

KENDALL'S KORNER

A look at the mail

This week we'll reach down and take a look into the mailbox.

We recently received a letter from the Vernon Squash Racquets Association signed by David G. Jones. The letter reads: "Two years have passed since we met with city representatives in an attempt to revive the proposal for public squash and/or racquetball courts. You may have seen the recent Vernon Daily News report about the proposed facilities to be added to the Recreation Centre, including eight racquetball courts. The success of the privately owned courts on 31st Avenue has demonstrated the popularity of the indoor racquet games, but the limited facilities and annual membership dues will exclude many potential players. Experience elsewhere has shown that public courts, paid for on a per game basis, greatly stimulate the growth of the game and enhance rather than threaten the viability of public clubs."

"Unfortunately, for Jones and his group, the regional district recently eliminated the courts from the proposed complex plans. There is a chance they will be built in the future but, not on the next phase which will include an arena and gymnasium."

The operators of the Vernon Racquet and Squash Centre disagree with Jones on the merit of public courts. A spokesman for the centre admitted that after a couple of years, the centre would probably reap the benefits of the public courts. "However," he said, "within two years we would be closed down. Our membership is only at 70 per cent capacity now — and with public courts, I'm sure it would drop initially."

TEAM PRAISED

This correspondence comes from Jay Hunter, coach of the Westside Packers of the North Okanagan Hockey League.

I read "Let me congratulate the Vernon Coca-Cola juvenile team for their first place finish. I have to say, Vernon is the province's champion this year."

I hope the Vernon Vikings, Vernon Sport Cougars, and Vernon Canadians take a good look at these players because if it is talent they are looking for, it's right under their noses.

As a matter of fact, if Vikings took the juvenile coach, right in their best players, and the top seven Vernon midgets, probably wouldn't finish lower than second in the BCHLHL.

I hope the Vernon hockey fans will support these kids.

Local fans will get a chance to support the juveniles, and enjoy a good hockey game, on Sunday night when they tangle with the Vernon Oldtimers.

CRITICIZES COVERAGE

Another letter came addressed to me personally. It criticizes our paper's coverage of the Vancouver Canucks.

The author, who did not sign his composition, said, "I am writing to tell you how disappointed I am with your coverage of the Vancouver Canucks in the Vernon Daily News. Being an avid hockey fan and former resident of Vancouver (I was a Canuck season ticket holder) we are constantly disgusted by the fact that your sports department does nothing more than babble the newswire material."

"Surely you could give us hockey fans better coverage. You can hear the games on the radio or even just stay up past 11:30 p.m. to watch the game on TV news each night to find out the details of the game."

Our first duty to the community is as a local newspaper. Our first obligation is to local sports of which there are plenty in our area.

We provide coverage of major provincial, national, and international events in the Canadian Press wire-service. However, it is impossible for us to give the time and space necessary to rewrite the CP round ups. If we started giving Canucks coverage, we'd have to do the same for Edmonton, Oilers, B.C. Lions, Vancouver Whitecaps, the Western Canada Hockey League and numerous other major sports. Unfortunately, the local sports coverage would then suffer.

I too, am a former Canuck season ticket holder. And I do watch the 11:25 p.m. sports on BCTV. However, we are not prepared to sacrifice the space allotted for local sports to provide more Canucks coverage.

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

JUNIOR BASKETBALL
Okanagan junior boys' championship at W. L. Seaton School. First draw today 4 p.m. KSS vs. McArthur Park, 5:30 p.m. Seaton vs. Princess Margaret, 7 p.m. McNicoll Park vs. Shuswap, 8:30 p.m. Sahali vs. Dr. Knox.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Senior 'B' Men's Tournament at VSSS: 7 p.m., Kamloops vs. Vernon; 8:30 p.m., Pentiction vs. Vancouver. At Clarence Fulton School: 7 p.m., Kelowna vs. 30 p.m., Edmonton vs. Armstrong.

SENIOR BASKETBALL
Okanagan senior boys' championships at Kamloops Secondary School.

NORTH OKANAGAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL series 1 final starts tonight at 8:30 p.m. when Westside Packers host Winfield Raiders.

JUNIOR HOCKEY
4:30 p.m., Pentiction Arena, Vernon Vikings vs. Pentiction Vics.

MINOR BASEBALL
12 noon to 4 p.m. (Sat.)-day, Vernon and District Minor Baseball Association registration at the Recreation Complex.

LADIES' BASKETBALL
All Native Ladies' Tournament at VSSS on Saturday and Sunday. First draw 10:30 a.m., Falconettes vs. Queenel, 11:45 a.m., Westbank vs. Vancouver, and 1 p.m. North Shore vs. Pentiction.

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TEAM OF THE WEEK

The W. L. Seaton boys' basketball team, coming off a 20-8 season record, are the North Okanagan junior boys' champions and are hosting the Okanagan Valley

Championships this weekend. The first game of the series for the Seaton boys will be against Princess Margaret, from Pentiction, at 5:30 p.m. In the back row from left are:

Bruce Wetzel, Wilf Haak, Lance Arnt, Greg Dellenbeier, Kelly Olson, Brian Christianson, Alex Sorokovsky. Front row are: Trixie Vander Wal (manager), Randal

Krause, Tom Milton, Lorne Hanson, Ray Kimoto (coach) and Karen Bell (manager). (Daily News Photo)

Basketball tournaments highlight busy weekend

The busiest weekend of the basketball season gets under way tonight with numerous tournaments throughout the North Okanagan. W. L. Seaton is hosting the Okanagan Valley Junior Boys' Basketball Championships today and Saturday.

Eight teams will be vying for the valley title. Because there is no provincial championship at the junior level, this tourney represents the pinnacle of success. First round games today have Kelowna meeting McArthur Park at Kamloops at 4 p.m., Seaton tangle with Princess Margaret at Pentiction at 5:30 p.m., McNicoll Park of Pentiction battling Shuswap at Salmon Arm at 7 p.m., and Sahali of Kamloops

playing Dr. Knox of Kelowna at 8:30 p.m. Seaton, as the north zone champion, is one of the pre-tournament favorites. However, Coach Ray Kimoto told the Daily News his team is far from over-confident. Kimoto said, "We have a good team — with a lot of height. But, there are some terrific teams in this tournament. You can't count anyone out."

Play starts Saturday at 10 a.m. The championship game is scheduled at 8:30 p.m.

SENIOR 'B'

The second annual Senior 'B' Men's Invitational Basketball Tournament also tips-off tonight.

Eight teams, from B.C. and Alberta, will be competing for trophies.

Games tonight will be played at Vernon Senior Secondary School and Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary. However, all Saturday games will be at Fulton.

First round, at VSSS, has Vernon hosting Kamloops at 7 p.m. and Pentiction meeting Vancouver at 8:30 p.m.

At Fulton, Salmon Arm plays Kelowna at 7 p.m. and Edmonton battles Armstrong at 8:30 p.m.

Play resumes Saturday at 9 p.m. The consolation final is slated for 5 p.m., with the championship game at 8:30 p.m.

Vernon player-coach John Mahler said, "It is anybody's tournament. The team to beat will probably be defending champion Vancouver. They have the Lee brothers and they'll be tough."

The host team will be led by 6'8" John Denton, 6'4" Rick Wilson, and 6'9" Rick Irong, a former all-star with UBC Thunderbirds.

ALL-NATIVE

The third annual Falconettes Native Women's Basketball Tournament is scheduled Saturday and Sunday at VSSS.

Six teams will be competing in the double-knockout event. First round has Falconettes at 11:45 a.m., and defending champion North Shore plays Pentiction at 1 p.m.

Action continues Saturday night when Pentiction will take place Sunday at 11:45 a.m., with the championship contest

scheduled at 1 p.m. Falconettes' Coach Albert Saddleman said he thinks his club can win the tourney.

Saddleman said, "North Shore beat us in the final game last year but, we met them earlier this season and beat them. I think we can do it again."

IN ENDERBY

Enderby Motor Inn will be hosting its second annual Men's Invitational Tournament at A. L. Fortune Secondary School, in Enderby.

First round on Saturday has the hosts vs. Armstrong Hookers at 1 p.m., Okanagan College vs. Ye Olde Sports Stop of Enderby at 2:30 p.m., and Vernon Lodge Tigers vs. Fulton Academics at 4 p.m.

Action continues Saturday night when the Chairman Brad Moreau said, "I think any of the six teams are capable of winning. Tigers and Fulton will be missing some key players so, the defending champion Hookers could be the favorite."

Lumby wins third straight

Lumby and Armstrong have both qualified for the championship round of the British Columbia 'A' high school girls' basketball tournament in Chase.

Lumby, along with Chase, Creston and defending champion Lake Cowichan went through round-robin play undefeated.

Lake Cowichan drilled Burns Lake 54-37, Creston edged Little Flower 45-45, Little Flower downed Prince George 68-36, Chase whipped Houston 63-47, Hope defeated Grand Forks 36-33, and Houston dumped Notre Dame of Vancouver 54-49. The finals will be played on Saturday night.

Softball loop holds meeting

Hope, Houston, Little Flower Academy of Vancouver and Armstrong gained berths with one loss.

Lake Cowichan edged Armstrong 53-52 on Thursday night. Dawn Coe led the winners with 24 points while Sam Enoch replied with 22 for Armstrong.

Vernon Major Men's Softball League will be holding its first meeting of the year on Saturday, at 2 p.m., in the North Okanagan Regional District office.

Any group wishing to enter a team should have a representative on hand.

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Mail your application today or phone 545-3295 before 4:00 p.m. on March 3rd to confirm that you will be there.

APPLICATION FOR TALENT HOUR

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
ACT _____ (what instrument? what do you do?)

Vikings call up reinforcements

Vernon Vikings are on the road again tonight to tangle with Pentiction Vics in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. Vikings have lost two away games this week by building up substantial leads and blowing them. However, they still trail fifth-place Revelstoke Bruins by only four points in the battle for the final playoff berth.

Vernon will fill its roster with six minor hockey players tonight. Up from the Okanagan champion Vernon juveniles will be forwards Gary Edwards and Dirk Dreidger.

penalties than scoring opportunities.

Ted Boyko led the winners with three goals and Allan Anderson added two. Ken Berry, Glenn Anderson, Steve MacDonald and Dave Brockhill were the other marksmen for the Blazers. Jiny Sheemaker was the only Lord to beat Blazers goalie Neal Girard as Bellingham outshot the opposition 43-33.

The Blazers took 16 of 28 minor penalties, two of five majors, a misconduct and one of three game misconducts.

FOUR MIDGETS

From the Vernon midget reps will be defencemen Earl Smith and Bob Hildebrand along with forwards Lance Vachon and Kevin Balfour.

Right wing Dale Slus is still out of action, and may miss the club's remaining 10 games, with monoconcussions. On Saturday night, Vikings are at home to host Kelowna Buckaroos.

In Thursday's only BCHL game, Bellingham Blazers made the coaching debut of former NHL goaltender Charlie Hodge, a less-than-memorable occasion as his Langley Lords were drubbed 9-1.

The Blazers led 6-0 after the first period and had a 9-1 lead entering the final 20 minutes during which there were more

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