



**VERNON BOXERS** John Wilson and John Matthews of the 75 pound weight class spar under the watchful eye of coach Don McDonald in preparation for the upcoming Burckin Gloves tournament to be held in Vernon on March 17 and 18. The tournament will feature clubs from all over B.C., Alberta, Washington and Idaho and promises to be an exciting sport for spectators. (Daily News Photos)

**VIKINGS WIN ONE**

**osing streak is finally over**

The longest losing streak in Vernon Vikings' history finally ended on Friday night.

Vikings moved to within two points of the final playoff berth in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division by dominating Revelstoke Bruins 5-3. It was the first victory for Vernon in 18 outings.

General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News his club deserved a win. He said, "We've lost the last few games by bad breaks - it is about time the puck started bouncing our way."

The teams fought through a scoreless first period and Vikings led 3-1 after 40 minutes.

John Need, Glen Lockwood, Darcy Wilkinson, Scott Cozens, and Darren Haines scored for the winners. Lockwood and Gerry Feister brought up from the juvenile rep. played well and had one assist each.

Randy Zinn, Ian Rainey, and Evan Williams replied for Bruins.

Vernon's goalie Darren Martin faced 40 shots while Revelstoke's Steve Abbott made 31 saves.

Bruins took six of 11 minor penalties and one of two misconducts.

The visitors were without George

Crookshank and Bruce Howe. Crookshank, who played minor hockey in Vernon, is suspended for two games while Howe picked up four games for his part in an incident on Feb. 17.

Dye said, "Tonight's game is the big one. If we can beat the Bruins in Revelstoke, we'll be even with them. Personally, I think we can win three this week."

On Sunday night, Vikings travel to Kamloops to meet the Chiefs.

**CLIPPERS WIN**

In other action Friday, Nanaimo Clippers came from behind to post a 7-3 win over visiting Merritt Centennials and stretch their lead over second-place Bellhams.

Blazers to three points in the Coast Division.

Langley Lords were trounced 9-2 by Abbotsford Flyers and Porticton Vees edged Kelowna Buckaroos 7-6 in the Regatta City.

On the coast, Bellhams has 66 points, Abbotsford is third with 61, and Langley trails with 52.

Interior, Merritt remains on top with 81 points, three more than Vees. Kelowna is third with 62 points followed by Kamloops with 47, Revelstoke 18, and Vernon 16.

**MEETING SUNDAY**

A group of eight local businessmen hope to meet with the owners of the Vernon Vikings' Hockey Club on Sunday to discuss the sale of the B.C. Junior Hockey League team.

A spokesman for the group told the Daily News today, "An offer will be made, and we hope something can be worked out. We're genuinely interested in the future of the team."

**Critical games tonight**

Two critical games will be played tonight in the North Okanagan Hockey League.

At stake are the regular season title, the final playoff berth to meet the scoring crown.

Winfield Raiders travel to Enderby to meet the Grizzlies. Eiks in a must-win game for the visitors. If Raiders win, they are in the playoffs.

However, if they lose or tie, the idle Vernon Canadians advance to meet the scoring crown.

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**Daily News**

**SPORTS Page**

DON KENDALL Sports Editor  
PHONE 545-0671

6 VERNON DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, FEB. 25, 1978

**MEET THE COACH**

**Boxing club needs support**

Vernon's boxers have a great attitude toward boxing and are all good sports, according to Vernon boxing coach Don McDonald.

McDonald has been involved with the club since 1946 and is responsible for about 50 members, running from novices to experienced, and ranging in age from nine to 26 years old on a competitive level. There is even an old-timers' night for the people who can't compete anymore but still like to keep involved.

McDonald said the coaching staff is composed of all ex-boxers who have a wealth of experience. "This kind of experience really helps the kids to learn properly and become good fighters," he said.

Most of the Vernon boxers have about five fights under their belts, but even if they don't compete, McDonald said the physical activity is a great help in keeping in shape. Apart from the two hours training per night, at least three times a week, the boxers are required to run from two to four miles a day. "A lot of these guys play other sports as well as boxing and I maintain

most of them are in twice as good shape as many of their counterparts," he said.

"As soon as the kids find out they are not going to get beat up, either boxing or sparring, they really come around and start developing."

"We try to emphasize that sparring is only practice and there is no way anyone gets hurt because they are just trying to help each other improve."

McDonald said the only major problem right now with the boxing club is that expenses are running high and the facility is "on the work out" as expensive to keep up and maintain.

"For a youngster to box for a season it only costs \$20 and for a senior, it is only \$25," McDonald said. "With a \$30 per month operating cost during the winter, it is pretty hard to make ends meet."

McDonald said the club received a government grant of \$1,000 this year for the operation of the club but, it still falls 1600 short of the rent alone. "Rising costs are putting our club in jeopardy and we can't afford to take the boys on trips because of prohibitive expense," he said.

"A lot of these boys just can't afford to play other sports."

McDonald said the club is raising drives and other conventional means of raising money, but when the boys are busy three to five nights a week, it is pretty hard for them to get the time to go out canvassing. "If this club ever had to close down it would be a sad state and the end of a long tradition," he said.

**DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT**

**CURLING**  
Plumbers' Bonspiel continues today at The Vernon Curling Club. Finals in all events are scheduled Sunday at 9 a.m.

**FIGURE SKATING**  
Silver Blades Ice Revue, presented by the Vernon Figure Skating Club, will be held tonight, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, at 1:30 p.m. Theme of the show is The Muppets.

**MINOR SOCCER**  
Vernon and District Minor Soccer Association registration ends at 4 p.m., at the Recreation Complex.

**RODEO BAQUET**  
8 p.m., Village Green Inn, a banquet will be held to honor All-Native World Bronc Riding champion Oliver Louis, of Vernon.

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

2 p.m. (Sunday), Kamloops Arena, Vernon Vikings vs. Kamloops Chiefs.

**NORTH OKANAGAN LEAGUE**  
8 p.m., Enderby Arena, Winfield Raiders vs. Grizzlies.

**GRANDDAD EIKS**  
8:30 p.m., Rutland Arena, Westside Packers vs. Kelowna Moisons.

**BOEILING**  
Youth Bowling Council zone playdowns: Juniors complete today in Princeton and seniors will roll-off Sunday in Grand Forks.

**CRICKET COUNTRY SKIING**  
North Okanagan "Cross-country Ski Club has a trip planned Sunday to Six-mile Creek and McGregor Road. Skiers are asked to meet at the town of Super Vale parking lot at 9 a.m.

**MINOR HOCKEY**  
5 p.m. (Sunday), Civic Arena, OMMHA juvenile finals start with Vernon playing either Salmon Arm or Kamloops.

**HONEYMOONERS' VOLLEYBALL**  
Sunday at Recreation Complex, 5:30 p.m., Goodtimers vs. Six Pack; 6:20 p.m., Bankers' Folly vs. Campdown Racers; 7:10 p.m., Friends vs. Vipers; 8 p.m., Sundowners vs. Fast Flyers; 8:50 p.m., Old Stylers vs. Hot-to-go.

**PIN POINTS**

**Feb. 14 - Thurs. Mixed Ball**  
Women's high single, Joann Sheen 271, high triple, Elsie Wagner 488, high average, Elsie Wagner 185.  
Men's high single, Gordon Wilson 274, high triple, Gordon Wilson 753, high average, World Katalyst 222.  
Team high single, Turkeys 1039, high triple, Turkeys 3617, 3000 Club, Marie Smoljak 274, Jo'n Urbank 267.

**TEAM STANDINGS**  
Missions 227  
King Kong Village 228  
The Team 224  
Pace Setters 217  
Vets 216

**Feb. 14 - Thurs. 2:30 p.m.**  
Women's high single, Marie Smoljak 300, high triple, Donna Desmarais 796, high average, Max Turk 214.  
Men's high single, Larry Monk 331, high triple, Sha Tabata 799, high average, Frank Orphan 255, Team high single, Toro's 1308, high triple, Toro's 3726, 3000 Club, Marie Smoljak 300, Garry Monk 274, Donna Desmarais 796.

**TEAM STANDINGS**  
South Paws 203  
Nova Sunshine 207  
H. Rollers 206  
Vernon Datsun 196 1/2

**Feb. 18 - Y.B.C. Jets**  
Women's high single, Lana Gelowitz 202, high double, Lana Gelowitz 327, high average, Kathleen Kinner 173.  
Men's high single, Justin Morgan 116, high average, Justin Morgan 116, Team high single, Red Devils 1939, Bowler of the week: Robin Jones 202, high triple, 81 pins over, Bryce MacMillan 80 ave: 246 oblie 86 pins over.

**TEAM STANDINGS**  
Chums 312  
Red Devils 309  
Super Heroes 327  
Hipers 37

**Feb. 14 - Thurs. Matinee**  
Women's high single, Leanne Gabel 278, high triple, Melvina Seilly 665, high average, Maida Bossel 184.  
Men's high single, Drop Outs 1268, high triple, Drop Outs 3654, 3000 Club, Marie Smoljak 300, Garry Monk 274, Donna Desmarais 796.

**TEAM STANDINGS**  
Go Getters 223  
Go Getters 209  
Longhorns 199

**Feb. 14 - Thurs. Coffee Party**  
Women's high single, Doreen Thauvette 311, high triple, Doreen Thauvette 706, high average, Lori Jamieson 204, 3000 Club, Doreen Thauvette 311, 3000 Club, Doreen Thauvette 706.

**VSSS drops squeaker in high school hoopla**

North Kamloops Sals has qualified for the Okanagan Senior Boys' Basketball Championship, And Vernon Panthers may be on the sidelines next weekend.

Saints secured third-place in the Okanagan playoffs by edging Panthers 91-88 on Friday night at NorKam. The loss was their first in four-place play with Westside Wundras.

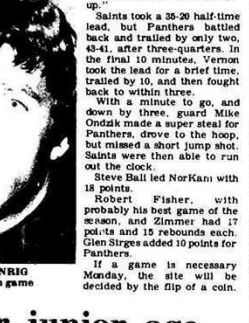
Panthers could clinch the final playoff berth tonight with an upset win over Salmon Arm. The contest, if Westside loses, Whundras and Panthers will play Monday to decide who will compete in the valley.

Both clubs played super defensive basketball and kept the big men of the scoreboard.

**CENTRES STOPPED**  
Saints' 67' centre Lualo Kuchi was held in the final quarter, including six in the final quarter. Vernon's centre Brent Zimmer, averaging 30 points per game in league play, was reduced to 17.

Panthers' Coach Rick Inrig told the Daily News it was a tough game to watch, but was worth the effort.

He said the game meant a lot



**RICK INRIG** tough game

**Older junior age suggested by GM**

EDMONTON (CP)—Brian Chaboch, general manager of Edmonton Oilers of the World Hockey Association, says the league should increase the age of graduation to 22 from the current 20.

He said in an interview Friday the proposal would help junior operators improve their financial situation and help professional teams avoid growing fan migration problems with the United States.

He began working on the concept when two Oilers' chatteis, centre Don Tannahill and left winger Jerry Holland, were sent home by Salt Lake City Golden Eagles of the Central Hockey League early this season because American immigration officials refused to grant extensions of working visas.

"When I talked to immigration people about it, they said pro hockey had been lucky something like this didn't happen before," said Chaboch, who is accompanied by a parent or guardian and proof of age.

Super-Vals Flames blanked Tri-Lake Cougars 6-0 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League playoff action this week at the Civic Arena. Mike Herring made 14 saves to earn the shutout.

**FIREWEEDS WIN**  
Fireweeds dumped Enderby 30-21 in Women's Commercial Basketball League playoffs Feb. 24 at the Civic Arena. Cathy Gottfredson and Dottie Jones led the Fireweed attack with 12 and 10 points respectively. In another game, Tropics downed Blue Demits 22-11.

**HOP TOURNNEY**  
Enderby Motor Inn will be hosting a six-team commercial men's basketball tournament on March 4 and 5. Besides two clubs from Enderby, the competing teams will be Vernon Lodge Tigers, Wulton Academicals, Camanog College, and Vernon Hoopers.

because neither team let up."

Saints took a 35-20 half-time lead, but Panthers battled back and trailed by only two, 43-41, after three quarters. In the final 10 minutes, Vernon trailed by a large margin, but came back to win three.

On a minute to go, Mike Ondak made a super steal for Panthers, drove to the hoop, but missed a short jump shot. Saints were then able to run out the clock.

Steve Ball led NorKam with 18 points.

Robert Fisher, with probably his best game of the season, and Zimmer had 17 points and 15 rebounds each. Glen Sirges added 10 points for Panthers.

If a game is necessary Monday, the site will be decided by the flip of a coin.

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**Three golfers deadlocked**

LAUDERHILL, Fla. (AP)—Buddy Jeeckel, who came down with the flu bug during the week-end, got Los Angeles open golf tournament, almost withdrew from the Pacific Division Invitational tournament this week.

Now he's glad he didn't. "I'm pretty happy about being here now," Jeeckel said after shooting a four-under-par 68 Friday to lead a three-way tie for the lead at 138 with Andy Bean and Danny Edwards at the halfway mark.

"I'm still so damned tired from the flu," he said.

"But then, it may be a blessing in disguise. Last week was my biggest cheque, but I had to miss last week's around play. And it's continuing here."

Bean, who turned 28 last week, also finished in a tie for fourth at Los Angeles to earn \$1,800 and bring his yearly earnings to \$12,000. First prize here is \$20,000.

"My momentum is still in Los Angeles, probably with my body," he said. "I don't feel the tension here yet, but I probably will tomorrow."

Jeeckel, Bean and Edwards held a one-stroke margin over first-day leader Grier Jones and Dave Eichelberger, while two strokes back were Hale Irwin, Kermit Zarley, Hooke Pat and should turn pro before their 20th birthday.

He also proposed that players drafted but not signed by the pros should be allowed to play until they reach 22. He based his argument on the fact that many first-year pros would be better off playing regularly in a strong major junior league that sits on the bench as a professional.



Winners of the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department's Hotshot contest are Steve Knoch of Len Wood School in Armstrong, and Wanda Miller.



Hotshots of West Vernon School, Knoch sunk 10 baskets out of 15, while Miller put in eight, during the finals held this week at VSSS. (Daily News Photos)

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