

Centennials may fold

Daily News
SPORTS
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By DON KENDALL
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A \$8,000 debt and lack of community support may force Merritt Centennials to withdraw from the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

A game between Vernon Lakers and Centennials scheduled Tuesday in Vernon, was cancelled because of a lack of support from the community, said Gordon Biccum, president of the non-profit Nicola Hockey and District Centennial Hockey Association.

BCJHL President Vern Dye, of Vernon, said he is hopeful Merritt will continue to operate. "It would certainly cause us problems if the Centennials fold," he said. "Some rescheduling would have to be done and a four-team division is not ideal."



MORE THAN 80 cross-country skiers were on hand last weekend for the second race in a junior challenge

series, at Silver Star. Below: Kris Zirinits of Salmon Arm takes off on the course. (Bob Platt Photos)



Large turnout for ski series

Conditions were excellent last Sunday on Silver Star for the second race in the Junior Development Cross-Country Ski Series. More than 80 competitors, from throughout the valley, took part in the event. The skiers, depending on age, covered distances from 1.6 to 5.3 kilometres.

IN WESTBANK
Next event in the series will be Sunday, at Westbank, under the auspices of the Telemark Club. The winners last weekend were:
MINI-MIDGEETS: Boys — Bryce Stephens, Ian Jenks, Richard Moncton, girls — Karen Townley, Shannon Wheeler, Mikki Reynolds.
MIDGEETS: Boys — Allan Walker, Richard Townley, Jeremy Avott, girls — Norma Fowler, Kerrie Wheeler, Jennifer Manion.

MEET THURSDAY
Owners of the Centennials will meet Thursday night to decide the fate of the club.
"We had to cancel the game because we didn't have a bus driver," Biccum said.
"We've lost two general managers in the last year, and fan support at the games is poor. If there is no interest, there will be no club."
The team, formed in 1972, was bought by the association last year for \$8,000 which was paid through the sale of debentures to residents of the community.
It currently is in debt an estimated \$8,000.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1975
Vernon Senior Secondary School won the B.C. High School Boys' Volleyball championship Saturday by defeating Prince George in three straight games.

NIATROSS A WINNER
DUNDAS, Ont. (CP) — Niatross, the world champion pacer that is closing in on \$2 million in career earnings, will take part in an exhibition training mile Dec. 17 at Flamboro Downs, the raceway announced Tuesday. It will be the third Canadian appearance this month for the three-year-old colt, who established an all-age pacing record of 1:49.15 at the Red Mile in Lexington, Ky., in October. Niatross, co-owned by Clint Galbraith and Elsie Berger, both Canadian natives, posted a 14-length victory at Windsor (Ont.) Raceway on Sunday to earn \$35,000. He now has career winnings of \$1,964,213.

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*Source: 1979 Price Waterhouse study of B.C. mining industry

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