

Junior club faces obstacles

It was announced this week that Vernon will join the B.C. Junior Hockey League, for the 1980-81 season, after a one-year leave of absence.

You'll have to excuse me if I greet the announcement with some reservations. I have seen Vernon's junior hockey team play home games in front of 100 people. I have seen too many people walk out of the arena disgusted after a brawl. And I've watched as several local businessmen sacrificed thousands of dollars to keep the junior club alive.

Vern Dye and Han Aarsen, who are organizing a group of 10 owners to operate the team, are optimistic. And I wish them luck. Local hockey fans would love to see junior 'A' return. But, the owners face many obstacles. And there aren't too many new ideas to try.

Vernon Esso was the B.C. Junior Hockey League title in 1972 and that is the last season the club showed a profit. From then, it was straight downhill.

In 1973-74, the club changed its name from Esso to Vikings and was a serious contender for the league title. However, even with superstar Don Munn in the line-up, the Vikings couldn't attract enough fans.

HIRE TENNANT

The next year, the owners decided to hire former colorist Joe Tennant as coach and general manager. Tennant, famous for his aggressive style of coaching, brought a goon squad to town in 1974-75. They didn't win too many games, but they did lots of fighting.

The following season, Tennant built a team that broke virtually every BCJHL regular season record. However, the Vikings were eliminated in the playoffs, by Pentlitch.

Tennant's years were full of excitement, but the

operating costs were outrageous. No exact figures were released but it is estimated the team lost \$30,000 during the 1975-76 season.

Dye took over the club in 1976-77. With a tight budget a little talent to choose from, the club battled through a mediocre season. Even with the moderate budget, the team still lost thousands of dollars.

The next season was the worst in the club's history. The Vikings broke many records for futility including least wins and most losses.

After the 1977-78 season, the club was sold to a group of seven local businessmen, led by Sheldon Bloomer, who became the team's general manager.

NAME CHANGED

The team name was changed to Canadians, Greg Kviste from Saskatchewan was hired as coach, and the emphasis was placed on using local players.

Even with 10 Vernon players in the line-up, the Canadians still lost in excess of \$20,000.

The ownership group attempted to sell the club, had no takers, and settled for a leave of absence from the league.

Dye, Aarsen, and company will attend a BCJHL meeting next week to finalize the application to rejoin the league.

Some of the problems facing the new owners will be: (1) Arena cost. The group that operated the team in 1978-79 claimed one of the expenses that killed the club was ice rental. Recreation Director Jim Alveberg said there will be no reduction in that cost, and in fact, the rates are due for review in July. That means the team will pay at least \$100 per game, which includes two hours of practice time.



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DAILY NEWS SCOREBOARD

INTERMEDIATE 'B' MEN'S SLOWPITCH (COUGAR)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Super Valu	8	4	0	0	8	85
Intimate Kenworth	8	4	0	0	8	81
Quadra Auto Body	8	4	0	0	8	118
No. 8's	8	3	0	0	6	74
B.C. Tel	8	3	0	0	6	115
Capital Tractor	8	3	0	0	6	146

INTERMEDIATE 'B' MEN'S SLOWPITCH (PANTHER)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Chow Town	8	7	1	0	14	99
BCGEU Blues	8	4	0	0	8	110
Vernon Uccu Print	8	4	0	0	8	113
Can Aventure	8	4	0	0	8	74
B.C. Tel-rovers	8	4	0	0	8	92
Co.Co Nuts	8	3	0	0	6	80

INTERMEDIATE 'B' WOMEN'S FASTPITCH (VALLEY)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Big Chiefs	7	6	0	1	13	128
Wong's Oilers	7	6	0	1	12	149
Lougheed	7	6	0	1	12	78
Windman's Warriors	7	4	3	0	8	134
O.K. Chimney Sweepers	7	4	3	0	8	105
Vernon Mazyckie	7	0	7	0	0	105

GORDIE MOONER'S SLOWPITCH (PEACH)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Gordie's Mini Motors	7	7	0	0	14	117
Tornadoes	7	6	1	0	12	106
Finec Flyers	7	2	5	0	4	82
Buzz Buddies	7	2	5	0	4	84
B & F Forest Products	7	2	5	0	4	96
Woddy Wounding Wasicals	7	2	5	0	4	139
Harpoons	7	1	6	0	2	87
Venturers	7	1	6	0	2	83

HONEYMOONER'S SLOWPITCH (APPLE)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Sluggers	7	5	2	0	10	68
Diamond Demons	7	5	2	0	10	60
Tillicum Valley Alpine Siders	7	5	2	0	10	73
Long Horn Ball Busters	7	4	3	0	8	94
VAMP's	7	4	3	0	8	67
Flinstones	7	3	4	0	6	86
Swinning Salads	7	3	4	0	6	117
V.G. Maulers	7	3	4	0	6	109

INTERMEDIATE 'A' MEN'S SLOWPITCH

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
35th St. All Stars	8	7	1	0	14	159
Vern Cal Cedar	8	5	3	0	10	87
Vernon Colts	8	5	3	0	10	95
Pobon Ball Merchants	8	5	3	0	10	95
Ward Hill Equipment	8	5	3	0	10	116
Muntz	8	3	5	0	6	109
Gains	8	3	5	0	6	117
Dunbar Automotive	8	1	7	0	2	64

WOMEN'S SLOWPITCH (PIPER)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Redneck Rascals	8	7	1	0	14	117
Moel Cats	8	7	1	0	14	78
Labatt's B.J.'s	8	5	2	1	11	78
Bar Belles	8	5	3	0	10	69
Walters Angels	8	5	3	0	10	86
Okanagan Apple Knockers	8	2	6	0	4	85
Kal Nobi	8	1	7	0	2	35
NOCA Dairy-Aires	8	1	7	0	2	35

WOMEN'S SLOWPITCH (MOUNTAIN)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Lakeside Coolers	7	7	0	0	14	88
Sweet Talkers	7	5	2	0	10	101
Till-Lake Lincoln Mercury	7	5	2	0	10	56
Chimos	7	4	3	0	8	46
B.C. Tel Pelecats	7	4	3	0	8	68
Valley Roofing	7	3	4	0	6	52
Pink Panthers	7	0	7	0	0	59
Kaplan Kai's Gals	7	0	7	0	0	46

MINOR GIRLS' FASTPITCH

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
B.X. Bombers	6	6	0	0	12	134
Warriors	6	4	2	0	8	208
Winners	6	4	2	0	8	110
Blue Jays	6	2	4	0	4	31

INTERMEDIATE 'B' WOMEN'S FASTPITCH (MOUNTAIN)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
High Flyers	5	5	0	0	10	133
Vernon's Torio Printers	5	4	1	0	8	111
Dye's Family Recreation	5	4	1	0	8	143
Homeslead Driveway Hot Shots	5	3	2	0	6	139
Hell Dads	5	3	2	0	6	129
United Dominion Lakers	5	0	5	0	0	62

INTERMEDIATE 'A' WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Pukon Place Autos	7	7	0	0	10	109
Boomer's Auto	7	5	2	0	10	140
Kal Nobi	7	4	3	0	8	143
Justice	7	4	3	0	8	82
Dave's Suggars	7	3	4	0	6	99
Sight & Sound Rockettes	7	3	4	0	6	74
Hill Start	7	2	5	0	4	100
Trade-and Realty	7	1	6	0	2	81

CHURCH MEN'S SLOWPITCH

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PPFA
Peace Lutherans	6	5	1	0	10	68
Emmanuel Baptist	6	5	1	0	10	50
Super Saints	6	5	1	0	10	53
Vernon A's	6	3	3	0	6	88
Trinity Lutherans	6	2	4	0	4	63
Procter's Kids	6	2	4	0	4	114
P.W. Church of God	6	0	6	0	0	46
Lucky Lutherans	6	0	6	0	0	46



Daily News SPORTS PAGE
 DON KENDALL — Sports Editor
 Phone 545-0671

Riding club hosts trail ride

By JEANNE WHITE
 "The Armstrong and En- coby Riding Club hosted its first competitive trail ride last weekend.

Thirty-seven riders entered the 22-mile test and 32 completed the ride.

Riders and horses came from as far away as the coast near Williams Lake to participate and again, "The Arabian Breed proved its worth in this equestrian discipline. Trophies were awarded first place in each division and ribbons to fifth place. The winners were:

- JUNIOR DIVISION**
 1. Heidi Neufeld, Arab pony, "Misty" Vernon; 2. Echo Enus, Kelowna; 3. Karen Ellis, 1/2 T.B., Armstrong; 4. Shannon Fraser, part Arab pony, Armstrong; 5. Brenda Ellison, range horse Amigo, Falkland.
- LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION**
 1. Barb Shaw, Arab, Kelowna; 2. Bev McQuig, Quarter Horse, Mara; 3. Gay Wells, T.B., Vernon; 4. Kim

SOCCKER CHAMPS
 The Pulton Whites soccer team recently captured the North Zone championship pennant and trophy. Team members, in the back row, from left are: Coach Malcolm Roberts, Dawn Klum, Cindy Koop, Ann Weir, Michelle Balfour, Lori Elliott, Diana Williams, Jackie Bloomer, Sue Winston and

Manager Nathalie Peladesu. In the front row from left are: Jan Guenther, Holly Hobbs, Chris Casarow, Mandy Reeves, Shelley Hanchar, Tracey Makasoof, Donna Hanson and Coach Chris Reeves.

(Daily News Photo)

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Kal Tire slips past Nationals

Kal Tire edged National Hotel 4-3 in Major Men's Fastball League action Friday night at Alexia Park.

Winning pitcher Dave Johnson gave up three hits and struck out four batters. The loser, Larry Fidler, surrendered six hits.

The teams were dedecked 3-3 after two innings and there was no further scoring until the seventh. Jim Draper scored the winning run on an error, after reaching base on another error.

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