

KENDALL'S KORNER

Pratt likes idea of Interior loop

National Hockey League Hall-of-Famer Babe Pratt calls a proposed professional hockey league, which would be located in the B.C. Interior, "A fantastic idea."

Pratt, who travels as a goodwill ambassador for Vancouver Canucks, is in Vernon for the 10th annual Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament.

"A league in the B.C. Interior is the only way to go," Pratt said. "Vancouver's farm team (Dallas) is in first place in the Central League, and will lose \$500,000 this season. That deficit would be cut in half if the league was in B.C."

VERNON CONSIDERED

Winnipeg Jets, Edmonton Oilers and Canucks have agreed, in principle, to locating teams in the Interior. Cities discussed are possible sites include Kamloops, Trail, Kimberley, and Vernon. However, before the league can become a reality, a fourth NHL team must agree to fund a franchise.

"NHL teams in the United States aren't interested," Pratt said. "And right now, Calgary has a commitment to a Central League team. Everything depends on getting that fourth club."

"Vancouver has built a good farm system, with plenty of NHL prospects, according to Pratt.

"I just returned from a trip to the States and I'm pretty excited about what I saw," he said.

Canucks have two good college prospects, Ken Berry at the University of Denver and Doug Lidster at Colorado College. Berry, a Burnaby native, played for Canada's Olympic team in 1980. Lidster is from Kamloops.

"Berry should be an All-American... can he move?"

Pratt said. "Lidster needs to put on a little beef, but he still has two years of college eligibility left to do it."

IN DALLAS

Canucks are high on centre Art Rutland, drafted from Kitchener Rangers, of the OHA, in 1978. Rutland is starting next season," Pratt said.

Other hopefuls in Dallas include big winger Harold Philippoff, who will get a good look at training camp next year; Gary Lupul, coming off a bad leg injury which has slowed him down; and defenceman Bob Manno, an excellent puck-handler, who still has problems defensively.

Vancouver's depth doesn't end in Dallas. Pratt likes the looks of Kelly Elcomb and Rory Cava, playing with Fort Wayne, in the International League.

"That Elcomb is big and tough," Pratt said. "I saw him play two games. One night he got the winning goal and next night he got three assists and was named first star."

"Cava is 6'3" and has potential. But, he still needs some work... he isn't too mobile yet."

WILL NOT PANIC

Pratt doesn't feel Canucks will press the panic button and dip into their farm system as the result of a current slump.

He said, "Every team has a slump and we're in ours right now. Look, even Montreal had a slump, at the start of the season. We'll snap out of it."

Babe will be at the arena for the duration of the tournament, until Sunday. Say hello to the big guy... he'll probably have a great story to tell you!



VERNON FORWARD Troy Mick, right, tries to split the Nanaimo defence during the Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament action, Thursday, at the Civic Arena. Mick scored a goal, but his club dropped a 6-2 decision to the Vancouver Island club. The eight-team tournament continues to Saturday.

EIGHT TEAMS COMPETING

Nanaimo beats Vernon in pee wee tournament



Nanaimo Clippers blasted Vernon Watkin Motors 6-2 before 650 fans Thursday in the 10th annual Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament, at the Civic Arena.

Eight teams, from throughout Western Canada, are entered in the four-day event.

Tris' loss means Vernon must win its next two games, while Nanaimo loses its next two outings, for the local club to qualify for Sunday's A' final.

Scott Callow led the Nanaimo attack with two goals and two assists. Doug Finner, Kent Cookman, Chris Calverley, Gord MacDougall added singles.

Derek Webb and Troy Mick replied for Vernon.

Furlan was absolutely sensational. He made 42 saves, including 24 in the third period. He was particularly tough on Vernon forward Dennis Holland, who had a handful of shots from point-blank range.

Stopped Webb, Faganallo, a right rearguard, was given the task of stopping Webb, who had scored eight goals in an earlier game, against Estevan, Sask. He held Webb off the scoresheet until midway through the third period, when the outcome had already been decided.

The North Vancouver Island League leaders led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 4-0 after 40 minutes.

Vernon netminder Mike Sutherland made 26 saves. The clubs split 14 minor penalties.

One of the biggest differences in the game was passing while Nanaimo played sound positional hockey and worked the puck well, Vernon's players attempted to take advantage of their individual skills and were reluctant to pass.

In other games Friday: Nanaimo edged Richmond 5-4, Vernon blasted Estevan 13-2, Burnaby Winter Club mipped Medicine Hat 7-6, Fort Garry-Fort Rougeaced Prince George 6-3, and Richmond trounced Estevan 11-2.

SCORED EIGHT Along with Webb's eight goals, Holland scored twice against Estevan. Singles went to Darin Chamberlain, Steven Schroeder, and Murray Head. Schroeder also had four assists.

Most exciting game of the day featured Medicine Hat and Burnaby. Mike Joseph scored his third goal of the game, at 5:23 of overtime, to give the Coast club its victory.

33 SAVES Burnaby goalie Mike Popoue was outstanding with 33 saves, including 15 in overtime. Medicine Hat outshot their opponents 59-22.

Delenceman Mark Peterson led the Alberta team with two goals and two assists.

Round-robin play resumed today at 8 a.m. At 3:30 p.m., Burnaby meets Nanaimo, Estevan faces Prince George at 6 p.m., and Vernon tangles with Fort Garry-Fort Rouge at 8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, play again starts at 8 a.m. Vernon is slated to meet Burnaby Saturday, at 3:30 p.m.

If Vernon wins its next two games, it will be assured a berth in the final, scheduled Sunday, at 11 a.m.

The A' final will be played Sunday, at 2 p.m.

Broomball teams travel to Nelson

Three Vernon teams are entered in the Nelson Snofest Broomball Tournament this weekend.

Screaming Lizards slide into action Saturday, at 9 a.m., against Nelson.

Screaming Eagles, who recently won the Wenatchee Invitational Tournament, face defending Canadian champion Saskatoon, at 11 a.m.

Balistreri's hit the ice at 12 noon, against Quebec.

Tris' team are entered in the two-day event.

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VOLLEYBALL SCOREBOARD

SUNDAY HONEYMOONERS All Sorts 2, Strikers 1; Gordie's Mini Motors 3, Courier Action 0; Old Stylers 3, Heads Up 0; Campdown Racers 3, Dirty Deeds 1.

MAJOR WOMEN Vernon Interior Printers 2, Postville Diggers 4; Kimikos 1, VIP 1; OK Gardens 1; Kimikos 2, Postville 0; Kimikos Unknown Quality 0; Coldstream Hotel 2, Postville 0; VIP 1, Coldstream Hotel 1; Coldstream 1, OK Gardens 1; VIP 1, Unknown Quality 1; OK Gardens 2, Unknown Quality 0.

INTERMEDIATE At Seaton: Footloose 3, Sneakers 1; Fancy Free 3, Super Stars 1; Taylor Services 4, Golden Crown 1; Nolan's Drugs 2, H and L Glass 1; Colts 4, Multi Enterprises 0; Orient Express 3, Pizza Patis.

At Dogwood Gym: Dog's Ear 3, Knolls 1; Silver Six 0, O.T.L.B. 2. At OK Landing: OK College 3, Little Softies 1; Motorways 4, Jim's Motley Crew 0; Fatwith 3, Volley Dolls 1.

HAWKS STRENGTHENED Hawks strengthened their hold on first-place in the Vernon Major Men's League with a 4-3 win over Wanderers this week at Kalamalka School.

In other games, Blackcaps shutout Eagles 2-0 and Rangers beat Roadrunners 5-3.

Major Men's Volleyball League games scheduled Feb. 23, at Seaton Junior Secondary School, have been postponed to Feb. 26.

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period and Lakeside held a 4-2 lead after 40 minutes.

Laurie Osgawara scored 20 points to lead Armstrong to a 59-27 win over Palomettes in Major Women's Basketball League action this week.

Leanne Nilms added 11 points for Armstrong, Val Brewer countered with 14 for Falconettes. In another game, Yellow Submarines trounced Mark's Mothers 47-11.

Cherie Gottfriedson sunk 12 points for the Subas while Celeana Vlasveld added 11.

TO HERSEY Former Vernon junior star John Neeld has accepted a tryout offer with Hershey Bears, of the American Hockey League. Neeld was released this week by West Westminster Bruins, of the Western Hockey League, due to an apparent attitude problem.

Neeld started with the Vernon junior club in 1978-79 season here, before joining Bruins.

WOMEN'S SOCCER In Women's Indoor Soccer League action this week, Kickers blunted Rowdies 6-2 and Strikers thumped Cosmos, also 6-2.

KNIGHTS WIN Penitence Knights beat Rockets, 6-4 Thursday in a battle for first-place in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League. Knights have 61 points, two ahead of Rockets and seven ahead of Junior League Knights.

At 11 a.m. on Feb. 22, to 10 kilometers southeast of Prince George.

SKI EVENT MOVED PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. (CP) - A week of snow has forced Junior League of Snow and the Canadian cross-country ski championships, starting Tuesday and running until Feb. 22, to be moved to Mt. Manning, 100 kilometers southeast of Prince George.

SPORTS BRIEFS

WINTER CARNIVAL COP Ken Little pins a button on NHL Hall-of-Famer Babe Pratt, Thursday at the 10th annual Pee Wee Hockey Tournament. Little could have arrested Pratt for not wearing a button, but instead gave him a stern warning.

Below, Canadian Vice-chairman Patrick David, left, presents a carnival sweater to Bob Williams, in recognition of his contribution to minor hockey and the pee wee tournament.

Williams moved to Richmond last year, but returned this week to watch the tourney. (Daily News Photos)

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS Vernon Vikings are having trouble beating Vancouver Island's Vancouver Island Hockey League action in the Peach City. Prior to Tuesday's game, the Vees had lost five in-a-row and eight of their last nine.

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

CURLING CLUB NEWS BY RON HUSTON VERNON CURLING CLUB MANAGER

VALENTINE Our annual Valentine Mixed Bonspiel started last night and we have a full entry of 64 teams. Defending champ Ernie Bird has his same team back to defend their title. He will have his hands full as we have some strong line-ups in this year's event.

Tonight will be entertained by the great sound of Clippers Saturday evening Lady and the Tramps will supply great dance sounds. Hong Kong Village is catering to our banquet Saturday, at 5 p.m., and Fisher's Hardware is again supplying the prizes.

We would like to welcome back some of the line teams from Salmon Arm, Kelowna and Penticton. We hope you all enjoy your weekend.

KELOWNA LADIES SPIEL Jean Shabaski and Saura Fleming skipped teams at Kelowna last weekend. Jean, with her team of Ethel Dunn, Flo Curtis and Lou Lukinowski, won four in a row before losing out in the fourth of an event and settled for third spot.

WEEK-END SCHEDULE Our club is completely taken up by the Valentine Spiel, with the final games Sunday, at 6 p.m.

JOPO BONSPIEL This week we will have the popular Winter Carnival 4-0 Bonspiel on at lunch hours with Jamie Patterson being a capable chairman, with great support from Carol Williams and Stuart Fraser.

Lotus salvages tie with Whalers

Lotus Gardens battled to a 4-4 tie with Lakeview Whalers in White Valley Hockey League action this week at the Lumby Arena.

Rick F. Sz scored with less than two minutes remaining in the third period to salvage the tie for Lotus.

Willy Bevan, Andy Gilbert, and Wally Bevan also tallied for Lotus.

Casesy Hix, Rex Szlak, Hugh Shaw, and Al Bahr's, replied for Whalers.

Two Cougars battling for lead Statistics relayed today by the North Okanagan Hockey League show Terry Lusk of Vernon Cougars, has a two point lead over Inmate Dave C. Dow atop the individual scoring race.

Cougars have four games remaining. The statistics are:

Table with columns: TEAM, GP, W, L, T, GF, GA, Pts. Rows include Vernon Cougars, Inmate Dave C. Dow, Burnaby Cougars, and Vernon Cougars.

TOP SCORERS NAME, TEAM, GP, G, A, Pts, PIM. Rows include Terry Lusk, Inmate Dave C. Dow, Burnaby Cougars, and Vernon Cougars.

GRAND PRIX RESULTS NAME, TEAM, GP, Min, GA, Avg, Saves, Pts, PIM. Rows include Inmate Dave C. Dow, Burnaby Cougars, and Vernon Cougars.

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