

FOR FREESTYLE FINALS

# Best in world here



The largest skiing event ever held in the Okanagan Valley will take place this weekend at Silver Star Mountain.

The Labatt's Pro West Freestyle Tour Finals will be held in conjunction with the World Cup Championships from Friday to Sunday.

About 50 of the top freestyle skiers in the world will be on hand for the event.

Silver Star Manager Woody Woodman said, "There is no doubt about it, this is the freestyle event of the year in Canada. People may never have an opportunity to see this many talented freestyle skiers again."

For the three days, all lifts will be in operation from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Woodman said, "This is an event we want everyone to see — even people who don't ski will never forget this competition. We're expecting about 5,000 spectators for the aerials on Sunday. There is no admission charge unless you want to purchase a lift ticket and ski."

One of the top freestylers in the world, Darryl Bowie of Calgary, told the Daily News conditions on Silver Star are excellent.

Bowie said, "I've been up practicing this week and the snow is beautiful. The ballistics course is a little soft, but they're working on that."

Bowie has 57 points on the Pro West tour, just two behind first-place brother Rick.

Darryl, 26, said, "There won't be any brotherly love this weekend — I've got to catch him to win the car. I know he'll beat me in aerials, so I have to do well in moguls and ballet."

In the World Cup standings, John Eaves, from Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, is the leader. However, just four points separate Eaves from Athens.

Bowie said, "It is hard to realize how important this meet is to the skiers. Not only is it crucial to do well for prize money, but also the higher you finish in the standings, the more you can demand from your sponsors next year."

Nobody will be holding anything back.

The life of a freestyle champion is far from boring. Bowie has competed at two meets in France this year as well as in Yugoslavia and Italy.

He said, "I've been competing now for six years — and I'd like to be able to ski competitively until I'm 29 or 30. It is a physically demanding sport."

Top-notch competitors can make \$15,000 to \$20,000 on the pro freestyle tour. And on top of the winnings, are handsome retainers from sponsors, such as ski manufacturers and ski areas.

Bowie said, "If you watch yourself, you can make a good living in freestyle. You won't get rich, but you won't starve. There are plenty of fringe benefits."

Included in those benefits are stunt work for television and movies. Darryl, brother Rick, and several other freestylers recently appeared in a made-for-television movie, "Six Lifts to Death" filmed at Banff.

Darryl has a so-called "in" commercial for Labatt's Breweries.

He said, "It is a lot of fun doing stunt or stand-in work. And they pay very well."

All events will be easily accessible without skiing. The aerials will be held above the first parking lot, ballet adjacent to the moguls and on the Suicide Run.

Bowie said, "The Canadians are leading right now, but we're not going to have an easy time. The Europeans and Americans are super skiers — and they're not that far behind in points."



BOWIE'S BROTHER, Rick, currently leads his brother by two points in the battle for the Labatt's Pro West overall championship.

with 92 points, five back of Merritt.

Local fans get their last opportunity to see one of the strongest teams in league history on Friday night when Joe Trumant brings his Centennials to town for an 8:30 p.m. game.

Centis, who need one win to clinch the BCHJL title and advance to Centennial Cup competition, are within striking distance of a handful of league records.

Vincent scored one each for Penitton.

Vincent, who also had an assist, leads the BCHJL in scoring with 161 points, including 68 goals.

Vernon's John Neeld replied with two goals while Dale Sioux added a goal.

Penitton goaltender Andy Moag blocked 33 shots while Vernon's Darrell Morin made 30 saves.

The team split 20 minor penalties and Vikings were assessed four of six major penalties.

Penitton remains in second place in the Interior Division.

DARRYL BOWIE of Calgary is one of the top competitors in this week's World Cup freestyle championships at Silver Star.

## CURLING CLUB NEWS

By RON HOUSTON  
Vernon Curling Club Manager



The Marian Radcliffe rink of Kelowna recorded six straight victories to capture the 'A' event in last weekend's Silver Star Bonspiel.

Vernon teams skipped by Marlene Reinertson, Jean Schohlak, and Abby Bridgeman won the B.C. and D events.

Forty-six local rinks, along with 24 out-of-town foursomes, had a great time.

Senior curlers wind-up their season today with the finals of their closingspiel. A luncheon meeting was also scheduled.

Next Wednesday, the finals of the club championship will be held. Trophy presentations and a draw for a color television will take place after the draw.

Eight teams are playing off for the Mixed League championship and the Bert Clarke Trophy. Bill Whitton and Jim Miller are currently undefeated.

Forty-eight teams start curling Friday in the Eiks Provincial Curling Championships. Curling continues until Sunday, at 3:30 p.m. Regular commercial league draw starts at 4 p.m.

Daily News

# SPORTS

Page

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1978



**NAMED MVP**

Leanne Wilms of Vernon has been selected Most Valuable Player on the Okanagan College basketball team, Wilms, a graduate of VSSS, attends the Vernon campus. She led the OK College team to a 20 win, 11 loss record and third-place in the province. (Daily News Photo)

## Daily News captures bantam championship

Vernon Daily News scored through a scoreless second period before Terry Balfour scored three times and Scott Siemens added a single for the Vernon Minor Hockey Association's Bantam Divisor championship this week.

Essa took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Rob Schaefer, in the first Brian Foster, for Essa, turned period. The club played in great performances.

# W Vikings' playoff hopes vanish into the sunset

Vernon Vikings have two hopes of making the B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs. In fact, even Jimmy the Greek wouldn't like odds on the Vikings.

Penitton Vees crushed the local heroes 7-3 on Wednesday night at the Civic Arena.

With three games remaining, Vernon trails fifth-place in the standings, are handsomely out in the battle for the league's final playoff berth.

Which means, Vikings would have to win their remaining three games, while Bruins would need to lose two.

Winning three in a row might not sound like a monumental task until it is considered that Vernon has won only nine times in 63 regular season games.

Play resumes Saturday, at 8:30 p.m., and continues all day with the final scheduled at 8:30 p.m.

Shannon said, "The main reason we formed the team is because the Grade 10's will be playing together next year at VSSS. And it gives their (who is also coach of VSS Panthers) a good opportunity to see how the boys will react under pressure."

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## Vernon hosts hoop tourney

Vernon will be hosting "The British Columbia Bantam Boys' Basketball Championships this weekend at Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary School.

Four teams will be competing for the provincial crown. The local teams in made up of nine Grade 10 and two Grade 9 students from the three Greater Vernon Junior high schools.

Coach Rick Inrig, of VSSS, and assistant coach, Bob Shannon, of Vernon, have had their club practicing four times per week, for the past three weeks.

Shannon said, "I think we have an excellent chance of capturing the provincial title. We've been working as a unit since the junior high school season ended. I feel it is a real progressive step as far as establishing a top-notch basketball program in Vernon."

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## DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

**MINOR HOCKEY**  
7:30 p.m., Civic Arena, midget championship game between Peter's Threecraft and Cre-Itl Union. All proceeds go to Bruce Bernhard fund.

**FRIDAY**  
Three-day meet gets under way Friday, at 10 a.m., with the moguls. Ballet will be held Saturday, with aerials on Sunday. Lifts in operation at Silver Star from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
B.C. Juvenile Championships at the Coquitlam Sports Centre. First game at 7:30 p.m. Second game Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Vernon vs. Coquitlam.

**JUNIOR HOCKEY**  
8:30 p.m., Civic Arena. Vernon Vikings vs. Merritt Centennials.

**BANTAM BOYS' BASKETBALL**  
B.C. championships at Clarence Fulton School. Games Friday at 7 and 8:30 p.m. Play resumes Saturday at 10 a.m.

**SWIMMING**  
16 members of the Vernon Kokanee Swim Club taking part in the B.C. Winter Swim Championships in Victoria.

**MINOR HOCKEY**  
Vernon Bantam Reps in Kamloops International Bantam Tournament. Vernon Pup Reps in 18-team tournament in Hoyas.

**SATURDAY**  
**MINOR LACROSSE**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., minor lacrosse registration at Village Green Mall. Boys aged 8 to 16 are eligible to play. Must have birth certificate and medical number.

**BOWLING**  
Five Vernon bowlers entered in B.C. Five-pin Bowling Championships in Prince George.

## Horochuk's goal gives Lotus title

Las Gardens captured the White Valley Hockey League championship Wednesday night by edging Jimmy Hoyaks 2-1 at the Lumby Arena.

Ray Horochuk scored on a rebound with less than seven minutes remaining in the third period, to give Lotus the title. Joe Worth took a shot from the point that was blocked by Lumby goalie Rick Ostrass. However, Horochuk was left unprotected right in front of the net.

**TRUCK LEAD**  
Lou Joly gave the Gardens a 1-0 lead, but before the first period ended, Gary Forrester tied the game.

Lotus goalie Mike Kirk hit lead 24 shots while Ostrass kicked out 21 shots.

Gardens took nine of 17 minor penalties in the hard hitting contest.

**LITTLE CHANCE**  
Lotus, which finished third during the regular season, was given little chance of winning the playoff title. It was not considered as strong as regular season champion Coldstream Sabra or second-place Hoyaks. And the club's top scorer, Tom Williamson, was suspended for the remainder of the season.

Then, in playoffs, Lotus needed two straight wins to dispose of Lumby. On Tuesday, Dan Horochuk scored with less than a minute remaining to give Gardens a 3-1 victory.

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