



Frank Bartik (left) of Burnaby accepts the Boutique Canadiana Trophy from trophy sponsor Jack Schaefer at Stunt's Cross County Ski Centre Sunday afternoon. Bartik won the North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club's 2nd Annual 30 km Marathon in a record time of two hours and 13 minutes, trimming 11 minutes off last year's winning time. For full results see tomorrow's sports page. (Daily News Photo)

Cougars split on weekend

Vernon Sport Cougars played the role of the hunted Saturday night in losing 6-4 to Grindrod Elks, then switched their role to the hunter in whipping Winfield Raiders by the same count Sunday night.

In Enderby before the largest home crowd of their North Okanagan Hockey League season (about 400) the league leading Elks recorded a victory which sees them 12 points ahead of the Cougars.

Rayne Dye, captain of the Cougars, once again led all Winfield marksmen as he exploded to notch the Raiders' first three goals.

Gary Moore, Carmen Nyuni and Gary Hales contributed single markers for the losers who trailed 4-2 after the opening session and 6-2 after two frames.

Elmer Williams collected three assists for the Raiders who were outshot 45-24.

Jack Gilroy picked up the win in the Vernon goal, while Mark Wettsch suffered the loss for Winfield.

Referee Wayne Moore kept the game in control throughout as he gave Vernon eight minors and Winfield six.

ON THE POINT: Next NHL action is Friday night when Kelowna Rockets, et al. Westside to battle the Cougars as they play the regular season. Lottery tickets are just 25 cents each and can be bought from any team member.

Cougar manager Vern Dye left the game in Enderby wasn't quite as exciting as the one his club won in Vernon last Saturday.

He also felt the Cougars had control of the game until the turning point of the game, but it didn't go there as we did.

Dye said Gilchrist, Caldwell, Dye, Salo and Brewer all turned in solid performances against the Elks.

Dye said Sunday's affair was a wide open affair as the score indicated.

He said Gilchrist, Caldwell and Gilchrist were the top players on the ice for Vernon.

Dye also said that Freddie Parent is a tremendous hockey player, he makes things happen when he's out there. He's very exciting to watch.

Cougars will journey to Enderby again this Saturday for another 8 p.m. clash with the league leading Elks.

STEADY GAME
 Defenceman Paul Gudi played a steady game and fashioned a pair of assists for the Cougars.

Scoring for the Smoke-Eaters were: Solf Staudhammer and Brian Sheik, while Jeff Simey and Eric Hietbert picked up two assists.

Lumby received 33 minutes in penalties, while Allison grabbed 26 minutes.

Next White Valley League action is Tuesday night when the Vernon Barons tangle with the Penticton Ice and Atlatl Gardens take on the Coldstream Hotel Sabres.

Frenchmen triumph over Smoke-Eaters

Lumby Flying Frenchmen received goals from four different players enroute to fashioning a 4-2 triumph over the Allison Smoke-Eaters in a White Valley Hockey League encounter played in Lumby Saturday night.

Bill Beck, Bill Cawthorn, Glen Walter and Mike Walter all triggered markers for the Frenchmen who trailed 2-1 after one period but fought back to tie the score at 2-2 after two sessions.

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Cobras meet Tuesday night

Anyone interested in playing flag football for the Vernon Sport Cobras when they compete in the 1979 Canadian Championships in Halifax, Nova Scotia is urged to attend an organizational meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 in Tor's.

The Cobras will be representing the province at the flag football finals and in order to offset travel costs will be holding several more fund raising projects.

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis until May when outdoor workouts begin twice weekly.

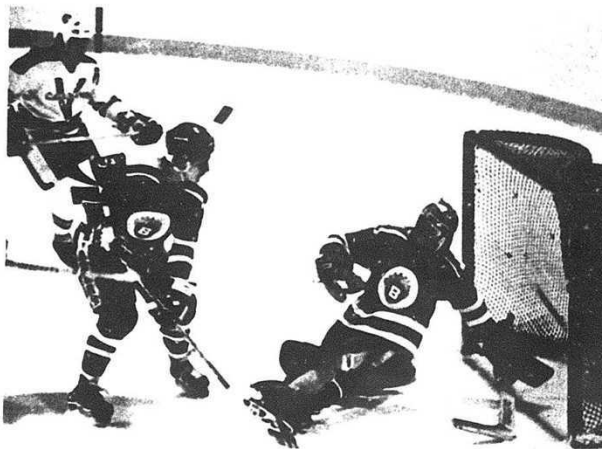
And club president Kevin Mitchell has also announced that the team is attempting to bring to Vernon some top names in entertainment with singers Du, Hill and Linda Ronstadt and Vancouver rock group Chilliwack being three performers being sought after for a spring concert.

Lakers win

For most of the Pleasant Valley Hockey League season the Vernon Sport Lakers have portrayed the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League.

But, that hapless fate ended Sunday night at the Vernon Civic Arena when the Lakers recorded their first victory of the season by completely destroying Tor's to the tune of 12-3.

Gord Jarron was the winning goaltender while Norm Schilman suffered the loss.



BLAZER GOALIE STEVE ABBOTT WATCHES BRIAN MATTHEW SHOT TRICKLE PAST HIM

Blazers breeze by awestruck Canadians

Bellingham goaltender Steve Abbott, also an all-star on the West Coast, played sensationally at times and sloppy on occasion in leading the Blazers to their 36th win of the season against just eight losses.

Hanson turned aside 37 drives for the losers, while Abbott directed 29 Vernon shots out of danger.

The Fans had many choice words for referee Bruce Walker, who just wasn't a popular figure Saturday night, but did his job in giving the Blazers nine minors, one misconduct and a game misconduct to Brian Law.

Vernon picked up eight minor infractions in what a hard hitting affair.

Lowe scored the lone power-play marker for the Canadians, while Harris and Larsen notched man advantage goals for Bellingham.

Blazers' Don Hrechko's younger brother of former NHLer Dave, felt his club played fairly well and said, "We played pretty good, but they played a pretty good game too. I think the main difference from the game in Bellingham that we won 12-2 was that the rink here is smaller and they were a lot closer to us checking wise. Their goalie played well and made some good stops."

Hrechko feels the secret to the Blazers success is sheer experience and he added, "We have all had about three or four years experience in junior hockey and we only lost three guys from last year's club. Coach Don Berry stresses positional hockey and head manning the puck. He likes seeing us pass the puck properly, staying on our wings and we're trying to play as well as possible and take each game in stride."

And to Finnish born Kello Tanska the game was not a

front one for the Blazers. Tanska said through an interpreter (team-mate Ari Lehtola) that, "We have played better. In the last game we won against Vernon we were quick and we were quick to get the puck out of our end to the wingers. We took our time and made everything work."

ON THE BENCH: Canadians' brood, up defencemen Glen Hampton and Brian Hterman for the contest with both "iron Midget" Rep players getting one shift in the final minute.

Once again Vernon blueliner Glen Lockwood dished out some fine "hockey and moved the puck with authority." Rich Creelman shot wide on a clear cut breakout on Abbott.

Chris Tucker, another Blazer who will be playing in the all-star game in Vernon Jan. 23 was superb on the Bellingham blueline.

Tucker played for Langley Lords last season.

The Blazer forwards are the same size if not bigger than most clubs in the Western Canada Hockey League, including the New Westminster Bruins.

Next action for Vernon is Tuesday night when they play host to Joe Tennant's high flying Merritt Centennials.

Cents trim Bruins, Rocketts blank Bucks

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
 Goalie Lawrence Dye of Revelstoke Bruins saw so much rubber flying his way during the weekend that he probably feels a bit vulcanized today.

Dye had 96 shots to contend with as the Bruins lost a weekend British Columbia Junior Hockey League series to Merritt Centennials, 4-2 Saturday night in Revelstoke and 4-0 Sunday night in Merritt.

In another pairing, Bellingham Blazers beat Vernon Canadians 7-0 on the road and Langley Canadians 7-2 Sunday at home as both division leaders scored two victories.

In other Saturday games, Abbotsford Flyers downed Langley 4-2, Nanaimo Clippers bested Chilliwack Colts 7-2 and Kamloops Rockets blanked Kelowna Buckaroos 3-0.

In Abbotsford, Bill Stewart and Don Berbenuk scored two goals apiece to pace the

Games set

A pair of games are scheduled in the Vernon Men's Broomball League tonight at the Centennial rink.

Toro's Fighting Bulls put their two game unbeaten streak on the line when they tangle with first place Screaming Eagles in the opening game at 7 p.m., followed by a match between wireless Okanagan College Balbrushers and the ever-improving Vernon Verbores.

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