

# SPORTS

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## KENDALL'S KORNER

### The year of rookies



Just like fruits and vegetables, the National Hockey League has its good, and bad, crops of rookies.

There was the year Frank Mahovlich beat a chap named Bobby Hull for the Calder Trophy. Another year Bri Selby (who?) won the Rookie of the Year Award by scoring only 13 goals for Toronto Maple Leafs.

Will Plett of Atlanta won the award in 1976-77 when Don Murdoch, of New York Rangers, pulled up lame in the second half of the season.

If Selby's year was terrible, and Plett's year was average, then this season's crop has to rank as super, up there with 1958-59, when Mahovlich won.

Mike Bossy, of New York Islanders, is everyone's choice as the Calder Trophy winner this year. The flashy winger has scored a record-tying 44 goals, in just 52 games.

**SPORTING CAST**

But behind Bossy there is a tremendous supporting cast. At least 10 other rookies would be serious contenders in any other year.

Heading the list of also-rans are two youngsters who have helped change Detroit Red Wings from a joke into Lindsay's Gorillas.

Lyle McCourt, the first amateur picked in last year's draft, is leading the Wings in scoring with 52 points. And Reed Larson has already set a club record for goals by a defenceman with 15. He is second on the Wings in scoring, behind McCourt.

Down in Denver, the toast of Colorado Rockies is 215-pound defenceman Barry Beck.

Beck drafted this year from New Westminster Bruins, is the anchor of the Colorado defence. He is the third highest scorer on Colorado and already has 17 goals.

**GOALIE STARS**

Brad Maxwell, another New Westminster graduate, has 11 goals while playing defence for the hapless Minnesota North Stars.

Between the pipes, the play of rookie Don Edwards has kept Buffalo Sabres in the divisional race.

Edwards, who saw some duty with the Sabres last season, has a goals against average of 2.50 and has four shutouts.

In Montreal, Canadiens appear to have found another star in Pierre Mondou. Mondou, who spent two seasons of apprenticeship with Nova Scotia Voyageurs of the American Hockey League, has 42 points.

That total is deceptive because Mondou spends quite a bit of time on the bench because a couple guys named Guy Lafleur and Yvan Courcy play the same position as him.

Any other year, Jere Gillis, who has 18 goals with the anemic Vancouver Canucks; Lucien Delisle, who has 20 goals with New York Rangers; and Ted Bulley and Doug Wilson, who have helped turnaround Chicago Black Hawks, would receive serious consideration.

But, not this year. This is the Year of the Rockies. I doubt if Bri Selby would have much of a chance!

### Vernon hosts series opener

The Okanagan juvenile hockey championship series gets under way Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Civic Arena.

Undefeated Vernon will be hosting the winner of the Salmon Arm-Kamloops semi-final series. That best-of-three series is currently tied at one game apiece.

Statistics released this week show Vernon placed nine players among the league's top 20 scorers.

Leading the way was Tom Ouchi with 46 points, including 22 goals.

The top 20 are:

PLAYER	G	A	Pts.	Plus	Minus
Ouchi, Vernon	28	18	46	12	12
Miller, Kamloops	26	20	46	38	38
Redman, Vernon	21	18	39	4	4
Apolter, Pent	27	11	38	41	41
Edwards, Vernon	4	34	38	3	3
Dredger, Vernon	20	17	37	12	12
Reid, Kamloops	12	24	36	16	16
Kaneva, Vernon	6	27	33	29	29
Brown, Vernon	21	7	28	0	0
Pinna, S. Arm	18	9	27	24	24
Hewer, Pent	7	19	26	36	36
Abbott, Oliver	18	8	26	12	12
Nunes, Oliver	15	10	25	0	0
Fisher, Kamloops	13	12	25	9	9
Chab, Vernon	19	5	24	31	31
Gud, Vernon	11	12	23	30	30
Provencher, Kelowna	17	5	22	29	29
Walters, S. Arm	5	17	22	18	18
Lockwood, Vernon	8	13	21	12	12



### LOUIS HONORED

Oliver Louis of Vernon, who won the 1977 World Junior Hockey Championship will be honored at a banquet on Saturday night at 6 p.m. at the Village Green Inn. Louis won the title last November in New Mexico. Attending his other at the banquet will be his wife and two children. The banquet is being held in the ballroom of the inn. Tickets are \$12.50. For more information, phone 542-1282 or 542-1272.

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### DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

**PLUMBERS' BONSPIEL**  
The 24th annual Plumbers' Bonspiel runs at the Vernon Curling Club from today to Sunday.

**JUNIOR HOCKEY**  
8:30 p.m., Civic Arena, Vernon Vikings vs. Revelstoke Bruins

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**  
8:30 p.m., North Kamloops High School, Vernon Panthers vs. Norikam Saints

**SATURDAY**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Recreation Complex, Vernon and District Minor Soccer Association registration

**BOWLING**  
Youth Bowling Council zone playdowns in Princeton. Two Vernon teams are competing.

### Cozens ready for a victory

"If I had 18 players who gave me the effort and hustle he does, I'd win a lot of hockey games."

Vernon Vikings Coach Hank Wensley has a lot of praise for the smallest player on his team, right winger Scott Cozens.

Cozens, who played midget in Calgary last year, was cut in training camp by Pincher Creek, of the Alberta Junior 'A' League. From there, he decided to try his luck in Vernon. Since joining the Vikings, he has been one of their few constant players.

**CRUCIAL SERIES**

Vernon plays a crucial home-and-home series against Revelstoke Bruins this weekend and Cozens feels his club will snap its 17-game losing streak, with at least one and maybe two victories.

The 17-year-old winger said, "We've been playing well lately but, we're having lapses that are costing us games. We should have won two games last weekend."

Vikings have lost the last three times they've met the Bruins. He said, "We don't seem to get psyched up for Revelstoke—we take them too easy. But, we realize we have to beat them to make the playoffs and I think things will be different this weekend."

**64 POINTS**

Cozens is currently second on the club in scoring, behind Mike Winters, with 17 goals and 47 assists for 64 points. He has played with Winters and Darren Halasz most of this season, but may have new



SCOTT COZENS ... lapses costly

linemates tonight.

Cozens said, "I think I'll be playing with John Neel and Darcy Wilkinson. The coach wants to shake up the lines a bit and see if we can't get going."

The 145-pounder doesn't have any definite plans for next year, but would like to return to Vernon. He said, "I've been offered a college scholarship in Calgary, but if the sale of the club works out here, I'd like to come back."

Vikings host Bruins tonight, at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. Vernon visits Revelstoke and on Sunday, the Kamloops Chiefs host Vikings.

**GOALPOSTS:** Winters leads the club in points with 71. Wensley hopes to have three midgets in the line-up tonight. The midgets were eliminated from OMMHA playoffs last weekend. Revelstoke will be without George Crookshank and Bruce Howes.



### THE ARCHERY DIVISION, OF THE Vernon Fish and Game Club, doesn't limit its membership by age or sex. In fact, new members are always welcome. Getting some practice on the club's indoor range are from left, Tim Ryan, Jim Wiebe, and Irene McDowell. Ryan will be defending his Canadian junior indoor title in March, in Montreal. (Daily News Photos)



### Vernon Archery Club looking for members

The archery division, of the Vernon Fish and Game Club is having its problems these days.

Facilities at the club are excellent, however, membership has dropped drastically in the last year.

Archery President Red Ryan told the Daily News he isn't too worried about the drop and feels the club will bounce back.

Ryan said, "It has been a tough year for us because we weren't able to get started until after Christmas. The city was in the process of moving our clubhouse so, we had no place to shoot."

There are currently six adults and eight junior members, compared to 15

adults and 25 juniors last year.

Ryan said, "We got a nice indoor range we're using now—in the basement of the clubhouse. And in the spring, the city will be constructing our outdoor range. With the new range, we'll be able to shoot right through the year."

"As far as I'm concerned, by this time next year, we'll have one of the best-equipped clubs in B.C."

**NATIONAL CHAMP**  
Pride of the club is Red's son Tim. Tim is the 1977 Canadian Indoor Junior champion and he will be defending his title, next month, in Montreal.

Juniors shoot on Tuesday nights while adults workout on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Ryan said, "There is no charge to come out and try archery. After a while, if you like it, the only stipulation is that you must be a member of the Fish and Game Club."

Anyone interested is asked to phone Ryan at 545-1066.

### Blazers threaten Nanaimo berth

Bellingham Blazers beat one British Columbia Junior Hockey League division leader to move to within one point of another division pacesetter Thursday night.

The Blazers doubled Merritt Centennials 8-4 to move to within a point of Nanaimo Clippers in the light Coastal Division race while in the other game, Kelowna Buckaroos stopped Revelstoke Bruins 4-2.

Merritt is first in the Interior Division with 81 points, five more than Penitencion Vees and 19 ahead of Kelowna. Revelstoke is fifth with 68.

In Bellingham, Merritt led 3-0 after the first period but the Blazers held a 5-3 edge after the second.

Glenn Anderson and Steve MacDonald each tallied twice for the Blazers which got singles from Jim Bissett, Dave Brockhill, Richard Lazar and Bobby Hull.

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