DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

MINOR HOCKEY

7:45 p.m., Civic Arena, Vernon pee wee reps vs. Kelowna. (First game of OMMHA semi-finals.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

6 p.m., VSS8, Vernon Royals vs. Kelowna Owlettes (girls); 7:30 p.m., Vernon Panthers vs. Kelowna Owls.

MAJOR WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

At Fulton: 7 p.m., Village Green Inn vs. Bib and Tucker and Coldstream Motor Hotel vs. Woodstocks; 8:40 p.m., Bumpers vs. Magnificent 7 and Justice vs. Geniers Hot Shots.

MEN'S COMBINATION VOLLEYBALL

At Beairsto: 7 p.m., Sun Auto Parts vs. Kal Tire; 8 p.m., Church of God vs. Trinity Thunder; and 9 p.m., Rooh Barbz vs. Royal Rebels.

MEN'S INDOOR SOCCER

At Kal: 7:30 p.m., Roadrunners vs. Wanderers; 8:30 p.m., Hawks vs. Barons.

WOMEN'S COMMERCIAL VOLLEYBALL

At OK Landing: 7 p.m., Guzzlers vs. Medi-cats; 8 p.m., Bridge All-stars vs. Snakers; and 9 p.m., Dyna-Mates vs. Jokers.

At Silver Star: 7:30 p.m., Dollies vs. Setters; 8:30 p.m., PTs vs. Guntos; and 9:30 p.m., Fatswith vs. Kal Tire.

At W. L. Seaton: 7 p.m., OK Welders vs. Koots ay Six and Six-o-lets vs. Heroes; 8 p.m., Stompers vs. Toros and Howlers vs. Silver Six; 9 p.m., Fonsey's Girls vs. Almada and Mission Impossible vs. Copy-Cats.

PLEASANT VALLEY HOCKEY

11:30 p.m., Civic Arena, Raiders vs. Super-Valu Flames.

Vees explode to whip Vikings

Penticton Vees snapped a 2-2 second-period tie with five unanswered goals and went on to crush the lowly Vernon Vikings 11-5 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Tuesday night in the Peach City.

The setback stretched Vernon's losing streak to 16 games.

Ward Sparrow, Cary Eades, Ron Vincent and Kevin Maxwell scored two goals each for Penticton. Ross Fitzpatrick, Darcy Llathaeghe and Terry Olson were the other Vees' marksmen.

Mike Winther and Dale Sloss led the Vikings with two goals each, while Darcy Wilkinson added the other.

Penticton outshot Vernon 42-29.

Vikings have a couple days to lick their wounds before they host Kamloops on Friday night.

Penticton now trails league-leading Merritt Centennials by nine points.

In another game, in Langley, Bellingham Blazers scored seven unanswered goals in the first two periods and went to whip the Lords 11-2. The win moves Blazers to within five points of first-place Nanaimo Clippers in the Coastal Division.

The Blazers meet the Clippers tonight at Nanaimo while Kelowna Buckaroos visit Kamloops Chiefs in the other contest.

Steve MacDonald led the Blazers with three goals, while Bobby Hull and Glenn Anderson scored twice. Don Fraser, Gerry Bell, Romeo Profeta and Dave Brockhill added singles.

LORDS OUTSHOT

Gerry Bogle and Maurice Jaeger scored for Langley, which was outshot 39-27.

Vancouver snaps six-game streak

By GLENN COLE
The Canadian Press

Some people had given up on John Flesch as a National Hockey League player, but Pittsburgh Penguins decided to give him another try at the big time and their faith in him appears to be justified.

NHL

Wales Conference	W	L	T	F	A	P
Norris Division						
Montreal	37	7	9	225	122	83
Los Angeles	22	21	11	170	153	55
Pittsburgh	19	23	12	180	211	50
Detroit	20	25	8	163	184	48
Washington	10	35	11	126	215	31
Adams Division						
Boston	34	12	7	211	130	75
Buffalo	31	11	13	195	143	75
Toronto	29	15	10	188	149	68
Cleveland	18	33	4	159	220	42
Campbell Conference						
Patrick Division						
Islanders	34	12	9	233	137	77
Phila	32	12	0	214	134	74
Atlanta	22	21	8	172	180	52
Rangers	18	28	10	180	196	46
Smythe Division						
Chicago	22	18	14	150	134	58
Vancouver	15	27	13	162	217	43
Colorado	12	28	13	165	201	37
Minnesota	12	35	4	136	218	30
St. Louis	11	35	7	119	204	29

Tuesday night, the six-foot-two left winger from Sudbury, Ont., appearing in his eighth game in a Pittsburgh uniform, scored his third goal of the season at 6:44 of the third period to give the Penguins a 2-1 victory over Chicago Black Hawks in one of three games.

In other action, Vancouver Canucks downed Washington Capitals 4-2 and New York Islanders nipped Los Angeles Kings 3-2.

Flesch, 24, was an outstanding player at Lake Superior College and earned enough attention to be drafted by Atlanta Flames in the fifth round of the 1973 National Hockey League amateur draft.

He started out well in the pro ranks scoring 27 goals and 27 assists in 69 games with Omaha of the Central League during the 1973-74 campaign.

During the summer of 1974, Minnesota acquired him from the Flames, and the North Stars noted in their 1975-76 media guide "that the talent is there. Time and experience in the NHL are what is needed."

SENT DOWN

The North Stars decided during that season they had seen enough of Flesch and dispatched him to the American Hockey League. From there Flesch went to the International League where he performed adequately enough and Pittsburgh decided to give him another try last month.

"I've been playing better hockey lately," said Flesch. "The thing (coach) Johnny Wilson has emphasized is that he doesn't want me to get out of position.

"Gene Carr and Rick Kehoe are helping me to be where I should be and as a result, I'm getting some good scoring opportunities."

Canucks defenceman Dennis Kearns assisted on all three first-period Vancouver goals, two of them on the power play. A total of 62 minutes in penalties were called in opening session, including eight majors— four to each club—and a game misconduct to Canucks defenceman Sheldon Kannegeisser.

SCORE IN FIRST

Claire Alexander, Hilliard Graves and Mike Walton scored for the Canucks in the first period and Chris Oddleifson completed the Vancouver offence at 1:21 of the third.

Rick Bragnalo and Dave Forbes scored for the Capitals, who have won just twice in their last 19 games.

Bryan Trottier's second goal of the night and 37th of the season gave the Islanders a comefrom-behind triumph over the Kings and moved New York into a three-point lead ahead of Philadelphia in the battle for first in the Patrick Division. The Flyers hold a game in hand.

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SAVE A BUSHEL DOWN ON THE FORD FARM.

Young Spinks meets champion

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Leon Spinks, who was 11 years old when a youthful Muhammad Ali beat an aging Sonny Liston in 1964, fights Ali tonight for the world heavyweight boxing championship in what will be only the former U.S. Marine's eighth contest as a professional.

Ali was 22 and in his 20th pro fight when he won the title for the first time with a stunning seventh-round upset of Liston in Miami Beach, Fla.

A victory by the 24-year-old Spinks would be equally stunning. Nevada bookmakers have not established a betting line.

There are some boxing observers, however, who feel Spinks can pull a surprise. They feel his winning combination could be his youth and aggressiveness, combined with Ali's age and the fact he has slipped as a fighter.

Ali's plus factors are his ability to take a punch, his long experience and his size. Ali, who stands 6-foot-3, is 1½ inches taller than Spinks and will enjoy a four-inch reach advantage and a 27-pound weight advantage.

SHEDS POUNDS

Ali officially weighed in Tuesday at 224¾, three-quarters of a pound less than when he outpointed hard-punching Earnie Shavers last Sept. 29. Spinks weighed 197¾.

The scheduled 15-rounder between the two former Olympic light heavyweight champions— Ali in 1960 and Spinks in 1976— will begin about 10:15 p.m. EST, at the 4,500-seat Hilton Pavilion.

The card—to be televised by CBS, beginning at 8 p.m. EST— also will feature a 15-round bout between Danny (Little Red) Lopez of Alhambra, Calif., the World Boxing Council featherweight champion, and David Kotey of Ghana.

Spinks, from St. Louis, is getting $300,000 for his title shot. His record is six victories, five by knockouts, and a 10-round draw against Scott LeDoux. In his last fight, he scored a 10-round decision over Alfio Righetti here Nov. 18, 1977.

GETS $3.7 MILLION

Ali, who has a record of 55-2-0, with 37 knockouts, is getting $3.7 million for his 11th title defence since regaining the championship by knocking out George Foreman in the eighth round in Zaire in 1974. Meanwhile, the biggest purse of his career is being negotiated for a fight against No. 1 contender Ken Norton.

Jose Sulaiman of Mexico, the WBC president, said Ali, who must sign by April 5 to fight Norton by July 5 or be stripped of the title, has indicated he wants Norton soon.

Sulaiman said he would like the fight to be in May. However, a source close to the negotiations said the fight would more likely be in September.

Sparkes captures B.C. title

VANCOUVER (CP) — Bernie Sparkes of Vancouver overcame a 4-2 deficit to count three on the final end and defeat Bert Gretzinger of Kelowna 5-4 Tuesday in the deciding game of the best-of-three British Columbia men's curling final.

The win gave Sparkes a berth in the national championship to be played here March 5-11.

Sparkes trailed 4-2 in the deciding game after Gretzinger stole a single point on the seventh end. Sparkes blanked the eighth and ninth in an effort to build up a big end and the move paid off in the 10th.

With Sparkes counting three, Gretzinger was heavy with his final rock and his shot was swept to the back of the 12-foot line, giving Sparkes the victory.

Earlier Tuesday, Gretzinger made a perfect last rock draw to the button for a 5-4 win over Sparkes which evened the series. Monday's opening game saw Sparkes edge Gretzinger 5-4.

Sparkes, with Ron Thompson at third, Al Cook at second and Kelven Bauer at lead, won the Pacific Coast championship last week.

Gretzinger, with Barry Smith at third, Dan Wesley at second and Ron Steinnauer at lead, won the Interior title Sunday.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY, 1973

Vernon Juveniles won the North Zone championship when they defeated Salmon Arm in a two-game total points series, 10-9.

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Vancouver ball team affiliates with Oakland

VANCOUVER (CP) — Harry Ornest announced Tuesday an affiliation with Oakland A's of the American League for his new Vancouver baseball franchise in the Pacific Coast League.

The Beverley Hills, Calif., promoter told a news conference that the Vancouver team would be named the Canadians and he would be "proud to see the name when Vancouver plays in United States cities this season."

Vancouver, after an eight-year absence, will be back in the PCL in 1978, playing in a refurbished stadium seating more than 7,000.

"I've had a love affair with baseball since I was six years old," said Ornest, team owner and president, "and it's all been worth it.

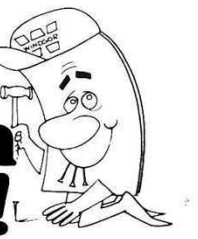
"Baseball is entering a new and marvellous era and I think this is the first step in Vancouver getting a major-league franchise."

Vancouver dropped out of the PCL after the 1969 season following a disastrous year at the gate when fewer than 60,000 customers attended 70 home games. The team, called the Mounties, was stocked with players from expansion teams in Montreal and Seattle.

STADIUM UPGRADED

Capilano Stadium, owned by the city, is being upgraded to PCL standards.

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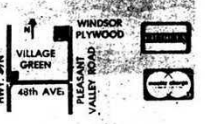
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