegar 4-3 and Kelowna 14-0.

In the B final, Enderby edged Vernon 5-4.

Salmon Arm Pee Wee Reps won the tourney by squeaking past Beaver Valley, 8-7, in the final game.

Penticton takes lead in finals

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — Penticton Vees downed Nanaimo Clippers 6-5 in overtime Monday night to take a 2-1 edge in the best-of-seven British Columbia Junior Hockey League final series.

Nanaimo had led 3-0 at the end of the first period and the Clippers had a 4-2 margin after 40 minutes before the Vees battled back to tie the game 5-5 at the end of regulation time.

Craig Berezowsky, with his second goal of the night, scored the winner at 8:33 of the 10-minute overtime period. Nanaimo coach Larry McNab then asked for a stick measure on Berezowski and the stick proved to be legal. However, because McNab was assessed a delay-of-game penalty within the last two minutes of the game, a penalty shot was awarded. Kevin Maxwell took advantage of the situation to give Penticton the insurance marker.

Also scoring for Penticton were Dino Sita and Gord McKay with two each and Shawn Dineen.

Morley Anderson led Nanaimo with three goals while singles were added by Barry Pedersen, Mickey Willigress and Mike Shields.

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