

Just two years ago

What a difference two years make! It was just two years ago, in April of 1976, Vernon Vikings were in the B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs, against Penitencion Vees.

Vikings had one of the most awesome machines in BCJHL history and made short work of Chilliwack Bruins in the quarter-finals. Vees were expected to be just a stepping stone on the way to the league championship.

Penitencion was expected to have veteran reminder Dennis Ewanchuk in the nets. But instead, rookie goalie Pat Murphy got the call. Murphy was brilliant and Vees eliminated the Vikings.

The loss of that series spelled the end of Joe Tennant's career as a coach in Vernon. The club was more than \$10,000 in debt and needed at least another four or five playoff games at home to get back to the break-even point.

Tennant and the Vikings parted ways and Joe moved back to Kamloops, the city which he had left two years earlier to take the post in Vernon.

BUILT A WINNER

One of his first acquisitions was Ken Stroud. Stroud left the BCJHL after the '75 season with Vikings. After a brief stint with Medicine Hat Tigers of the WCHL, he went to Spruce Grove of the Alberta tier two level.

Then, Joe got a call from a player he had first scouted six years earlier. Kelly Ferner, after two years in the WCHL, was looking for a place to play.

After hearing Kelly was joining the Centa, brother Keith followed suit. Keith was an all-star, with Vernon in '75-'76. However, his performance with Vikings in '77-'78 could be called, at best, mediocre.

Then, Tennant picked up defenceman he had noticed at his Enderby Hockey School two years ago. Larry Stankovics, an Enderby native, has become a

stalwart on the Merritt Blue line. As fate would have it, Penitencion felt Murphy was expendable this season. Remembering how Murphy had single-handedly beat his club two years ago, Tennant picked him up as added insurance behind Ferner and rookie Bob Polmatnik.

Ferner, with his free spirit attitude, fell into Tennant's bad books and left the club in February. With Ferner gone, Murphy became number one.

COULD HAVE BEEN VIKINGS

On Wednesday, Centennials won the B.C. Junior hockey championship by beating defending champion Richmond Sox-Kees. In three straight games. If Tennant had stayed in Vernon, it might have been Vikings that are now B.C. champions.

The locals would no doubt have had Stroud, Kelly Ferner, Stankovics, Murphy, and Ron Flockhart, who scored the winning goal in overtime on Wednesday.

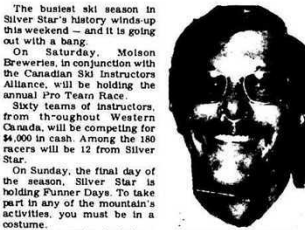
Flockhart, when cut by Medicine Hat early in the season, was destined to come to Vernon. However, he chose to go to Merritt because Tennant had coached his older brother, Bob, four years ago.

It isn't anyone's fault that Joe left Vernon — the Vikings simply couldn't afford him. Because of his knowledge and success, Tennant is able to make his living by coaching junior hockey — and he commands a pretty healthy salary. As we all know, Vikings haven't exactly been turning people away at the door for the past six years. Even with a winner in 1975-'76, attendance was low and the financial losses were high.

What brings us to this point is that over the past six years total cumulative losses over the past six years total an estimated \$85,000. As a result, the present owners put the club up for sale two months ago and have reportedly reached an agreement with a group of local businessmen. However, the agreement was reached two weeks ago and no papers have been signed.

To get junior hockey back on its feet in Vernon, let us hope the deal is completed and the club is back in operation. In another two years, Vikings could be the B.C. champions. . . I wonder where Tennant will be then.

Great ski season ends with a bang



WOODY WOODMAN ... good conditions

The busiest ski season in Silver Star's history winds up this weekend — and it is going out with a bang.

On Saturday, Moison Brewster, in conjunction with the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance, will be holding the annual Pro Team Race.

Sixty teams of instructors, from throughout Western Canada, will be competing for \$4,000 in cash. Among the 180 racers will be 12 from Silver Star.

On Sunday, the final day of the season, Silver Star is holding Funer Days. To take part in any of the mountain's activities, you must be in a costume.

Special events include a dual slalom with children against their parents, a Molokai race, ug-o-war on a skis, obstacle race, films, and a Daisyland Band. To end the day, there will be a cook-your-own steak barbecue. You can take your own steak or buy one on the mountain.

Despite the poor weather in recent weeks, skiing conditions are still good, Woodman said. "On most parts of

the mountain we still have six feet of snow. The snow, combined with the sunshine, should make conditions great this weekend."

The mountain is closing according to Woodman, because people have lost interest in skiing for this year. He said, "We always close about this time because people are tired of skiing — they want to go to a garden now. We've got enough snow to stay open another couple weeks."

Although final statistics have not yet been compiled, Woodman estimates Silver Star's business increased about 15 per cent over the 1976-'77 season. Between 150,000 and 160,000 skiers have visited the mountain in the past five months.

Woodman said, "We've got to meet people from all over the world this year. We've had skiers from Japan, Europe, Hawaii, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, and all parts of the U.S."

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GUIDE SERVICE

Cheryl Heater, of Vernon, recently purchased Guide-Outfitters Certificate from Bert Youngberg, also of Vernon. The certificate's area is vast — including the watershed on the west side of Okanagan Lake, east to the Wap Valley, south to the Monashee, and west to the boundary of North and South Okanagan. The new guiding service will be known as North Okanagan Outfitters.

NEVER WON TITLE. A catcher who was a regular at his position has never won the American League hitting title.

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Daily News

SPORTS

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DON KENDALL — Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1978

20 gymnasts will perform

W. L. Seaton Junior Secondary School Gymnastics Club is ending its season with a series of demonstrations.

The club, coached by Marlene Nickel and Bob Davidson, is performing three times at Village Green Mall, in conjunction with Action Vernon. The shows will be tonight at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1 and 2:30 p.m.

On April 12, about 20 gymnasts will be performing in the Seaton gymnasium, at 8 p.m.

Nickel told the Daily News the students are enthusiastic and have progressed a great deal.

Darryl Field gave the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 1:30 of the first period and John Butler tallied the final goal with 13 seconds remaining in the game.

OUTSHOOT VISITORS. In Kamloops, Ralph Anderson had two goals for the Chiefs, who outshot Kelowna 20-9. Doug Lidster, Murray Matheon, Glen Merkozyak and Jay Kozak were the other Kamloops marksmen.

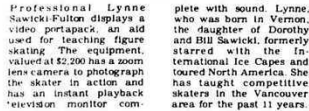
In Bellinham, Glen Anderson scored the winning goal on a power play mid-way through the final period.

Kon Berry, with three goals and Steve Macdonald, with two, paced the Blazers who led a 41-28 edge in shots on goal. Don Fraser and Romeo Profeta also tallied 'or Bellinham.

Tonight, Kamloops plays in Kelowna and Nanaimo-Clipparae at Langley Lords. Victories will be in Kamloops and Nanaimo into the next round.

Bryce will emphasize the use of proper strokes. Club spokesman Jim Strachan told the Daily News it will fill a void for swimmers who are not ready for competition.

Strachan said, "The idea of the program is to bring in young swimmers into competition by introducing them through a low-level program. For further information phone 542-7822 or 542-8887, or see Bryce at the pool (every day) at 3:30 p.m."



Professional Lynne Sawicki-Fulton displays a video tape, which she used for teaching figure skating. The equipment, valued at \$2,200, has a zoom lens camera to photograph the skater in action and has an instant replay television monitor complete with sound. Lynne, who was born in Vernon, is the daughter of Dorothy and Bill Sawicki, formerly started with the International Ice Capes and toured North America. She has taught competitive skaters in the Vancouver area for the past 11 years.

PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT

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Swimming program under way

Vernon Kokanee Swim Club has initiated a new program for young swimmers, called Grass Roots.

The program offers an introduction to competitive swimming for those with limited experience.

A registration fee to the Kokanees, and a small monthly coaching charge, are the only expenses.

The program, under the direction of Kokanee Coach Tom Bryce, will be held in the Slumber Lodge Motel pool, next to the Recreation Complex.

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