Pro ski racing tour starts at Silver Star

NATIONAL HOTEL Raiders' goalie Bruce Watkins makes a save and covers up during White Valley League action Wednesday night in Lumby. Watkins was a standout as Raiders edged Lotus Gardens 2-1. Waiting for the rebound, that never came, is Roger Schmidt of Lotus. (Don Weixl Photo)

The Pacific Western Professional Ski Racing Tour begins its second season this weekend at Vernon's Silver Star Ski Area.

The 10-race series offers a total of $35,000 in prize money. About 70 racers are expected to compete this weekend.

Qualifying races are scheduled Saturday, at 10 a.m. A Pro-am media race will take place at 1 p.m.

On Sunday, head-to-head competition gets under way at 10 a.m.

CHAMP RETURNS

Bruce Rimmer of Edmonton, the 1980 champion, was injured earlier in the season, but is expected to be the favorite for the first race. He won six of eight events last year.

Brent Frostad and Dave Grierson who tied for second in the 1980 overall standings, are expected to challenge Rimmer again.

Vernon's Bernie Berube is among the other entrants.

Pro Tour Director Wade North told the Daily News race conditions should be near-perfect.

"Silver Star has done an excellent job in preparation for the race," he said. "I'm expecting some terrific times."

Other races are scheduled for Jan. 18 at Edmonton, Jan. 25 in Calgary, Feb. 1 at Regina, Feb. 15 in Kimberley, Feb. 22 at Big White, March 1 at Grouse Mountain, March 15 at Tod Mountain, March 22 at Calgary, and March 29 at Kimberley.

Daily News SPORTS PAGE
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EDMONTON'S Bruce Rimmer, right, and Brent Frostad, of Calgary, will be two of the skiers to beat in the Pacific Western Pro Tour Race this weekend at Silver Star. About 70 racers are expected to compete in the two-day event. The 10-race tour offers a total of $35,000 in prize money.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Coaches frustrated

There is no reward for high school coaches other than self-satisfaction in knowing they have volunteered their time to help our youth.

Often coaches become discouraged after sacrificing many of their personal hours and finding their players are not as devoted as they are or, a school administration does not support the athletic programs.

Discouragement may turn to total frustration for many coaches as the result of a recent ruling that forbids them to drive their teams to games, in busettes, owned by a non-profit teachers' society. That Labor Realtions Board (LRB) ruling makes it mandatory for students to be transported to extra-curricular activities in vehicles driven by members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Vernon Panthers' Basketball Team Coach Deloy Routley said many of the teachers are, "Downright fed up.

"The cost of using CUPE drivers is one thing but another problem is the extra time that coaches will be required to donate."

SEPARATE VEHICLES

Under the busette system, boys' and girls' teams travelled in separate vehicles, driven by their coaches. With the prohibitive cost of using a CUPE driver, the teams must travel together.

Routley said, "It means that if the girls play in Kamloops at 6 p.m. and we play at 8 p.m.; we have to leave the school at 3:30 p.m., sit through the girls' game, play, and then arrive home at about 11:30 p.m. The coaches will be putting in another full eight-hour shift."

It is estimated a high school coach spends 450 hours per season with their team. The use of CUPE drivers could increase that figure by as much as 60-70 hours.

Routley said, "Instead of moving forward, we are taking a giant step backwards. Six years ago we bought the busettes to alleviate the problems we are now faced with . . . again."

The schools' transportation budgets will not be able to handle the huge increase in costs.

The Panthers, for example, are scheduled to make 10 trips throughout the valley this season, two junkets to the Coast, and possibly another trip to the Lower Mainland if they qualify for the provincial championships.

TO COAST

"We're scheduled to go to a tournament at St. Thomas More School, in New Westminster," Routley said. "That trip will cost us $1,500 because we have to pay the bus driver $11.70 per hour. With us driving the busette, it would have cost $375."

CUPE has the school board, schools, teachers, and students over a barrel. As a result of the ruling, teachers' societies at VSSS, Clarence Fulton, and W. L. Seaton Schools have turned their busettes over to the school board. The two VSSS busettes were purchased for a total cost of $27,000. The school must now rent the busettes and pay the CUPE drivers.

VSSS, and other schools in the district, plan to live up to obligations made for the rest of the current school term. But next year, and in years to come, changes must be made.

Routley said, "When we purchased the busettes and lowered our travel costs six years ago, it enabled our school to double its number of teams and increase the number of trips each team makes.

"In the future, we'll have two choices. We'll either have to take the busette with a CUPE driver, or find an alternate form of transportation such as outside rentals. Both alternatives will necessitate cutbacks."

The ruling will entice some teachers to quit coaching, reduce the number of teams, and disappoint many students. It seems this decision has hurt the masses, to benefit a few.

Raiders record win over Lotus

National Hotel Raiders took over sole possession of first-place in the White Valley Hockey League with a 2-1 win over Lotus Gardens Wednesday night at the Lumby Arena.

Raiders have 20 points, two more than Lotus. Both clubs have played 13 games.

TOOK LEAD

National Hotel took a 1-0 lead in the first period on a goal by Jeff Shirley. Rolf Staudhammer got the winning marker for Raiders in the second period before Rick Rysz collected Lotus' only goal at 16:26, of the third period.

The teams split eight minor penalties.

Raiders' Coach Stan Hunt said, "The difference so far this season is that we can beat Lotus. We've played them four times . . . and beat them four times."

SABRES WIN

Warren Radomsky scored twice, within three minutes midway through the third period, to lead Sabres.

Gerry Boyce, Ross Mac-Dougall, and Pat Maxnuk were the other Labatt's snipers.

Barry Brewer, Kelly Kaneda, Casey Hoy, and Robin Lacroix replied for Whalers.

Sabres led 2-1 at the end of the first period and the teams were deadlocked 2-2 after 40 minutes.

26 PENALTIES

Labatt's was assessed 18 of 26 minor penalties and two gross misconducts were handed out at the end of the game.

WVHL action resumes Saturday, in Lumby, when Flying Frenchmen host Raiders. Game time is 8 p.m.

Forward returns to junior squad

Vernon Lakers' General Manager Hank Aarsen announced today forward Bruce Dougherty is rejoining the B.C. Junior Hockey League team.

Dougherty, an Enderby native, was one of Vernon's top performers early in the season prior to quitting the club in late-October.

Dougherty will not play tonight when Lakers meet the Centennials, in Merritt. However, he will be in the line-up Friday when Cents pay a return visit to Vernon.

TWO JUVENILES

Aarsen said he hopes to use two juvenile rep players tonight. "I think we'll probably be getting (Tom) DeVries and (David) Popilchak."

Meanwhile, the BCJHL has confirmed the league's annual all-star game will take place Jan. 28 at Penticton.

ALL-STARS

The game will feature all-star teams from the Coastal and Interior Divisions, which do not play an interlocking schedule.

League officials met Wednesday to discuss the withdrawal of Chilliwack Colts, from the Coastal Division, for the remainder of the season. Colts had just one win in 31 games before pulling out during the Christmas holidays.

Teams with games scheduled against Chilliwack will receive two points, a league official said, for up to five games against the Colts. The awarding of two points affects only three teams . . . Richmond, Nanaimo, and Vancouver . . . which had played only four games against Chilliwack.

COMETS WHIPPED

In BCJHL action Wednesday, Norwes Caps bombed Coquitlam Comets 20-1 before 75 fans in North Vancouver.

Todd Seminiuk led the Caps with three goals and two assists.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Slalom series gets under way

The Molson's Dual Slalom Challenge Series got under way Wednesday at Tillicum Valley Ski Area. Mountain High Ski Est. won the team event followed by Total Construction and Smitty's Pancake House. Trevor Marshall posted the fastest men's time while Molly Boyd had the best clocking among women racers.

WINTHER TRADED

Vernon's Mike Winther has been traded by Medicine Hat Tigers to New Westminster Bruins in exchange for Randy Wickware. Winther was 5th on the Tigers in scoring prior to quitting the club last week. New Westminster will be his third Western Hockey League team. He spent the 1979-80 season with Brandon Wheat Kings.

HOOP GAME

Vernon Panthers host Nelson in an exhibition basketball game tonight, at 7:30 p.m., at VSSS.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Deadline for registering in a co-ed fitness program, sponsored by the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, has been extended to Jan. 12. The classes run every Monday and Thursday, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Cost for the 20-session program is $25 per person, or $40 per couple. Registrations are accepted at the Recreation Complex.

JOIN WHITECAPS

VANCOUVER (CP) — Goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar and defender Paul Nelson will join Vancouver Whitecaps this week for the rest of the indoor season in the North American Soccer League. Both will be in the lineup Thursday in Toronto when the Whitecaps play the Blizzard.

ON FIGHT CARD

PORT ALBERNI, B.C. (CP) — Undefeated heavyweight Gord Racette of Port Alberni will fight on the undercard of the Feb. 28 heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas, the boxer said Wednesday. Racette, 18-0, said his opponent has yet to be determined.

FINED FOR ASSAULT

NICE, France (AP) — Auto racer Jody Scheckter of South Africa was fined $2,250 Wednesday and given a two-month suspended jail sentence for assaulting a man last month.

MEN'S BONSPIEL STARTS THURSDAY

The Vernon Men's Open Bonspiel gets under way Thursday at the Vernon Curling Club.

Schedules for the first four draws are:

THURSDAY, JAN. 8 — 5 P.M.
Ron Einerston (Summerland) — Jaron Paul (Enderby)
Harv Lockert — Bob Hatanaka (Salmon Arm)
Bob Reade — Randy Brown
Rick Cuckssey — Geo. Ponich (Kelowna)
Mark Longworth — Carl Hoesch
Ted Kenny — Wally Tutkaluk
Joe Puchlab — Ted Erdman
Larry Smith (Kelowna) — Frank Bird

THURSDAY, JAN. 8 — 7:30 P.M.
Nick Turik — Larry Greuther
Dan McGowan (Kelowna) — Steve Melnichuk
Blake Kimura — Doug Weatherill
Doug Spencer — Mark Ecclo (Kelowna)
Hero Vangrotel — Gene Puetz (Salmon Arm)
G. Fawdry (Kelowna) — Frank Brewer
Gord Rowland — Mel Terry
G. Borger (Kelowna) — Mark McCulla

THURSDAY, JAN. 8 — 10 P.M.
Jim MacArthur — Rick Bentley (Enderby)
Don Myler — Ben Shewaga
Doug Anderson — Andy Morrison (Salmon Arm)
Barry Dunbar — Frank Beckman
Don Matheson — Barry Amies
John Corner — Paul Gaber
Dennis Miller — Brian Puetz (Salmon Arm)
Don Jubenville — Ian McKay (Salmon Arm)

FRIDAY, JAN. 9 — 11 A.M.
Luke Gosselin — T. Torrsen (Trail)
Guy Schmialer — Rick Faunt (Trail)
S. Fraser — Dave Lovdahl (Kelowna)
Dave Pisoco (Revelstoke) — G. Wynne (Salmon Arm)
Ray Holmes — Jim Wilos (Penticton)
Dave Belway (Salmon Arm) — Darcy Monchak (Kamloops)
B. Sammartino — V. Arcuri (Trail)
Rick Cotter (Kamloops) — Wayne Pavich (Vancouver)

YBC STANDINGS

JETS	Pts	BANTAMS	
Team		Alley Cats	269
Panthers	201	Screw Balls	259
Screwballs	175	Super Sonics	251
Gutterballs	168	Pin Power	244
Pinheads	158	Flying 5	244
Lane Lions	150	Cougars	239
Cougars	150	Super Stars	212
Wildcats	141	High Rollers	201
Hot Rollers	133	Pool Rats	201
Cheerfuls	116	Hot Shots	189
Hot Shots	91	Pandandie Five	168
		Lane Lions	144

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