

A look at junior A

Kamloops Rockets are in trouble, the B.C. Junior Hockey League is in trouble, and junior hockey as a whole is in trouble.

Rockets became the first team in BCHL history to fold midway through a season last week. However, some new owners were found and the club is back on the ice within four days. But, the new team in Kamloops is like sticking a finger in a dike.

Rockets, like the other 11 teams in the BCHL, are losing money this season. Kamloops has eight local players on its roster and already its losses total \$20,000. Figures are available for Penitencion Veas, Revelstoke Bruins, Delta Suns, and Langley Canadians, but they can't be far behind the Rockets.

ONLY ONE CHANCE

Vernon Canadians' General Manager Sheldon Bloomer tells us a team in the BCHL has only one chance.

Bloomer said, "The only way a team in this league can break even is to get to the second or third round of playoffs. I don't think anyone has a hope of seeing the black at the end of the regular season."

Only coast team drawing with any consistency is Nanaimo Clippers. And with their high travel costs, Clippers have to hope for a good playoff year.

In the interior, Revelstoke, Kamloops, and Penitencion are attracting sparse gatherings on a regular basis. Merritt Centennials, currently leading the league, aren't doing much better.

Kelowna Buckaroos are drawing the best in the interior, but still down on past seasons, and Canadians, with nine locals on the club, are also in the red.

Bloomer said, "In our case, if we go two rounds of playoffs, we should come close to the breakeven point. But, for a team like ours, that has spent a pile of money this season, their only hope is a miracle."

With isolated exceptions, the same story is being told across Western Canada.

TEAMS FLOUNDERING

Several teams in the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba Junior 'A' League are having trouble staying afloat.

Even the once mighty Western Hockey League, has some franchises floundering. It was just last year that Flin Flon lost its team.

The problem is that there is no simple solution. Bloomer said, "We're using as many local kids as possible, we've cut our expenses, we're running fundraising projects on the side, and we're still losing money."

Joe Tennant, coach of the Centennials and one of the league's big spenders, had an idea a few years ago that now seems to have some merit. His plan was to form three tier one leagues, in B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan-Manitoba. Those who could make it to the junior would play junior 'B' or juvenile - tier two junior 'A' would become extinct.

TWO DIVISIONS

The B.C. league would be split into two divisions, with a semi-interlocking schedule. The coast would include Portland, Seattle, West Westminster, Victoria, and Nanaimo. The interior would have Penitencion, Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, and possibly Prince George or Revelstoke.

The new B.C. league would:

- (A) Give fans an opportunity to see some of the best junior players in Canada.
- (B) Reduce travel costs for WHL teams and keep BCHL team costs to a minimum.
- (C) With individual leagues in each province, recruiting costs could be slashed.
- (D) The number of junior teams west of the Rockies would be decreased from 22 to 10, thus improving the calibre of play.
- (E) That format is only one idea, but if somebody has a better one, they better make it public before more teams fail by the wayside.

Trappers dumped by Priest Valley

Priest Valley Saints stretched their winning streak to six games with a 2-0 victory over Cherry Creek Trappers in Major Men's Basketball League action Monday night at Kial School.

Both teams were without their top scorers. Tony Wolcott for Saints and Gary Pruden for Trappers.

Bill Vlasveld led the Priest Valley attack with 22 points while Marty Ware sunk 17 and Paul Quessel added 18.

Rick Marshall, with 18 points, and Marvin Friesen, with 17, were the top scorers for Trappers.

Cherry Creek led 37-28 at half-time before being out-scored 24-18 in the second-half.

SUNS WIN

In another game, defending scoring champion Eric Parker dropped in 20 points to lead Silver Star Suns to a 73-64 win over Coena Bay Rattlers.

Jack Bullock scored 17 for the Suns while Bill Haworth swished 18.

The B.C. Bites countered with 20 second-half points for Rattlers while Glen Buestner scored 24.

Suns led 29-28 at half-time and stretched that margin in the second-half despite Pitcher's heroics.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1973

One of hockey's most avid fans, Mrs. Ethel Denison, a long-time resident of Vernon, was given special recognition by the visiting players and directors during last Saturday's BCHL game. Denison presented the Minor Hockey Association Broomball Tournament held last weekend, in conjunction with the Skatetown Admiring



BROOMBALL CHAMPS

As predicted, Vernon Daily News captured the Vernon Minor Hockey Association Broomball Tournament held last weekend, in conjunction with the Skatetown Admiring

their trophy are Daily News Coach Bill Allum, left, and top scorer Wilf Liefke, who scored four goals in four games. After losing a 1-0 squeaker to RCMP, Daily News came



Vernon Senior Secondary School students have been competing in a European handball tournament.

HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

during lunch hour. In the school gym. On this play, goalie Lauren Loux, of Prairie Rats, was beat on

a penalty shot. Rats were thumped 24-10 by the Foxo Italians. Italians and others will tangle in Wednesday's championship game at 12:45 p.m. (Daily News Photo)

Midgets and pee wees continue winning ways

By DALE MAJOR

Daily News Sports

Vernon Bloom and Sigalot strengthened his hold on first-place by blasting Revelstoke 7-2 in midget rep hockey action last weekend.

Vernon now has seven wins, a penalty shot, added singles.

Darrell Houston made 27 saves for Watkins while John Swanson locked 22 for Penitencion.

The locals held period leads of 2-0 and 5-2.

On Saturday, Vernon needed a goal from Major less a minute to play, to salvage the tie.

Major finished the game with three goals while John Barber and Munk netted singles.

Also last weekend, Sun Valley Ban-am Zippers split a

pair of league games, edging Kamloops Jardines 5-3 Sunday, but dropping an 11-7 decision to Stairton Arm on Saturday.

On Sunday, Greg Moore, Jeff Weir, Kevin Savitsky, Gord Olson and Richard Belec scored for Sun Valley.

Norman Schwing made 39 saves for Vernon while Kent Leach made 42 stops for Kamloops.

FOUR GOALS

On Saturday, Jeff Danon led Salmon Arm past Sun Valley with four goals while Tom Forest added two.

Belec and Richard Kneller scored two apiece for Vernon while Nick Kapicki, Greg Kowal, and David Wensley collected singles.

Sun Valley Coach George Beck said, "We really fell apart on Saturday, but Sunday, we came back to play a real good game. The most unfortunate part of the weekend is that we lost Greg Moore."

More will be out six to eight weeks with a broken collarbone.

PUPS WIN

In pup rep action, Vernon Consumers' Glass doubled Kamloops 5-3 on Saturday.

Vernon held period leads of 4-2 and 5-2.

Dennis Holland led the attack with three goals while Derek Webb added a pair and Jason Hedweg blinked the red light once.

In pee wee house league play, Pup Pups and Vernon Lodge fought to a 7-7 draw. Red Top Grocery beat Generals TV 9-6, and Archie Fleming doubled Tradeland Realty 8-3.

Darren Chamberlain and Helweg scored two each for the pups while Steven

Schweder, Murray Head, and Howie Finch added solos.

Shawn Rogers countered with a pair for the Lodge while Tom Kowal, Geoff Porter, Danny Nolan, Mike Wise, and Doug Short scored singles.

LED RED TOP

Lyndon Redman paced Red Top with three goals while Michel Fronteddu added a pair and Dwayne Brand added a single.

Dana McKague led Archie Fleming with three goals with singles from Brian Strynada, David Udy, and Dale Danalanko.

Robin Fredricks, Dean Bamard, and Doug Rossom countered for Tradeland.

Caldow tied for league lead

It was just one week ago that Gary Fearson, of Grindrod Elks, had a comfortable eight-point lead in the North Okanagan Hockey League scoring race.

Now Fearson, who was held to one assist in a game last Saturday, finds himself tied for the league lead.

Defending scoring champion Dave Caldwell, of Vernon Sport Cougars, scored three goals and set up six others, in two games last weekend, to move into a tie with Fearson.

Both players have 41 points, with 16 games remaining in the season.

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Grindrod Elks	12	11	0	1	82	21	41
Rutland Maltons	14	9	5	0	87	63	18
Vernon Sport Cougars	14	7	6	1	82	74	16
Pardal Packers	14	6	6	2	78	72	14
Winkfield Raiders	15	5	8	2	68	75	10
Revelstoke Bruins	17	3	14	0	58	132	6

120 bowlers enter YBC tournament

More than 120 bowlers competed in the YBC Father and Son Bowling Tournament last weekend at Lincoln Lanes.

Winner of the three-game Jet competition was Kevin Gotsling and dad with 125 pins over average. Aaron Varley and dad were 71 over while Jason Mahoroff and dad were plus-84.

In bantam competition, Bruce MacKenzie and dad were 127 over, 17 better than Rory Gable and dad. Terry Meyer and dad took third spot with 91.

Rory White and dad topped the Junior event with 133. Michael Sorus was runner-up with 60 while Tobin Tanska took third spot with 51.

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Local players on zone team

Five Vernon racquetball players will represent zone two in the British Columbia Winter Games, to be held in Kamloops, from March 1 to 4.

Riley Twyford, Keith Brookes, Helen Glennie, Curt Broughton, and Ken Bryan qualified last weekend in playdowns at the Vernon Racquet and Squash Club.

Twyford won the 'B' event by downing clubmate Gregg Cauffield 3-14. Just one week earlier, Cauffield had defeated Twyford 3-18 in the Molson Interior Tournament.

Glennie received a bye in the first round, before winning three consecutive matches, to capture the lone ladies' berth.

Glennie beat Ruth Janowski 3-6, Janice Monahan 2-9 and 2-12, and Sue Abbott 18-21, 21-10, and 17 in the final match.

Curt Broughton and Ken Bryan qualified in the 'C' event, from a field of nine competitors.

Broughton dumped Rick Monahan 3-6, Ken Mitchell 3-18, and Bryan 21-14 and 21-11.

Bryan defeated Ken Samicki 3-9 before losing to Broughton.

SPORTS BRIEFS

League signing up Thursday. Fee for both intermediate and advanced is \$60 per team. Register at the Recreation Complex.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Registrations are now open for the Vernon Major Women's Volleyball League. Games will be played on Wednesday nights. Entry fee is \$80 per team. Registration for the Intermediate 'A' league starts Wednesday, with the Intermediate 'B' League signing up Thursday.

LONG LADY
Glennie received a bye in the first round, before winning three consecutive matches, to capture the lone ladies' berth.

After defeating Sparwood 7-2, Vernon was dumped 7-3 by the East Kootenays in the Kimberley Oultimers' Hockey Tournament last weekend.

Bob Hawkins, Odie Lowe, and Jim Moro scored two goals each against Sparwood while Al Godbout added a single. Moro, with two goals, and Don Jakes tallied in a losing cause.

INDOOR SOCCER

Two indoor soccer leagues, for men and women, are now accepting registrations at the Recreation Complex. The men's league will play on Wednesday nights, starting Jan. 10, at the Skatetown. The women's league is slated to start Jan. 11, with play at the Recreation Complex. Cost for the girls is \$10 per player.

In both leagues, players will be assigned to teams.

30 GOALS

Price and Markie Canucka whipped Rutland 9-0 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Monday night at the arena.

DART SHOOT

The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans will be hosting the valley dart shoot championships, on Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. About 70 competitors, from ANA clubs throughout the Okanagan, will enter. Spectators are welcome.

THREE GAMES

Three games are scheduled for Intermediate Men's Basketball League play tonight at Clarence Fulton School at 7 p.m. Coldwater Home battles Red Devils. Futej plays Dirty Dinkers at 8:15 p.m. and OK College Padres meet Allison at 9:30 p.m.

Get together again with good friends.

Brewed in B.C. by CARLING O'KEEFE