Grindrod star remains in lead

Despite being held to one assist in his club's 8-2 victory over Vernon Canadians last weekend, Rick Harris of Grindrod Elks still holds a healthy lead in the North Okanagan Hockey League scoring race.

Harris has accumulated 37 points, including a league-leading 20 goals, in just 13 games.

Seven points back, in second spot, is Canadians' Dave Caldow. Caldow scored both goals in Vernon's loss to Elks.

League standings are:

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Grindrod Elks	13	8	4	1	70	56	17
Vernon Sport Cougars	11	6	5	0	58	63	12
Vernon Canadians	12	6	6	0	54	56	12
Kelowna Molsons	12	5	6	1	64	56	11
Westside P and M	10	5	5	0	44	51	10
Winfield Raiders	10	3	7	0	48	56	6

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts
Rick Harris	Elks	20	17	37
Dave Caldow	Can.	12	18	30
Tom Connatty	Westside	15	10	25
Jeff Todd	Can.	8	17	25
George Fargher	Elks	9	14	23
Larry Keating	Molsons	12	9	21
Jeff Shirley	Cougars	10	10	20
Jeff Wilson	Molsons	8	10	18
Gary Moore	Raiders	5	12	17
Brian Tapp	Molsons	5	12	17

ALL-STARS

Two Vernon Senior Secondary School grads were named to all-star teams in last weekend's Salmon Arm Senior 'B' Invitational Basketball Tournament. Jill Hewitson now plays for Kelowna's Okanagan College team while Steve King is a member of the Vernon Selects squad.

(Daily News Photo)

Horse Talk

Training & Handling

with Don Fraser

This column is presented as an aid for non-professional horsemen who share common training problems. It serves as the medium for novice and experienced riders to seek advice and for the passing along of training tips that have worked for the author.

If you have a problem with your horse, drop a short note to The Vernon Daily News and Don Fraser will try to answer it.

Christine Emerson, Vernon writes: "I am working on a young (three-year-old) gelding pinto pony. He is very good tempered and well mannered. He is a nice jumper and neck-reins and backs well. I hope to show him in the spring and summer in some small pony jumping shows and English and Western walk-trot-canter shows. I know leads are important to a jumper and I would also like to teach him to longe. How do I go about teaching him to walk, trot and canter on a longe line? Also how do I get him on his proper leads? What kind of bit should I use on him for jumping and Western shows? He goes good on a hackamore but I don't think I would use a hackamore on him in a show. How should I keep my horse in show condition over the winter? I know grooming is important to stimulate the skin. I would greatly appreciate your help so I could start training right away. Also, is cavalettis important if I teach a horse to jump?"

To start with, you have a green horse whose bones have not fully developed. So you can't expect to make a jump horse out of him in one year, but a program of cavaletti work will definitely be an asset when he's physically capable of jumping heights.

Before you do this, you must teach your horse the basic ground work like walk, trot and canter on the proper lead upon command of your leg aids. In order to do this if at all possible I would suggest you take some lessons from a professional trainer. I would start your horse out in a D-ring snaffle which can be used in English classes and will put a soft mouth on him for when you put a curb bit in his mouth for Western.

As far as teaching your horse to longe, get yourself a longeing whip and start out in relatively small circles walking and trotting on voice commands. This will take time but be consistent and patient. When you have mastered that try cantering. Most horses will take the proper lead on a longe line. If he doesn't tighten your circle.

Keeping a horse in show condition year round is impossible. I like to see a horse fed whatever hay he will clean up (16 to 20 pounds a day) is usually ample and then four to six weeks before the shows start and you are riding more, a supplement of grain be given.

What you want to do with your horse is about a three year program so above all don't push him and take it step by step. The results will be well worth it. Good luck!

It is that time of the year when local clubs give out their year-end awards, so if you would like them in the paper drop a note to The Vernon Daily News, care of Horse Talk and I will put them in.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and good riding in the New Year. Remember "A slow loop and a gentle hand will catch a lot of happiness from each day upon this land".

TEAM OF THE WEEK

Men's Church Volleyball winners for the 1977 season are the Vernon A's. Pictured from left to right are Tim Kamke, Doug McKenzie, George Derkson, Walt Siemens, Ben Derkson and Ken Neufeld. The team captured the four-club league title Monday night after playing weekly throughout the fall.

(Daily News Photo)

McGee creates a bit of history

TORONTO (CP) — Sylvester (Molly) McGee has created a bit of Canadian Football League history, becoming the first running back to win top honors in pass receiving.

McGee caught 68 passes for 848 yards and two touchdowns in the 1977 season, narrowly edging out Gordon Paterson of Winnipeg Blue Bombers who caught 67 for 882 yards.

Tommy Scott, another Winnipeg receiver, was close with 66 receptions for 1,079 yards.

The leader in total yardage on pass receptions was all-star tight end Tony Gabriel of Ottawa Rough Riders who gained 1,362 yards on 65 catches.

Gabriel led the Eastern Conference to become the first player to win four consecutive conference pass-receiving titles. Former Montreal Alouettes star Red O'Quinn won four Eastern Conference titles, but not in succession. Bobby Taylor, Tommy-Joe Coffey and Terry Evanshen also won four titles, but not in succession and not in the same conference.

EXTENDS STREAK

Gabriel also set a league record by catching at least one pass in each of his last 75 games. The last time he missed was in the third game of the 1973 season when he was still with Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Gabriel's average gain per reception of 21 yards was the best for a conference leader since Dave Mann topped the East with a 22.6 mark in 1960.

The longest single gain on a pass reception this year was 105 yards by Montreal's Brock Lynsley.

Veteran Terry Evanshen of Hamilton moved into second place among the career leaders. Evanshen caught 19 passes in the season for a career total of 589 catches and 9,561 yards. Retired Tommy-Joe Coffey remains the leader with 650 catches for 10,320 yards.

Evanshen is the all-time leader in touchdown receptions with 79.

Mondin leads Sabres to lopsided WVHL win

First-place Sabres whipped Village Green 8-1 in White Valley Hockey League action this week at the Lumby Arena.

Mike Mondin led the Sabres' attack with three goals and two assists while Joe Clarke collected a goal and three assists.

Dwayne Arychuk got the long goal for Village Green.

In other games, Lotus Gardens trounced Burger Baron 6-1 and Lumby doubled Blades 6-3.

Garth Kuroaka scored two goals for Lumby while Ernest Robalzek, Mike Irmen, Dan Templeton, and Glen Waite collected singles.

Larry Fisher, with two goals, and Emilio Aviani countered for Blades.

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period, however, Lumby scored four unanswered goals in the second period to put the game out of reach.

Each club picked up eight minutes in penalties.

Next scheduled game is Jan. 2 when Village Green meets Burger Barons.

CAREW HONORED

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Batting star Rod Carew of Minnesota Twins will be honored as the American League player of the year Jan. 28 at the annual Kansas City baseball awards dinner.

"GOT RUN-AROUND"

Needl's future in doubt

The future, and even the whereabouts, of defenceman Rob Needl is a mystery.

Needl, who was traded with brother John to Vernon Vikings two weeks ago by Kelowna Buckaroos, was released last weekend by Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Canada Hockey League.

When sent to Vikings, Rob asked for a tryout with Tigers and agreed to report to Vernon if released. However, he is apparently having his doubts now.

His father, Norm Needl, told the Daily News today he hasn't heard from Rob since Sunday. He said, "The tryout Rob got was a joke. I was at one game in Calgary where he got five shifts. He feels he is getting the run-around and I don't know what he is going to do. Medicine Hat gave him a bus ticket home and that is the last we have heard."

A STANDOUT

John, who reported directly to Vikings, has been a standout with the club in the last four games.

Vikings' Coach Hank Wensley said, "John is a real asset to our club, but we need Rob too. He will give us some experience and stability on our defence."

The elder Needl has 10 days to make up his mind before Vikings play again on Dec. 30.

Meanwhile, goalie Steve Abbots stopped 78 shots as he tried to keep Revelstoke Bruins in a BCJHL game against Merritt Tuesday night but he got little support as the Centennials triumphed 11-1.

The defective Bruins managed only 17 shots on the Merritt net while Abbott had to deal with 89.

In the other game, Bellingham Blazers stopped Langley Lords 4-2.

Merritt now has 43 points, one behind Kelowna Buckaroos and Penticton Vees which are tied for first place in the league's Interior Division. Revelstoke is tied for last with Vernon Vikings. Each team has 12 points.

Bellingham's win moves the Blazers into a first-place tie with Nanaimo Clippers in the Coastal Division. Each team has 38 points. Langley is last with 24.

BRUINS FALTER

In Merritt, the Centennials led 2-0 at the end of the first period before Revelstoke started to fall apart. The host team led 5-1 at the end of the second.

Eddie Beers led the assault with four goals and Kelley Ferner added two. Singles came from Ken Stroud, Ron Flockhart, Blake Stephen, Bob Deschamps and Gary Sirkia. Gary Hilworth got the Revelstoke marker.

In Langley, Glenn Anderson scored twice to pace the Blazers. Don Hrechkosy and Randy Hall added singles. Eddie Lebler and Chris Tucker scored for Langley.

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period, but Bellingham led 3-1 at the end of the second. Each team took 35 shots on goal.

Bellingham took nine of 17 minor penalties and the teams split two fighting majors.

Daily News

SPORTS Page

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Tillicum to host ski series

Tillicum Valley Ski Area will be hosting the Molson's Dual Slalom Challenge Series commencing Jan. 11.

Businesses and organizations are invited to enter three-man teams in the series. The entrants do not have to be the same for each race, however, the group must be represented in four out of the five races.

The course is not difficult which means any calibre of skier can participate.

Ski School Director Tom Ferris said, "It gives smaller companies a chance to exercise team spirit without the need of a lot of people."

Last year more than 30 teams were entered.

Race time will be at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1 and 15.

SPORTS BRIEFS

SPIKERS WIN

Village Green Spikers beat 57 Selects in two straight matches Tuesday night to capture the Vernon Major Men's Volleyball League title at Clarence Fulton School. Spikers posted 15-7 and 15-12 victories. In the consolation final, Nads dumped Hook-ups 12-15, 15-13, and 15-10.

GYM CLOSED

The Sunday open gym session at Vernon Senior Secondary School has been cancelled Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. However, the gym will be open for public use every Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, from 1 to 5 p.m.

PRE-SCHOOLERS

Pre-schoolers can register for the Vernon Figure Skating Club on Jan. 3, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Civic Arena. The youngsters will be on the ice twice per week.

COMMERCIAL LOOP

Men's Commercial Volleyball League play gets under way Jan. 9 at W. L. Seaton Junior Secondary School. The emphasis will be placed on participation and fun. Team registration fee of $50 is payable at the Recreation Complex. Any individuals wishing to play can contact the complex.

LARSON SIDELINED

DETROIT (AP) — Rookie defenceman Reed Larson, leading scorer on Detroit Red Wings, will be sidelined for the next two weeks because of a sprained right thumb, the National Hockey League team announced Tuesday. The injured thumb has been placed in a cast to keep it immobile. Larson, who has 26 points, is the only defenceman currently leading his team in scoring.

ORDER TITLE DEFENCE

EDMONTON (CP) — Canadian welterweight champion Guerrero Chavez of Montreal has been instructed by the Canadian Professional Boxing Federation to sign by Jan. 15, 1978, to defend his title against former champion Clyde Gray of Toronto, federation president Ron Hayter said Tuesday. The bout must take place within two months of the signing. Chavez has not defended the title since beating Gray on a technical knockout in March.

MORGAN TO JAYS

TORONTO (CP) — Toronto Blue Jays announced Tuesday that Canadian-born Wayne Morgan has been added to the scouting staff of the American League baseball team, responsible for the northwest region of the U.S. Morgan, 32, spent the last three years in a similar capacity with New York Yankees.

GRAY'S BROTHER DIED

BOSTON (AP) — Leon Gray, New England Patriots tackle, did not mention that his brother Preston died in a fire the day before he played in his team's last NFL game of the season Sunday, against Baltimore Colts. Gray had been criticized for not caring about the team when he refused to attend part of preseason camp. The Patriots had been eliminated from the playoffs before Sunday's game.

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SKI PROTECTION

Const. Ed Hill, above, along with Const. Tony Nelson set up a roadblock Tuesday afternoon, on Silver Star Road, to check for stolen ski equipment. The roadblocks, which will be in force during the holiday season, are designed to discourage would-be thieves. As a precautionary measure, all skiers are urged to have their equipment marked with identification numbers. Marking is available at the Chamber of Commerce and RCMP offices.

(Daily News Photo)

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