

SPORTS

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Senior A returning?

The B.C. Junior Hockey League, which already has enough problems to keep Ann Landers busy for a year, will be facing another crisis soon — senior hockey.

Most B.C.J.H.L. teams are struggling at the gate, and therefore the bank.

Only three clubs, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Bellinham are attracting an average of more than 500 fans per game. To break even, most clubs need about 700 people per night.

To compound the league's problems, intermediate and senior hockey is making a comeback in the Interior. The rejuvenated North Okanagan Hockey League hasn't hurt the B.C.J.H.L. much this season, but next year could be a different story. Most of the loop's six clubs are averaging about 200 fans per game. And with plans for further improvement next season, Vikings and Kelowna Buckaroos could feel the effect.

But, the biggest pinch will come in Kamloops.

SUCCESS STORY

Kamloops Cowboys, currently registered as an intermediate 2 team, were formed this season by a group headed by ex-pro Gary Donaldson. In their short history, the Cowboys have been a whopping success.

Five games against Cariboo Hockey League clubs, the Cowboys are drawing in excess of 1,200 fans. And interest is growing.

A new senior A Interior league came one step closer to reality last weekend. Representatives from five clubs have agreed to push ahead with plans for the loop. The proposed league will have three entrants confirmed, North Shore Hurry Hokies, Kamloops, and Prince George Mohawks. Williams Lake Stampede and Quesnel Kangaroos are probable and Kelowna is a possible. B.C.J.H.L. officials in Vernon were contacted, but declined an invitation to join.

The league is no small undertaking. Budgets are expected to be no more than \$40,000 per team.

Donaldson said, "We're 90 per cent sure that this league is going to come through."

Break-even point for most teams would be about 1,000 fans — and Kamloops feels it could draw close to 2,000.

FIVE TEAMS NEEDED

The league, if formed, will be modeled after the Western International League in the Kootenays. A total of 40 games split even, at home and away would be played.

Donaldson said, "To start a league you need a minimum of five teams and hopefully six, and that's why we are approaching Kelowna to see if they are interested."

"We will go into a league next year. If this one doesn't come through, then we'll probably apply to join the IHL."

When you consider Kamloops Chiefs, of the B.C.J.H.L., are attracting less than 300 people per game, and in most cases about 100, you can see why the club is worried.

If the senior league does start and become a success, expansion would be inevitable. And the most logical spot to expand to would be the Okanagan.

Hockey fans still remember the glory days of senior A hockey in the valley. And much to the concern of junior hockey promoters, those days may be making a comeback.

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

JUNIOR HOCKEY

8:30 p.m., Kelowna Arena, Vernon Vikings vs. Kelowna Buckaroos

SENIOR HOCKEY

8:30 p.m., Westside Arena, Vernon Price and Markie Canadians vs. Westside Packers

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

8:30 p.m., VSSS, Vernon Panthers vs. Rutland Voodoo. Vernon Royals in Nelson for a girls' tournament.

PIN POINTS

JANUARY 3

Tues. Ladies 4-11
Women's high single: Marg Ryan 246, high average: Marg Ryan 258, high average: Marg Ryan 258
Team high single: Pymans 1322
TEAM STANDINGS
Top marks: 453
WV's: 453
437's: 437's
Pymans: 437

JANUARY 3

Tuesday Mixed 7
Women's high single: Apple 254, high triple: Marg Duns 248, high average: Marg Duns 254, high average: Marg Duns 254
Team high single: Vernon 20
Men's high single: No. Barbara 128, high triple: John Taylor 128, high average: Fran Grant 111
Team high single: Gomers 137
High triple: Gomers 140
800 Club: No. Barbara 128
TEAM STANDINGS
Gomers 137
High triple: Gomers 140
800 Club: No. Barbara 128
Winnipeg 448

JANUARY 3

Tuesday Ladies
Women's high single: Doreen

Fisher 273, high triple: Sandy Brown 442, high average: Lull Jamieson 208
Team high single: Corn Chek 1240, high triple: Puffed Rice 3524
TEAM STANDINGS
Frank Perry 444
Sugar Pops 418
Harvest Crunch 398
Fruit Loops 398

Wednesday Mixed
Women's high single: Die Budd 270, high triple: Die Budd 493, high average: Debbie Woodroff 216
Men's high single: Joe Goldenblatt 315, high triple: Merv Bidd 291, high average: Merv Bidd 291
Team single: Vernon 50 1322, high triple: Vernon 50 1322
TEAM STANDINGS
Vernon 50 1322
Short Circuits 445
Hot Shots 440
Osoopoo's 439

JANUARY 4

Wednesday Ladies
Women's high single: Mary 246, high triple: Mary 246, high average: Gloria Bam 192
Team high single: Same Bunch 192, high triple: Mishaps 333
TEAM STANDINGS
Happo 539
Blanks 471
Crickets 462
Lane Loops 439

JANUARY 4

Early Birds
Women's high single: Helen Stenitz 236, high triple: Jean Suer 411, high average: Carroll Gooden 190
Team high single: Bluebirds 1290, high triple: Whispers 1340
TEAM STANDINGS
Whispers 431
Bluebirds 431
High triple: Whispers 1340
Love Birds 392

WE DID IT!

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SLED DOG RACES

Dr. Terry Quenell and his team, from Vernon, will be one of about 10 entries in the Western Can-Am Sled Dog Championships to be held Jan. 21 and 22 at L and A Ranch. Teams from throughout western

CLIPPERS HOLD SOLID POSITION

Canada and the northwest U.S. will be taking part. More than 2,000 in cash prizes will be presented.

VERNON VOLLEYBALL ROUND-UP

MAJOR WOMEN
Bumpers: 2, Hohotahs 0; Village Green 2, Bib and Tucker 0; Green 2, Justice 0; Justice 2, Bib 1; Magnificent Seven 2, Geniera Hohotahs 0; Bumpers 2, Mag. 0; Coldstream 2, Mag. 1; Coldstream 2, Bumpers 1; Bib 2, Woodstocks 0; Green 2, Woodstocks 0; and Justice 2, Woodstocks 1.

COMMERCIAL WOMEN

At OK Landing School: over Gusto 16-3, 5-15, and 12-5; Kal Tire over Patwith 10-2, 16-14, and 10-13; Dollies over Setters 15-2, 15-5, and 15-0; Jokers over Dynamites 10-13, 15-8, and 11-15; Sneakers over All-stars 16-13, 7-15, and 15-4; and Guzzlers over Medics 15-8, 15-9, and 15-12.
At W. L. Seaton School: Ponsie's Girls over Bitters Six 15-12, 13-15, and 15-8; Heroes over Copy Cats 16-14, 7-15, and 15-11; Stumpers over O.K. Welders 10-12, 15-8, and 15-10; Toros over Miston Impossible 15-8, 15-9, and 12-15; Kootenay Six over Almada 15-7, 15-10, and 15-4; and Six-lets over Heroes 10-15, 15-11, and 15-13.

Clippers hold solid position

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Nanaimo Clippers and Bellinham Blazers strengthened their positions in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League's Coastal Division at the expense of Langley Lords and Abbotsford Flyers Thursday night.

First-place Nanaimo downed third-place Abbotsford 7-5 while second-place Bellinham doubled last-place Langley 4-2.

Nanaimo now has 47 points, Bellinham has 43, Abbotsford has 39 and Langley has 28.

In Abbotsford, the teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the first period, but Nanaimo led 4-3 at the end of the second.

Aaron Rucks and Greg Adams each scored twice for the Clippers, which outshot the Flyers 47-37. Barry Pederson, Jeff Wylie and Brent Denard added singles.

SHARE SCORING

Pat McGill, Anthony McMurphy, Rick Slavson, Brad Geauvreau and Greg Evans scored for Abbotsford. Nanaimo took four of six minor penalties and 'B' teams split two fighting majors.

In Bellinham, the Blazers led 1-0 at the end of the first period but Langley was ahead 3-1 at the end of the second.

Gerry Bell's second goal of the game, at 12:40 of the third period, was the winner. Glenn Anderson and Romeo Profeta added singles. Dain Phillips and George Walter scored for Langley, which was outshot, 40-18.

Bellingham had five of seven minor penalties.

In games tonight, Nanaimo visits Penticton Vees, Kamloops Chiefs are at Langley and Vernon Vikings play the Buckaroos at Kelowna.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JANUARY, 1973
Statistics released by the B.C. Junior Hockey League show Dan Kunz leading the most valuable players in 50 points including 22 goals.



NAMED MVP

Officials at Lumby's recent invitational senior pup hockey tournament had difficulty deciding the most valuable player in the two divisions. Six took part, participated from Salmon Arm, Enderby, Kamloops, Vernon, Armstrong and Lumby above are the two boys who finally received the nod. Left is Brad Andrea of Lumby for Div. 2 with Devils, right is Dan Lumbly of Salmon Arm, Div. 1.

2nd Annual SNO-GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, Jan. 15th starts 10 a.m. at Lumby Park

Clubhouse - Lumby Golf Club

Categories:
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Bruins' Sheppard fills Kings net with three big ones

By GERRY SUTTON
The Canadian Press

Veteran centre Gregg Sheppard of Boston Bruins may not be back in top shape but he's doing his best to make up for lost time after missing 25 National Hockey League games because of a knee injury.

Appearing in his third game since the layoff, Sheppard scored three goals Thursday night as the Bruins whipped Los Angeles Kings 6-1, moving Boston two points ahead of Buffalo in the tight Adams Division race. Toronto Maple Leafs remained in third place, six points behind Boston.

The Sabres lost their eighth game of the season, 6-3 to Cleveland Barons, in another game played Thursday, while Montreal Canadiens beat Detroit Red Wings 6-1 and Pittsburgh Penguins defeated Philadelphia Flyers 4-1.

"It's a slow process coming off an injury, but I got more ice time tonight and I happened to be in the right place," Sheppard said. "I started skating again about 10 days ago so I'm not in real good shape. It will be another week or 10 days before I'm in top shape."

Sheppard, who had one goal before he was injured in early November, got one in each period Thursday, marking the fifth time he has scored three goals in an NHL game. That enabled the Bruins to snap a two-game losing streak and increase their record to 23-45 in the last 30 games.

"The big thing about Sheppard is that he's a slot man," Boston coach Don Cherry said. "The wings have carte blanche to bring the puck out into the middle blind because he's always in the slot."

"I don't mean he gets there wrestling with a defenceman. He goes with the defenceman and just rides around him. He's not like Phil Esposito, who used to stand in there and fight the guy."

"Actually, I had Gregg dressed just to play him in spots. He pulled a muscle in his side tonight, but he had two goals so I put him on for the

power play so he could get the hat trick."

"The Kings pulled into a 1-1 tie on Danny Grant's goal — his second for Los Angeles since being acquired from Detroit earlier this week — on a breakaway after Sheppard's first in the opening period. However, Los Angeles and being outplayed badly the rest of the way, getting two shots on goal in the second period and being cutout 35-18 in the game.

"We were outmanned; no one moved any bodies," said coach Ron Stewart of the Kings.

The Barons may have surprised themselves with U.S. victory over the Sabres but they didn't surprise their new teammate J.P. Parise.

Parise, a left winger, was

acquired by the Barons as part of a four-player trade with New York Islanders on Tuesday. And the Barons have won both games since the 36-year-old veteran came on the scene.

"When I was with the Islanders, I always looked at Cleveland as a hell of a tough club, although they didn't beat us very often," Parise said. "They weren't getting the points they should, but there's too much talent here for them not to get better."

"The sign of a good club is that nothing bothers you. You keep on plugging, play disciplined, patie it hockey and learn to believe in yourself. We proved it in the third period tonight. We forced them to make mistakes."

Low to coach reunited Essos

Vernon Vikings General Manager Vern Dye has announced Odie Lowe will coach the 1978 Vernon Essos when they meet the Vikings on Feb. 5, for the Winter Carnival Cup.

Low coached the Essos for seven seasons and led the club to two provincial championships. He retired from junior hockey after the 1972-73 season.

Low said, "It will be good to see all the kids again. There are quite a few of them in town, but a lot playing elsewhere. I hope most of them can make it back."

It will be the first time the 1971-72 Essos have been reunited since losing to Red Deer Bulldogs in the interprovincial playoffs.

Players expected to be on hand include Ernie Gare, Wayne Dye, John Price, Bob



ODIE LOWE ... behind bench

Powell, Mike Smithson, Jeff Shirley, and Les Salo.

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Seaton takes two in B-ball

Thursday night at Seaton, the seniors brought their record in league play to 4-0 as they played strongly to hand Lumby a 44-17 loss.

Ten players hit the net as the Seaton girls led the Kings 50-17 in the first half. Mary Vale, Jennifer and Kelly Olson with 11 and 12 points respectively.

The Seaton Seabirds played a strong second half, to gain 50-17 victory over the Lumby girls. Mary Vale paved the way for Seaton with a high total of 25 points.

This weekend the Seaton girls will be in Kelowna for the K.O.S. in the consolation. They played with the Seabirds against the Kelowna

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