

Local group buys Vikings

Daily News

SPORTS

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1978

KENDALL'S KORNER

The end of an era

An era of hockey in Vernon ended this week. With the sale of the Vernon Vikings, to a group of local businessmen Vern Dye left the club after a 12 year association.

Dye, who at various times served as president, general manager, and coach of the team, moved from intermediate to junior hockey in 1966. He was on hand for two name changes — from the Blades to the Esos to the Vikings, and two BC championships — in 1970 and 1972.

Whether you approved of Dye's ideas or not, you had to admire his community spirit because he kept junior hockey alive here. The team's new general manager, Sheldon Bloomer, coached the team briefly last season and quit over a disagreement with Dye. Bloomer said, "Not many people would put in the time or money that Vern Dye has done for hockey in town. He deserves a lot of credit."

Dye and his three partners, Ernie Kowal, Roly Sammartino, and Les York sold for two main reasons. The first, and foremost was money. The team is an estimated \$65,000 in debt. Another reason is that he felt it was time for a change of face — to perhaps create some interest in hockey.

STARTED IN '73

Dye said, "Things started going downhill about 1973. We started to cater to the Western Canada Hockey League about that time and we lost a lot of our good players."

Then, the BCHJHL lost two of its strongest franchises, New Westminster and Victoria to WCHL. That really hurt us. There is no doubt about it, the calibre of hockey has been diluted. There are 18 junior A teams in B.C. at the present time.

But, on the other hand, Dye doesn't feel the people have been fair to the Vikings. He said, "We haven't got the support we deserve in the last five years. During that time, we've had three real good hockey clubs. Students and young adults appear to have lost interest in junior hockey."

"It is going to be tough for the new owners to get the club back on its feet. It will take a lot of hard work and one thing is for sure, two or three men won't be able to do it. It is going to take a real community effort."

Dye said the best club Vernon had was during the 1973-74 season when it lost to Kamloops in the BCHJHL finals. He said, "When we won the B.C. title the year before and the year after, but we had a better team in 70-71. We lost our goalie, Leo Karchie, to Medicine Hat and we didn't have anyone adequate to replace him. That cost us the provincial title."

GREAT PLAYERS

A lot of great hockey players have worn Vernon uniforms in the last decade. Tiger Williams was here for three months in 1971. Henry Holland went on from here to star with Medicine Hat and now plays with Birmingham of the AHL, and Ron Areshenko is now in the AHL.

But, Dye rates eight players above the rest, and has special praise for one in particular. The eight are Bob Craig, Bob Mayer, Karchie, Eddie Johnston, Jim Law, now, his son Wayne, the late Bob Gassoff, and Don Murdoch.

"Murdoch," he said, "was without doubt the most exciting player we ever had. The fans would anticipate a scoring play every time Donny touched the puck. Dye said the biggest thrill for him was winning the B.C. title in 1972. He said, "We were trailing Pentiction 3-2, in the best of seven series, and came back to beat them. That was one heckuva series."

Vern is gone, but he won't forget hockey for a while. He and his partners still have part of that mammoth debt to pay off. That is going to cloud his fond memories of junior hockey.

Vernon Vikings, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, have been sold to a group of local businessmen.

Sheldon Bloomer, spokesman for the buyers and the team's new general manager, told the Daily News the takeover is effective immediately.

Bloomer said, "We have reached an agreement with the previous owners and full details will be announced at a press conference next Monday."

HUGE DEBT

Vikings have been plagued by lack of fan support and financial trouble for the past several years. The deficit, which reached an estimated \$65,000, forced Vern Dye, Ernie Kowal, Les York, and Roly Sammartino to sell the club.

Don Brown, who will act as business manager for the new owners, is confident the team can get back on its feet.

NON-PROFIT

Brown said, "We are a non-profit organization but, we don't intend to lose thousands of dollars. The team will be run by people who have years of experience in hockey."

"Our main objective is to keep junior hockey in Vernon and give as many local boys as possible an opportunity to play on the team."

Bloomer, who coached the Vikings for a month last



SHELDON BLOOMER ... new GM



DON BROWN ... business manager

season, has an extensive background in hockey. He played professionally for six years before spending a decade with Winnipeg Maroons.

Brown was the founder of the Kamloops Rockets, of the BCHL, in 1966. He operated the Rockets for 10 years and served as chairman of the league for two seasons.

Bloomer said, "We have a lot of new ideas for the club which we will disclose on Monday. But, at this time, we aren't prepared to discuss any further details."

Dye said he hopes the change of ownership will create some new interest in the Vikings. He said, "It isn't going to be easy but, I hope the new owners can get junior hockey booming again in Vernon."

Panthers settle for rugby tie

Vernon Panthers battled to a 3-3 tie with Salmon Arm Golds in high school rugby action Thursday at Kalamalka Junior Secondary School.

The draw leaves Vernon with a 4-0 record on four wins, four losses, and a tie. Barlter this season, Golds bumped Panthers 16-12.

A lot of sloppy play, rather than tough defence, accounted for the low score. Salmon Arm took a 3-1 lead at half time. That score stood up until early in the second half when Richard Zemlick booted a field goal for Vernon.

CALLED BACK

Panthers appeared to take the lead, in the dying minutes, when Darren Remington ran into the goal area with the ball. However, the try was called back on an offside, because Remington had bumped into one of his own players near the goal line.

Vernon had numerous other opportunities for tries. On four occasions Panthers pressed and appeared ready to score when fumbles cost them their possession.

VSSS Coach Terry White told the Daily News he was disappointed with his club's showing.

NO EXCUSE

White said, "There is no excuse for rugby like that. We controlled the ball, moved it reasonably well, and had several good scoring chances — and we end up with three points. A tie is like kissing your sister."

Individual star for Vernon was fullback Kevin Donovan. Donovan made several bone-crunching tackles and got away some nice kicks. Loose forward Scott Woodman and number eight-man Rolf Timm also enjoyed good games.

Panthers were without kicker Sam Saiko, who is still nursing a sprained ankle. He is expected back in action next Tuesday when Vernon hosts Kamloops Red Devils.



ON THE LINKS

Arvo Huhtala is the golfer of the week at the Vernon Golf and Country Club. Huhtala is being recognized for his effort as junior development chairman. More than 60 juniors were on hand for a meeting this week. A junior executive has now been established and club pro Ron Wood will be giving free lessons to the group. Meanwhile, the first twilight event of the year will be held tonight. On Sunday, the Annual Tournament gets under way, at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start. (Daily News Photo)

VERNON SOFTBALL ROUND-UP

MAJOR MEN
Vernon Optical 12, Royal Rebels 5, Roo Crew 16, National Hotel 14, Raiders 11, Blues 4, Lakeside Red Devils over Oldtimers by default.

LADIES' FASTPITCH
Goodtimers 12, Justice 8, Al's Esao 7, Kai Hotel 6, Med-Cla 11, Sandpipers 3, and OK Builders 14, Multi Enterprises 10.

GIRLS' FASTPITCH
Silver Stars 24, BJs 9, and Hurricanes 36, Barracudas 13.

COMMERCIAL MEN
OK Tel. Leftover 11, Armadillos 11, Butcher Boys 15, National Hotel 3, Consumers Glass 16, NoHo 15, Entouchables 16, Super Vault Flames 15, and CUPE Selects 16, Capitol Tractor 17.

NAT. RBY
1 p.m. Civic Arena, B.C.L.A. referees' clinic.

PONY CLUB
1 p.m. Vernon and District Riding Club grounds, pony club meeting.

CANOE TRIP
Trip down Shuswap River. Some experience in river paddling necessary. Meet at Village Green Park parking lot at 10 a.m. For further information phone 542-6887 or 542-2773.

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

MINOR SOCCER (Games at 5:30 p.m.)
Division 1: OK Builders vs. Elks and Roy's Tire vs. Kai Tire - Macdonald Park; 1 and 2 Electric vs. Lumby (Creekside).

Division 2: Traction Masters vs. Nick's Kandy and Thrift vs. Lloyd's Husky - Macdonald Park; Vernon Sport vs. Pest Control (Creekside).

Division 3: Eagles vs. Lions - Army Camp.

LACHOISE REFEREES
11 a.m. Civic Arena, B.C.L.A. referees' clinic.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS
APRIL 1973
Vernon Nationals still held a day of first place in Vancouver and a day of first place in Seattle, because the first place trophy of the Vernon Nationals Football League team has reached an

SPORTS BRIEFS

agreement with Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell after 20 hours of intense negotiation." Neither Adams, Campbell nor his agent, Mike Trope, would spell out the money portion of the agreement. However, Trope did say that the amount would be sufficient for Campbell to build his mother a house.

VANTRZEMSKI OUT
BOSTON (AP) — Carl VanTrzemski, veteran slugger with Boston Red Sox, will be sidelined for three or four days because of a bruise on his right forearm.

REACH AGREEMENT
HOUSTON (AP) — Bud Adams, owner of Houston Oilers, said Thursday his National Football League team has reached an

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

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Merritt wins opening game

MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Merritt Centenials edged Prince Albert Raiders 6-5 Thursday night before 1,300 fans to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference final for their two junior hockey clubs.

Merritt moved ahead 4-0 early in the second period but Prince Albert came back with three goals to make it 4-3 following 40 minutes of play.

Glen White scored for the Raiders early in the third period to tie the game 4-4, but Merritt scored twice in a row to pull ahead 6-4.

Ken Stroud led the Centenials with two goals, while a number of goals were added by Randy Will, Blake Stephens, Eddie Peters and Glen Johnson.

Prince Albert got a goal from Jim Mostowich and the other Western Conference Eric Penath.

The Centenials were given five minutes of power play and each team picked up two five-minute fighting majors. Four of the Centenials team's five goals were scored on power plays.

Goals by Murphy stopped 30 shots for Merritt and Rich Schultt turned back 47 shots in the Raiders' net.

The second game will be played here tonight.

Finland rallies to upset Canada in world hockey

PRAGUE (CP) — When the Finnish national team trooped into its dressing room trailing Canada 4-1 at the end of the first period of their world hockey championship game their coach had a few words for them.

"Now you've had a good look at the superstars from the other side of the Atlantic," said Kalevi Numminen, "it's time you stopped looking and started playing."

Not only did the Finns start playing, the Canadians promptly stopped looking like superstars and were so clearly outclassed in the final two periods that they came away with a surprise 6-4 loss in their first game of the tournament on Thursday.

It was Canada's first loss to Finland since the 1968 Winter Olympics Game, and although there are still six games to go in the 1978 tournament preliminary round-robin it will hurt Canada's chances of winning the gold medal.

Head coach Harry Howell remained confident that his team would finish in the top four and qualify for the championship round-robin, presumably the elite national champion Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Sweden.

But since both from both the preliminary and final rounds are counted in the overall standings, any defeat is a serious setback.

SOVIETS WIN AGAIN

The Soviet Union veteran Boris Mikhailov scored twice as the Soviet Union looked as impressive as they defeated West Germany 7-4. Goalender Vladimir Tresh of the Soviet Union appeared shaky for the second straight outing.

Sweden got two goals from Kofi Edberg en route to a 5-1 victory over the United States.

To be fair in assessing Canada's loss, the fact is the Canadians were seriously hampered by penalties. They took nine to two and both times the Finns went off they took a Canadian with them.

The result was that when the Finns scored three unanswered goals in the second period to tie the score 4-4 and then added a pair in the third period, the Canadians found themselves playing one or two men short very often as they tried to regroup.

Three of the Finnish goals, including the winner at the end of the third period by Juhani Tamminen, were scored on the only other game.

"That's the whole story," said Marcel Dionne, the Los Angeles Kings centre who was chosen team captain on the eve of the game. "If you score that many power-play goals you deserve to win and they did."

Dionne, who assisted on the first Canadian goal by Jean Pronovost at the 37-second mark of the first period, insisted the club did not let up after taking the lead. But against the Bruins.

"They shut down our big line and the rest of the guys seemed over anxious and messed up what few good opportunities we had to score."

Bruins blank Billings

VANCOUVER (CP) — New Westminster Bruins defeated Billings Bruins 4-0 Thursday night before 7,000 fans to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven Western Canada Hockey League final series.

Next three games in the series are in Billings, starting Saturday.

The Bruins took a 2-0 lead in the second period on goals by John Paul Kelly and Jim Dobson. Kent Redden and Stan Smyl, with goals one minute and 20 seconds apart late in the first period, completed the Bruins scoring.

Richard Martens made 35 saves for his shutout, including 18 in the second period of the cleanly played game in which there were only six penalties, one of them a double minor.

Tim Tomlinson stopped 42 in the Billings net.

Kelly, who scored the winning goal early in the second period, was given three minor penalties in the first period but Billings failed to capitalize.

Billings coach Dave King said after the game that he was disappointed in his team's inability to muster an attack against the Bruins.

"They shut down our big line and the rest of the guys seemed over anxious and messed up what few good opportunities we had to score."

Riding club schedules sale

The Vernon District Riding Club will be holding a garage sale Saturday at 10 a.m. at the club grounds, on Aberdeen Road, in Coldstream.

Mada Rendall, spokesman for the club, said the funds will go for the upkeep of the grounds, and added if anyone wants to contribute to the sale they can contact her at 542-4735.

The riding club has five arenas and is presently being established in the area near the riding school. Members are always welcome.

Trevino in lead after first round

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lee Trevino took a look over his shoulder at his friend Gary Player, four shots back opening today's second round of the \$200,000 New Orleans open tournament, and said: "He's gonna be a tough man to beat."

"He is the perfect example of determination," Trevino said. "He never gives up."

"His motto is, 'It's never over until the last ball is in the hole.' He just keeps trying, just keeps coming at you. He's tough. And he's tough to beat."

Trevino took advantage of ideal playing conditions and a manicured 7,480-yard Lakewood Country Club course to fire a spectacular seven-and-a-half round to win a single shot in front of the field and four ahead of Player.

The little South African didn't make a bogey on his way to a 69. "I'm quite satisfied," he said. "I didn't hole as many putts as I have been lately, but I'm not complaining. It was a nice round of golf."

SEEKS FOURTH

Player, who came into this event with three consecutive comebacks under his belt, is seeking to become only the third man in PGA history to win four consecutive tournaments.

Trevino's 35-foot birdie putt on the final hole lifted him to a single stroke ahead of Mark Hayes, who would have had a share of the top spot but for a three-putt bogey on the 18th that lifted him to 66.

Tied at 67 were Ray Floyd, Bob E. Smith and Ho, or Blancas, who one-putted 11 times. In the big group at 68 were former New Orleans Open winner Miller Barber and Andy Bean, a runner-up to Player last week in Houston.

Tom Watson took a triple bogey-seven on the first hole and finished with a 73. The two-time winner this season was tied at that figure with defending titlist Jim Simons.

Trevino missed only one green and made his only bogey there. He birdied three of the par five holes, all with short putts, hit a sand wedge some eight feet from the cup and claimed his other birdies on putts of 15, 25, 35 and 45 feet.

Jim Nelford of Burnaby, B.C., was nine strokes off the pace with a 77-87-74, while George Knudson of Toronto had a 35-40-75.

Toronto evens series — final game Saturday

TORONTO (CP) — As far as Dave Tiger Williams is concerned, Toronto Maple Leafs are headed for a meeting with Montreal Canadiens in the National Hockey League semifinal playoffs.

"You better get to Montreal ahead of time to get a good seat," Williams advised reporters Thursday night after the Leafs outplayed New York Islanders 3-2 to even their best-of-seven quarter-final playoff at 3-2.

Williams was referring to the Leafs opponent in the semi-finals if they can beat the Islanders in the seventh and deciding game Saturday night at Unifield, N.Y. If the Islanders win, they'll open their series Tuesday night in Boston against the Bruins while Montreal will meet Philadelphia Flyers.

The game was ended long before the first period ended as Toronto, scored four quick goals — two on power plays — by 12:53 of the opening session. From then on both clubs coasted. However, the game took over three hours to complete because of numerous fouls and chippy play on both sides.

REFEREE BUSY

Referee Dave Newell handed out 88 minutes in penalties — 40 minutes to Toronto and 46 to New York — as any foray into the corners seemed to result in at least minor penalties to the players involved.

"We won the game on pure skill," Williams joked about the penalty-filled contest. "Fisticuffs are always going to happen. We're just guys committed to playing our way."

Toronto wanted little time in taking the play to the Islanders and jumped to a 1-0 lead on a goal by Darryl Sittler at 2:49 of the first period. Jack Valguette, Larry McDonald and Stan Weir then scored to even the command at 4-0 lead.

At that point Islanders goaltender Glenn Koch was pulled in favor of Billy Smith. Koch, however, was not at fault on any of the first four goals but was lifted to give Smith — making his first playoff appearance this season — some much-needed ice time.

New York coach Al Arbour said he pulled Smith for that reason but wouldn't state who he intended to start in the decisive seventh game.

"I'll decide on the goalie Saturday night," he said. "We did give away a couple of gifts early but we started to get better."

We're due for a win in New York," the rookie coach said.

Bowman denies plans to desert Canadiens

MONTREAL (CP) — Montreal Canadiens coach Scotty Bowman has denied several reports that he is headed for other National Hockey League clubs at the conclusion of the playoffs.

"I'm certainly not going to anybody at this time," Bowman said in an interview on radio station CFCF.

"I haven't got any idea of negotiating with anybody because we are getting ready for the semi-finals," said Bowman, adding that he didn't know how long he would stay in coaching.

A report from Toronto suggested Bowman was seeking a six-year contract with the Canadiens and wanted to be the eventual successor to general manager Sam Pollock when the latter retires.

Pat Boulette gave the Leafs a 5-0 lead in the second period when he outskated New York defenseman Pat Price and broke in alone before beating Smith on the glove side with a wrist shot at 4:36.

The Islanders then got two goals in the lethargic third period — by Clark Gillies and Bob Bourne — but by then it was far too late.

To make things worse for New York, rookie Mike Bossy suffered a neck sprain when he was checked into the boards during the second period and had to be carried from the ice on a stretcher. After x-rays at hospital, he was released.

Coach Roger Neilson is an optimistic as Williams about a Toronto victory on Long Island.

"We're due for a win in New York," the rookie coach said.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BALL ROUND-UP

AMERICAN LEAGUE		NATIONAL LEAGUE	
W	L	Pct	GBL
Detroit	11	6	333
Boston	11	6	341
Milwaukee	8	8	529
New York	8	8	500
Cleveland	7	11	389
Toronto	7	11	389
Baltimore	5	14	278
Kansas City	4	9	488
California	4	9	488
Chicago	4	9	488
Texas	6	10	375
Minnesota	7	10	375
Seattle	7	10	375
Thursday Games			
Texas @ Kansas City	7	10	375
California @ Oakland	1	1	1
Toronto @ Cleveland	1	1	1
California @ Seattle	1	1	1
Today's Probable Pitchers			
Minnesota	12	1	1
Chicago	11	1	1
New York (Figures 21)			
Minnesota	12	1	1
Milwaukee	10	1	1
Chicago	10	1	1
Toronto	10	1	1
Cleveland	10	1	1
Los Angeles	10	1	1
Detroit	10	1	1
Seattle	10	1	1
Saturday Games			
New York at Minnesota	1	1	1
Cleveland at Oakland	1	1	1
Baltimore at Chicago	1	1	1
Milwaukee at Kansas City	1	1	1

Vancouver wins again

VANCOUVER (CP) — Jerry Tabb and Tim Hostley hit three-run home runs to back up the three-hit pitching of Mike Norris as Vancouver Canadians defeated San Jose Missions 7-4 in a Pacific Coast League baseball game Thursday night.

Tabb's homer, his second of the season, came in the first inning to give Norris a 3-1, 8-0 run cushion.

Hostley's shot, his first of the year, made it 6-0 in the fifth as Canadians won their second straight game and improved their record to 7-5 on the season.

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