

A frustrating year

Minor hockey season is over for another year! Vernon rep teams enjoyed a lot of success in 1977-78. But, the elusive "H.C. Champions" title again eluded local teams.

Not since 1959, when Odie Lowe guided the Vernon Juvenile Reps to a provincial title, has a Vernon minor hockey team been best in the province. Members of that club included George Watson, Tom Williamson, King Cam, Rick Teilly, and Bruce Allen.

This year, Vernon Midret, Bantam, and Pee Wee Reps all finished second in Okanagan Mainline League play. All three clubs lost in semi-finals.

Vernon Juvenile Reps looked like a shoo-in for the provincial crown. However, the team suffered from a lack of competition all season and lost to Coquitlam in the provincial finals.

Vernon Pup Reps have probably the best team in B.C. and perhaps Canada. But, there is only league playdowns in the pup division so the Vernon boys will never find out if they are tops in the province.

It was a good year for minor hockey, but a little frustrating. Well, maybe next year.

NAMES IN SPORTS

If there was such a thing as Sportsman of the Month, Hubert Peterson would be the winner in March. Peterson organized the Bruce Bernhardt Fund, to help the family of a seriously injured minor hockey player. So far, more than \$1,600 has been turned over to Bernhardt's.

Vernon's Eddie Johnston is back on track again with New York Rangers. When Eddie was called up by Rangers early this season, he scored seven goals in seven games.

However, in the next seven weeks, he scored only once. Last weekend, he exploded for four goals in two games.

Canadian Freestyle Association General Manager Bruce Alain, of Vernon, deserves a pat on the back for the job he did at the recent World Cup Freestyle finals on Silver Star.

Alain, who has been involved with freestyle since it was known as h.c.-dogging, not only looked after organizing the event, but ended up doing most of the public relations work.

While we're handing out accolades, congratulations are in order to Vernon Pup Rep Coach Mel Major.

The pups enjoyed a great season and Major, along with his assistants George Farber and Brent Nolan, deserve a lot of credit for sacrificing all their weekends.

Vernon Minor Soccer Association Director Karl Krause tells us his group is in deep need of coaches.

Seven coaches are needed immediately, for boys ranging in age from 11 to 16 years.

Anyone interested can phone 242-2922.

The lacrosse season hasn't even started and already Vernon Tigers have a couple of problems.

Manager Laurie Jenner resigned his post this week and defenceman Terry McDonald has indicated he probably won't return to the club.

Jenner, cited personal reasons for resigning.

McDonald, a professional hockey player, said he doesn't think he can cope with another lacrosse season after playing 92 hockey games this winter.

Good luck to Graham Schiare and Troy Allum who are representing Vernon Kokanees at the national level two swim meet, in Calgary, this weekend.

SPORTS

DON KENDALL - Sports Editor
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VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1978



IN CANADIAN FINALS

Mark Katalay of Vernon will be representing B.C. in the Canadian Five-plus Bowling Championships, in Thunder Bay, Ont., in May. Katalay captured the men's singles event at the provincial finals, last weekend, in Prince Geor. He pulled an eight-game total of 2028, for a whopping 213 average.

New owners just waiting to sign papers

A spokesman for a local group hoping to buy the Vernon Vikings, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, said an agreement has been reached with the present owners.

Fielden Bloomer told the Daily News the price has been finalized and only a couple of minor details remain to be ironed out. He said, "We hope to sign the papers today, or early next week."

Bloomer, who has an extensive background in hockey including a brief stint as coach of the Vikings, is one of seven businessmen in the new group.

Meanwhile, in B.C.J.H.L. playoff action Thursday, Abbotsford Flyers rebounded from a 2-1 first period deficit to defeat Bellingham Blazers 7-5 in the opening game of their best-of-seven, quarter-final series.

Jim Dobson scored two goals for the Flyers, including the winner early in the third period. Anthony McMurchey, Jim Cowden, Brad Mammell, Craig Williamson and Rick Greenwood completed the scoring for Abbotsford, which finished 4-0 in the league's

Swimming

Troy Allum and Graham Schiare representing Vernon Kokanees at the level two national swim meet in Calgary.

Volleyball

Four-team exhibition volleyball tournament at Clarence Fulton School, from 7 to 10 p.m. Three Vernon teams and one from Drumheller competing.

Saturday Minor Lacrosse

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., registration at Village Green Mall for all boys aged 6 to 16.

Basketball

12 noon, Vernon Tri-Lakers vs. Armstrong in Golden Invitational Tournament.

Skating

10 a.m., Silver Star Mountain, Molson's program race.

SPORTS ALERT

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

APRIL, 1973

Disgruntled Rutland bowlers and their supporters walked out of the Golden Age bowling banquet and awards night after it was announced they had been ruled ineligible to compete because of the bowling lanes in their community was not a member of the Bowling Lane Proprietors Association.

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Tri-Lakers in Golden for basketball tourney

Vernon Tri-Lakers will be defending their title in the Golden Ladies Invitational Basketball Tournament this weekend.

Lakers swing into action Saturday, at 12 noon, against Armstrong. On Sunday, the Vernon girls play back-to-back games against Enderby and Golden.

Lakers' Coach Paul Queenel said, "We have a good club again, but we're going to have to work hard. I expect the competition to be much tougher than last year."

The starting five for Vernon are centre Betty Sherk, forward Laurie Ogasawara and Linda Lockerby and guards Paul Haworth and Marie Becker.

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Vernon Panthers edged the Grads 8-6 in their annual grudge match on Thursday at VSSS. Grad scrim-half Terry Galasko disguised himself in a Panther uniform, but wasn't able to avoid, from left, Mike St. Pierre, Greg Ashworth, and Scot Goodman. Doug Bansen and Greg Meister scored tries for the winners, while Wes Campbell did a try and Mike Hrditka added a convert for Grads.

Ski instructors racing for cash

About 50 teams of professional ski instructors will be competing for more than \$4,000 in prize money at the sixth annual Molson-Canadian Ski Instructors' Alliance Two Team Race on Saturday, at Silver Star Mountain.

Last year, a team from Mt. Norquay skied away with the first prize trophy and \$1,200.

The girls will race at 12:30 p.m. Each course will have two, four-foot jumps.

To qualify a team, a participating Molstar area must have held at least eight Molstar events with a minimum total of 200 entrants.

To date more than 20,000 skiers have taken part in Molstar races, in Western Canada, during the 1977-78 season.

The Molstar program is designed to give skiers a chance to establish a rating on an easy giant slalom course.

HUBERT PETERSON

great response

\$1,600 donated to fund

The people of Vernon have donated more than \$1,600 to the Bruce Bernhardt Fund. Bernhardt was paralyzed several weeks ago when he fell from a trampoline at W.L. Seaton School. His mother quit her job in Vernon so she could be close to him at Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver.

There are two other children in the family and as a result, Doreen Bernhardt is having problems making ends meet.

Hubert Peterson, division manager for minor hockey's midret juvenile home league set up the fund with the aid of the Bernhardt's trouble.

Peterston said, "Bruce played with the Tri-Craft in our league and we wanted to do something to help him and his family."

About \$500 was collected at the midret juvenile final in which Credit Tri-Craft edged Tri-Craft 6-5. Another \$1,100 has come from businesses and through donations at Vernon banks.

Donations will be accepted at all Vernon banks until April 15.

Bruce, who now has some movement in his arms, would appreciate hearing from his friends. His address is Bruce Bernhardt, Special Care Unit, Shaughnessy Hospital, 4500 Oak Street, Vancouver.

One-day clinic planned for tips on bicycling

Vernon Bicycle Club, in conjunction with the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation District, is planning a one-day training program.

Topics to be covered include cycle trips, choosing a 10-speed, bicycle camping, maintenance, and repair.

Anyone interested is asked to leave their name and phone number at the Recreation Complex during the following hours: Sunday through Friday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-5 p.m.

Lacrosse registration at mall on Saturday

Vernon and District Minor Lacrosse Association will hold its second and final registration on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Village Green Mall.

All boys 6 to 16 are eligible to play. However, players must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, have proof of age, and a medical insurance number at time of registration.

In conjunction with minor lacrosse, Vernon Tigers are running a clinic for youngsters, starting next week.

The clinic, which was organized by Greg Williamson, offers four and one-half hours of instruction to each boy. Cost is \$2.

Wainman said, "The clinic will give players a chance to pick up some extra pointers before the season starts. We'll be concentrating on the fundamentals of the game."

Full clinic details will be available at the time of registration.

The minor lacrosse season will run from late April to late June.

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