

FOLLOWING MEETING IN MERRIT

Centennials remain in B.C. junior league

Local reaction to Merrit Centennials announcement to stay in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League has been positive.

League president Vern Dye said as far as the league is concerned, it is good to see them stay in, because they have a good club and a good record.

"We would like to see the Interior division a six team league and it would not help if it dropped to a four team league," Dye said. "I think, the fact they are staying in proves the point that if people get behind a club and support it, hockey can be kept alive."

Dye said he would like to see some of this kind of support in Vernon and Revelstoke.

"It would be a good thing if we got strong support in all our centres."

Vernon Lakers general manager Hank Aarsen said it is for the good of junior hockey that Merrit is staying in the league.

"If Merrit had dropped out it would have created many problems and dropped our competition down to three other teams," Aarsen said.

He also said he wished Vernon could get the kind of support Merrit did to keep the team alive at least until the end of the 1980-81 season.

A meeting of the non-profit association was called when officials found the team was \$4,000 in debt, few people were willing to contribute their time to the team and fan support was dwindling.

During the meeting, 35 of the 65 people attending volunteered to work with the club and the association would finance the debt through debentures.

The team, formed in 1972, was

bought by the association for \$25,000 last year. Purchase was financed through debentures.

Centennials play Kelowna Buckaroos in Kelowna tonight.

Nanaimo Clippers gave up two early goals, then came back with 10 in a row to down Chilliwack Colts 11-2 in one of two B.C. Junior Hockey League games Thursday night.

In the other contest, Rod Statler scored three times to lead Nor-Wes Caps to a 7-2 decision over the Comets at Coquitlam.

In Chilliwack, Jack Wright scored his 29th and 30th goals of the season and Joey Larson also had two for the Clippers.

Other Nanaimo snipers were Mike Johnson, Glen Naylor, Dave Coburn, Tom Irving, Ian Ramsay, Rick Siemens and Gayle Cornell.

The Colts, who led 2-1 early in the first period, got their scoring from Wes Smith and Bob Brown but wilted under a 78-shot barrage on Chilliwack goalie Dave Brereton in losing their 14th in a row. Mark McDonald stopped 38 shots on the Nanaimo goal.

Kent Davis, Lawrence Cahon, Leonard Poole and Grant Harris added one goal apiece for the

December 10 and December 17

WINS DAY

tickets good for

December 17
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CURLING CLUB NEWS

BY RON HOUSTON
 VERNON CURLING CLUB MANAGER

KELOWNA NEWS SPIEL

Six of our teams ended up in the prizes last weekend and of the six teams three of them won events. Taking top spot in B.D. and E event were teams skippered by Dennis Mar, Barry Amies and Dave Simpson. Other teams in the money were Ted Kenny, Frank Bird and myself.

ZONE 4 JUNIOR MENS CHAMPIONS

Greg McCune from Enderby skipped his rink of three Vernon curlers to top spot at Revelstoke and captured his third zone championship. Curling with Greg were Dave Stephenson, Daria Laface, and Rob Houston.

Next step is Prince George on Jan. 9 to 10, where they will compete against seven other teams for two berths into the Provincial finals at Victoria. This team has been improving each game and showed the ability to bounce back after their only loss they came back with a straight.

ZONE 4 SENIOR MEN

At Salmon Arm Don Myler ended up on top by beating out Sam Olyok of Revelstoke and gained a berth into B.C.A. finals at Kamloops in mid-February. Don's rink of Dick Ratke, Roy Trickett and John Corner suffered only one loss and won six games.

B.C. WINTER GAMES PLAYOFF

Two weeks ago Carol William skipped her team of Ev Bird, Jo Fish and Maureen Fritzsche to top spot in the Armstrong bonspiel, and along with the win they gained a berth into a final against a team from Pentecost to represent this area in the B.C. Winter Games, which will be held in Prince George. The teams will be playing this game at Kelowna, Sunday, at 10:15 a.m. at the Kelowna Curling Club.

THIS WEEKEND

At our club this is a quiet weekend. On Saturday there will be ice for practice or games from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday there will be practice time from noon to 3 p.m. Regular commercial league draws at 3:30 and 5:45 p.m. and Legion Mixed at 8:00 p.m.

AT ENDERBY

Zone 4 Mixed playoffs are on and three teams skipped by Alf Desnoyer, Ernie Bird and Gord Rowland are participating.

First draw is Saturday at 10 a.m. with the final game being played sometime Sunday afternoon.



Crucial game for Cougars

Vernon Cougars can move into a tie for first place when they host Grandford Elks in North Okanagan Hockey League action tonight, at 8 p.m. in the Civic Arena.

League-leading Kelowna Packers have 24 points, two more than Cougars. Both clubs have played 14 games.

Cougars will be without high-scoring forwards Gary Gilchrist (injured) and Wayne Dye (suspended). However, Coach Gary Swanson hopes to have one, or possibly two, new players in the line-up.

AT PRACTICE

Vernon defenceman Bob Powell attended practice this week after missing the first two months of the season due to work commitments. Powell is considered one of the top shot-blockers and bodycheckers in the NOHL.

The other newcomer is forward Rod Trentini, who quit Okanagan Hockey League two weeks ago. He will play if he can secure his spot in the Vernon Lakers.

Swanson said, "We'd like to have Boog (Powell) for this weekend. He's ready. He is the only one who can decide."

Trentini would come in handy, particularly now, because we're missing a couple key players.

IN REVELSTOKE

In other action tonight, Revelstoke Seikirks host the lowly Salmon Arm Aces. The lone Saturday game has Cougars playing a tie match with Elks in Enderby.

On Sunday, Seikirks visit Kelowna.



VOLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Playoffs for Vernon's fall volleyball leagues are now under way. Val Buchanan is one of the key performers for Multi Enterprises, of the Women's Intermediate 'A' League in action this week. Multi Enterprises, of the

Women's Intermediate 'A' League. In action this week, Multi beat H and L Glass two games straight, but was then eliminated by Nolan's Drugs 2-1. Final games of most leagues are scheduled next week. (M. Hodgson Photo)

VOLEYBALL SCOREBOARD

SUNDAY HONEYMOONERS

0. Art Schmidt Optical 2. Okanagan Chimney Sweeps 1. Sunday Smackers 3. Healey's 1. Crazy Eights 2. Gordie's Mini Motors 1. Candown Racers 3. No Names 0. Dirty Deesees 3. High Hopes 0.

MONDAY HONEYMOONERS

Duck Soup and Vernon optical have advanced to the league final, to be played next Monday. Vernon Radiator will battle Bank of B.C. in the consolation final.

INTERMEDIATE MEN

0. Sun Slammers 3. Ford Farm 0. Lagers 3. Sun Slammers 3. Sun Slammers 3. Ford Farm 0.

MAJOR MEN

0. Dynamos 2. Toros 3. Thunderbirds 0. Toros 3. Hook Ups 1.

MAJOR WOMEN

0. OK Gardens 2. Postill Diggers 0. VIP 2. Peters Triceratt 0.

0. Kimikos 2. OK Gardens 0. Col. Strain 2. VIP 0. Postill 2. VIP 0. OK Gardens 2. Triceratt 0. Postill 2. OK Gardens 0. Kimikos will play Coldstream quarter-final game next Wednesday. Postill gets by to semi-finals.

INTERMEDIATE WOMEN

At Seaton: Sneakers 2, Golden Crown 1. Multi Enterprises 2, H and L Glass 0. Who's Who's Sneakers 0, Nolan's Drug 2. Multi 1. Stars 2. Colts 0. Taylor Servo 2. Footloose 0. Who's Who's Nolan's Drugs 0. Stars 2. Taylor Servo 0.

At Bearsto: PVAs 2, Silver Six 1. Dog's Ear 2. NOCA Sharpes 1. Miss Fitz 3. Fatsworth 0.

At Ok Landing: Royal Beletettes 3. Pink Panthers 1. Motorways 4. Rainbow Roadies 0. Ball Bangers 1. Bubble Bumpers 0.

At Kal Jr. Sec.: Koalas 4. Sunshine Girls 0. Little Softies 2. Captain Kai's Gals 2. Volley Dolls 3. Dolphins 1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

L'ONKISSIKITE

PARIS (AP) - The cross-country skiing World Cup opens Saturday in Davos, Switzerland, and ends in Whitehorse, Y.T., on March 2, 1981. Scoring for the World Cup is based on a racer's seven best finishes during the year. For men, each skier must complete in seven of 17 races.

Women form weight group

A women's bodybuilding group is forming in Vernon. The weight room at the Vernon Recreation Complex will be utilized.

Any women interested in body conditioning and muscle toning, by using weights, is asked to phone 545-2889.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1975

Vernon Panthers defeated Winston Churchill 10-4 Friday in exhibition high school basketball action before 200 fans at Vernon Senior Secondary school.

over 15 kilometers, 30 km or 50 km with at least two races the longer distances. For women, with tracks of five kilometers, 10 km and 20 km, each racer must go in seven of 10 races with two over the longer distances.

REJECTS PURCHASE

DALLAS (AP) - American League owners rejected Edward DeBartolo's second bid to purchase Chicago White Sox by an 11-3 vote Thursday at the winter baseball meetings. League president Lee MacPhail said there was only one ballot and it was taken at the DeBartolo made a seven-minute appearance before the AL owners.

PLAYERS SUSPENDED

The Union of European Football Associations disciplinary committee has disciplined Alan Robertson and Frank Gray will miss Nottingham Forest's European Cup semi-final game in Valencia, Spain, next week.

Both players were booked in the first meeting between the two clubs, which Forest won 2-1. Robertson and Gray had been booked earlier in the season in the European Cup and the two offences call for an automatic suspension.

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Vernon hosts tourney

Four teams will compete in the Vernon Panthers Invitational Tournament this weekend.

Play gets under way tonight, at 7 p.m., when Rutland Woodooes tackle Queen Elizabeth, of Surrey. Then at 8:30 p.m., Panthers host Winston Churchill, of Vancouver.

On Saturday, the round-robin event continues with four teams. Vernon will face Rutland at 12:30 p.m., and Queen Elizabeth at 8 p.m.

Panthers' Coach Jack Yamaoka feels his club can win the tourney. "We've had a couple good practices this week and we've got a couple games under our belt," he said. "Our stiffest competition will probably come from Queen Elizabeth."

TALL CENTRE

The Surrey school has a seven-foot centre. However, according to Yamaoka, QE has a slow team and, "We'll go after them with a press."

After splitting two games at the Centennial Tournament last weekend, in Coquitlam, Vernon has made a change in its starting line-up.

Al Gee has moved to the short forward position, from guard, and 6'11" Lance Page shifts to the backcourt, from the front line.

IN BACKCOURT

"We wanted to get more height in the backcourt," Yamaoka said. "We feel Lance will be able to shoot over opposing guards. If they move a taller man out on him, that will open up the middle."

Gee, who is 6'1", is a good rebounder and excellent shooter.



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