

VSSS hosts tourney

The annual Vernon Invitational Basketball Tournament gets under way today at Vernon Senior Secondary School.

Four boys' and girls' teams will be competing in the two-day, round-robin event.

VSSS Panthers Coach Rick Inrig picks New Westminster as the boys' team to beat.

Inrig said, "I haven't seen them play yet, but I understand they have a good club — with lots of height."

Biggest problem facing the

Vernon coach is the lack of balance on offense. Two players, Brent Zimmer and Gene Sirges, have dominated the Panthers' scoring to date.

Inrig said, "If we want to win many games this season, we're going to have to get

some production out of the other three guys on the floor. It isn't going to take the other teams long to figure out who only have two shooters."

Starting for Vernon in the backcourt will be Pete Wolgram and Mike Ondtke, with either Rob Platter or Rick Beaton at the other forward position.

On the girls side, Vernon Royals' Coach Deloy Routley has a hailing, but short team. The team for VSSS to beat will probably be Castlegar.

THE SCHEDULE

Today's schedule has Castlegar against Port Couillard (girls) at 4 p.m., New Westminster battling University Hill (boys) at 5:30 p.m., Royals vs. Lord Byng (girls) at 7:15 p.m., and Panthers tangling with Lord Byng at 8:45 p.m.

Saturday's draw is: 9:30 a.m., Panthers vs. University Hill; 11:15 a.m., Byng vs. Castlegar vs. Byng; 1:30 p.m., Byng vs. University Hill; 2:15 p.m., Byng vs. N.W.; 4 p.m., Castlegar vs. Byng; 5:30 p.m., Byng vs. University Hill; 7:15 p.m., Royals vs. POCO, and 8:45 p.m., Panthers vs. N.W. All-star and Most Valuable Player Award presentations will follow Saturday's final game.

One hockey fan will win an auto

Someone at Sunday's B.C. Junior Hockey League game between Vernon Vikings and Kelowna Buckaroos, will drive home a new Honda.

Vikings' booster club is selling tickets to the 2 p.m. game for \$5. Besides admission to the contest, each person will have a chance to win a car.

I will give local fans their first chance to see newly-acquired John Need, a Vernon uniform. Need, a centre, was the second highest scorer in Kelowna Buckaroos before being traded.

He was sent to Vikings, along with older brother, Bob, for Cam Toggesson and Rob Jacobson. The elder Need is currently on a five-game trial with Medicine Hat Tigers. If he doesn't stick with the WHL team, he will report to Vernon.

Vikings' General Manager Acting coach Vern Dye told the Daily News Need is the type of player his club needs to get out of the league basement.

Dye said, "He can put the puck in the net and is a good

playmaker. He'll give us some additional strength down the middle."

TWO ASSISTANTS

Dye is being assisted in his coaching duties by ex-Viking Dave Caldwell and Guy Mondak, who played goal for Edmonton Oil Kings several years ago.

Tickets for Sunday's game are available at Dye's Recreation, or from any visiting first-place teams were winners in British Columbia Junior Hockey League games Thursday night.

Merritt Centennials, leaders in the Interior Division with 40 points, doubled the Bruins 10-0 in Revelstoke. In Abbotsford, Coastal Division leaders Nanaimo Clippers took the Flyers 7-3.

Nanaimo has 32 points, four ahead of Bellingham Blazers. Abbotsford is third with 24. Merritt has 40 points, four ahead of Pentiction Veas. Revelstoke is fifth with 12.

Pat Rabbitl scored once in the first period and twice in the third to lead the Centennials which led 2-0 over the first period and 4-1 after the second while outshooting the Bruins 21-11.

Kelly Ferner added two goals for the winners. Singles came from Glen Johnson, Gary Sirkis, Bob Deschamps, Dale Ames and Ken Stroud.

BRAWL BREAKS OUT

Merritt drew five of seven minor penalties in what was a tame game until the third period when each team drew two fighting majors. A brawl broke out with 36 seconds left, resulting in six game misconducts to each team.

Nanaimo led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 5-2 at the end of the second period, but Jim Dobson scored his second goal of the game to tie it at 5-5 for the Flyers at 17:23 of the third period.

HOCKEY

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BASKETBALL

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31 teams entered in tourney

The annual Vernon Elementary School Volleyball Tournament, being held today and Saturday.

Sixteen girls' teams and 15 boys' teams from Vernon, Lumby and Armstrong will compete for trophies.

Play runs today from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Seaton, Fulton and Kalamalka Junior Secondary Schools and Mission Hill Elementary on Saturday, games will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It will be the largest volleyball tournament ever held in the North Okanagan.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1972

Silver Star ski hill has been open and operating daily for the past three weeks. More snow would be welcome but the main runs are well groomed and skiing is good on a 17' base.



HUGE FREESTYLE MEET

Skiers from throughout Canada and the United States are competing in a freestyle meet this weekend at Silver Star Mountain. The ballet event was held today, and Saturday, some of the hottest bump skiers in North America will be in the mogul competition. The event winds up Sunday

Snowmobile club closes new trail

Vernon Snowmobile Association today announced the closure of a trail because of its proximity to the Silver Star Ski area.

The trail, to be closed immediately, runs across the west slope of the mountain. It starts near the summit, adjacent to the area known as the Meadow, and carries on to the area known as the Old Mine.

Association Vice-President Bob McDonald told the Daily News several snowmobilers reported encountering downhill skiers on that trail.

McDonald said, "The association received no complaints from skiers or other parties and the decision to close the trail was made voluntarily as a safety precaution."

McDonald said, "Snowmobilers and skiers have used adjacent parts of Silver Star Mountain for many years and the boundaries of these areas are well marked. Because of the respect for these boundaries, by both groups, no other closures were considered."

Daily News

SPORTS

DON KENDALL—Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

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KENDALL'S CORNER

Sad times in Phoenix

Phoenix, Arizona is the ideal place to play hockey. After leaving the cold climate, a player can forget about his profession and enjoy the sun, swimming pools, and palm trees. Right? Well, not quite!

Two players who made more than an overnight stop in Vernon have been playing for Phoenix Roadrunners of the Central Hockey League this season. And life hasn't been all sun and swim.

Owen Lloyd made his appearance in Vernon as a member of the Vikings during the 1974-75 season. As a member of Joe Tennant's soon squad, Owen picked up 260 minutes in penalties on the Viking blue line. He still holds one dubious BCHL record — most minor penalties in a game — seven.

From here he went on Medicine Hat Tigers, where he spent two seasons before being picked by Cleveland Barons in last year's expansion draft.

The other familiar name is Terry McDonald. McDonald played his junior hockey with Kamloops Chiefs, however, he became well-known here as a member of the Canadian champion Vernon Lodge Tigers lacrosse team.

Neither player is particularly happy as Christmas approaches.

Lloyd was out by the Roadrunners 10 days ago and is now skating as an over-age player with Seattle Breakers of the Western Canada Hockey League.

After a good training camp, Owen was assigned to Phoenix, by Cleveland for a 16-game trial. He was told by the Barons that if he looked good with the Roadrunners they would sign him to a contract.

SENT TO TOLEDO

He played 12 games and then suffered a kidney injury. After about two weeks on the sidelines, including six days in the hospital, Lloyd began skating again. Two days later, he was told he was being assigned to Toledo of the International Hockey League.

Owen played one game there and then quit. He said, "I felt like I was auditioning for a part in Slaughter (a movie made two years ago that emphasized the violence in hockey). It was a horror show. I decided rather than spend a season here, I'd go back and play junior. Seattle is close to home (he is from North Vancouver) and I feel I should be able to improve my game there."

Lloyd is invited back to Cleveland's camp next season, but he still can't figure out why he was released by Phoenix. He said, "Out of the 12 games, I thought I had two bad games. Actually, I thought I was playing well."

Several other people also expressed their surprise at Coach Sandy Hucal's decision. One media-type in the Arizona city said, "Lloyd appeared to be one of the few guys on this club willing to mix it up a little."

McDonald is in no danger of being cut, in fact, he leads the team in scoring. However, he is frustrated about two things:

IN LAST-PLACE

The first is the Roadrunners' performance to date. "The club is firmly entrenched in last place with only four wins in 21 starts. And there appears to be no hope on the horizon."

McDonald said, "We have an extremely young team and are making too many mistakes for this league. Also, we're not physical enough. If we hit like our Vernon lacrosse team, we'd be alright."

The other thing that frustrates the 22-year-old Coquitlam native is that he is still in the minor leagues. After playing 16 games with Kansas City Scouts (now Colorado Rockies) two years ago, he was sent down — and hasn't got back up.

He said, "The Phoenix management told me I'd be with them all season so, obviously Rockies aren't planning to call me up. It gets a little disheartening when I see other guys going up to the NHL, for tryouts — guys who I think I'm as good as."

Terry has 18 points in 20 games, is one of the few bright spots on the Roadrunners, and could make a living playing pro hockey five years to come. However, he doesn't want to spend the next decade in the minors.

He said, "I don't know what I'm going to do next year, but I'm actively thinking of calling it quits. I might have a different attitude if I had a winning team here, or if I got a good shot with the Rockies, but right now, my future is in the minors."

The life of a hockey player — one day you're up and the next day you're down. Right now, the sky is cloudy in Phoenix.



BOWLERS OF THE WEEK

Top woman in the five pin leagues this week was May Purdy of the Monday 9-11 mixed league, bowling with the What Eagles. May rolled an 817 triple, 156 over her 208 average. Male

SPORTS BRIEFS

FIFTH STRAIGHT

Vernon Lodge Tigers recorded their fifth consecutive victory in Men's Commercial Basketball League play Thursday at W.L. Seaton School. Tigers drilled Kelowna College 42-42. In other games, Fulton Academics hammered Maruders 83-45 and Enderby Motor Inn edged Hoppers 69-67.

SONICS WIN

Seaton's Sonics edged Clarence Fulton 47-49 in junior high school basketball action on Thursday night. Lance Arnt scored the winning basket for Sonics with only four seconds remaining on the clock. Greg Delaenheer was topsniper for the winners with 14 points while Bruce Weitzel added nine.

SOCCER SIGN-UP

Men's Indoor Soccer League will start its 1978 season Jan. 11 at Kalamalka Junior High School. Adults, 17 and over, are eligible to play. The game is played six-a-side and is a maximum of six teams will be accepted. Pre-registration deadline is Dec. 20, at the Recreation Complex Office.

ALL-EMPLOYEE

In Men's All-employee Volleyball League playoff action this week at Bearstro School, Kai Ties hammered Vernon Auto Sport 15-5, 11-15 and 15-2, and Sun Auto damped Lettrick 15-11, 15-10 and 15-9.

TWO SHUTOUTS

In Men's Broomball League action Thursday at the Centennial rink, Halders blanked Brock Brothers 2-0 and Verbraes shutout Ball Brushers 2-0.

MINOR BASKETBALL

Vernon Minor Boys' Basketball League starts its season on Jan. 5 at Vernon Senior Secondary School. Boys Grades 7-9 are eligible to play, except those already on a junior secondary school team. Coaches will stress the fundamentals. Entry fee of \$10 is payable at the Recreation Complex.

LOP-SIDED WIN

Super 14s Flames trounced Raiders 14-2 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League play this week at the Civic Arena. Mike Percepokin scored seven goals for Flames in another game. Shadows beat Tri Lake Cougars 9-4.

SPORTS ALERT

VOLEYBALL

Vernon Elementary Volleyball Tournament from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Kai, Fulton, Seaton, and Mission Hill Schools. Games run Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Seaton, Fulton and Kai.

SKATE-A-THON

Senior and Junior Pups register at 7:30 p.m. Skating from 8 p.m. on. Skaters 15-17 and 18-19. Challenge match from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

SKIING

International freestyle meet on Silver Star Mountain. Ballets were held today with moguls on Saturday and aerials on Sunday.

HOCKEY

8:30 p.m., Westside Arena, Kelowna Molona vs. Westside Packers. (North Okanagan Hockey League).

BASKETBALL

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REMEMBER WHEN

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Art Stevenson kicked to the deadline and decided the game 36 years ago today — 1939 — as Winnipeg Blue Bombers defeated Ottawa-Huskies on a frozen field at Pittsview and took the Grey Cup. Winnipeg's big winning play was a 60-yard punt return touchdown, and Ottawa's points came on a 100-yard touchdown by Andy Tommy and two singles.

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