

Rockets, Canadians set for crucial clash

By KEVIN MITCHELL, Daily News Writer

When most avid B.C. Junior Hockey League fans think of the Kamloops Rockets they think of the old rivalries between the old Vernon Aces and Joe Tennants big and bruising Kamloops squads. Some familiar names related to those Rockets of old are of course Gary Howatt, Jackie McWharrey, Don Ashby and Bob Nystrom just to name a few current professional hockey players.

The aforementioned players were the tough guys that kept the opposition honest and who helped fill arenas such as Vernons.

The Kamloops Rockets of today are not as steady on their feet financially as they have already risen from the dead once this year, but their talent is nothing to take lightly.

Fellows like sharpshooting Clayton Fehr, who made the jump from the Red Deer Rustlers of the Alberta Junior Hockey League this season so he could play with his brother Clinton, Murray Matheson, a Kamloops Minor Hockey Product, Jay Kozak, a relative of Don Kozak of the Vancouver Canucks and all-star defenseman Doug Lidtzer and Norr Meyers have given Rocket supporters something to talk about with pride this season.

WATCH LOWE

But if they are to knock off Greg Kivales Canadians tonight in the BCHL, they will have to skate hard and keep an eye on league scoring machine Terry Lowe.

Kivales says the Canadians are healthy, but a little lucky since nobody was seriously hurt when big Glen Lockwood and the smaller Lowe collided in practice Thursday night.

"We'll have to get our skating and passing going early tonight and just hope things come together... get lots of shots," was basically Kivales's plan of attack for tonight's crucial contest.

Rockets lead the Canadians by just one point in the race for second place in the leagues Interior Division.

Game time tonight is 8:30 p.m.

The rich got richer and the poor got poorer in the British Columbia Junior Hockey

League Thursday night.

Merritt Centennials, leaders in the Interior Division, picked on last-place Penton Vees and took a 6-1 decision while Bellingham Blazers, the Coast Division leaders, handed third-place Chilliwack Colts a 7-5 setback in White Rock, B.C.

In Merritt, the Centennials moved farther out of sight of second-place Kamloops Rockets which are 28 points behind. The Blazers extended their lead over second-place Nanaimo Clippers to 21 points.

Rod Danchuk and Dale Ames, the Centennials before 618 fans with two goals first-period lead and expanded it to 6-1 after 40 minutes.

Northam, on a power play, were the other Merritt markers while Dave Coburn connected for Penton, also on a power play.

JANSEN BISHOP
Dale Cresswell made 18

saves for the Centennials while Darren Jensen was overworked for Penton, making 47 stops as the Vees took 10 minor penalties compared to five for Merritt.

Randy Larsen scored two goals to lead Bellingham. Chris Tucker, Keijo Taskula, Ewan Williams, Bruce Harris and Don Fraser, with his 42nd of the campaign, also scored for the Blazers.

Jim Brassard scored twice to lead the Colts who trailed 3-2 after the first period and 6-4 after the middle frame. Todd Christie, Greg Kohlrus and Alf Pankratz were the other Chilliwack markers.

Blazer netminder Steve Abbott made 16 saves before being replaced in the third period by Ken Bales who wasn't tested. Doug Hodges made 32 saves for the Colts before 300 fans.

Tonight, the Clippers visit Kelowna Bulldogs and Delta Suns visit the Vees.

Lafleur kidnap plot foiled

MONTREAL (CP) — Two goals, two assists—and the excitement wasn't over for Guy Lafleur.

The Montreal Canadiens right winger took a turn on the ice to acknowledge being chosen the first star in a 6-0 National Hockey League victory Thursday night over Atlanta Flames, then was spirited away from the Forum to avoid student pranksters.

Forum security had word that several University of Montreal students planned to kidnap Lafleur as part of their winter carnival festivities.

Lafleur, watched during the first-star ceremony by a larger-than-usual contingent of Montreal police, entered the Canadiens dressing room still unaware of the threat.

While changing into his street clothes he was told of the situation in whispers, then driven in the limousine of Canadiens managing director Irving Grundman to where his own automobile had been parked by a friend.

NEEDS HIS SLEEP

Lafleur took the incident in stride but said of his would-be captors: "I have to play Saturday night. I can't afford not to be in shape for the game. I hope they will understand."

A Forum security spokesman said they had been on guard for about a week against an attempt to pilfer the goal nets and ice-resurfacing machine.

It was believed that the students may have had an alternate plan to make off with left winger Steve Shutt and his wife. Shutt, shared the scoring exploits with Lafleur, also with two goals and two assists.

Students from the same university had had more success in the past. On one occasion years ago, they made off with the uniforms of the visiting Detroit Red Wings.

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SPORTS

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World of Sport

Jokers win three

Jokers, Soccer Six and the Dirty Diggers all swept their nets in Vernon Intermediate Women's 'A' Volleyball League action at Seaton Junior Secondary School Wednesday night.

Jokers trimmed the Getha Girls 15-12, 15-11, 15-8, while Kootenay Six tripped up Livey/Set 16-3, 15-9, 15-10, and the Dirty Diggers whipped the Fats With squad 15-3, 15-8, 15-5.

In other matches played at Seaton, Multi-Enterprises took two games out of three from the M & M's 15-12, 15-9, 6-15, while the P's did the same against BJs, winning 15-17, 15-6, 15-4.

Woodstock sweep games

Woodstock and the Village Green swept all six games they played in Vernon Major Women's Volleyball League action at Fulton Junior Secondary School Wednesday night.

Woodstock beat Bumpers, Go-Getters and Vernon Motor Products twice apiece, while the Village Green defeated Justice, the Hot Shots and the Coldstream Motor Hotel twice each.

Bumpers and Justice won four of their six games as Bumpers beat Vernon Motors and the Go-Getters twice apiece, while Justice did the same to the Hot Shots and the Coldstream.

Vernon Motors and Coldstream Hotel got on the winning trail by downing the Go-Getters and the Hot Shot.

Canucks trounce Toros

Price and Maric Canucks let Toros score the games first goal and then triggered 13 unanswered markers enroute to a 13-1 triumph in a Pleasant Valley Hockey League contest played Thursday night at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The Canucks and Toros were tied at 1-1 after the opening period, but then the winners tallied four goals in the second period and eight more in the final session.

Gary Pruden was the winning netminder as he turned aside 26 drives, while Norm Schiman suffered the loss in kicking out 37 shots.

Next league action is Sunday at 10:45 p.m. when the Kinnamen tangle with Vernon Sport Lakers.

Power packs victorious

Power Packs set and "naked their way to three victories over Jim's Motley Crew in Vernon Intermediate Women's 'B' Volleyball League action at Beattie Elementary School Wednesday night.

Power Packs destroyed the Motley Crew to the tune of 15-4, 15-10, 15-7, while in other matches, the Six Pack cruised by the Ball Breakers 15-4, 15-9, 15-5 and the Quizzlers defeated the Freestylers 15-8, 10-15, 15-6.

In league play at the Recreation Centre, the Spinoffs defeated the Twin Elves 15-12, 9-15, 15-6, and the Silver Six swept past the Honeybees 15-11, 15-8, 15-10.

Volleyball trials set

Volleyball trials for Zone Two of the B.C. Winter Games will be held at Fulton Junior Secondary School Saturday.

There will be six girls teams from Ashcroft, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Penton of Midget age (15 and under) vying for the single berth on the Okanagan Valley team which will compete in the B.C. Winter Games set for Kamloops March 3-4.

Pro Bowl no joke

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Pro Bowl had become the National Football League schedule's unwanted child, with players looking for excuses to skip the contest that was left like an unfinished chore after the Super Bowl.

The players now, though, seem to view next Monday night's all-star game in new perspective.

"The attitude has changed," said Pittsburgh's Mel Blount. "Most of the guys look forward to this game now. It's like a big reunion."

"I know a few years ago, people seemed to want to get out of playing in the Pro Bowl," said Dallas' Roger Staubach. "But it's not that way now. I think everybody looks at it as an enjoyable experience."

"I think this game is fun. It's a chance to see a lot of people, time to talk with other players."

Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw will be playing in his first Pro Bowl. He was previously named to the AFC squad, but missed the game with an injury.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Toro's Fighting Bull defenceman Nick Kobowka takes a swing at the ball while Rick Kaminski of the Ballbrusters challenges him during Vernon Major Men's Broomball League

action at the Centennial Rink Thursday night. Toro's Kaminski and Ballbrusters while in the other game the Screaming Eagles had to settle for a tie with the Vertebras. (Bruce Campbell Photo)

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