

Whiskey Jack to host horse trials

Daily News

SPORTS

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In early October, top riders and horses from the northwestern United States will be converging on Whiskey Jack Ranch, near Lumby, for the final horse trial of the year. Horse trials or "eventing" as it is sometimes called, is one of three equestrian events recognized in the Olympics and it is generally considered that this event is the most challenging and strenuous of the three.

The horse trial combines aspects of the two other recognized Olympic events—show jumping and dressage—but is most heavily weighted in favor of the cross-country phase. **MOST THRILLS**
And it is the cross-country trial which provides the most thrills for the spectator and the most challenge for the competitors. "That's when the fun begins," said Didi Jack recently, describing the day horses and riders pit skill and

endurance against the 85 obstacle course on the Whiskey Jack Ranch. The difference between show jumping and cross-country jumping will become evident to anyone who sees a cross-country obstacle. They are usually wider, higher and present the rider with a variety of problems. They are more sturdy. "You don't jump down a cross-country jump. They're usually made of stone walls, steep banks, heavy logs and six-foot wide water-filled ditches," said Didi Jack.



CATHY WEDGE, a member of the 1976 Olympic team and the Canadian team that won the recent world's championship in Kentucky, puts her horse Al Adior over a jump at the Canadian Championship horse trials earlier this year in Calgary. (R. Maynard Photo)

PUBLIC WELCOME
The public is welcome to come to the ranch and bring a picnic lunch, plunk yourself down near a good jump and enjoy yourself. "I don't like to say there are spills and thrills at a horse trial, but there are," said Didi Jack. "Event horses are more a type than a breed, said Didi. They generally stand in high or over; have some thoroughbred blood; large strong bones and they don't have to be pretty. They have to have good propulsion and it doesn't hurt if they're a bit crazy. "It helps if your horse is a little crazy. If you get a smart horse, you're not going to get far. Because the horses never see the course before the actual running — the riders walk the course prior to the event — the cross-country course becomes a true test of a horse's boldness and a rider's command. The obstacles present riders and horses with visual problems, uneven banks and unexpected hazards. "The horses in this event are ridden usually six times a

SEVERAL PHASES
There are several phases to the cross-country event. Horses in the higher levels do two kilometre warm-up and then move into a timed steeplechase over bush obstacles racing speed for another two kilometres. After coming off the steeplechase, the horse is taken on a three kilometre easy trot to "wind down" and get into its second wind before beginning the strenuous cross-country obstacle course. The horses are given a final vet check if anything is wrong with the animal's respiration, pulse, or legs, the horse is allowed on the obstacle course. "These horses are in excellent condition but people spend so much time on them that the utmost care is taken so they don't over-extend themselves," Didi said.

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

- FIGURE SKATING**
Vernon Figure Skating Club registration to 4 p.m. at Recreation Complex.
- PONY RACES**
B.C. Pony Chariot and Chuckwagon Championships today and Sunday at Armstrong Fairgrounds. Racing starts Sunday at 1 p.m.
- VOLLEYBALL**
Vernon Senior Secondary School hosting boys and girls volleyball tournament all day today.
- GOLFING**
Annual Canada Goose Tournament at Spallumcheen Golf Club (two days). First tee-off time Sunday at 9 a.m.
- SUNDAY**
- SENIOR HOCKEY**
1:30 p.m. Mt. Boucherie Arena (Westbank), Vernon Sport Cougars vs. Westside Packers in a North Okanagan Hockey League exhibition game.
- MINOR FOOTBALL (Creekside Park)**
11 a.m. (flag division), Starvista Agencies vs. Dairy Queen.
11 a.m. (bantam), H and L Glass vs. Village Green Inn.
12:30 p.m. (junior bantam), Johanson Contracting vs. Star Auto-Vernon Frame and Vernon Toyota vs. CAE Morse.
- SENIOR SOCCER**
At MacDonald Park: 12:30 p.m. Vernon United vs. Osayooos Rialtoros; 2 p.m. Vernon Rovers vs. Kelowna Kickers. In Kamloops, Vernon National Hotel vs. Kamloops Zinetti at 2 p.m.
- MEN'S RUGBY**
2 p.m. VSSS, Rutland vs. Vernon.
- MEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL (VSSS)**
Intermediate Division at 3:30 p.m.: Field 1 RCMP vs. Rebels; 2 Space Dodgers vs. Black Russians; 3 Peewee Pipe vs. Fulton; 4 Toros vs. Untouchables. Major Division at 4:30 p.m.: 1. Federal Beavers vs. Vikings; 2. Raiders vs. Naps; 3. Allison vs. Team Toyota; 4. Vernon Sport Cobras vs. Block Brothers.

SPORTS BRIEFS

- GYMNASTS REGISTER**
Vernon Gymnastics Club will start accepting registrations for the 1978-79 season on Monday, at the Recreation Complex. Children 5-8 will workout on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. while youngsters 9-13 will train on the same nights, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$10 for the young group and \$15 for the older members.
- SKI FILM**
The Dick Barrymore still movie, "Mountain High," will be shown next Thursday night at the Village Green Inn. Proceeds from the showing will go to the Silver Star Ski Club. Advance tickets are on sale at Kelly's Stereo, Boston Plaza, and George Chapman's Men's Wear.
- FOR TOP SPOT**
Vernon's National Hotel travels to Kamloops for a crucial Okanagan Senior Soccer League game on Sunday. With three games remaining, first-place National lead Zinetti by one point. Kickoff at 2 p.m.
- CHARGETTES FIRED**
SAN DIEGO (AP) — San Diego Chargers have ordered their Chargettes cheerleaders to turn in their seamy blue, gold and white uniforms after one of the girls posed nude for Playboy magazine. Chargettes' director Rhonda Bosworth said the cheerleaders were dismissed after she had a heated exchange with the National Football League team's general manager, Tank Young.
- RAMSAY SIGNED**
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Jack Ramsay, who coached Portland Trail Blazers to a National Basketball Association championship, has signed a new four-year contract, the team announced Friday. Ramsay's two season record with the Blazers is 107-67 and in his first season he led them to the title. Terms of his contract were not announced.
- RECORD TURNS**
NEW YORK (AP) — Major League baseball broke its total attendance figure for the third consecutive year, commissioner Bowie Kuhn's office announced Friday. Through games of Thursday, the 26 teams have drawn 38,721,143 spectators.

Regina players in for tryouts

Vernon Canadians, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, have two new players in town for tryouts. Tyler Williams and Leo Murphy, 18, arrive on Friday. Both are from Regina and have good size according to Canadians' Coach Greg Kvisle. "I've skated with us on Friday, but it is tough to tell anything until I see them in a scrimmage. I'll know more after this weekend." Williams is a defenceman and Murphy can play centre or wing. Meanwhile, Canadians are urgently in need of blueliners. Anyone interested is asked to phone 542-9222. The BCHL regular season got under way Friday with two games.

Kelowna Buckaroos hammered Kamloops Rockets 9-3 and Merritt Centennials whipped Langley Canadians 7-1. In Kelowna, the Buckaroos led 2-1 at the end of the first period, then surged ahead 7-1 by the mid of the second. Rick Balsech, Gord Pare and Rob Wright each scored twice for the winners. Brian Chille and Tom Slanger added singles. Kamloops got goals from brothers Clayton and Clint Fehr and Barry Lacasse. In Langley, the teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period before the Centennials went on a scoring spree to lead 6-2 by the end of the second. Rick Bartlett led the attack with three goals. Ed Beers, Gary Siris and Glen Foster added singles.

WHITE HEATHER Concert
Starring Andy Stewart
AND AN ALL-STAR CAST
at the
Vernon Recreation Centre
Wednesday, Sept. 27th, 8:00 p.m.
Tickets are now on sale at Terry Dyke Music downtown Vernon.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS
SEPTEMBER, 1973
Curling activity officially gets underway again in Vernon with an invitational bonspiel scheduled for Sept. 28.

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