Cougar warning

By SMOKEY THUMBLEY

I feel the time is at hand for me to warn rural residents, especially those who reside near forest areas; of the danger to domestic dogs, and cats by cougar attack. Each year, we read, or hear of such attacks during winter months. These incidents usually occur when conditions in the forest are such that the cougar is having problems finding sufficient natural food and seeks easier prey in barn yards, or any human establishment where small animals can be found.

Deer are the staple of mountain lion diets, although the big cats will eat a variety of animals up to, and including, elk, ranch dogs, as well as sheep, pigs, cows, and horses were frequent lion prey during the settlement of the frontier, and still are at times on isolated ranches.

Some estimates of deer predation are as high as one deer per week per lion. If that were true, 1,000 lions could — theoretically — eat 52,000 deer per year. The actual deer loss is lower, because lions also eat other prey. Nobody knows how many other animals lions may consume. In fact, recent studies have shown cougar are cannibalistic. They will eat their young, eat victims of fights over territory rights, and when the lion population becomes too numerous for a given area to support, the younger and weaker animals are expelled or are killed by the other lions.

Until about fifteen years ago, the cougar, it was thought, was a major killer of livestock, deer, and sometimes, even humans. There are several documented cases of lion attacks on humans right here in British Columbia. A few of those incidents, I have brought to your attention in previous columns.

Mountain lions will rarely bother people, although hunters and hikers occasionally are aware of being followed by lions. There are people right here in the valley who have been scared out of their wits by lions looking in house windows, and chasing house pets right into houses. It can be rather frightening to open your garage door in the morning, and find a large lion laying on top of your car.

Become bold

There is only one reason why cougar's become bold and will invade human residences . . . hunger. However, the reason for hunger is many. One of the most important being snow conditions. When snow is two feet deep and soft, the cat finds it difficult to travel, because of their short legs and heavy weight. Since deer are their principle food, and have much longer legs, snow of this depth does not slow them down — the cat remains hungry. The reason for my warning to outlying residents is based on present snow conditions and cougars are finding it hard to find food. Therefore, we can expect them to seek food elsewhere. Old age in a cat may cause worn teeth that will prevent them from killing larger animals; ailments such as stiffness, injury, diseased teeth, porcupine quills that have abcessed or any other cause that hinders the animal from obtaining natural food supply. These are just a few causes that will drive the big cats to seek much easier prey and when hunger is severe enough they will abandon caution in finding food.

Take precaulions with small children, domestic animals and livestock, for example pets should not roam freely at night and if possible livestock should be in enclosed shelters. Use caution when approaching outbuildings that are easily accessable to cats and should you see cougar tracks within the yard it would be advisable to notify the local conservation officer.

Bouquet of the week

Goes to Corporal Ed Bill, who I understand is in training for the Polar Bear Swim, despite this, he is creating quite a wave of interest.

Brick of the week

Goes to Frank Martina, who is also creating waves, in reference to the Polar Bear Swim that is, by challenging Don Kendall, Pete Guidi and myself to join him this coming Saturday. If we don't accept, does that mean he is going to "chicken" out?

Guide Tip

When ice fishing, keep the ice skimmed free from the hole. Trout may take the lure lightly and a frozen line will prevent you from feeling a nibbling fish.

Best Hours

For the upcoming week-end are: Saturday, February 9, 5:08 p.m. to darkness. Sunday, February 10, (both major periods are in darkness) 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

PIN POINTS

JAN. 29
Tuesday 7-9

Women's High Single: Isabel Bodinsky, 315, High Triple: Aggie Lewis, 682, High Average: Joan Allen, 291

Men's High Single: Pete Brooks, 356, High Triple: Pete Brooks, 990, High Average: Gerry Monk, 239

Team High Single: Compensators, 1467, High Triple: Compensators, 3980

"300 Club": Isabel Bodinsky, 315, Pete Brooks, 356.

TEAM STANDINGS

Compensators	13
Garner Sheppart Shoes	11
Genier's T.V.	11
Winsomes	11

JAN. 29
Tues. Coffee

Women's High Single: Lil Jamieson, 267, High Triple: Lil Jamieson, 766, High Average: Lil Jamieson, 232.

Team High Single: Cheerios, +134, High Triple: Frankenberry, +150

"700 Club": Lil Jamieson, 766.

TEAM STANDINGS

Cap'n Crunch	133
Lucky Charms	132
Honeycombs	123
Frankenberry	118½
Wheaties	118½
Harvest Crunch	117

Tues. Nite Ladies 9-11

Women's High Single: Monica Bjornson, 297, High Triple: Dawn Herring, 767, High Average: Linda Metz, 266.

Team High Single: Has Beens +193, High Triple: Has Beens +366

"700 Club": Dawn Herring, 767.

TEAM STANDINGS

The Muffets	136
Has Beens	121
Try Hards	112
Pythians	101
Good Gals	97½
Hot Peppers	92

JANUARY 29, 1980
Wed. Coffee Party

Women's High Single: Loraine Anderson, 264, High Triple: Marie MacKenzie, 690, High Average: Marie MacKenzie, 212.

Team High Single: Finches, +209, High Triple: Finches, +439

TEAM STANDINGS

Blue Birds	133
Emu's	118½
YBSS	117
Finches	116½
Skylarks	114½
Ding Bats	113

JANUARY 30, 1980
Wednesday 9-11

Women's High Single: Jan Vaneck, 247, High Triple: Lori Kupryk, 627, High Average: Lori Kupryk, 205.

Men's High Single: Herb Ott, 314, High Triple: Herb Ott, 778, High Average: Shig Tabata, 245.

Team High Single: Coldstream Hotel, 1319, High Triple: Newcomers, 3762

"300" Club: Herb Ott, 314, Pete Brooks, 310.

TEAM STANDINGS

Newcomers	153
Hi Flyers	124½
Mixed Breeds	116
Coldstream Hotel	115½
Reprobates	115

Wednesday 7-9 Mixed

Women's High Single: Donna Desmarais, 289, High Triple: Donna Desmarais, 734, High Average: Donna Cochrane, 223.

Men's High Single: Stan Skidmore, 311, High Triple: Len Chahley, 842, High Average: Val Angretta, 245.

Team High Single: Vernon 5-0, +206, High Triple: Vernon 5-0, +260

"300" Club: Stan Skidmore, 311.

"800" Club: Len Chahley, 842.

TEAM STANDINGS

Screwballs	+136
Brandy Bunch	+127
Vernon 5-0	+124
Primo	+124

Wednesday Matinee

Women's High Single: Doreen Chamberlain, 327, High Triple: Doreen Chamberlain, 786, High Average: Colleen Harris, 204.

Team High Single: Lane Loons, 1135, High Triple: Lane Loons, 2941.

"300" Club: Doreen Chamberlain, 327, Gladys Herns, 310, Linda Morton, 320.

"700" Club: Doreen Chamberlain, 786, Linda Morton, 784.

TEAM STANDINGS

Fantastic Five	588
Try Hards	560½
Dolphins	526

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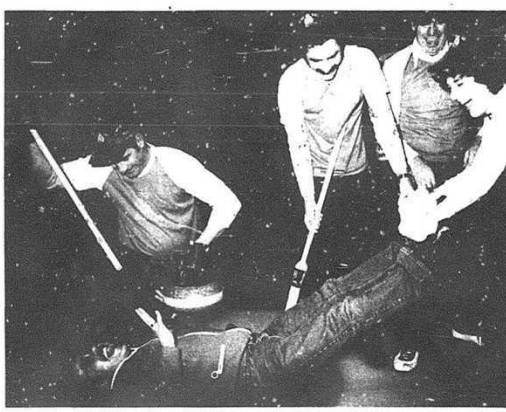

JOPO BONSPIEL

Members of the RCMP curling team take out their frustrations on opponent Ross Edwards after they lost a 4-3 decision to Polson Place Mall Merchants this week in the Jopo Bonspiel. Members of the RCMP team are from left, Ted Thurston, Gary Ardiel, Lynn Thompson, and Queen Silver Star Lorri Galbraith. The bonspiel continues to Friday, during lunch hour, at the curling club.

(Daily News Photo)

CROWN KINGS 7-3

Whalers like new rink

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming for Hartford Whalers remained a familiar script Wednesday night — another game, another win.

"We couldn't play any better than we've been playing in Springfield," Mark Howe said after the Whalers downed Los Angeles Kings 7-3 in a National Hockey League game to officially open the rebuilt Hartford Civic Centre Coliseum.

After nearly two years of playing at Springfield, Mass., Civic Centre, 40 kilometres north of Hartford, the Whalers played their first game in the reconstructed coliseum since its roof collapsed under the weight of snow and ice two years ago. A near-capacity crowd of 14,448 was in attendance.

Mark Howe and Blaine Stoughton led the Hartford attack with two goals and two assists each as the Whalers cruised to their eighth win in 11 games.

"We were feeling our way around the rink and we were a little uptight in the first period," said Whalers' coach Don Blackburn. "We have a lot of new players who have never played here before and the new building had something to do with our start."

Many of the veteran Whalers played in the old coliseum when the team was in the nowdefunct World Hockey Association.

BLUES WIN

In other games, St. Louis Blues stormed back to defeat the Oilers 6-3 in Edmonton, Chicago Black Hawks played to a 3-3 draw with the Nordiques in Quebec and Washington Capitals managed a 2-2 tie with the Red Wings in Detroit.

The Whalers fell behind 2-0 on goals by Mike Murphy and Dean Hopkins in the first period. A power-play goal by Stoughton with little more than a minute to go in the period woke up the Whalers and they controlled the game the rest of the way as the Kings, weakened by injuries keeping high scorers Dave Taylor and Charlie Simmer out of action, began to play like their 1-10-1 record of the last three weeks.

Stoughton struck again on a power play — notching his 33rd goal of the season — at 12:06 of the second period. Then Howe took charge, getting two goals in a span of 1:06, both coming off wrist shots.

In the third period, Gordie Howe got into the scoring column at 3:29 when his slapshot eluded the glove of Los Angeles goalie Mario Lessard. The goal ended a 24-game drought for Howe and was his 12th of the season.

Mike Rogers and Jordy Douglas sandwiched goals around the second of the night by Murphy to end the scoring.

Blues 6 Oilers 3

After falling behind 3-2, St. Louis scored four unanswered goals to claim the win. St. Louis centre Mike Zuke, making his first appearance in Edmonton since quitting the WHA entry in 1978, scored twice and Tony Currie, a former Edmonton junior star, had a goal and three assists for the Blues.

Edmonton's Wayne Gretzky had a goal and two assists to consolidate his hold on third spot in the league scoring race.

Hawks 3 Nordiques 3

Tim Trimper, who suffered a broken nose in the first period, scored a power-play goal at 15:11 of the second period to tie Chicago to the tie. Real Cloutier had his 32nd of the season for the Nordiques.

Capitals 2 Wings 2

Bob Sirois celebrated his 28th birthday by scoring his fifth goal of the season at 3:23 of the third period to earn Washington the tie. Mike Gartner gave Washington a 1-0 lead in the first period with his 18th goal of the season before Detroit grabbed the lead in the second period on the strength of Dan Labraaten's 22nd of the year and rookie Brent Peterson's first NHL goal.

Detroit coach Bobby Kromm complained after the game that playing in the new Joe Louis Arena is almost as bad as playing on the road.

"They won't let us in until 3:30 p.m. because they say the workmen stand around and watch us," said Kromm, who prefers morning workouts. "We don't like skating at 3:30 in the afternoon when we have a game that night."

Alberta athlete tops in field

GEILO, Norway (CP) — Broken leg and all, Lana Spreeman of Olds, Alta., carried the halfway lead Wednesday in the slalom race for her class at the Winter Olympic Games for the Disabled.

Spreeman, 24, who had to repair her artificial leg Tuesday after breaking it in two places, had the fastest first-run time of 43.82 seconds going into today's second run.

Team-mate Lorna Manzer of Calgary was second in 43.88 and Reinhilde Moller of West Germany was third.

Spreeman, who won last Sunday's women's 2A class giant slalom gold medal, lost her left leg below the knee in a farming accident at her home.

Also vying for a gold medal is Jim Cullen of Sudbury, Ont., who was second in his class after the first run of the men's slalom. Austrian Peter Perner led with a time of 52.41 to Cullen's 52.69.

"I really felt I was going to have a fast run," said Cullen, 21, who lost a leg to cancer when he was 15. "I just went for the gates. I didn't let them come to me and I held on to my turns."

Other Canadians did not fare so well, though.

Greg Oswald of Winnipeg, the giant slalom silver medal winner, fell near the start of the slalom course, as did Kelly Cossman of Mississauga, Ont.

Sue Grimstead of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., missed a gate in the slalom for full-leg amputees and was disqualified.

Lyle Verstraete of Calgary was seventh in his class for leg amputees on two skis, while Gordon Dennis of Edmonton was 13th.

Winnipeg's Orel Klazyk was 15th for those with upper-body amputations and Michael Kruchen of Calgary was 18th of the 19 skiers.

Card star signs pact

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Keith Hernandez, whose meteoric rise in 1979 landed him a share of the National League's Most Valuable Player Award, signed a five-year contract Wednesday with St. Louis Cardinals.

The bottom line is I get to stay," Hernandez told a news conference. "I don't have to go to free agency. If I continue to perform they won't trade me, and that's what I wanted."

Financial terms of the agreement signed by Hernandez were not divulged, but some of the provisions were.

"We have six clubs that I have designated that I will not want to be traded to," the Gold Glove first baseman said. "I think that's fair. They were based on contending teams. I don't want to play for teams that are going to lose 90 to 100 games."

Hernandez, who hit only .255 with 64 RBIs in 1978, joins all-star catcher Ted Simmons, outfielder George Hendrick and third baseman Ken Reitz among St. Louis players with long-term contracts.

Crucial time for Olympics

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (AP) — Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, said Wednesday that this weekend's session of the IOC would be one of the most critical in the existence of the Olympic Games.

Killanin made the comment in view of sentiment in many countries that Moscow should not be the host for the 1980 summer Games.

"I would say this is one of the most critical sessions of the IOC since the Sorbonne in 1894," said the Irish peer, 66, serving the last year of an eight-year term as president.

It was in 1894 that the Games were reorganized after having been dormant for centuries.

The U.S. Olympic Committee is to present the IOC with President Carter's proposal that the 1980 summer Olympics be moved from Moscow, postponed or cancelled unless the Soviets withdraw their troops from Afghanistan.

The U.S. contingent is not bound by the president's request, but Carter has said he will ask that no U.S. team be sent to Moscow if the Games are held there.

Sentiment in the U.S. is running heavily against American participation in any Games held in Russia.

Of the 89 IOC members, 76 are expected to attend this weekend's general sessions. That is far greater attendance than might normally be expected for a session preceding the winter Games.

REPRESENT CANADA

Canada's IOC representatives are Dick Pound and James Worrall.

Pound said recently he would attend the Lake Placid meetings with an open mind and, if a resolution dealing with a boycott were tabled, he would use his best judgment in voting.

Killanin arrived from Europe to preside over IOC executive committee sessions which begin today. He began a brief news conference by saying he did not wish to speak on the Moscow issue because he was travelweary

"I have a strong feeling that half the things that go wrong in the world are because people hop about on planes and give press conferences before they have recovered from jet lag," he said.

He did not address the issue directly but indicated clearly that he felt the summer Olympics should go on in Moscow.

"I have said that it would be unthinkable to move the Games. We signed a letter of agreement, which in my view has both moral and legal obligations."

He said he was sensitive to sentiment in the U.S. for boycotting the Games, but said he thought it was based on misinformation.

Caps ride past Colts

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duane Potekal and Craig Newsome scored two goals each to lead North Vancouver Caps to an 8-5 win over visiting Chilliwack Colts in one of two B.C. Junior Hockey League games Wednesday night.

Nanaimo Clippers claimed a 5-3 win from visiting Abbotsford Flyers.

Chilliwack's Darrel Leakey scored three goals but didn't stay around long enough to stave the Caps' comeback. Leakey was whistled in the second period for a five-minute major and a match penalty for fighting.

The two teams were tied 2-2 after the first period and North Vancouver moved ahead 5-3 after 40 minutes. Doug Sissons, Rod Slatten, Ted Harrison and Jeff Wilkinson added singles in the Caps' win.

Leland MacDonald and Greg Richardson combined for 38 saves in North Van goal while Dan Pinder made 37 saves attending for Chilliwack.

Nanaimo and Abbotsford battled through a scoreless first period before Clippers Mike Johnson and Gerry Vogle scored two goals each to close the second period 4-1.

Steve Lapointe, Rob Roflick and Mark Didcott replied for Abbotsford.

Terry Kielsinger stopped 51 shots on Nanaimo net, while Lawrence Dyck made 28 saves for Abbotsford.

In today's games, Richmond Sockeyes visit Chilliwack, Revelstoke Rockets play host to Penticton Knights and Kelowna Buckaroos travel to Merritt to face off against the Centennials.

Mariners win

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dave Gardner scored a goal and assisted on two others to help Maine Mariners to an important 6-4 victory over Nova Scotia Voyageurs in American Hockey League action Wednesday night.

The victory left the Mariners seven points behind the Northern Division-leading Voyageurs. But Maine, in third place with 57 points, has played six less games than Nova Scotia.

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