

Four Vernon rinks beat in first round

ALLEN LEAVES PITTSBURGH (AP) - Four-year veteran Jimmy Allen has left Pittsburgh Steelers in a contract dispute and says he will retire from professional football. "This is probably the best thing for the team and myself," the 26-year-old cornerback said.

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LES ROGERS
...optimistic

RICK FOLK
...mixed champ

MATT BALDWIN
...won't happen

KENDALL'S KORNER

Pro curling circuit forecast by Daviduk

For the past decade, North American sports fans have been flooded with the word professional. We've got professional hockey, football, baseball, tennis, golf, wrestling, roller derby, boxing, auto racing, and a dozen others.

The next sport to likely try its hand at going pro is Canadian curling. Although the country's top rinks pick up some pretty handsome paycheques over a winter, there is not enough money in the game to make a living at it.

After the \$50,000 Edmonton Cash Spiel this week, organizer Darin Daviduk said a \$200,000 curling competition is likely within the next few years. He said, "I expect the Edmonton spiel to reach \$100,000 next year."

Daviduk said he is convinced curling is on the brink of greater things. He said, "We need a national tour, for one thing. We're so close to a major western tour that it could happen hypothetically within 15 minutes."

"We have about 1,000 top competitive curlers in Canada. That is certainly enough to provide 64 good rinks for a series of major competitions in a concentrated period."

STUMBLING BLOCKS

While Daviduk's dream is a possibility, it certainly is not a probability. For several years, a pro curling tour has been forecast. However, there are three main stumbling blocks: no major sponsor, no adequate spectator facility, and a lack of excitement in the game.

Some of Canada's top curlers, in Vernon this weekend for the Curling O'Keefe Car Spiel, differ on the chance of a pro tour.

Defending Saskatchewan champion Les Rogers, of Regina, feels the tour is coming. He said, "Every year the spels are getting bigger. Regina, Vernon, Edmonton, and Brandon all have huge events. And there are plenty of 20,000 spels."

"I look at tennis, 15 years ago it was nothing - now look at its popularity around the world."

Rogers predicts for the circuit to run from October to April total prize money would have to be about \$5 million. He said, "It costs us about \$60 per man, per day, on the road. So, if you could get

near that \$3 million mark, you could probably attract 20-25 good rinks willing to take a chance by travelling all season."

WON \$50,000

Defending Canadian mixed champion Rick Folk, of Saskatoon, said it is close to a professional circuit now.

Folk said, "If a team wants to, it can travel for almost two months right now. In the last two years, we've won about \$50,000 as a team."

However, Folk feels Rogers' prediction of 20-25 rinks is a little optimistic. The mixed champ said, "I think if you got 10 teams to hit all the spels, you'd be lucky. The rest of the spots would have to be filled with local curlers."

Matt Baldwin, of Edmonton, who has represented Alberta five times in the Brier, has a different opinion.

"No, there are just too many things to overcome," said Baldwin. "Under the present format, curling isn't a spectator sport. The average game bores me."

"You would have to build up some fierce rivalries and get some controversial people involved to get the public interested. And I don't know how you could do that."

NO FACILITY

Baldwin, who has an extensive background in pro sports as a director of the Edmonton Eskimos, feels facilities are another major stumbling block.

He said, "There isn't one half-decent place in Canada for fans to watch curling. That is, of course, except in an arena. And when you play in an arena, the ice is so bad, the people aren't seeing good curling."

As for the big prize money, Baldwin said the majority of the loot is being paid by the entrants. He said, "Take a look at Edmonton. Of the \$50,000 in prize money, \$38,400 was contributed by entry fees."

Curling will continue to prosper in Canada and the major spels will get bigger. But, I'm afraid in another five years, the professional circuit league will still be a dream.

Daily News

SPORTS

DON KENDALL - Sports Editor
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VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 1977

Penny to make coaching debut

Vernon Vikings' new coach Terry Perry will take his first look at his players from behind the bench tonight when Vikings travel to Kelowna to battle the Buckaroos in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. On Saturday, Bucks pay a return visit to Vernon. Both games start at 8:30 p.m.

With the addition of centre Darrel Leahy this week, Vikings' roster is up to 23. However, no more than 18 of those players are capable of playing.

Stacy Smeeder was admitted to hospital this week for an operation on his knee. Roger Fiehr is still nursing a leg injury, defenceman Glen Fester has a sprained ankle, and winger Darren Palast has a cast on his fractured wrist.

In addition, centre Bernie McNeill, who was suspended indefinitely by the league for his part in an incident in Nanaimo three weeks ago, has decided to stay at his home in Edmonton and complete his high school education.

On the positive side, Leahy, 18, was obtained from Abbotsford Flyers. According to General Manager Vern Dye, he should help the club.

Dye said, "We're going to have to hit the Bucks. There isn't a team in the BCHL that can skate with them, so we'll have to slow them down."

Cents bomb Bruins 10-0

The Centennials blanked the Bruins 10-0 in Revelstoke while the Flyers got five goals in the third period to beat the Blazers 8-3 at Abbotsford.

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LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

OCTOBER, 1972
Vernon Senior Secondary School girls' volleyball team placed second in a tournament at VSS behind Revelstoke. In the boys' team, Vernon also placed second behind Revelstoke.

PIN POINTS

OCT 30
Thursday 7:11 p.m.
Women's high single, Joy Ross 266, high triple, Bess McKay 415, high average, Joy Ross 187.
Men's high single, Jack Torjume 273, high triple, Bob Ferguson 441, high average, Mark Kattala 218.
Team high single, Left Overs 154, high triple, Lucky Strikers 358.
TEAM STANDINGS
Pin Punchers 146
Lucky Strikers 145
Hong Kong 142
Pace Setters 140

OCT 30
Thursday 7:49 p.m.
Women's high single, Lestee Stegenson 272, high triple, May Turek 272, high average, May Turek 218.
Men's high single, John Tyskovich 316, high triple, John Tyskovich 316, high average, John Tyskovich 244.
Team high single, Hi Rollers 101, team high triple, Hi Rollers 307.
'80' Club, John Tyskovich 316.
'70' Club, May Turek 272.
TEAM STANDINGS
Sticky Fingers 2027
The Van Gans 197
McGavin's Outmasters 191
Vernon Dabun 176

OCT 30
Thursday Matinee
Women's high single, Dick Berronors 252, high triple, Marg Hawley 365, high average, Elme DeLore 197.
Team high single, Happy Gang 104, high triple, Happy Gang 303.
TEAM STANDINGS
Happy Gang 172
Coalers 171
Famous 152

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

CURLING
Vernon Curling O'Keefe Car Spiel at the Vernon Curling Club. Final draw today at 8:30 p.m. Draw times Saturday 9 a.m., 12 noon, 5 and 8 p.m.
Briestert and dance tonight at the Recreation Complex.

JUNIOR HOCKEY
8:30 p.m., Kelowna Memorial Arena, V-mron Vikings vs. Kelowna Buckaroos.

MINOR HOCKEY
8-9 p.m., pup and pee wee practice
9:10-10 p.m., juvenile rink
8-8:30 a.m. (Saturday), bentam league
8-8:45 a.m.-12:16 p.m. (Saturday), senior pup house

HIGH SCHOOL BOCCES
11 a.m., MacDonald Park, Okanagan junior high school, championship semi-final, Fulton vs. Brockhurst.

JOINS EXPOS
MONTREAL (CP) - Norm Sherry, 46, former manager of the Expos, the National League California Angels of baseball's club announced Thursday.

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Curling O'Keefe Car Spiel Chairman John Taporowski. For the fourth consecutive year, since the

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Area Night Pass (5-10 p.m.)	4.50	2.50
Area Restricted Pass	2.50	1.50

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SEASON RATES

Family Packages	NIGHT	DAY & NIGHT
First 2 Members of Family	\$100.00	\$135.00
Additional Children (9-12 yrs.)	20.00	25.00
Additional Students	25.00	30.00

Singles

	NIGHT	DAY & NIGHT
Senior	\$65.00	\$90.00
Student	50.00	65.00
Junior (9-12 yrs.)	30.00	40.00

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Sandy Boyd, Manager
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