KENDALL'S KORNER

Many holes need filling



Once and for all, we're going to kiss the B.C. Junior Hockey League good-bye for another season. It has been seven months since Vernon Vikings first hit the ice for training camp back in September.

Vikings' owner, general manager, and coach Vern Dye tells us he plans to have a stronger team next season, mainly because he will be better prepared to handle the jobs.

It wasn't until mid-August that Dye and Joe Tennant finally sorted out the front-office problems and Dye took over the reigns of thue club. He has a big rebuilding job before next season because he won't have much talent coming back.

His bread-and-butter players, Gary Huth and Jack Lefley, are both too old for next season. One of them may return to the organization as a coach or assistant.

Grant Sidnick and Gary Mann will also be 21 years old, and too old for the BCJHL.

There are several players who were big disappointments and may not be asked back. Forwards Derek Rideout, Barry Lang, and Stacy Smeader didn't progress. Defencemen Ron Rogers and Brad McDonald didn't live up to expectations either.

Goaltending could be a question mark. Will Dye want to go with 20-year-old veteran Keith Ferner, or build for the future? Back-up netminder Rick Mallott was hot-and-cold and must show considerable improvement before securing the number one job.

BRIGHT SIDE

On the bright side, captain Gary Gassoff will likely return to the team as a 20-year-old. What Gassoff lacks in ability, he more than makes up for in desire and leadership.

The club's top defenceman Brian Maser plans to resist the temptation of playing tier one hockey and return to Vernon. On the blue line, he should get lots of help from Jim Misener, who showed some improvement this season, and Randy Will, if he doesn't stick in tier one.

The goal scoring department is where Dye will have to do the most searching. Cam Torgeson will be back and that is certainly good news. After a mediocre season, he came on like gangbusters in the playoffs and could turn into a leader.

Centre Darcy Wilkinson was hampered by injuries all year and has only an outside chance of sticking with Medicine Hat Tigers. As a 19-year-old, Wilkie will probably return here.

Wingers Byron Smith and Rob Jacobsen showed some promise at the end of the season. Smith could mature into a good junior A player. But, that is where the talent ends.

GOOD JUVENILES

Dye will be counting heavily on the Vernon Juvnile Reps to fill several holes. Tom Ouchi, Kelly Kaneda, and Rich Creelman should be lead-pipe cinch to make the Vikings in 1977-78. There are a few other juveniles who have good chances.

The rest will be left up to recruiting. For a few years, Vikings could rely on Medicine Hat to send all the players they needed to fill out the roster. However, Tigers now have another tier two affiliate, in Spruce Grove, Alta., and several of the top cuts go there. So, no longer does Vernon get first kick at the cat.

Vikings are a long way from a winner — they need a coach, at least three players who can score goals, a puck-handling defenceman, and a good, young goalie.

In less than five months we'll be able to see for ourselves how the recruiting went!



(Daily News Photo)

WORK PROGRESSING

Despite the fact that funds from Europe have not yet arrived to provide financing, work is progressing rapidly on the Newcombe North Tennis Ranch, in Tillicum Valley. Waskasoo Construction foreman Bill Corbett adds some finishing touches to one of the 11 chalets which are nearing completion. In addition to the chalets, the foundation f.. a 44-room hotel has been poured, roofing is on a huge indoor tennis court building, and clearing has been done for other structures. Spokesman for the project, Mike McGrath, recently said he expects the funding to arrive in Canada on April 6 (Wednesday). Corbett told the Daily News as soon as the money is here, work will speed up with the hiring of more men and a summer opening date is possible.

BANTAMS SECOND

Pup Reps capture Osoyoos tourney

Vernon captured top honors in the Osoyoos Pup Fiesta Tournament by blasting the host team 9-3 in the 'A' final, of the 16-team event, on Sunday.

Vernon held a 3-1 first period lead and put the game out of reach with four unanswered second period goals.

Bruce Major led the attack with three goals while David Munk added a pair. Singles went to Billy Baron, Don Balcombe, Steve Dmytriw, and Clayton Adams.

GREAT WORK

Vernon's biggest victory came Saturday night when it edged Spokane, 4-3, in the semi-finals. After the game, Tournament organizers said, "The game of hockey couldn't have been played any better. In the five years this tournament has been running, its the best exhibition of hockey we've seen."

Vernon is the Okanagan-Mainline champion, while Spokane recently placed second in the U.S. National Tournament in Michigan.

Major was a standout with two goals as well as setting up Rudy Roeschek for the winner. Baron added an unassisted, short-handed goal.

In earlier games, the locals thumped Kimberley 11-2 and Kelowna 23-1.

Munk and Baron scored three each against Kimberley while Major added a pair. Marty Smith, Jeff Finley, and Roddy O'Keefe collected singles.

NINE POINTS

John Barber was the big gun against Kelowna with two goals and seven assists. Munk, with six goals, and Major, with a hat trick, totalled eight points each. Les Olsen, Baron, Smith, and Dmytriw scored two apiece with singles from Bobby Hall, O'Keefe, Balcombe, and Adams.

Major and Munk were named to the all-star team, besides winning individual game MVP awards. Barber received honorable mention to the all-star squad and was picked as a game MVP.

Abbotsford won the B championship, Nelson captured t.. A consolation, and Grand Forks too the B consolation. Salmon Arm was selected as Most Sportsmanlike Team.

Vernon Sun Valley Bantam Reps placed second in the 48-team Port Coquitlam Invitational Tournament.

Coquitlam edged Vernon 4-3, in overtime, in the championship game.

Bill Leir gave Vernon a 2-0 first period lead and those goals stood up until the third period. Scott Melatry tied the game with a pair before Rod Slater put Coquitlam in front. But, with 58 seconds remaining, Kevin Poirier tied the game and forced overtime.

Slater got his second goal of the game in sudden-death play.

Vernon's Andy Doyle and Rod Michaud of Coquitlam were great in goal with 35 saves. Both were named outstanding players in the game.

Vernon had an equally exciting game in the semis when it edged Calgary 4-3.

A THRILLER

Wayne Bodnaruk scored two goals to give Vernon a 2-1 lead after the second period. However, Calgary scored two goals in the final minute, of the third period, to take the lead. Tom DeVries tied the game again with 32 seconds to go and Joe Leschuck banged in the winnter at the final buzzer.

In the round-robin play, the locals dumped Esquimalt 4-2, Grandview 7-2, and New Westminster 3-2.

Vernon spokesman John Doyle said, "It was a great way to end a year. I could hardly believe how well our guys played."

Daily News

SPORTS Page

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Coast champs bomb Clippers

RICHMOND, B.C. (CP) — Three unanswered goals in the third period clinched a 5-1 victory for Richmond Sockeyes over Nanaimo Clippers Monday in their best-of-five British Columbia junior A hockey championship series.

Richmond, the Pacific Junior Hockey League champions, now lead the BCJHL reps 2-0 with the next game scheduled Wednesday at Nanaimo.

The teams were scoreless after the first period but Greg Baydala and Eric Wolf scored for Richmond within 15 minutes of the second. Mike Shields replied for Nanaimo at 18:33.

Richmond extended its 2-1 lead with goals by Barry Jeboult and Lorne Mackie early in the third period, before O'Keefe was interrupted by a fracas between fans and the Nanaimo bench at 10:22.

Fans throwing refuse at the Nanaimo bench touched off a confrontation involving some stick swinging and some Nanaimo players trying to climb over the glass. No one was injured and play resumed after about eight minutes when security guards and two RCMP officers stepped in to cool things off.

Daryl Goodwin capped the Richmond effort with a goal at 14:26.

Lacrosse planning schedule

Representatives of Armstrong, Kelowna, and Vernon Minor Lacrosse Associations met in Vernon on Monday night to draw up a tentative schedule for the 1977 season.

It marks the first time the three cities have participated in an inter-city schedule.

Play is slated to start about May 10, with the final league games about June 20. Playoffs will follow.

Vernon scheduler Danny Holte said it is a big move for lacrosse in the Okanagan.

Holte said, "Three years ago there was no minor lacrosse in the area — now there are more than 400 boys playing. We need the inter-city schedule to keep up interest.

"We are experiencing some growingpains, but the parents and kids are being very understanding. While the boys are learning how to play, we're learning a lot about organizing a league."

REMEMBER WHEN

The second world's balkline billiards tournament was started in New York 70 years ago tonight—in 1907.

Awards given in Armstrong

By MYRNA MORRIS
Correspondent
Vernon Daily News

The top curlers in Armstrong received their awards this weekend at the annual Curling Club banquet and dance in Armstrong.

Following the banquet, President Art Maw thanked his executive for their hard work throughout the year, as well as Peter and Marg Andrea for an excellent job as caretaker of the curling club.

The Ladies League was first to receive trophies, with Shirley Miller's team winning A" event for Monday night. Vi Blanke and her team won "B" event as well as the Grand Aggregate, while "C" event went to Noelle Bieber. The Ladies Wednesday Afternoon League trophy was won by Donna Hunter's rink.

MIXED WINNER

Friday and Saturday night mixed league "A" event went to Gene Wodinsky, Wilf Bednarz rink took the "B" event, while "C" event was won by Don Wiseman's team. Gene Wodinsky and his team won the Grand Aggregate.

The Sunday night mixed league, which was only one draw per week, was won by the Clarence Bieber rink.

Men's Tuesday-Thursday night league trophies were claimed mostly by one rink. Skip McCallan and his team won the first and the third draw, as well as claiming the Grand Aggregate trophy. The second draw trophy was presented to Art Maw.

Final league to be awarded trophies was the men's Wednesday night loop. The first draw was won by the Ted Docksteader rink, while the Ron Brown rink took away the second draw trophy as well as the Grand Aggregate. Harvey Vesty and his team won the third draw.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Two special awards were given including the McCallan Challenge Trophy. It was brought out of the mothballs to be played for once again. The Gene Wodinsky mixed rink was winner this year. The trophy was presented by Skip McCallan.

Final trophy was the Hardy Mill Memorial Trophy, and was presented by Janet Mills. It is given to the most sportsmanlike curler of the year as voted on by the men. A very deserving winner this year was Mike Smaha.

Peterman records top score

Shelly Peterman of Vernon recorded girls' high triple in the Annual North Okanagan Pee Wee Tournament held last weekend at Kami Bowl Centre in Kamloops.

Peterman rolled a 475 triple.

The tournament, which attracted teams from Kamloops, Merritt, Vernon, and Rutland, is for bowlers nine years old and under.

Vernon girls' team placed second with a 2606 pinfall, well back of first-place Rutland which rolled 2676. Members of the local squad were Pamela Kreig, Michelle Trahan, Tracey Heck, Carri Janes, and Peterman.

Vernon boys placed fourth with a 2287 total. Brock Bowl, of Kamloops, took top honors with 2717. Members of the Vernon fivesome were Bruce Babiuk, Bruce MacKenzie, Stephen Blois, Glen Aalderink, and Stephen Whitehead.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BABE RUTH

Vernon Senior Babe Ruth team will be holding its registration Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m., at Polson Park. All boys 17 and 18 are invited to sign up.

GRAD GAME

Vernon Senior Secondary School will be hosting its first annual Rugby Grad Game tonight, at 5:30 p.m., on the school field. Team members from years-gone-by will be up against this year's squad.

TENDERS OUT

Vernon Parks Superintendent Mike Davies told the Daily News on Monday tenders are out for a 16-foot high fence to be erected, at McDonald Park, on 43rd Avenue. Included in the fence construction will be a gate.

BALL PRACTICE

The newly-formed Price and Markle team, of the Vernon's Men's Fastball League, will be holding a workout on Thursday, at 7 p.m., in the Clarence Fulton School gym. All prospective players are welcome.

PEARSON AWARD

TORONTO (CP) — Guy Lafleur, the outstanding Montreal Canadiens right winger, has been named winner of the Lester B. Pearson award for the second straight year.

The award is given annually to the player judged to have contributed most to hockey during the season by members of the National Hockey League Players' Association.

OILERS WIN

EDMONTON (CP) — Edmonton Oilers whipped Winnipeg Jets 6-2 Monday night to put the pressure on Calgary Cowboys in the race for fourth place and the last playoff spot in the Western Division of the World Hockey Association.

Led by veteran Norm Ullman, who turned in a strong two-way game and set up a pair of important goals, the Oilers moved two points ahead of the Cowboys.

JABBAR PICKED

ST. LOUIS (AP) — For the fifth time in the past seven years, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has been chosen the National Basketball Association's player of the year.

STIFF PENALTY

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Texas Rangers suspended second baseman Lenny Randle without pay for 30 days and fined him $10,000 today for his assault on manager Frank Luchesi at Tinker Field in Orlando, Fla., on March 28.

PLAGER DEPARTS

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Defenceman Barclay Plager of St. Louis Blues will return to Kansas City Blues to resume his duties as player-coach of the Central Hockey League club during the playoffs. Plager, who led Kansas City to a CHL championship this year, was recalled for St. Louis's final two regular-season games.

VISIT CUBA

HAVANA (AP) — A South Dakota all-star team, accompanied by two Congressmen and team supporters, arrived here Monday to play basketball and pave the way for renewed relations between the U.S. and Cuba. A few spectators and several Cuban and foreign reporters, photographers and cameramen were on hand for the arrival at Jose Marti International Airport, a field with a single runway. It is the first goodwill trip to Cuba by U.S. citizens since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations Jan. 3, 1961

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