

SPORTS

DON KENDALL Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Juveniles earn title



An old saying goes, "Behind every cloud, there is a silver lining."

Things looked pretty cloudy for hockey in Vernon last summer when it was announced that the city was losing its B.C. Junior Hockey League team. Rising costs and dwindling attendance made it impossible for the club to continue operating.

Concern was expressed about local boys having no place to play once they graduated from the minor ranks. Several players including Lance Yachon and Craig Demerick (Salt Current), Earl Smith (Merritt), and Bob Wensley (Revelstoke) went elsewhere to pursue their junior career.

However, the majority of players elected to stay in Vernon and play with the 'Coca-Cola Juv.' like Reps. That is where the silver lining comes in.

WON TITLE

Last weekend, Vernon captured the Western Canada Juvenile Hockey Championship.

If there had been a junior 'A' team in Vernon, it is doubtful if the juveniles would have captured the title. At least six, and perhaps as many as 10, of the juveniles would have experienced little difficulty in landing a spot with a local junior club.

Vernon Coach Bob Williams said, "The way we played in Ontario, we would have beat most B.C. Junior teams." And Williams is probably right.

JUNIOR DILUTED

The BCJHL has been diluted over the past few years by expansion and colleges. The juveniles lacked the superstars that most junior clubs have, but they did have depth and teamwork.

For the juveniles, playing hockey was a labor of love. No colleges or top-tier junior teams send scouts to watch juveniles play. Seldom, if ever, do you hear of a player advancing from juvenile to junior to the pros.

The 17- and 18-year-old young men who comprised the Vernon team deserve credit for sacrificing their free time in pursuit of a goal — and reaching that goal. Williams also deserves credit for motivating his players at a point in their lives when their attention is being drawn in many different directions. Congratulations champs!

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

On the subject of junior hockey, it doesn't appear that Vernon will rejoin the BCJHL next season. Local businessman Hank Aaron was hoping to put together an ownership group, but apparently nothing positive has happened.

Former Vernon junior star John Need, who spent the 1978-80 season with Seattle Breakers, isn't playing in his club's playoff series with Victoria Cougars. It seems Need and ex-Kelowna Buckaro Tom Stanger were suspended by the Breakers for disciplinary reasons.

Umps' clinic scheduled

Umpire clinics for football and soccer will be held in the Vernon Recreation Complex tonight and May 1, from 7:30 p.m.

Anyone interested is invited to attend the clinic tonight, or contact Don Myler at 545-7438 for further information.



Carl Wylie, centre, was recently presented with an award by the North Okanagan Cross-country Ski Club as the member

who did the most for the club during the past 12 months. Wylie was also named most improved skier. Making the presentation are Keith and Joan Brewis, who donated the award. (Bob Platt Photo)

SKIER HONORED



Miles Hopkins, of Vernon, soars through the air with the greatest of ease over King Edward Mountain, in

JUST LIKE A BIRD

Langvington Hopkins is one of many competitors who will take part in the Lumbly Air Force's fifth annual

hang gliding competition in late June. (Kelly Crombie Photo)

Shamrocks need coach and goalie

Most of the faces were the same Tuesday night when Armstrong Shamrocks opened their training camp in preparation for the 1980 Interior Lacrosse Association season.

Shamrocks' Manager Tim Bronson told the Daily News he expects almost an identical group of players to don the green and gold uniforms this season.

Bronson said, "We've lost one or two people, but basically we'll have the same club we did last year."

Shamrocks do need a coach and a goalie. Coach John Henderson has moved to Alberta and veteran Kim Fulton has been running the workouts to date.

Bronson said, "We hope to name a coach within a week, but until then, Fulton will be running things."

Ron Peterson and Intermediate Brent Taggart shared the team's goaltending duties last season. Apparently Peterson is undecided about his playing future and Taggart, still an intermediate,

may be moving to northern B.C.

Bronson said, "We know to go anywhere, we're going to have to get good goaltending. If we can't find one locally, we may have to look elsewhere."

Lost two

Only players who won't be back with the Rocks are Peter Swanger and Grant Dockesteader.

Swanger returned to his native Australia after the 1979 season and Dockesteader no longer resides in the Okanagan.

However, Armstrong still has many talented players including Jim Maundrell, Jack Prokopetz, and Adrian Letourne.

Bronson said, "I'm confident that if our young players continue to improve and if we can find a goalie, we'll have a good season."

The ILA season opens May 20 when defending champion Vernon Tigers host the Shamrocks.

Anniversary game planned

Next hockey season marks the 20th anniversary of a significant event in the history of sports in Vernon.

In 1956, Vernon Senior Canadians defeated Chatham Maroons, at the Vernon Civic Arena, to capture the Allan Cup — emblem of ice hockey supremacy in Canada.

To mark the anniversary, the Vernon Oldtimers Hockey

Club is planning to bring back former Canadians from the Allan Cup team to participate in an exhibition game against a team comprised of former players from the Okanagan Senior League, of the same era.

Also, in conjunction with the exhibition game, a banquet will be held that will give the public an opportunity to get acquainted with their former by-ones.

The organizing committee includes Ode Lowe and Walt Trentini, both members of the Allan Cup squad; and Chris Nelson and Len Miller, of the Vernon Oldtimers.

Wanted to purchase LOGS — Spruce & Hemlock
for more information phone
Drew Sawmills Ltd. Malakwa, B.C.
Ph. Days 836-2891
Eve. 832-4805

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS
APRIL, 1975
Weather and track conditions permitting the Okanagan Track Racing Association and Tillamook Raceway will open their 1976 season May 4 with a practice.
APRIL, 1975
Vernon Senior Secondary school girls' bowling team will be representing the Okanagan in the provincial high school championships May 10 at Chapman Lanes in Vancouver.

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REGISTRATION Of Kindergarten Pupils
(And Grade 1 Pupils Not Previously Enrolled in Kindergarten)
1980
School District No. 22 (Vernon)
Registration for children beginning school in September, 1980 will be held at all District Elementary Schools between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., April 21, 22, 23, 24, 1980. Children to be registered for kindergarten must have reached their fifth birthday by December 31st, 1980. Parents or guardian will please accompany child and bring birth certificate at time of registration.
J. W. GREEN, Secretary-Treasurer
School District No. 22 (Vernon)
P.O. Box 1030 Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N2