Jewels capture hoop title

CHILLIWACK, B.C. (CP) — Bev Smith scored 14 points and Sue Troutman added 10 Saturday night as Salmon Arm Jewels captured their third consecutive British Columbia AA high school girls basketball title with a 40-32 triumph over Kamloops Red Angels.

Jane Favali, who joined Smith on the first all-star team, scored 14 for the losers. Other all-star team members were Tracy McAra and Karen McComber of third-place Reynolds and Jamie Mackie of Cranbrook.

Reynolds, of the Victoria suburb of Saanich, trimmed Cranbrook 52-40 as McAra scored 24 points and McComber 12. Mackie counted 17 for the fourth-place team.

KLO of Kelowna downed New Westminster 49-37 to finish fifth as Joanne Ritchie had 20 points for the winners. Susan Fiddler scored 24 for the sixth-place New Westminster squad.

Sandy Lewis led all scorers for the day as she contributed 32 points in Victoria's 50-41 victory over Nelson which decided seventh and eighth place. Elyn Underhill counted 20 for the losers.

MERCHANTS PULL PLAYOFF UPSET

Village Green Merchants upset Vernon Blades 8-2 in White Valley Hockey League playoff action Sunday night at the Lumby Arena.

Merchants held period leads of 3-0 and 4-0 before Blades could get on the scoreboard.

Eric Hiebert led the winners' attack with three goals while Doug Head added a pair. Singles went to Brian Jantz, Brian Sherk, and Wayne Nuyens.

Wally Fisher and Terry Sammartino replied for Blades.

Merchants were assessed eight of 12 minor penalties.

In Sunday's other playoff game, Lotus Gardens edged Burger Barone 3-1.

Ray Horochuk, Bruce Ritchie, and Dennis Hamaguchi scored for Gardens while Gary Clark countered for Barons.

Barons took nine of 17 minor penalties and three misconducts.

Playoff action resumes tonight when Village Green meets Lumby Royals at 9 p.m. On Tuesday, Sabres battled Braves at 7 p.m., while Barons play Blades at 9 p.m.

Final WVHL standings were:

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Pen
Coldstream	14	3	3	31	103	63	374
Lumby	12	5	3	27	108	72	226
Lotus	12	7	1	25	112	91	287
Blades	9	5	1	19	86	94	219
Burger B.	4	14	2	10	74	124	293
Village G.	4	14	2	10	67	101	334

TOP 10 SCORERS

	G	A	Pts	Pen
Mike Mondoni, Coldstream	33	14	47	14
Tom Williamson, Lotus	24	23	47	41
Bruce Ritchie, Lotus	19	21	40	18
Ray Horochuk, Lotus	20	16	36	22
Rick Howkins, BB	16	17	35	12
John Ruesch, BB	17	15	32	34
Peter Vlasveit, Lumby	12	20	32	24
Terry Sammartino, Blades	11	20	31	4
Dave Thorlakson, Blades	14	16	30	0
Bill Vlasveld Lumby	8	19	27	16

Vikings remain four points back

Penticton Vees took a 6-2 lead early in the third period and hung on to dump Vernon Vikings 6-4 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Sunday in the Peach City.

The loss leaves Vikings four points back of fifth-place Revelstoke Bruins, with seven games remaining.

General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News his club isn't out of the playoffs yet. He said, "We've got seven games left and the big one will be Wednesday when we go to Revelstoke. I still think we can do it."

In Penticton, Ross Fitzpatrick, Kevin Maxwell, Ron Vincent, Ken Pederson, Howard Walker, and Wade Sparrow scored for the Vees.

John Neeld, with two goals, Bob Hildebrand and Darren Halasz countered for the Vikings.

Vees led 3-2 after the first period and 5-2 after 40 minutes.

Dye said, "We're just lacking the experience. It was a wide-open game and Penticton made plenty of mistakes. We just couldn't capitalize."

LACK EXPERIENCE

Vikings' fate will be decided within the next week. On Tuesday, they host first-place Merritt Centennials, before going to Revelstoke. Next weekend, Vernon has three games.

Centennials maintained a three-point lead over second-place Penticton by blasting Kelowna Buckaroos 11-2 on Sunday. In other action, Nanaimo Clippers scored two weekend wins, one of them against first-place Bellingham Blazers, to stay in contention for top spot in the Coastal Division.

Clippers edged Kamloops Chiefs 4-3 in Nanaimo Saturday, then nipped the Blazers 5-4 in Bellingham Sunday to move within three points of the leaders.

At Revelstoke, 394 fans crossed picket lines set up at the rink by striking civic workers to see the Bruins drop an 8-6 decision to Abbotsford Flyers.

In Bellingham, the Clippers led 3-1 after one period and 5-2 after two, then hung on as a Bellingham rally fell short in the third. Torri Robertson, Randy Keller, Jeff Bajkov, Jeff Wylie and Barry Pederson scored for the winners.

RALLY FAILS

Glenn Anderson scored two of the Bellingham goals, while Don Fraser and Ken Berry notched power-play markers 2:11 apart in the middle of the third period. The Blazers pulled goaltender Neal Girard, who had replaced starter Vern Mott, for a sixth attacker but couldn't get the equalizer past Nanaimo's Andy Gourlay.

The Clippers, which were outshot 37-27, took 12 of 20 minors, three of six majors and the game's only misconduct.

Tony Feltrin's goal at 16:24 of the second period Saturday stood up as the winner through a scoreless third as the Clippers had a hard time beating Nanaimo native Blair McKie in the Kamloops net.

WIN DUAL MEET

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CP) — Diane Konihowski of Edmonton finished first and led a Canadian pentathlon team to victory over the United States in a dual indoor meet here.

CALIFORNIA — April 15 - 15 days
LAS VEGAS — March 25 - 9 days
NASHVILLE — April 1 - 19 days
DISNEYLAND — March 24 - 10 days
SAN FRANCISCO/ DISNEYLAND — July 8 - 10 days
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Rangers back in playoff race

By GLENN COLE
The Canadian Press

New York Rangers have put themselves back into National Hockey League playoff contention with a lot of help from Pittsburgh Penguins.

NHL

Wales Conference					
Norris Division	W	L	T	F	A	P
Montreal	49	9	9	297	155	107
Los Angeles	36	28	13	205	201	85
Detroit	26	29	11	205	224	63
Pittsburgh	21	36	17	210	[illegible]	59
Washington	12	42	12	148	261	36
Adams Division						
Boston	43	14	9	271	170	95
Buffalo	39	14	15	254	179	93
Toronto	38	19	13	237	185	86
Cleveland	19	40	9	187	279	47
Campbell Conference						
Patrick Division						
Islanders	39	14	12	287	173	96
Phila	29	17	11	261	172	89
Atlanta	26	25	17	222	221	69
Rangers	24	31	11	225	225	59
Smythe Division						
Chicago	36	24	17	184	180	89
Vancouver	18	35	15	203	270	51
Colorado	13	36	18	208	263	44
St. Louis	15	41	11	161	259	41
Minnesota	14	44	7	163	258	35

The Penguins went into the weekend with a two-point edge on the Rangers in the battle for the last wild-card playoff spot.

Pittsburgh also had a pair of home games, one against Vancouver Canucks on Saturday night and another Sunday against Toronto Maple Leafs. But the Penguins blew both of them—losing 7-1 to the Leafs and 3-1 to Vancouver.

The Rangers took advantage of hapless Washington to move into a points-tie with Pittsburgh as they crushed the Capitals 8-2 Sunday night. In other Sunday games, Philadelphia Flyers clipped Colorado Rockies 6-2, Vancouver and Detroit Red Wings fought to a 4-4 deadlock, Boston Bruins manhandled Los Angeles Kings 9-5 and Buffalo Sabres outscored Chicago Black Hawks 5-2.

Aside from Pittsburgh's loss to Vancouver on Saturday, the Leafs whipped the flatlined Cleveland Barons 5-2, New York Islanders dumped the Sabres 4-2, Montreal Canadiens downed the Kings 5-3, Detroit edged Colorado 5-4, Atlanta Flames took a 4-1 verdict over Chicago, Minnesota North Stars and St. Louis Blues struggled to a 1-1 draw and Philadelphia walloped the Bruins 6-2.

PLAYED AS SHOULD

For once, the Rangers played like they should against a weaker team as Phil Esposito led the way with two goals and an assist.

Coach Jean-Guy Talbot thought the Rangers might have tried extra-hard against the Capitals because of a futile trip to Washington this month only to find out a scheduled contest had been postponed because of what turned out to be a minor snowstorm.

"The guys remembered that unnecessary trip to Washington and I think they poured it on because of that," Talbot said. "What I liked was that we finally played up to our potential against a weaker team instead of playing down to their level."

PHIL ESPOSITO
. . . leads Rangers

In Pittsburgh, the Penguins, who have given Toronto trouble in the past, were no match for the Maple Leafs.

Darryl Sittler scored two goals and set up three more and Lanny McDonald scored twice and had two assists as the Leafs appeared fully recovered from a scoring drought that cost them a pair of games last week.

Borje Salming, George Ferguson and Ian Turnbull got the other Toronto goals with Blair Chapman replying for Pittsburgh to spoil Mike Palmateer's shutout.

SCORES THREE GOALS

In Philadelphia, Ross Lonsberry scored three goals to lead Philadelphia past the Rockies, who now are winless in their last 31 games away from Denver with 22 losses and nine ties.

The defeat also extended Colorado's losing streak at the Spectrum to 10 games. The Rockies have never won in Philadelphia.

In Detroit, Ron Sedlbauer's second goal of the game with 2:27 to play gave the Canucks their tie with the Red Wings while Boston got two-goal efforts from Gregg Sheppard and Brad Park to crush the Kings.

Buffalo fans saw left winger Rick Martin back again with centre Gilbert Perreault and the combination worked orders against the Black Hawks.

"Perreault and Martin worked very well together," said coach Marcel Pronovost. "I think they know each other pretty well. But I can't make any plans because every time I open my mouth somebody gets hurt."

Martin had his 22nd and 23rd goals and a pair of assists while Perreault scored his 39th goal and had three assists.

GOOLAGONG WINS TITLE

DALLAS (AP) — Evonne Goolagong of Australia defeated schoolgirl sensation Tracy Austin 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 Sunday to capture the $20,000 first-place prize in a professional women's tennis tournament.

MORE SPORTS PG. 12

Ryan is back on track

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's bad enough that most pitchers usually are ahead of the hitters in the early stages of spring training but it's twice as bad when one of those pitchers is named Nolan Ryan.

As a rule, it doesn't take much except control for baseball's hardest-throwing pitcher to be ahead of opposing hitters. But after a career that includes four no-hitters, five one-hitters and 11 two-hitters, Ryan was plagued by a sore arm during the final month of 1977.

Any lingering doubts about his condition were put to rest Sunday when Nolan fired four shutout innings in an exhibition game his California Angels lost to the Seattle Mariners 8-3. Ryan allowed three hits and didn't have a walk or strikeout and the Mariners didn't get on the scoreboard until after he departed.

"I was pretty sure my arm was okay after throwing batting practice three days in a row," said Ryan, who threw only 37 pitches in the four innings.

While Ryan is established as one of the game's premier hurlers, 36-year-old Al Downing, cast off by Los Angeles, worked two scoreless innings as Cincinnati Reds edged Pittsburgh Pirates 6-5.

The veteran left-hander is a non-roster pitcher trying to catch on with the Reds.

Still another question-mark hurler was in Sunday's spotlight. Catfish Hunter worked an inconclusive two innings, allowing three hits and one run, as New York Yankees downed Baltimore Orioles 9-4.

In other games, Toronto Blue Jays were whipped 3-2 when Jesus Alou, playing his first professional game since 1975, hit a two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the ninth.

Darrell Porter drove in three runs to help Kansas City Royals beat Philadelphia Phillies 9-6 and Atlanta Braves clipped 20-game winner Tommy John for three first-inning runs and turned back Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3.

Jorge Orta's three-run double and Lamar Johnson's homer highlighted a six-run third inning as Chicago White Sox beat Boston Red Sox 9-2 and Juan Beniquez collected three RBIs as Texas Rangers nipped Montreal Expos 6-5.

Tim Corcoran drove in four runs with a three-run homer and double and Jason Thompson also homered as Detroit Tigers outslugged Minnesota Twins 9-5.

Canadian skaters told to practice the basics

OTTAWA (CP) — Canadians have to put more emphasis on the basics if they are to cut better figures in international competition, says Barbara Graham, technical co-ordinator of the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

Insufficient work on the basic school figures is continuing to hurt men's and women's singles skaters, she told reporters during an assessment of the world championships which concluded during the weekend.

"There is a correlation between figures and good free-style skating," Graham said. "Coaches and athletes have to develop a technique and improve it every year."

She said Brian Pockar of Calgary, who finished 10th in the men's event, "has a technique and he just has to learn how to totally do it."

Two Soviet couples placed first and second in the dance competition to conclude the championships. Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov, last year's bronze medallists, captured the gold by upsetting defending champions Irina Moiseeva and Andrei Minenkov who won the silver. Kristina Regoeczy and Andras Sallay of Hungary were third.

Janet Thompson and Warren Maxwell of Britain, second last year, finished fourth while Liliana Rehakova and Stanislov Drastich of Czechoslovakia were fifth, slightly ahead of Lorna Wighton, 19, of Toronto and John Dowding, 21, of Oakville, Ont.

DANCERS STRONG

Graham said the strength of Canadian skating lies in its dancers as shown by the placing of Wighton and Dowding, 10th last year in their first worlds, and Patricia Fletcher, 17, and Michael de la Penotiere, 21, both of Toronto, who were 12th in their first worlds after skating together for only several months.

She said Heather Kemkaran of Toronto, who finished 12th in women's singles, wilted under the pressure when doing figures.

Heather didn't do her first figure as well as she can and it's important to do the first part of any competition well," Graham said.

Figures are worth 30 per cent of the marks in competition for singles skaters and, while their value has been reduced in the last few years, Graham is against a further reduction.

She also said women's singles and pairs competition are the areas where most work is needed. Because no Canadians broke into the top 10 in those events this year, only one woman and one pair will be able to go to next year's worlds.

"The men have been doing very innovative programs and the trend now is coming to the women's event and we have to keep up," she said.

MEN SHOW PROMISE

In areas other than the dance, Canadian men showed promise with Pockar coming 10th and Vern Taylor of Toronto 12th.

Taylor became the first skater to ever execute a triple Axel in competition, a feat which will help raise his profile in the international skating community.

Anett Poetzsch of East Germany won the gold in the women's event.

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