

SPORTS

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Flawless forecast

Just a couple quick notes before we get into the meat of today's flawless forecast.

You may have noticed Ron Houston and his Curling Club News column in back with "This popular feature will run every Thursday, until March, in the Daily News, starting Saturday, Tillamook Valley Ski School Director Tom Ferris will be telling you how to get ready for the ski season. Ferris' Ski Tips will be published each week through the fall and winter.

Now, down to the nitty-gritty! North Okanagan Hockey League starts its regular season tonight and it is time to look into the crystal ball to let you know who will be in the final place in late February.

All six teams seem evenly-balanced. I doubt if even Jimmy the Greek could find a longshot in his bunch.

1. Price and Markle Canadians: Canadians will get good goaltending from Charlie Brisham. Goal scoring should be no problem with Wayne Dye, Clay Anderson, Les Salo, and Dave Caldwell.

Only question mark appears to be the defence. Player-coach Bob Powell is a standout, Bob McCallum is steady, and newcomer Gary McConnell will help. But, after that trio, the rest of the spots are up for grabs.

2. Grindrod Elks: Although Brisham and Mike Smithson will argue this statement — Elks have the best goalie in the league — Ed Forslund.

Elks have two excellent forward lines, but the third line lacks scoring prowess. The defence should be adequate, but not outstanding.

If Forslund doesn't have a great season, Grindrod could find itself further down the standings.

3. Vernon Sport Cougars: Cougars have as much talent as any team in the league, but they have one problem — too many penalties. If player-coach King Cam can solve that problem, Cougars will be a team to be reckoned with.

Smithson gives Cougars good goaltending, the defence is big, and there is lots of scoring power up front. The penalty box will be the whole key for King and his boys.

4. Kelowna Moslems: Moslems received bad news this week when standout Rick Bennington stated he was probably moving to the Cariboo.

Moslems have lots of scorers led by Bill Haynes and Larry Keating. Defence seems sound, but goaltending is unproven. With and netminding, Moslems could be battling for top spot.

5. Westside Packers: Like Kelowna, Packers' goalies are unproven in the NOHL.

Brad Owens would provide plenty of offence and Bruce Gerlach will supply some muscle. However, both defence and goaltending are suspect.

6. Winfield Raiders: Raiders were defeated by Price and Markle in last year's NOHL final. Winfield's biggest weakness was between the pipes, and that problem is still there.

Clint Eccles, Fred Parent, and Ron Dohlg lead the offensive charge. The defence is adequate. If Raiders can find a solid goalie, they'll be much tougher.



ED FORSLUND
... tough to beat

BERNIE SMITHSON
... anchors defence

BOB MAYER
... key addition

Cougars start season — Elks play Saturday

The 1977-78 North Okanagan Hockey League season gets underway tonight when Vernon Sport Cougars host Kelowna Moslems, at 8:30 p.m., at the Civic Arena.

Cougars player-coach King Cam told the Daily News he is determined to regain the league title. Cougars won the championship in two consecutive years, until Price and Markle captured the trophy last season.

Cam said, "I think we have the talent to do it. It will take a good team to beat us."

"There will be two other

games in NOHL action this weekend. Winfield Raiders host Grindrod Elks on Saturday, and Sunday in Vernon, Price and Markle Canadians host Westside Cougars.

Grindrod Coach Frank Dangel said his club has a couple weak spots, but he is pleased with the way things are shaping up.

STRONG IN GOAL. Dangel said, "Naturally with Ed (Forslund) in goal, our strong point will be netminding. We might be a little weak on defence, but I think our goaltending should be able to pick up the slack."

Hacking up Forslund will be much-improved Leon Nowak.

Veteran Bernie Smithson is the key to the Elks' defence. However, newcomer Colin Majeika, from the Endyby Minor Hockey Association, has been very addition to the blue line corps.

Dangel said, "Bob Mayer and Majeika have been good pick-ups for us. I'm hoping Majeika continues to improve so we can use Mayer on the forward line."

Mayer currently lines up on Grindrod's first line with George Faragher and Rick Retilly.

A second line has Ken Haller teamed up with Salomon Arm refugees Roy Sakaki and Rick Harris. Sakaki and Harris were standouts last season in the now-defunct Monashee Hockey League.

Several players are battling for third line positions.

Dangel said, "If I had another real good goal scorer, we'd be away to the races."

Vernon players finish near top

Eight Vernon players took part in the 1977 B.C. Toteam Open Racquetball Tournament held recently in Vancouver.

In C singles, Riley Twyford took second spot while Gregg Cauffield placed third.

In the B-C doubles, Cauffield and Vancouver player Ian Sterling joined forces to place third.

Jane Brown finished fourth out of 24 entries, in ladies' novice.

Other Vernon participants were Franks Knebel, Fred Pouste, Kay Brooks, Ronnie DeLangen and Debbie Sigale-Pittman.

Cauffield will be travelling to Montreal in November to compete in the Canadian

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

OCTOBER, 1972
Statistics released after the first week of play in the B.C. Junior Hockey League show Don Ashby, of Kamloops Rockets leading the league in scoring with seven points



Vikings acquire two defencemen

In an effort to strengthen a dismal effort, Vernon Vikings made two trades Thursday with other B.C. Junior Hockey League teams.

Vikings sent former all-star netminder Keith Ferner to Merritt Centenials for 17-year-old defenceman Roger Pierce and a player to be named later.

Defenceman Randy Will was traded to Kamloops Chiefs for 18-year-old defenceman Dale Fetner and a player to be named later.

Vikings General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News some moves had to be made and the two new defencemen should help the club.

200 POUNDS. Pierce, who played midget in Setlér, Alta. last season, is a rugged 200 pounder.

Fetner, only slightly smaller than Pierce, weighs 190 pounds.

Ferner, 20, was not invited to Vikings' training camp this season. After being named the Interior Division's all-star

netminder in 1975-76, he slumped to a mediocre 1877-78 season.

Will, 18, quit the Vikings two weeks ago when his parents decided it would be better for him to play hockey and go to school in his hometown, Kamloops. He picked up 29 points, as a defenceman, with Vernon last year.

Dye said, "We expect to get the additional player from Merritt next week, and from Kamloop probably in about two weeks. Pierce is coming off a leg injury and isn't in very good shape, so he probably won't play this weekend. But, Fetner will be pleased."

"Two other players will be making their first starts of the season for Vikings."

GASSOFF BACK. Four-year veteran Gary Gassoff arrived in town this week and will play Saturday, at home, against Kamloops. Gassoff was in St. Louis earlier this month at a

CURLING LESSONS

Besides his regular duties as curling club manager, Ron Houston is currently teaching the sport to new enthusiasts. Picking up some pointers on sweeping are from left, Vicki Oberst, Margaret Clapp, and Shirley Ghabot. Junior lessons will be held next Tuesday and Thursday. For further information phone the club.

(Daily News Photo)

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BUDD FRACTURES FOOT right foot in Wednesday's MONTERREY, Mexico game against Surinam (CP) — Brian Budd, a forward Canada defeated Surinam 2-1 for Canada's national soccer team, suffered a fractured World Cup.

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