Cross Country Skiing

By BOB PLATT

Now it is springtime and skiers' thoughts are no longer concerned with trail conditions and what wax to use. In a few weeks there will be bare patches up on the tops and then lupins and Indian paintbrush will make a brave display.

Cross-country skiing in the Okanagan this winter was restricted, owing to fluky and unusual snowfall. The Star came through it all with flying colors. The groomer was put to good use, to pack down any sudden and heavy precipitation and this made for good skiing for people of all levels of skill. Hence the crowds seen up there each weekend.

GOOD MANNERS

It was noteworthy this season that there was a higher standard of trail etiquette and courtesy was extended to all. Dogs were rarely seen (the ranger had that problem pretty well solved) and owners mostly kept their pets in the parking lot.

WOODLAND BELL

This trail was the most popular. It was patronized by everyone, including the better qualified types. Beginners were not satisfied with a few turns around Sovereign, they soon undertook the longer journey, up through the Short Cut and back to the lake again.

It seemed to this scribe that there was much smoother travelling over all the trails, probably a combination of the excellent grooming and also skiers' awareness of the need to fill holes after a fall. However, the Staircase (a name offered for the run on Black Prince) often showed a number of craters, so many people falling and not stopping to rectify the trail damage after they regained their feet.

HISTORY MADE

An incurable romantic had his heart's desire realized when he initiated night skiing over Woodland Bell. It was proved possible to travel fast with the aid of a small lamp on the forehead and no difficulty was experienced in reading the trail. Keith Brewis got his message through to a number of people and next winter will no doubt witness more of these fireflies in action.

YUKON RACES

Congratulations to Phil Wallensteen who did well in the Citizens' 20 kilometre event at Whitehorse last weekend. Out of 194 starters, Phil came home just behind the winner.

BOWLERS OF THE WEEK

Laura Oliver, of the Wednesday 7-9 p.m. League, and Cliff Patenaude, of the Tuesday 7-9 p.m. League, are this week's honored bowlers.

Oliver rolled a three-game total of 731, 197 pins over her 178 average. Patenaude had a 737 threesome, 176 pins above his 187 average.

Weaver out again after suspension

By The Canadian Press

Earl Weaver, the volcanic manager of Baltimore Orioles, has erupted again.

Weaver, making his return from a three-game suspension, was tossed out of the game against Kansas City Royals on Thursday for arguing with umpire Mark Johnson over access to the arbitrator's lineup card.

The blowup came at the same site — Fort Meyers, Fla. — where Weaver pulled his team off the field on March 19 after arguing about the same subject. That action led to his suspension by Lee MacPhail, president of the American League.

This time Weaver departed alone, but the Royals won 4-0 as Clint Hurdle and Cesar Geronimo drove in two runs apiece. Baltimore starter Jim Palmer allowed only one run in six innings.

The Royals made several substitutions early in the game without any uproar, but Weaver approached Johnson in the eighth inning to ask for the lineup card.

FISK WORKS FAST

At Sarasota, Fla., Carlton Fisk doubled in his first at-bat for Chicago White Sox, leading them to a 6-5 victory over his old club, Boston Red Sox. Fisk was declared a free agent earlier this year.

St. Louis Cardinals beat New York Mets 3-1 as Keith Hernandez drove intwo runs and scored another. New York's Dave Kingman singled home Wally Backman with the Mets' lone run.

Rickey Henderson's three hits, two of them home runs, sparked Oakland's 17-hit attack as the A's beat Seattle Mariners 8-6. In the last two games, the Seattle pitching staff has given up 41 hits.

Clutch shot gives Mayer curling title

WINNIPEG (CP) — Alberta's Bea Mayer made the shot she badly needed Thursday night to capture the Canadian senior women's curling championship.

Mayer, a Calgary hairdresser, counted one with a superb hammer shot in the 11th end for a 9-8 victory over Nova Scotia's Marjorie Chite of Dartmouth.

The pressure win gave Mayer a 9-1 won-lost record. If Mayer had lost, there would have been a three-way playoff today to decide the title.

"You know if you win it, you've got it all, and if you don't, you have to play some more," said a happy Mayer after the 11th-round victory that wound up the week-long tournament. "We sure didn't want to play tomorrow."

"Thanks to my girls," she added, referring to third Eileen Cyr, second Leah Nate and lead Alice Vejprava.

British Columbia's Flora Martin, the defending champion, and Saskatchewan's Betty Fairweather finished tied for second place at 8-2.

The Calgary rink trailed 7-3 after seven ends but an important four-ender in the eighth tied the game and gave Mayer renewed confidence. Mayer stole one in the ninth and missed a takeout by inches in the 10th, allowing White to pick up one and tie the score at 8-8.

In the extra end, White left a rock hanging on to the back edge of the 12-foot ring. Mayer took out the rock with her hammer shot, although she said later that she felt afraid as she made the throw.

"I went for the draw with my first one and on my second one I thought that I'd given it a little less. And it just was a little less."

White, whose team has been together for only one year, had no regrets after the loss.

"I'm delighted," she said. "We tried, but we made our mistake when we let them get that four. I think I should have drawn into the back and she would have got two. But the shot I tried didn't come off."

Martin, of Victoria, had hoped to regain the championship she held for four years when she thumped Prince Edward Island's Elizabeth Macdonald 12-2. But the Alberta win put the title out of her reach.

MISSED LAST CHANCE

Fairweather, of Saskatoon, defeated Eileen Pennycook of Manitoba 8-4, although Pennycook had a chance to tie the game in the 10th end with last rock. The Winnipeg skip attempted to take out a Saskatchewan rock to count four; but instead she removed her own rock.

Pennycook finished with a 6-4 record, the same as Ontario's Barbara Baker of Toronto, who closed out with a 9-3 win in eight ends over the Territories rink skipped by Bev Reber of Whitehorse.

New Brunswick's Mildred Jones of Saint John had the bye in the final round and finished with a 5-5 record. Three rinks were next at 3-7 — Mcdonald's Charlottetown rink, Nova Scotia and Quebec's Frances Gick.

Gick, of Montreal, beat Newfoundland's Violet Pike 12-6 to leave the Grand Falls foursome in the cellar with the Territories, both at 2-8.

In 10th-round play, Alberta defeated Ontario 14-6 in nine ends, Saskatchewan thumped Newfoundland 10-1, British Columbia downed Nova Scotia 14-6, Manitoba whipped the Territories 9-2 and New Brunswick beat Quebec 7-5.

'Caps rebuilding a curious mixture

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Whitecaps have gathered a curious mixture of newcomers, veterans and holdovers for their 1981 assault on the North American Soccer League.

The Whitecaps, who rode an emotional wave to the 1979 Soccer Bowl championship, were submerged in controversy last season and fell from their throne to a .500 season.

Tony Waiters, coach two years ago, now is club president and has gone about a rapid restructuring of the Vancouver organization.

The team was called The English Mafia during better days two years ago and Waiters dipped into the British system again to come up with his assistant, Peter Bridgwater, and a new coach, Johnny Giles.

Giles, 40, is the most-capped player in Irish soccer history and was a player and coach for several English teams.

TRAINED IN U.K.

The Whitecaps trained in Ireland and England earlier in the month and their record was poor, perhaps because they were unable to handle the slow pitches. Tuesday night against New York Cosmos, however, Giles introduced his team to Vancouver fans and the players responded with an encouraging 1-0 victory over the 1980 league champions.

Giles's team showed it is concerned with attacking soccer rather than packing the defence in front of goalkeeper David Harvey.

"I don't believe in sitting back on one goal," said Giles. "We'll keep coming at teams this season and put even more pressure on them."

Defender Roger Kenyon, winger Carl Valentine and fullback Bobby Lenarduzzi remember the 1979 season when the Whitecaps enjoyed their greatest success since entering the NASL in 1973.

They also have vivid memories of last season, when so much was expected and so little delivered for the Empire Stadium crowds.

Harvey and striker Ray Hankin have been given second chances by the Vancouver management after dismal 1980 performances.

Brasar Masterton candidate

VANCOUVER (CP) — Centre Per-Olov Brasar of Vancouver Canucks has been nominated for the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy this season in the National Hockey League.

Brasar, a 30-year old native of Sweden, is in his fourth NHL season and has 19 goals and 39 assists for 58 points, one more than than he had as a rookie in 1977-78 with Minnesota North Stars.

LEAFS NIP BRUINS

Win helps Toronto bid for playoffs

By The Canadian Press

Toronto Maple Leafs are battling for a National Hockey League playoff berth, and their chances did not figure to improve against the Bruins in Boston.

Toronto had not won in its previous 12 games against Boston and had taken only one of the 24 previous contests with the Bruins. The Leafs also were winless in their previous four NHL games, the most recent a 5-2 loss at Pittsburgh on Wednesday night.

"We were probably thinking the Pittsburgh game was the game we were trying to win more because that was a team that we were close to (in the standings)," said Toronto coach Mike Nykoluk after the Leafs edged the Bruins 3-2 Thursday night. "But coming into Boston, seeing we haven't beaten Boston for a long time, I think this is going to be a big confidence-builder."

At the nine-minute mark of the third period, 1:59 after Boston's Peter McNab had tied the score, Terry Martin took a perfect pass from Wilf Paiement and scored his 20th goal of the season to give Toronto the victory.

The win increased the Leafs' points total to 65 and lifted them into a tie with Edmonton Oilers for the 16th and final playoff spot. The Oilers have a game in hand.

Washington Capitals retained a one-point edge over Toronto and Edmonton by defeating the Red Wings 2-0 in Detroit.

In the only other game, Montreal Canadiens slammed Calgary Flames 8-2.

'LIVE OR DIE'

"It's live or die," said Paiement, whose 36th goal of the season started the scoring in the first period. "We've got to go out and win every game we can."

Bill Derlago gave Toronto a 2-0 lead with his 34th goal of the season at 13:22 of the second period, then Mike O'Connell scored at 16:01.

Boston coach Gerry Cheevers said the Bruins lacked intensity and passed poorly, but added that Toronto's pesky "clutch-and-grab" tactics were effective.

The Bruins had several shots clang off the post, but praised Toronto's Jiri Crha, a hopper rather than a stand-up goaltender.

"I don't know if we underestimate goalies like that, but he certainly played well," said Cheevers, whose club outshot the Leafs 25-18.

Canadiens 8 Flames 2

In Montreal, Pierre Larouche broke out of a nine-game scoreless drought with three goals and an assist as the Canadiens buried Calgary.

Larouche credited his revival to a review of game films.

"I noticed on the film that I wasn't going close to the net as much as I used to," Larouche said after increasing his season's goals output to 33. "I was staying back, and that's not my style."

Flyers lead Knights

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. (CP) — Abbotsford Flyers took a 3-2 lead in the B.C. Junior Hockey League final Thursday by beating Penticton Knights 5-3.

Doug Hanneson scored twice for the Flyers, including the winner, while Eric Thurston, Blair Larson and Brian Inkster added single markers.

Barry Huber, Leroy Rempel and Ron Beck scored for Penticton.

The Flyers led 1-0 after the first period and the game was tied 2-2 after 40 minutes.

Flyers goalie Marty Wakelyn stopped 28 shots while Ian Wood had 38 saves in the Penticton net.

The series moves to Penticton on Saturday for game six, and, if necessary, game seven.

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