



FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPS
Naps recently captured the Vernon Major Men's Flag Football League title. Team members are, from left, back row, Leo Gauthier, Rick Inrig, Dan Horochuk, Jim Arthur, and Ray Horochuk. Front row, Gary Beals, Lionel Gray, Al Strucuk, and Barry Gilbank. Below, Black Russians won the Intermediate League championship. Back row, Tim Bachman, Allan Feiter, Rob McCluskey, Glen Deen, Al Woodward, and Barry Schick. Front row, Kevin Balardo, Martin Randall, Terry Gilbank, Mark Longworth and Steve Knoles.



DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT
FIGURE SKATING
Okanagan-Mainline Figure Skating Champions in Salmon Arm, 20 clubs competing to Sunday.
CROSS COUNTRY
W. L. Seaton girls and VSSS boys competing in B.C. Cross-country Championships today in Victoria.
HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER
VSSS is among 18 schools competing in provincial championships in Nanaimo.
JUNIOR HOCKEY
8 p.m. - Vernon at Kamloops.
8 p.m. (Sunday), Kamloops at Vernon.
NORTH OKANAGAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
8 p.m. - Grindrod Elks at Vernon Sport Cougars.
2 p.m. (Sunday), Grindrod at Revelstoke.
2:30 p.m. (Sunday), Westside Packers at Winfield Raiders.
WHITE VALLEY HOCKEY LEAGUE
8 p.m. - Lumby Arena, Flying Frenchmen vs. Lotus Gardens.
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Vernon Panthers versus eight teams competing in the Salmon Arm Invitational Basketball Tournament. Final game scheduled at 8 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY
3:45 p.m. - Westside at Vernon (midweek).
5:45 p.m. (Sunday), Rutland at Vernon (bantam in Lumby).
SUN-PAY HOCKEY REFEREES
9 a.m. - Village Green Inn, clinic for level one and two referees.
HONEYMOONERS' VOLLEYBALL
At Recreation Complex, 5:30 p.m., Kal Nuruson vs. Old Stylers; 8:20 p.m., Rockets vs. Hot-to-go; 7:10 p.m., Team Terrific vs. Friends; 8 p.m., Bouncers vs. MCJ Vipers; 9:50 p.m., Lavington Hill Mob vs. Six-pack-plus.
PLEASANT VALLEY HOCKEY LEAGUE
10:45 p.m., Civic Arena, Raiders vs. Super Valu Flames.

Burnaby, Alberni to tangle in final

Burnaby Central will defend its title against Port Alberni today in one of eight matches in the final round of the British Columbia High School Boys' Soccer Championships in Nanaimo.

Vernon Blues, with one victory in four starts, will playoff today for seventh and eighth place, against Coquitlam's Centennial.

Port Alberni won its round-robin competition Friday by beating Princess Margaret of Surrey 8-1. Vernon, Princes Margaret, and Kimberley followed in that order while Port Alberni advanced to the semi-finals where it eliminated Mount Douglas of Victoria from contention by a 2-1 count.

IN OVERTIME
Burnaby Central edged Centennial 3-2 in overtime to advance against Nanaimo which it defeated 5-4 to earn a berth in the final game. McNair was third and North Kamloops fourth in the pool containing Central and Centennial.

VSSS dropped two games Friday, 2-1 to Kimberley and 5-0 to Carson Graham of North Vancouver.

Vernon Coach Keith Brookes said, "We were never in the game against Central and Grindrod Elks until the second half when losing that game to Kimberley. Overall, I'm very happy with the way our club has played."

Kimberley led 2-0, after only five minutes, in the game against VSSS.

Vernon controlled the entire match but won't be able to put the locals on the scoreboard.

Brookes said, "We had an incredible amount of chances. However, they filled their penalty area with eight or nine players and we couldn't get sustained penetration. We rattled two shots off the posts."

The Vernon coach expressed surprise that Alberni reached the final. He said, "We lost 3-2 to Alberni and we should have won that game. I think what proves we're as good as any team here. We've got a young side and we'll be tough next year."

Mount Douglas won its round-robin section by beating Carson Graham 2-1. Nanaimo and Mount Douglas were to meet today to decide third and fourth spots.



SAM SALKO
... lone goal

Cougars to host Grindrod

Vernon Sport Cougars are going hunting tonight and Grindrod Elks will be fair game.

The Vernon Civic Arena will be the scene of the hunt when the second-place Cougars meet unbeaten Grindrod in North Okanagan Hockey League action at 8 p.m.

Cougars' General Manager Vern Dye said his club will be playing the body.

Dye said, "We plan to win this game so we'll be going to the body right away."

STOP FEARSON
One more Cougars will have to stop is high-flying Gary Fearson. Fearson, who played junior 'A' hockey in Saikolichewan, has a league-leading 32 points in 15 games. Dye said, "We're going to run him out of the rink."

BIG LINE
On the other hand, Grindrod will have to stop Vernon's big line of Dave Caldwell, Gary Drehtsch, and Fred Persepolnik. That trio has combined for 29 goals in eight games.

Cougars are healthy with the exception of Barry Dye, who is sidelined with a broken cheekbone. And hard-hitting King Cam is in the U.S. this weekend racing cars.

Vernon keeps winning at Langley's expense

The red-hot Vernon Canadians continued their winning ways Friday night with a 6-3 victory over Langley Canadians in B.C. Junior Hockey League action before 460 fans at the Civic Arena.

BEHIND STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
INTERIOR DIVISION				
Merritt	12	9	0	24
Revelstoke	10	10	0	20
Porterton	9	12	0	18
Kamloops	9	12	0	18
COAST DIVISION				
Bellingham	10	4	0	20
Nanaimo	11	10	0	22
Chilliwack	10	11	0	20
Abbotsford	9	12	0	18
Delta	2	22	0	4

Canadians have won eight of their last nine starts.

Despite the victory, Coach Greg Kvile said he wasn't pleased with his team's performance.

Kvile said, "We just played well enough to win. I don't think anyone really extended themselves out there."

Low and John Neid continued their torrid scoring pace for Vernon. Low scored two goals and added one assist. Neid scored one goal and added one assist.

54 POINTS
Low joined Neid in the league's 54-point club and now has a league-leading 54 points. Dean Hascak and Rich Creelman scored the other Vernon goals.

Andy Bigloff, Ron Gardiner, and Ted Harrison

countered for Langley.

Vernon led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 5-3 after the second.

The flow of the game was decided early when Low took a pass from Brian Matthews and scored a short-handed goal to break a scoreless deadlock.

Langley goalie Shawn Chisholm blocked 43 shots while Vernon kicked out 20 shots for the locals.

The coast Canadians were assessed a total of 16 minor penalties, two of five fighting majors, and one of two 10-minute misconducts.

One bright spot for Vernon was the play of newcomer Larry Fearson. Fearson did a good job on the blue line and looked particularly adept at moving the puck.

IN KAMLOOPS
Vernon travels to Kamloops tonight and on Sunday, the Rockets are in town for an 8 p.m. game.

Kvile said, "I'll tell you one thing, we'll have to play better in the next two games if we want to win. Kamloops is no slouch."

In other games Friday, Kelowna Buckaroos dumped Kamloops 8-6 and Ken Ficoe! each scored two goals to lead the Buckaroos.

Defencemen Ken Ficoe! and Ken Ficoe! each scored two goals to lead the Buckaroos. Kim Turner, and Al Knutson combined for three goals scoring to keep the Buckaroos



JOHN NEID
... scored twice with two points of second place in the Interior Division, with 22 points.

Panthers fight back against tough Pacers

Delta Pacers edged Vernon Panthers 6-1 in the opening game of the Salmon Arm Invitational Basketball Tournament on Friday.

Panthers staged an incredible come back and almost pulled the game out of the fire. Delta led 28-8 at the end of the first quarter. Vernon narrowed the gap to 32-26 at half-time and was down 46-41 after three-quarters.

Panthers' Coach Rick Inrig took the Daily News he is optimistic about his club after watching it rally.

GREAT RALLY
Inrig said, "We staged a great come back against one of the top teams in the province. They were incredibly nervous in the first-quarter - they couldn't do anything right. But, we stayed stride-for-stride with them in the last three-quarters."

Delta is ranked number three in the Fraser Valley and is one of the top teams in the province.

Rick Beaton led the Panthers with 22 points while Kelly Olsen added 13 and Mike Kakoske sunk eight.

Delta's top sniper was 678-centre Mike Christianson, who dropped in 18 points.

Inrig said, "We used five guards and got only five points from all of them. That really hurt us. I hope it doesn't happen again."

Panthers were scheduled to meet Trail earlier today in consolation play. If they win that game, they will meet the winner of the Merritt-Rutland game at 7:30 p.m. in the consolation final.

In other games Friday, Salmon Arm Golds edged Merritt 65-62, defending Okanagan champion Penticton Lakers hammered Trail 87-77, and Vancouver's Windermere thumped Rutland Woodcocks 87-65.

The championship game will be played at 8 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

RELEASE PITCHER
NEW YORK (AP) - New York Yankees announced Friday the release of veteran pitcher Andy Messersmith.

Messersmith was purchased last winter by New York from Atlanta for \$100,000. Coming back from arm surgery, he was injured in spring training and appeared in just six games for the Yankees, posting an 0-3 record with a 5.84 earned run average. He has been invited to spring training in 1979 by New York.

NICKLAUS TAKES LEAD
SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Jack Nicklaus shot into a four-stroke lead in Friday's second round of the \$223,000 Australian Open golf championship. Nicklaus had a course record six-under-par 66 at the Australian Club for a two-and-a-half total of 139, four strokes ahead of Americans Bob Bryson and Ben Crenshaw. Kelly Roberts of London, Ont., three shots back after the first round, slumped with an 80 for 150.

REMEMBER WHEN
The Toronto ROAR Hurricanes had four men on the all-star Ontario senior football team selected by The Canadian Press 25 years ago today - in 1943. Hamilton Wildcats, champions that year, runners-up Toronto Balm Beach had three. The all-star quarterback was Annis Stubb of Balm Beach, later coach of Edmonton Eskimos, who led the O.R.F.U. scoring with 64 points.

600 people jam ballroom for Grey Cup spectacular

Vernon Sport Cobras first Grey Cup Briefest was a smashing success as an overflow crowd of more than 600 people jammed into the Vernon Lodge Ballroom on Friday night.

Cobras' president and convener of the event, Kevin Mitchell said his club was very pleased to see the dance sold out.

"I'm just overwhelmed with the response we got to the

most sportsmanlike players went to Riley Twyford, of Block Brothers, and Bill Kirkland, of Ernie's Esso respectively.

League winner and overall league champion Naps received their collection of hardware just before the offensive and defensive all-star squads were named.

Rounding out the offensive team were McIvor, Scott McEwan of the Cobras, Rick Inrig of Naps, George Dodd of Block Brothers, Fred Johnson of Ernie's Esso and Bill Hague of Team Toyota.

Chosen to the defensive squad included Rob Crawford, Phil Kowalski and Mike Martin of the Cobras, Ray Horochuk and Jim Arthur of Naps and O. J. Markowsky of Blocks.

All proceeds from the event will go to paying for league trophies and new uniforms and jackets for the Cobras.

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