

# French skier wins hump competition



GREG ATHANS, of Kelowna, clinched the World Cup mogul championship on Friday at Silver Star Mountain. Despite a disappointing seventh-place finish, Athans edged John Eaves of Mt. Tremblant, Que., for the title. Nano Pourtier of France won the final event in the mogul series.

Nano Pourtier, 23, of Alp d'Heuse, France, won the men's mogul section Friday at the World Cup Freestyle Championships on Silver Star Mountain. Pourtier had 20.90 points to beat 44 men and take the \$1,300 first prize. The World Cup is being held in conjunction with the Labatt's Pro-West Freestyle finals. Mark Archibald, 19, of Summit, Utah, was second with 20.69 points to earn \$700 and Scott Brookbank, 28, of Sandy, Utah, won the \$400 third prize with 20.55 points.

**ATHANS SEVENTH**  
Kelowna's Greg Athans, despite placing seventh in the final run, captured the World Cup title. Athans defeated John Eaves of Mt. Tremblant, Que., by two points in the overall mogul standings. Eaves placed ninth on Friday. Athans won the semi-final run, but got himself into trouble in the final. He said, "I got going too fast. I lost a basket on about the fourth turn and couldn't plant my poles properly. I just couldn't do what I wanted to."

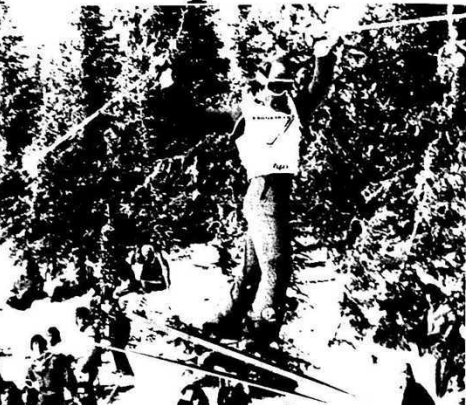
**AERIALS SUNDAY**  
The ballet competition was scheduled today, with the aerials slated to get under way Sunday at 10 a.m. Up to 10,000 people are expected Sunday to ski, and watch the aerials. Woodman said, "We want to encourage people to come as early as possible on Sunday. The lifts will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., so there will be plenty of time to watch the series and ski."

**SIDESTEPS**  
Only local competitor, Jeff Wood, placed 36th with 10.80 points... Brian Pitman of Vernon is one of the five judges in the ladies' competition, Hilary English of the U.S. was the best of seven skiers. Only Japanese skier in the competition, Yoshi Kamabe, got lots of air in his run, but his time was too slow to place well.

and a new Subaru Brat, placed eighth and 14th in moguls respectively. However, Rick still holds a comfortable overall lead. About 4,000 people were at Silver Star, with half of that total watching the barnyard Area Manager Woody Woodman told the Daily News the line-ups were short because of the mogul event. Woodman said, "With so many people watching the freestylers, there was a lot less people skiing. As a result, the people who watched got to see the best skiers in the world and those who skied, got some great snow with short line-ups."

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SCOTT BROOKSBANK, of the U.S., placed third in the moguls on Friday at the Star. Brookbank is currently third in the world overall standings, behind Eaves and Athans. Final event in the Cup tour, the aerials, will be held Sunday. (Daily News Photo)

## Vernon juveniles win in overtime

Defenceman Al Winter scored at 2:28 of overtime to give Vernon Coca Cola Victory 6-5 victory over Coquitlam in the opening game of the best-of-three provincial finals on Friday night in Coquitlam. Second game is scheduled tonight, at 7:15 p.m. The clubs were tied 3-3 at the end of the first period and Vernon led 5-3 after the second. For the first 10 minutes of the third period, Vernon controlled the game, but in the final minutes, Coquitlam owned the puck. Gary Lawrence beat Coke netminder Wayne Slizak, with just 34 seconds to go, to put the game into overtime. **TWO-MEN SHORT** In the 10-minute overtime period, Vernon's trouble didn't end either's goal. For the final two and one-half minutes, Coke played two men short. Only some excellent penalty killing by Tom Ouchi, Kelly Kaneda, and Winter, along with some key saves by Slizak, kept the game from being tied again. Gary Edwards and Gary Redmen led the

Vernon attack with two goals each while Ouchi and Kaneda added singles. Mike Michaud and Lanoue scored two apiece for Coquitlam with singles from Doug Lunder and Mike Kanoue. **SILZAK BUSY** Silzak was the individual star for the winners. His ability wasn't tested much during the season because of Vernon's fine defence. However, he came through on five saves, including 2 in the third period, when he was needed. Coquitlam goalie Rudy Carline blocked 34 shots. Vernon was assessed 14 of 28 minor penalties. Coke Manager Art Fester told the Daily News, "his club can't play better. Fester said, "We had a bit of a letdown in the third period and they jumped on us. We can't take them for granted - we've got our hands full. But I feel that first game was the big one." If a third game is necessary, it will be played on Sunday.

## Vikings remain alive by upsetting Centennials

Vernon Vikings kept their playoff hopes alive on Friday night - and they did it in true Hollywood style. John Neid scored two goals in the final 20 seconds, then Scott Cozens scored at 1:56 of overtime to give Vikings a 5-4 victory over Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Civic Arena. The victory keeps Vernon within four points of Revelstoke Blazers in the battle for the final playoff berth. Vikings must win their final two games, while Bruins lose three to force a sudden-death game between the two clubs. Merritt led 1-0 at the end of the first period and 2-1 after the second. Ken Staud and Hal Rabbit stretched the margin to 4-1 midway through the third. Mike Winter nipped and the goal at 15:36 setting the stage for Neid and Cozens to take it.

netminder Darrell Morts. Mordin blocked 48 shots, including 19 in the third period. Three of the four goals which eluded him were on screen-shots. Centennials netminder Rob Holmanman was called on to make only 21 saves. Each team took eight minor penalties and two fighting majors. Bob DesChamps and Randy Mettler scored Merritt's first two goals. **STILL HOPE** Viking, General Manager Vern Lyle said, "Our guys showed a lot of guts. If we keep that up, we might just squeeze into the playoffs. I know it is a longshot, but we haven't given up hope." Vernon's final games are tonight in Abbotsford and Sunday in Hellingham. In other action Friday, Nanaimo Clippers thumped Hellingham Blazers 9-4. Langley leads beat Kamloops 5-3.



SCOTT COZENS, ...got winner. Chiefs and Merritt vees edged Kelowna Buckaroos 5-3.

## Packers hammer Kelowna

Westside Packers behind the outstanding goaltending of Dale Harder, thumped Kelowna Mustangs 6-1 in Thursday night's B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff action Friday night at the Mr. Bourcier Arena in Westside. Kelowna leads the best-of-five final series 2-1. Fourth game will be played tonight at the Highland Arena. Mike Barnhart scored spoiled Harder's shutout bid with only 2:27 remaining in the third period. The Westside netminder finished the night with 31 saves. Bill Origan and Brad Owens scored two goals each for the winners, while Len Herrie and Tom Connolly added singles. Herrie and Owens were held period leads of 1-0 and 2-0.

## Five Vernon bowlers representing Okanagan

Katzalay, who has a 223 average in Vernon and 242 average in Kelowna, has won the Revelstoke 15-game marathon the past two years. Buchanan, a newcomer to bowling, recently combined with his wife Inez to win the Vernon Mixed Doubles Tournament. Bowers, who has been bowling for only three years, is taking her first shot at out-of-town competition. **PIN POINTS** March 15 - Early Birds Women's high single Lorie Beattie 271, high triple Lorie Beattie 692, high average Val Beattie 48. Team high single Whipwits 692, high triple Whipwits 1393. **TEAM STANDINGS** Whipwits 156-1 Ding Bats 224

Daily News **SPORTS** Page DON McNEILL Sports Editor PH-NE 545-0671 6 VERNON DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1978

## Vernon whips Port Alberni

Vernon thumped Port Alberni 44-6 during opening day play at the B.C. Bantam Boys' Basketball Championships on Friday night at the Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary School. Vernon Coach, Pention drilled University Hill, of Vancouver, 62-36. Vernon Coach, Rick Inrig told the Daily News his club did exactly what it was told. Inrig said, "We made some mistakes out there, but the team has only been together for three weeks overall. I'm very happy with the way they played." Greg DeLeenheer led the winners' attack with 12 points while WHF Haak, Bruce Weitzel, and Kelly Olson added 10 apiece. Vernon last Friday Caperston Al Gee, and Mike DePuffer, all with five fouls. **LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS** MARCH, 1973 Statistics released by the Vernon Minor Hockey Association show Empire Meanies won the Junior Cup Division with 28 points. One-point back were Caradoc high-jump cup champion, was Rendell Tractor with 31 points.

## Simpson traded for draft picks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - O. J. Simpson is returning to the city where he was born in quest of the one goal which has eluded him during a record-shattering professional football career - a league championship. "All my life I've been a San Francisco 49ers fan," the superstar running back said Friday after he was traded to the Bay Area city from Buffalo Bills in exchange for five National Football League draft picks over the next three seasons. "When I was a kid, I used to dream of leading the 49ers to a championship. Now I have that opportunity." Joe Thomas, general manager of the 49ers, was ecstatic about the deal. "The thing that approved it for me was that we didn't have to give up any of our players or our No. 1 draft choice this year," he said. "O. J. can play for least three years and if he does that, it will be the finest acquisition this club has ever made." Thomas told a news conference. For Simpson, it marks a return to the city where he grew up, playing football at Galileo high school and San Francisco City College before moving on to glory at the University of Southern California. **HAD KNEE CHECKED** Before the trade was completed, Simpson had to pass a physical to check the knee he injured last year. The injury caused him to miss the final half of the season. "The knee is fine," he said. "I've been playing some tennis and running a little to stay in shape. All I really need is to strengthen it a little." Although he has long sought a trade to a West Coast football team to be near his family and business interests, "Home at last, thank God. Almighty, I'm home at last."

Simpson confessed he was a little saddened when it appeared the trade would become a reality. "It was in Minneapolis last night and I started thinking about Buffalo," he said. "I was kind of down. I thought about all the guys on the team and there was some sadness. I've spent my whole adult life as a Buffalo Bill." By the time he arrived for Friday's news conference, however, any sadness had vanished - overcome by the prospect of playing in his hometown. "Home at last, thank God. Almighty, I'm home at last."

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