

Final series starts tonight

The North Okanagan Hockey League finals get under way tonight when Grandrix Elks host Vernon Cougars at 8 p.m. in the Endury Arena.

The best-of-seven series resumes Sunday in Grandrix at 8 p.m. Third game will also be played in Vernon, Tuesday.

Cougars are heavily favored to win the NOHL title for the fourth consecutive season. However, Elks have given Vernon trouble and according to Grandrix veteran George Faragher, they may give Cougars all they can handle.

FORSCHECKING

"I think we can beat them," Faragher said. "We'll have to get good goaltending and forecheck... all the time."

Ed Forstlund will start between the pipes for Elks while Bucky Gerogletti expected to see action in either the second or third game.

Faragher said, "We'll be paying special attention to Terry Lowe's line. They are being a score a few goals, but if we can hold them down, we've got a good chance of winning."

Love and his linemates, Dave Caldwell and Les Salo set a NOHL record for most points by a forward in the series. Love scored his own scoring mark with 11 points.

Caldwell finished 25 points ahead of Elks in league standings, but Vernon coach Gary Cougars said his club won't take their rivalry lightly.

PSYCHED UP

"Grindrod always seems to get psyched up for us," he said. "We have more trouble with the Elks than any other team in the league."

In meetings this week, Grindrod managed one victory. However, three of the other games could have gone either way.

"We know we'll score goals," Swanson said. "The key for us will be defence. Finishing the games is very important against Grindrod."

Win or lose, Cougars will represent the Vernon Cougars Cup playoffs later this month. Elks did not register to compete in provincial playoffs.

BOWLERS OF THE WEEK

This week's honored bowlers are Pat McNeal, of the Wednesday 7:30 p.m. League, and Don Davis, of the Sunday 9-11 p.m. League.

Meagher leads Whalers to win

Buffalo Sabres missed the book on Rick Meagher - if there was one - and paid dearly for it Friday night.

The little scoring center from Belleville, Ont., scored two goals to double his production for the season as Hartford Whalers won the Sabres 3-1 in National Hockey League action.

The victory, at the start of a four-game road trip, ended an eight-game losing streak for Hartford.

In the only other game Friday, Mario Lesca stopped 41 shots in the Los Angeles net as the Kings defeated Colorado Rockies 4-1.

Meagher said his two goals came from "an empty net and the break that Pat Waters assisted coach Larry Pyle credited 'hard work and conditioning'."

Outshot 42 to 23 in the game, Hartford was down 3-2 at the end of the second period, having only 10 shots in the first 40 minutes.

'HAD TO SKATE'

"I had my trouble - the beginning was very rough - I got the puck too much," said Meagher. "But after that, we realized we had to skate."

Bob Miller opened the scoring late in the game, but Pat Boutelle and Don Nachbauer also scored for the Whalers, with

Swiss skater best in world

HARTFORD, Conn. (CP) - He commended a powerful athletic ability with artistic flair, twice showing the judges and the cheering crowd most of a unique manoeuvre that has become known as the Biellmann spin - one skate he spins a dizzying circle on the ice with the other.

"I think it was much better than in Innsbruck," said Biellmann through an interpreter when asked to compare her performance here to the one that won her the European championship last month. "I don't know why."

"I created gymnastics and ballet training in the last nine years for the pros that led to the stars."

SPOKE TO FATHER

"All the effort through the years is not just the world championship," said Biellmann after speaking by telephone to her father in Zurich, where she was telephoned to live in the early morning hours. "I started when I was very young."

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Saskatchewan eliminates B.C.

HALIFAX (CP) - Bob Elliott was a stranger to most of the fans when he arrived at the Canadian men's championship with his Saskatchewan team.

They were four farmers from Assiniboia with a year's experience together who had won their provincial title as underdogs.

But the Elliott rink, after its second consecutive title in the men's event, embellished its reputation Friday night with a 5-1 win over Barry McPhee's Kamloops, B.C., to eliminate another team in the battle for the championship.

It was the first of two tie-breaker games to decide third place in the competition at the Metro Centre, Saskatchewan went to round No. 2 this morning against Ontario's Ed Wernech with the winner earning a berth in "his afternoon" semifinal against Kerry Burtin of Winnipeg.

Saskatchewan was hot and cold in the round-robin portion of the 12-rink tournament. Elliott lost three of his last four games in its preliminary rounds and dropped into the tie-breaker situation when he was ousted by McPhee's Fairview, Alta., in the final game.

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For sale sign hung on Phils

The For Sale sign has been hung on Philadelphia Phillies, the reigning World Series champions, by their owner who says baseball's burgeoning free agent market is forcing him out of the business.

Calling the 1980 re-entry draft the final nail in the Phillies owner Rudy Carpenter said Friday he had thought that season would return to the free agent marketplace this winter. Instead, a wave of new set of baseball capitalists was created, led by Dave Winfield's \$1.5-million-a-year deal with the New York Yankees.

"There were discussions among my peers and I was confident that the 1980 re-entry draft would restore some sanity," said Carpenter, who signed free agent pitcher for \$2 million two years ago. "But we're off and running again."

"It's been a dramatic escalation in salaries and what I'm saying now is that enough is enough," he said.

WON'T BE CHEAP

And how much will the National League franchise cost a buyer?

"If he has to ask how much, he can't afford it."

White Carpenter was announcing his father's intention to get out of the baseball business after catcher Carlton Fisk was mulling a number of offers from other owners. Among them is a new offer from his old team, Boston Red Sox, who general manager Haywood Sullivan said, would pay "more than \$2 million, plus incentive bonus clauses."

Sullivan said the decision is up to Fisk. "Either he plays here or he doesn't. We're not going to get into a bidding war."

Meanwhile, George Steinbrenner, one of the game's big spenders, arrived in the Yankees' training camp, kept his distance from slugger Reggie Jackson, who was fined \$5,000 for being two days late. Jackson is in the final year of his contract and had hoped to work out terms for a new contract for the moment, but Jackson and Steinbrenner aren't talking.

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Bucks edge Cents in junior playoffs

Rick Norberg scored four goals, but it wasn't enough as Merritt Centennials lost 8-6 to Kelowna Buckaroos in Friday night action in B.C. Junior Hockey League Inter-Division playoff action on Friday night.

In the other game, Revelstoke Rockets beat Penttice Hawks 5-2 in a penalty-filled game at Penttice.

At Kelowna, Mike Herchak and Dan London scored for Merritt, which led 5-3 and 4-1 by periods. Merritt leads the best-of-seven semifinal 2-1. Fourth game of the series goes tonight at Kelowna.

Pat Cullen and Chris Jensen

had two goals and Mike Rousseau scored the others. Revelstoke had just scored the second of three goals at 7:30 of the second period making the score 4-0 when a bench-clearing brawl erupted. It took 30 minutes to restore order.

In all 122 minutes in penalties were handed out, including six game misconducts to Penttice and five to Revelstoke.

Murray Matheson and Barry LeCasse also scored for the Rockets. Dan Brennan and Randy Maxwell scored for Penttice.

European Soccer

LONDON (Reuters) - Results of British soccer matches played Friday:

ENGLISH LEAGUE Division II

Division I

Division II

Division III

Division IV

Division V

Division VI

Division VII

Division VIII

Division IX

Division X

Division XI

Division XII

Division XIII

Division XIV

Division XV

Division XVI

Division XVII

Division XVIII

Division XIX

Division XX

Division XXI

Division XXII

Division XXIII

Division XXIV

Division XXV

Division XXVI

Division XXVII

Division XXVIII

Division XXIX

Division XXX

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Ziegler in front after two rounds

LAURELHILL, Fla. (AP) - Jack Nicklaus surprised his fans with five strokes back of front runner Larry Ziegler, and tried to put the most positive face on things.

"I shot 73 on a bluebird day and there's still only four games from that," said Nicklaus. "I guess that's not too bad."

But Nicklaus had to work hard to find that viewpoint after Friday's second round of the 1981 U.S. Invitational golf tournament.

From a share of the first round lead, the game's greatest player suddenly ran into putting problems and meekly dropped back with a one-over-par round.

Ziegler took command with a four under par that sent him into the final two rounds with a 38-hole total of 131 - 11 under-

par on the 7129-yard Inverrary course.

He had a two-shot lead on Curtis Strange, a two-time winner last year, and a one-shot lead on par-lives on the way to a 67 that put him at 135.

Tom Weir tied a bogey-free round of 68 and was tied at 137 with Tom Purtzer, who closed up with a 69.

Nicklaus was alone in fifth at 138.

Jim Neiland of Burnaby, B.C. and Dave Barry of Kelowna B.C. were tied at 141, 11 shots behind the leader. Neiland had 71 Friday and Barry a 73.

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Division XXIII

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Division XXVII

Division XXVIII

Division XXIX

Division XXX

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Handbook settles for second-place

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) - The men's World Cup downhill title, once the exclusive property of Austria but stolen away by Switzerland's Peter Mueller the last two seasons, has been reclaimed by Austrian Harti Weirather.

In a dramatic duel with Toronto ace Steve Podorski, captured the season's World Cup downhill title in the last race of the season.

Podorski was in a position to become the first North American to win the over-all men's World Cup downhill title. But he had to finish no worse than second and Weirather had to finish behind him.

Podorski, who had some difficulties after he suffered minor injuries in a car accident two weeks ago, finished second - 28 one-hundredths of a second behind the Austrian.

Meanwhile, two teenagers served notice that the Austrian world title team remains a factor to be reckoned with despite the retirement of Friday's 19-year-old team-mate, the Silvia Durr, came in fifth.

Regin Moeslechner of West Germany was second followed by two American racers, Cindy Nelson and Beth Flanders.

WAS FIRST DOWN

Weirather, 23, won his third downhill of the season in edging Podorski, another three-race winner this year. Podorski was the first skier out of the gate and recorded a time of one minute 32.49 seconds, which appeared fast enough to stand up to all challengers.

"I was relaxed and everything went both ways," said Podorski. "I skied the way I wanted to."

"But I was just waiting for Harti to come down. I didn't really think my time would hold up."

It didn't. Weirather, the 14th skier in the starting order, finished with a blistering run of 1:32.21 in the 3.17-metre course with its 792 metres.

Weirather lay sprawled in the snow for several moments at the end of his run, apparently exhausted from the effort. Podorski was the first to reach him, and the two teenagers embraced and spoke privately for a few seconds.

"I love this kind of racing," said Podorski, 33.

"I'm not disappointed. I had a great year."

MARGIN'S POINTS

Weirather finished the

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Other Canadian women's placings: 20. Shanne Leavitt, Calgary, 1:27.85; 21. Kathy Morrison, Kimberley, 1:27.94; 22. Dianne Lahodey, Calgary, 1:28.42; 23. Kathy Morrison, Kimberley, 1:30.00; 24. Angela Gougeon, Subury, Ont., 1:30.33; 25. Lynda Robins, Toronto, 1:31.33; 26. Cathy Thurley, Ottawa, 1:31.11; and 26. Wendy Morrison, 1:32.11.

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