Daily News
SPORTS Page
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GUIDE REPORT

Wildlife delighted

By SMOKEY TRUMBLEY

All our native fur and feathered creatures are delighted with conditions of winter so far in our area. No snow has resulted in keeping food supply plentiful. Mild temperatures are certainly welcome.

Not so for local residents, is the current topic of all walks of life. The general thoughts of most seem to be it's time we had snow. Here it is Dec. 20, just five days until Christmas and the grass almost appears to get greener daily. I agree with those thoughts entirely, who needs warm rain this time of year. I suppose we can, and should be grateful, when we think about the problems of water and mud-slides that some residents at the coast are witnessing. My big concern is, I'm positive we will pay for all this nice weather before many more moons have come and gone.

WAS PREDICTED

Last fall I predicted the upcoming winter would be — below average snowfall and colder than usual. So far, I'm 50 per cent right. However, there is lots of winter months ahead of us yet. Seldom are signs of nature wrong and this is what I base my predictions on each year. Other forecasters of future weather — I note — are saying the same thing. So, we can't all be wrong. If its any consolation, green Christmas' are very rare in our beautiful valley; although I can remember some that were awfully close (snowed that day).

Speaking of winter, when it does come; our same fur and feathered friends will find it tough going until they become familiarized with the new element. Now is the time to build bird feeders for smaller birds and have them stocked with plenty of mixed seed and gravel. This mixture is available at most grocery stores and very reasonably priced. Suet chunks are available at nearly all butcher shops free, and can be tied high in a tree branch and is ideal food for a good number of birds.

Most important rule to remember when either making a bird feeder or placing suet in a tree . . . make certain it is cat-free, in other words, a cat annot sneak up on feeding birds. An old stove pipe around the tree trunk prevents a cat from climbing the tree. Bird houses, or feeders should be mounted on a post with a wide platform under the house. This is to keep cats from reaching the feeder. The platform can be either square or round in shape.

As for larger birds such as pheasants and partridges, they do not require feed of any kind until the snow becomes too deep for them to find their natural food which is mostly on the ground, or on low bushes and shrubs. These larger birds whould never be fed grain alone because they too require gravel to digest their food.

WINTER FISHERMEN

With exception of the odd day when wind plays a spoil-sport roll, big lake winter trollers are enjoying good to excellent results on all our big lakes. The big rainbows in Okanagan are surface dwelling, and are being taken with monofilament line (500 feet), two ounces of weight and a pink Mac, or same color Lyman Lure. Same combination for Shuswap Lake is working well, with a blue Mac-squid being a close second choice. In Kalamalka Lake, the usual winter method or troll for big lakers is taking fish each time out. Try 500 feet of wire line, or 600 feet of monofilament with eight ounces of weight and the pink squid, or Lyman 'pearl' with a slow troll.

BOUQUET OF THE WEEK

Goes to all those who gave to the Salvation Army recently, so they could continue with their community work during Christmas season after their robbery.

BRICK OF THE WEEK

Goes to all ice fishermen and snowmobilers who do not test the ice before walking, or driving on any local lake. The continuing mild weather with periods of warm rain has caused the ice to deteriorate, especially on all larger lakers, even in the high country. Swan Lake is an absolute no-no.

GUIDE TIP

I wish to take this opportunity to express my wishes to all readers of this column. . . Have a Merry Christmas and may Santa Claus be good to you all.

BEST HOURS

Your best hours for fishing Saturday are 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. and Sunday from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m.

THREE-TIME World Freestyle Champion John Eaves, left, and Kelowna freestyler Greg Athans are almost neck-and-neck as they clear the second jump on the slalom course during the Labatt Challenge of the Super Skiers at Silver Star Wednesday. Eaves won this heat and went on to collect the $4,000 first place prize money. Eaves finished the challenge with eight points, two more than Athans and racers Doug Woodcock and Paul Carson, who split $5,000 in prize money. (Daily News Photo)

Freestyle champ wins Super Skier Challenge

By KEVIN MITCHELL
Daily News Writer

Freestyler John Eaves beat the fog and five other competitors to earn the $4,000 first prize in the Labatt Challenge of the Super Skiers at Silver Star Mountain Wednesday.

The three-time World Freestyle Champion finished the three-event challenge with eight points, two more than Kelowna freestyler Greg Athans and pro racers Doug Woodcock and Paul Carson, who split $5,000.

Freestyler Rick Bowie collected $600 for placing third, with four points, while Vernon's Dan Irwin, a late replacement for racer Joseph Odermatt, picked up $400 while earning three points.

As for the tie, event promoter Bruce Alain said, "The skiers wanted to leave it that way. There was a two out of three vote to leave the tie and besides we really didn't have time to break it."

A lot of time was taken up by the fog which kept the CBC Sports Weekend crew asking for numerous delays while fog lifted.

The slalom event was held up the most as it didn't get under way until 12:30 p.m. after being scheduled for 11 a.m.

"That's one thing you can't buy is weather," sighed Alain. "If we could have we would have run the event at 7 a.m. today when it was sunny up there."

But, Alain feels the first-ever event of its kind in B.C. was a total success.

To make the Challenge Cup a success it took some excellent skiers and a very fierce competition.

Perhaps the most exciting race of the day came in the slalom course where racers Woodcock and Carson finished in a dead heat.

In their rematch, Woodcock had problems coming out of the starting gate and lost to Carson who collected five points in the slalom event, one more than Woodcock.

Eaves picked up three points in the slalom, while Athans, who experienced some problems in the event, including breaking a pole in one heat, had two points and Irwin one.

Bowie had nothing but problems in the slalom, earning no points.

In the first event of the day, the freestylers each earned a point for winning respective heats in the 100-yard cross-country race, held at the lower parking lot.

Eaves was at his best in the final event; the moguls.

He was the clear winner by winning four of the 15 heats, while Athans and Bowie picked up three points apiece, giving the freestylers somewhat of a sweep in the 'bumps'.

Irwin and Woodcock earned two points each in the moguls, while Carson won just one heat.

The Challenge of the Super Skiers will be shown on CBC Sports Weekend Jan. 19.

Junior hockey team headed to Revelstoke

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Kamloops no longer has a British Columbia Junior Hockey League franchise.

BCJHL President Ron Livingstone announced Wednesday that Rockets will play their final league game tonight when they host North Vancouver Caps.

The Rockets had been operated by the league since owners Francois Lambert and Jack Kennedy pulled out of the team three weeks ago.

TO REVELSTOKE?

The BCJHL has accepted an offer by a group of Revelstoke businessmen to move the Rockets to that city. However, the deal is far from complete. The group is interested in the club only if the majority of the players will make the move.

Due to employment commitments, it is doubtful that coaches Allan Young and Daryl Ferner will go with the team to Revelstoke. And eight players are attending school in Kamloops. Schooling will create a problem because Kamloops is on the semester system and Revelstoke is not.

Only Vernon player on the Rockets, Bobby Wensley, will probably make the move. Wensley is attending school and will complete this semester, which ends in mid-January. From that point, where Wensley goes will depend on schooling according to his parents.

TRAIL KNIGHTS

Rockets are in second-place in the four-team Interior Division, eight points back of Penticton Knights.

Another problem facing the proposed Revelstoke club could be ice time. Revelstoke Selkirks, of the North Okanagan Hockey League, have five weekend home games booked in January and February.

Revelstoke Bruins and Vernon Canadians folded at the conclusion of the 1978-79 BCJHL season due to financial difficulties.

MORE SPORTS PG. 10

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1974

Two ex-Vernon Vikings, Don Murdoch and Ken Holland, are in prominent positions, according to statistics just released by the Western Canada Hockey League. Murdoch is with the Medicine Hat Tigers and leads his club in scoring with 57 points.

Harris helps Grindrod leave Molsons behind

Grindrod Elks strengthened their hold on second-place in the North Okanagan Hockey League with a 4-1 victory over Rutland Molsons on Wednesday night in Enderby.

The win gives Elks 22 points, four more than the third-place Molsons. Vernon Cougars lead the seven-team loop with 32 points.

Rick Harris led the Elks with two goals and an assist while Gary Oberle and Jim Sparrow added singles.

Duane Johnson replied with the only goal for Rutland.

PLAYED WELL

Grindrod Manager Leon Nowek told the Daily News it was his club's best game in quite a while. Nowek said, "We had lost three of our last four games and weren't playing well. On Wednesday, Ed (Forslund) made a few big saves for us and we took advantage of our chances."

Both goaltenders were standouts. Don Prowse blocked 28 shots for Molsons while Forslund made 23 saves.

BROKE TIE

Harris broke a scoreless deadlock at 14:49 of the second period. Then at 19:54, he beat three defenders and slid the puck past Prowse to make the score 2-0.

Johnson narrowed the gap at 3:38, of the third period. But, Oberle added an insurance goal midway through the period and Sparrow scored in the dying seconds.

Elks took 11 of 19 minor penalties and one of two fighting majors.

NOHL play resumes Dec. 27 when Winfield Raiders host the Elks.

The league's all-star game will be played Dec. 29, in Vernon.

Fathers to play against their sons

Vernon Oldtimers will tangle with Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps in exhibition hockey action Sunday, at 2 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

The game will feature two father and son combinations. Ron Hutchison, who starred for several years with Vancouver Canucks of the old Western Hockey League, will face his son Craig.

Walt Trentini, a member of Vernon Canadians when that club won the 1955-56 Allan Cup, is pitted against his offspring Rod.

OLDTIMER RULES

The game will be played under oldtimer rules which do not allow slap shots or bodychecking.

Average age of the oldtimers is 45. However, Coach Chris Nelson is confident his club can beat the youngsters. Nelson said, "We are hoping to use the puck to our advantage. If they don't have the puck they can't score."

On the other hand, the juveniles boast a 7-2-2 record and are battling with Kamloops for first-place in the Okanagan-Mainline League.

Juvenile Coach Bob Williams said, "I've used a little different strategy in our last couple practices to get ready for the oldtimers. We've got the legs."

A silver collection will be taken at the door with the proceeds going to cover operating expenses.

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