

Battle in court

Merritt Centennials, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, will find out late today, in court, if they can play hockey again this season.

In one of the most chaotic situations in junior hockey history, Centennials were suspended for playing Calgary Canucks in the Centennial Cup for two playdowns.

The problem started when Alberta referees refused to wear Canadian Amateur Hockey Association helmets. After the first game of the interprovincial series, Calgary was suspended. Then, after the second game, Canucks were suspended for playing Canucks.

Merritt Coach Joe Tennant said, "In all my years of hockey, this is the most screwed up thing I've ever seen. Can you imagine suspending us because Alberta referees don't wear helmets?"

If the court rules in favor of Canucks, and an injunction is imposed to prevent the BCHA from upholding the suspension, the West-2 Canada final would start Sunday in Merritt. The opposition would be provided by Saskatchewan champion Prince Albert, which eliminated Manitoba. If the suspension stands, Cent's will hang up their skates for the season.

Tennant said, "Right now I'd say our chances about 50-50. We're only four wins away from the national finals and I think our guys deserve a shot at it. If we lose, at least let it be on the ice."

It had been suggested that if the suspension stands, Merritt would revert to the B.C.H.J. playoffs and enter a three-team, round-robin final against Nanaimo and Penticton.

To that idea, Tennant said, "There is no point in playing Penticton or Nanaimo at this time in time. Not only would it be a letdown to our players, but also our fans."

The main goal of the BCHA and CCHA is to support the growth and development of hockey. Is that what they're doing in this instance?

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

After a decade of hiding, even the most frustrated Detroit Red Wings fans emerged out of the woodwork on Wednesday night after the Wings upset Montreal Canadiens.

The Wings have won three of four playoff games, without their best two-way defenceman, Perry Miller. Miller is injured and out for the season.

Even if the Habs win the next three games, Wings can go out with their heads high and Hoboy Kromm is a sure bet to win the Coach of the Year Award.

Ed Vernon Viking Owen Lloyd recently signed his first pro contract with Edmonton Oilers.

After being led down the garden path by Cleveland Barons, Lloyd opted to return to junior this season, as an emergency player, with Seattle Breakers.

He'll have a good shot at making 6-7 Oilers next season.

Only three players in the NHL (other than goalies) played the entire season (more than 50 games) and did not score a goal.

That infamous trio is Lee Fogolin of Buffalo Sabres, Fred Bessert of the North Stars, and Bert Marshall of New York Islanders.

Birmingham Bulls are very much alive in the World Hockey Association playoffs after beating Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday night.

Jets led the series 2-1, and on paper, Winnipeg should have easily won in four straight games. However, the team's tactics used so well by Philadelphia Flyers a couple years back.

Birmingham Bulls are Steve Durbano 284 minutes, Frank Beaton 268, Gilles Blouin 288, and Dave Hanson 225. They are all four of the WHA's five penalty leaders.

PONY CLUB FORMED

British Columbia now has its 24th pony club — in Vernon. A group of interested parents and riders have formed a club, for boys and girls between the ages of seven and 20. Some of the members include, from left, Glen Shaw, Sally Ross, Nancy Henry, Jamie Ross, Gary Litterer, and Kiran Kennedy. The group will be holding its first meeting Saturday at 1 p.m.



(Daily News Photo)

Sweden blanked by Team Canada

GOTEBORG, Sweden (CP) — Head coach Harry Howell said he wouldn't have been surprised if Team Canada had run out of steam along about the second period of Thursday night's exhibition game against Sweden, the club's second warm-up for the world hockey championship.

Instead, the Canadians got stronger as the game progressed and the result was a 4-0 victory against a Swedish national team.

Team Canada won at home after three losses — two to the Soviet Union and Tuesday's 5-1 defeat to Canada.

"I was really surprised because I thought all those time zones would finally catch up with us and we'd tire badly in the second period," Howell said.

"Then I thought we'd finally win in this third period but after we got that second goal we were in total command."

The Swedish team which finished second to Czechoslovakia in last year's world championship in Vienna, has been roundly criticized by the press here after scoring one goal in apocryphal losses to the Soviets and then being soundly beaten by the Canadians only two days after Team Canada '78 was assembled.

"The Swedes came out with something to prove," said Howell. "I knew they'd be dying tonight and so did all our players."

They clearly outplayed the Canadians even after Tim Young put Canada ahead 1-0 with an unassisted goal in the first minute of the second period.

What frustrated the Swedes time and again was the fine goaltending of Denis Hefner and Dan Bouchard and the strong penalty killing of Jean Pronovost and Pat Hickey.

Finally the roof fell on on goalkeeper Hardy Astrom who had so little work in the Swedish net that he must have been rusty. Hickey found himself clear on a pass from Marcel Dionne and made it 2-0 at 13:51 of the third period. Dennis Marus scored on a breakaway pass from Rick Hampton 18 seconds later and Hampton ended the scoring at 19:04, converting a pass from Bob MacMillan who had red carded for an assist.

Just how good the Canadian team is won't be known until the world championship starts next Wednesday in Czechoslovakia. Two wins over Sweden may be misleading because the Swedes are obviously a club with problems.

The Canadians have today for a rare and weekend exhibitions against the Czechoslovakian B team. Teams which may shed further light on Team Canada's strength.

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Daily News

SPORTS

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1978

April Showers filling up

First major golf tournament of the season in the North Okanagan, the Okanagan Open, will be held April 30 at Spallumcheen Golf Club.

There will be four flights with low gross, low net, middle drive, and closest to pin awards in each flight.

Spallumcheen Club Pro Pete Wise told the Daily News the course is filling up fast.

Wise said, "We've got 85-90 entered at the present time and the most we can handle is 128. I'd advise anyone hoping to play in the tourney, to register now."

Defending champion Garnet Lineker, of Kamloops, has not yet signed up. However, the man Lineker beat in a sudden-death playoff last year, Spallumcheen's Larry Adams, will be playing.

Top out-of-town entrants include Fred Frank, Jim Telford, and Mus Tahara of Kamloops, along with Ken Reed of Salmon Arm.

Leading the Vernon Golf and Country Club will be Greg Betts and Vern Bennett. Spallumcheen hopefuls include Don Weixl, Doug Gardner, Pete Bossone, and Bob Davidson.

Wise said, "The course is in great shape and we're looking forward to a super tourney."

Coldstream holds practice

Coldstream Motor Hotel, of the North Okanagan Baseball League, will be holding its first outdoor workout on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Poison Park.

The Vernon squad has been preparing in gymnasiums for the past four weeks.

Team spokesman Al Simpson said, "Anyone wanting to tryout is welcome. No positions are locked up and we'll have a good look at everybody."

Boxing champ in hot water

ST LOUIS (AP) — Police said Leon Spinks, World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, was arrested early today after he did not produce a driver's license, and was under investigation for possible drug violations.

Spinks, an American companion were still in police custody shortly before 7 a.m. EST. No charges have been filed, said a spokesman.

The arresting policeman, Francis Caron, said police seized two small bags or sacks, one containing a white powdery substance and the other possibly marijuana.

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY
At Creekside Park 2 p.m., Mt. Boucherie vs. Vernon, Oliver vs. Kamloops, and Calgary vs. West-2. 3 p.m., Kelowna vs. Salmon Arm, Penticton vs. Merritt, and Mission vs. NorKam; 4 p.m., Mt. Boucherie vs. Kamloops, Oliver vs. West-2, and Calgary vs. Vernon.

Play resumes Saturday, at 10 a.m. Other game times are 11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m.

MINOR SOCCER (all games 5:30 p.m.)
Division 9: 1 and 2 Electric vs. Elks and Ok Builders vs. Kai Tite (MacDonald Park); Roy's Tire vs. Lumby (Creekside).

Division 8: Vernon Sport vs. Nick's Kandy Kitchen and Tractor Masters vs. Lloyd's Husky (MacDonald Park); Firecrack vs. Post Control (Creekside).

Division 5: Eagles vs. Nick's Kandy (MacDonald).

Vernon players on team

Four Vernon players have been named to the Okanagan team that will be competing in the B.C. Senior Field Hockey Tournament this weekend in Oquiltan.

Jill Hewitson, Zee Wakelin, Leanne Wilms, and Barb Paul have made the valley rep team.

The Okanagan is scheduled to play two Vancouver teams, one from Vancouver Island, and Burnaby.

In last year's tourney, the Okanagan won two of four games.

Meanwhile, four local players have been named for the Okanagan Under 21 Team, which will play in the B.C. Summer Games, in Penticton, in August.

The girls are Jackie Dennis, Kathy Ferris, Wilms, and Paul.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

LOCAL ENTRIES
Any local cowboys wishing to take part in the 1978 Lake Professional Rodeo, on May 6 and 7, are asked to phone 545-9638. Entry deadline is May 1, at 4 p.m.

LACROSSE BOX
Final stakes have been laid, and work is expected to start within a week on a lacrosse box in Creekside Park. Parks and Recreation Director John Mahler told the Daily News he hopes to have the box in operation by mid-May.

BALL PRACTICE
The Vernon entry in the Okanagan Junior Baseball League will be holding a practice on Sunday, at 1 p.m. at Poison Park. Any boys aged 17 and 18, interested in playing ball, are invited to attend.

STEWART FIRED
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ron Stewart, first-year coach of Los Angeles Kings who lost two consecutive Stanley Cup preliminary round playoff games to Toronto Maple Leafs last week, was fired Thursday.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

APRIL, 1973
A 10-man crew of paraplegic basketballers downed local RCMP 42-18 in an exciting exhibition game of basketball in wheelchairs.

ON THE LINKS

This week's top performer, at the Vernon Golf and Country Club is Margaret Shea. She carded a hole-in-one on the 14th hole, using a five wood. It was the second ace of the season at the Vernon Club. The top golfer will be featured every Friday in the Daily News.

PIN POINTS

TUESDAY LEADERS		TEAMS STANDINGS	
Worship 25	High 104	Blacks	327
Morrison 23	High 101	Whites	315
Conroy 21	High 97	Happy Gang	456
Forslund 19	High 95	Reds	402
Conroy 18	High 94	Women's	
1931 17	High 93	April 12	Wed 113
1932 16	High 92	Women's high single Ruth Potts	115
1933 15	High 91	116 high triple Delores Just	726
1934 14	High 90	117 high triple Doris Barriere	281
1935 13	High 89	118 high single Fred	456
1936 12	High 88	119 high triple Fred	456
1937 11	High 87	120 high triple Fred	456
1938 10	High 86	121 high triple Fred	456
1939 9	High 85	122 high triple Fred	456
1940 8	High 84	123 high triple Fred	456
1941 7	High 83	124 high triple Fred	456
1942 6	High 82	125 high triple Fred	456
1943 5	High 81	126 high triple Fred	456
1944 4	High 80	127 high triple Fred	456
1945 3	High 79	128 high triple Fred	456
1946 2	High 78	129 high triple Fred	456
1947 1	High 77	130 high triple Fred	456

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HUDAC - A COMMON GOAL

The local affiliate, HUDAC, Vernon and District, received its charter just three years ago and has in that short span of time built its membership from a mere handful of interested people to more than 50 members from many trades and professions associated with the residential construction industry. The Vernon chapter represents such diverse professions as surveyors, lawlers, realtors, electricians, bankers, building suppliers — as well as builders — all working toward a common goal.

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For more information on Hudac call Gerry Silbarnagal at 545-1311 or write P.O. Box 452, Vernon