

Resignation no surprise



Russ Newton's resignation this week was as predictable as the coming of Winter Carnival every February. Newton announced Tuesday he was leaving his post as head coach of the Vernon Lakers. In case you haven't noticed, Vernon's entry in the B.C. Junior Hockey League is so far down the Interior Division standings, it may never be found. Lakers have won only two of 17 games so far this season.

"The club continues at the present clip, it could break the league record for most games established in 1975 by Vernon Newton, and the Lakers, have experienced problems from the day he was named coach."

BAD CUTS

In training camp, he was thrown on the ice with 70 hockey players, he had never seen before, and told to pick a team. He made some bad cuts and kept some players who he later had to release when it was discovered they couldn't stand up to the physical punishment of junior hockey.

The team directors must shoulder part of the blame, along with Newton, for the club's dismal start.

President and General Manager Hank Aarsen, who is under suspension by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association, left last month for a holiday in Europe. His absence left the Lakers without a person in the two most vital administrative positions.

Businessman Al Thomas, who has no previous hockey experience in Vernon, was left to operate the club. And Vern Dye, who still has some financial interest in the team due to prior ownership, became reluctantly involved with the ship started to sink.

LOCAL PLAYERS

Aarsen, in an effort to balance the budget, instructed Newton to keep as many local players as possible. On at least two occasions, Newton was instructed to cut out-of-town prospects who could have helped the Lakers.

Aarsen did the bulk of the pre-season recruiting, which for the most part, was a failure.

As the season started, Newton and Aarsen were suspended for pulling the bulk of the ice, to protest the rough tactics of Penitence Knights, during an exhibition game.

Assistant Coach Ken Brown-John filled in, apparently had a personality conflict with a couple of players, a subsequent disagreement with Aarsen, and resigned.

Then last month, with Aarsen in Europe and Newton in Ontario on a personal matter, trainer Terry Price was behind the bench for four games.

A NIGHTMARE

It has been a nightmare for the players! At times, it has

been impossible to find a spokesman who could make a firm policy statement for the team.

Even with the front office turmoil, the club's on-ice performance is Newton's responsibility.

The players he had to work with have not improved, and in some instances, have taken a step backward since training camp.

The club's defensive system does not work, the offence has been sub-par, and they almost totally ignore the physical aspect of the game which is so important in junior hockey.

Newton has an adequate knowledge of the game, but obviously he was unable to communicate his ideas to the players. That problem frustrated many players, in some cases, to the extent of resentment towards the coach.

STABILITY NEEDED

Dye said, "We have to give the team some stability so that is our first goal. Secondly, we want to turn the club into a contender."

Interim Coach Gary Criss has a vast playing background, but is a newcomer to the coaching ranks. He cannot hope to build Lakers into a contender for first-place in the final 39 games. But, he can salvage respectability and restore confidence to the players.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

NOVEMBER, 1975
Eddie Johnstone of Vernon appears to have found himself a home with Frovidence Reus of the American Hockey League. Johnstone, who joined the Reds late last season, is currently leading the team in scoring.

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Bantam squad dumps Lumby

By DALE MAJOR
Daily News Sports

Vernon Credit Union Bantam B's dumped Lumby Teamsters 7-3 last weekend.

Warren Schneider paced the Vernon attack with three goals with Billy Baron adding a pair. Danny Nolan and Gary Schell netted singles.

Ross Horne, Michel Brandt, and Kevin Cole replied for Lumby.

Vernon goalie Arne Zlaten and Darin Wharton were sharp, combining to make 11 saves, while Lumby's Shane Reardon and Ronnie Shunter blocked 29.

In Bantam House League play, the Pee Wee Bs dumped Sun Valley Sports 5-2 and F.O.E. Eagles downed Empire Meats 5-2.

Tom Meyers led the Pee Wee Bs with two goals. Rick Cuckey, Mark Lambetti and Rod Wilham fired singles. David Simons made 16 saves for the winners.

Danny Martin and Mark Derutti countered for Sun Valley. Dean Rogers was called on to make 29 saves.

LED EAGLES
Shane Deleuw scored twice to lead the Eagles past Empire Meats. Tom Jones, Brent Belanger, and David Horochuk scored singles. Ronnie Hodgson

Five teams to do battle in Cougars' tournament

Five teams will compete for \$3,000 in prize money at the second annual Vernon Cougars Intermediate Hockey Tournament this weekend at the Civic Arena.

First-place club will take home \$1,000 while the runner-up earns \$800 and the third-place team wins \$600.

Play gets under way Friday, at 6 p.m., when defending Canadian champion Burnaby Lakers

take on Kelowna Packers. Then at 9 p.m., Grindrod Elks meet the Cougars.

Part Alberni Islanders swing into action Saturday, at 8 a.m., against the winner of the first game.

FINAL SUNDAY
The double-knockout tourney continues all day Saturday with games at 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Semi-final is scheduled Sunday,

at 2 p.m., with the championship game at 7:30 p.m.

Vernon Coach Gary Swanson told the Daily News there is no pre-tournament favorite. "Any one of these teams is capable of taking first-place," he said.

"When money is on the line everyone digs down a little deeper."

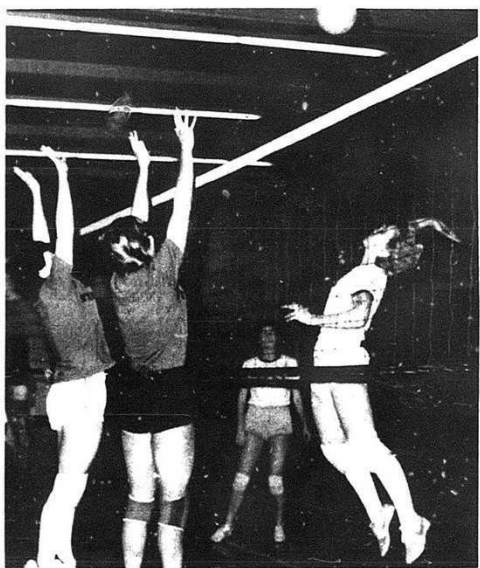
The Vernon coach feels Penitence are the key for his

club. "If we can stay out of the penalty box, we can beat anybody," he said.

Mike Smithson is expected to handle the bulk of the goaltending duties for Cougars. Charlie Briskman has been sidelined for four weeks with a knee injury, but may see some duty between the pipes over the weekend.

Cougars hope to have high-scoring winger Wayne Dye back for the tournament. Dye quit the team two weeks ago and is undecided about his hockey future.

For the convenience of spectators, there will be a Bavarian Garden located in the arena.



Major Women's Hockey League action Wednesday night at Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary School. Tirecraft, which won two of eight games this week, occupies the league title.

Lotus whips Sabres

Lotus Gardens defeated Labatt's Sabres 5-2 in White Valley Hockey League action Wednesday night at the Lumby Arena.

In another game, National Hotel Raiders suffered their first loss of the season, an 8-3 decision against Lakeside Whalers.

Terry Wettig led the Lotus attack with two goals while Terry Sammartino, Ken Holmes, and Dan Horochuk added singles.

John Kuly and Bill May replied for Sabres.

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period and Lotus held a 2-2 edge after 30 minutes.

In the other game, Whalers broke open a 3-3 tie with five unanswered goals in the third period.

Pat Morgan led the Lakeside barrage with three goals.

PIN POINTS

OCT. 28
Dues 799
Women's High Single: Ginny Koebereck, 286; High Triple: Leona Evans, 739; High Average: Inez Bickel, 286.
Men's High Single: Frank Gratton, 331; High Triple: John Tykaloov, 779; High Average: Art Block, 252.
30 Club: Frank Gratton, 331; Barry Mouric, 306.
REPRESENTATIVES: 227 Whalers, 229 Cougars, 229 Raiders, 214 Sabres.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ski club to register

Holland was named the game's first star.

SCORED WELL
Mike Withner of Vernon, scored at 7:30 of overtime to give Melrose Hat Tigers a 5-4 victory over Westport Warriors in Western Hockey League play Wednesday night.

VERNON LOSES
Salmon Arm defeated Vernon 7-1 in senior B' men's basketball action Wednesday at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. Morris Vartabedian led the Vernon attack with 26 points while Nick Nedeljkovic added 17.

BROMLEY CALLED UP
VANCOUVER (CP) - Goltender Gary Bromley has been recalled by Vancouver Canucks from Dallas Black Hawks of the Central Hockey League, the National Hockey League team said Wednesday.

Vernon Ski Club will hold its registration Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Village Green Mall. Both Silver Star and Thilcum skiers are invited to sign up for the Nancy Greene Ski League and Alpine racing team. Cost is \$10 per person, or \$25 per family.

MEETING MONDAY
Vernon Snowmobile Association will hold a general meeting next Monday, at 8 p.m., in the Eagles Hall. The meeting had originally been scheduled for Tuesday, but had to be switched due to hall availability. All members, and other interested snowmobilers, are invited to attend.

FINAL GAME
Cougars will meet Fulton Academicals in the Vernon Intermediate Flag Football League championship game Sunday, at VSSS. Cougars qualified for the final with a 25-0 win over Price and Maple while Fulton blasted Toros 33-0 in the other semi-final match. Game time Sunday is 3:20 p.m.

DUFFY RECOVERING
A jockey who was seriously injured in an accident last August, at Kamloops, is recovering in Vancouver. Susan Lully, of Langley, has regained consciousness and is progressing favourably after six weeks in a coma. Duffy has ridden for the past three years at Vernon Racing Days. Get well wishes can be sent to her at Vancouver General Hospital, Heather Pavilion, Room 493.

WVHL GAME
Labatt's Sabres take on National Hotel Raiders in White Valley Hockey League action Saturday, at 8 p.m., at the Lumby Arena.

CLOWNS TONIGHT
Harlem Clowns take on Vernon Panthers in exhibition basketball action tonight at 7:30 p.m., at Vernon Senior Secondary School. Clowns, a team that specializes in Clio-mah, has toured extensively in North America and overseas.

FIRST STAR
Vernon native Kenny Holland made 16 saves, including six in overtime, to lead Binghamton Whalers to a 2-2 tie with New Brunswick Hawks in American Hockey League action Wednesday night. For his performance,

REMEMBER WHEN

By The Canadian Press
Eml. Zatopek, the great Czechoslovakian marathon runner, set a world record for a 25,000-metre race 25 years ago today - in 1955. Running at Celokivka in his homeland, Zatopek ran the distance in 76 minutes 36.4 seconds and picked up the 15-mile record of 74 minutes 1 second on the way.

Family Entertainment

Saturday's Warrior is a contemporary musical that romanticizes a pre-earth life, the promises that are made there, and the resulting mix-ups that occur.

You'll laugh, you'll cry, but you won't want to miss this excellent production.

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