

SPORTS

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1978

Grindrod hosts Cougars tonight

Grindrod Elks will be trying to stretch their unbeaten streak to 13 games tonight when they host Vernon Sport Cougars in North Okanagan Hockey League action, at 8 p.m., at the Enderby Arena.

Elks, who have 11 wins, and a tie, lead the second-place Cougars by 10 points. Only time the two clubs have met this season, Grindrod dumped Vernon 8-4.

An individual battle will also be taking place between Gary Pearson, of Elks, and Cougars' Dave Caldwell.

Pearson leads the NOHL scoring race with 37 points, seven more than Caldwell. However, the Vernon left-winger has two games-in-hand.

Only other game tonight has the Rutland Moles hosting last-place Revelstoke Selkies.

On Sunday, Winfield Raiders entertain Westside Packers and the charging Moles visit Vernon for an 8 p.m. faceoff. After a shaky start, Moles have won their last three games.



KELOWNA'S GREG ATHANS will be one of the top freestylers at Silver Star Mountain, from Dec. 15-17, preparing for the World Cup series. Athans will be joined by John Eaves, Scott Brooksbank, Darryl and Rick Bowie, and many others in practice sessions. (Daily News Photo)

INCLUDING ATHANS

Top freestylers to ski on the Star

Many of the top freestyle skiers in the world will be at Silver Star from Dec. 15-17 for a World Cup Qualification Meet.

Last March, more than 8,000 people watched many of the same skiers compete in the World Cup final at the Star.

About 60-80 rookies will vie for 10 spots, in each of the three freestyle events, on the World Cup tour. In addition, most of the veteran freestylers will be on hand to practice for the first World Cup meet, to be held Jan. 12 to 14, in Austria.

Association General Manager Bruce Alain, of Vernon, told the Daily News it should be quite an event.

Alain said, "Anyone who saw the World Cup final last year is going to want to see these guys again."

The big names like Eaves, Athans, and Brooksbank don't have to qualify for the tour—they will be here strictly for practicing. But there will be some tough competition among the rookies for berths on the tour.

ONE LOCAL

Only local skier expected to try for a berth is Cliff Wood. Wood, who was one of the favorites at last year's final event, also has to qualify because he did not accumulate enough points during the 1977-78 season.

The mogul event will be run Dec. 15, with ballet the following day, and aeriate on the third day.

There will be a total of 12 World Cup meets this year, including six in Europe, three in the United States, and three in Canada. The Canadian events will be held at Bromont and Mt. St. Anne, both in Quebec, and Grouse Mountain, near Vancouver.

There is a remote chance Silver Star could again host the finals. The wrap-up is scheduled March 31, at Grouse. But, due to uncertain weather conditions, Grouse could possibly give up the meet.

Alain said, "In the event that Grouse could not host the final, we would probably return to Silver Star. But, that decision won't be made until mid-March."

DAILY NEWS SPORTS ALERT

- ELEMENTARY VOLLEYBALL**
Vernon elementary school volleyball tournament winds-up today at Kai, Seaton, Pulton, and Bearsto Schools.
- HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**
Vernon Panthers competing in Belmont Invitational Tournament, in Victoria.
- RACQUETBALL**
Molson Interior Tournament continues to Sunday afternoon at the Vernon Racquet and Squash Club.
- CURLING**
Firefighters' bonspiel at the Vernon Curling Club—today and Sunday.
- MINOR HOCKEY**
 - 1:45 p.m., Rutland at Vernon (midget), 3:45 p.m., Vernon at Westside (pee wee).
 - 6:15 p.m., Vernon at Westside (hastam).
 - 1:45 p.m. (Sunday), Vernon at Merritt (midget).
- JUNIOR HOCKEY**
 - 8:30 p.m., Civic Arena, Vernon Canadians vs. Kelowna Buckaroos.
- NORTH OKANAGAN HOCKEY LEAGUE**
 - 8 p.m., Vernon Sport Cougars at Grindrod Elks (Enderby).
 - 8 p.m., Revelstoke Selkies at Rutland Moles.
 - 2:10 p.m. (Sunday), Westside Packers at Winfield Raiders.
 - 8 p.m. (Sunday), Rutland at Vernon.
- WHITE VALLEY HOCKEY LEAGUE**
 - 8 p.m., Lumby arena, Peertess Pipe vs. Flying Frenchmen.
- SUNDAY HONEYMOONERS' VOLLEYBALL**
At Recreation Complex, 8:30 p.m., Bouncers vs. Hot-to-go; 8:20 p.m., Lavington Hill Mob vs. Old Stylers; 7:10 p.m., Rockeas vs. Friends; 8 p.m., Kal Nursery vs. Team Terror; 8:30 p.m., Six-pack-plus vs. MCD Victoria.
- PLEASANT VALLEY HOCKEY LEAGUE**
 - 8:00-10:45 p.m., Civic Arena, Price and Markie Canucks vs. Toros.

Ouchi gets three to lead Canadians

Tom Ouchi couldn't have picked a better night to end his slump.

Ouchi scored three goals to lead Vernon Canadians to a 5-4 win over Penitton Vees in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Friday night in the Peach City.

Ouchi, probably the fastest player on the Canadians, had 14 goals in Vernon's first 20 games. But, he was held scoreless in the next seven.

Canadians' General Manager Sheldon Bloomer said, "We needed a great game from Tom because we were running out of horses."

LOWE MISSING

Vernon, made the 11th without leading scorer Terry Lowe, who is in Alberta on personal business. Then, in the first period, Canadians lost Dean Hascall, Lance Vachon, Wayne Roberts, and Brian Mathews when a brawl erupted.

The melee started when a Penitton player sprayed snow on Vernon goalie Trent Smith, after a whistle. Captain Dave Schneider went to his goalie's rescue and the other eight players on the ice became involved.

Bloomer had some harsh words about Penitton Coach Terry Martin.

He said, "Martin is going to ruin this hockey league. His back-stabbers carry their sticks and elbows up around everyone's face. They throw more cheap hits after the whistle than any team I've ever seen. I hope they lose every game."

Defenceman Larry Pearson, with his fifth goal in seven games, and another rearguard, Glenn Lockwood, rounded-out the Vernon scoring.

Jim Reimer, Dave Coburn, Barry Huber, and GREG ATHANS were also in action tonight, at 8:30 p.m. when they host the Kelowna Buckaroos.

Off the ice, Canadians are selling Christmas trees at Ernie's Self-serve Gas Station, adjacent to Village Green Mall.

In other games Friday, league-leading Merritt Centennials edged Kelowna 3-2 and Langley Canadians came from behind to beat Revelstoke Bruins 7-5.

HOST BUCKS

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TEAM

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Interior Division					
Merritt	20	5	0	5	50
Vernon	15	12	0	20	
Revelstoke	26	14	12	0	28
Kamloops	26	12	16	0	26
Kelowna	29	17	10	0	24
Penitton	20	10	16	0	20
Coast Division					
Bellingham	28	22	6	0	44
Nanaimo	27	15	10	0	30
Langley	31	14	15	0	28
Abbotsford	29	12	15	0	24
Chilliwack	29	11	16	1	23
Delta	28	4	24	0	8

Panthers blow nine-point lead

Vernon Panthers lost on Friday night, but still managed to reach today's semi-finals of the Belmont Invitational Basketball Tournament, in Victoria.

The host team, Belmont, overcame a nine-point deficit to dump Panthers 71-65.

However, the losing team with the lowest point spread, in Friday's three games, advanced to the semi-finals.

Vernon was slated to meet Parkland, also of Victoria, while Belmont battled in Clatskanie, of Vancouver. In Clatskanie, the championship match is scheduled tonight, at 8 p.m.

COACH FRUSTRATED

Panthers Coach Rick Inrg was both frustrated and furious after the loss.

Inrg said, "I know we have a better team than Belmont—and we should have won. We've got some guys on this team who don't want to play defence."

Panthers controlled the first-half play and built up a 37-28 lead. Belmont came back with a press in the third quarter, that Vernon had trouble breaking. And the zone defence, that worked for Panthers in the first-half, fell apart.

Greg DeLeeneher was top scorer for Vernon with 21 points while Kelly Olson added 14. But, they were the two players who received the most criticism from Inrg.

NO DEFENCE

The Vernon coach said, "Those two guys just want to go one way. They have the potential to be good basketball players, but they have to learn the meaning of defence."

The guys who are going to be playing today are the guys who are willing to go both ways. It is fine to score 20 points, but if your check gets 22, you're not helping your team."

Panthers' next home game is Wednesday night when they host Rutland VooJoes.

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LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

Elementary School Grade 7 student Robert Green, 12, son of Gerald and Olive Green, of Vernon, using a Mac Squid with a 20-pound test line, caught a large Rainbow trout in Okanagan Lake at the weekend.

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Toros drop 2-1 decision

Raiders edged Toros 2-1 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action this week at the Civic Arena.

The teams battled through a scores first period and Raiders led 2-0 after the second.

Raiders outshot Toros 29-23 and took eight of 13 minor penalties.

League play resumes Sunday night when Price and Markie Canucks battle Toros.

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