

## KENDALL'S JOURN

# Future of team remains in doubt

A meeting is scheduled tonight that could determine the future of Vernon Lakers junior 'A' hockey team.

B.C. Junior Hockey League Past-President V. Dye and Lakers' Director A. Thomas are hoping to assemble a group to rescue the financially-troubled franchise.

For the eighth time in the last nine years, the Vernon juniors lost money during the 1980-81 season. The only time in that period the team didn't operate in the red was in 1979-80 when the club took a leave of absence from the B.C. JHL.

## A DISASTER

Last season was a disaster, both on the ice and at the box office. Lakers missed the playoffs, more than a dozen players and three coaches quit, and attendance at home games barely exceeded 300 fans.

Thomas feels there is a 50-50 chance the club will continue operating.

Thomas said, "As far as I'm concerned, if enough people come forward, who are willing to put up some money, the Lakers will continue to operate next season."

"I'm willing to help out as a director and part-owner, but I'm not going to carry the entire load."



## A REALIST

Thomas is a businessman and realist. He doesn't expect to make money on his investment in junior hockey. "You can't go into a junior hockey operation with the idea of making money — you are doing a community service. If you are lucky, you'll come close to breaking even."

Local fans have been offered various brands of hockey and rejected them all. In 1974-75, Joe Tennant assembled a good squad; in 1975-76 Tennant's team set a handful of B.C. JHL records; in 1978-79 Sheldon Bloomer put together a good club with 50 per cent local players; and in 1980-81, 75 per cent of the personnel was local. Attendance was poor in each of those seasons.

## HUGE LOSSES

Thomas declined to disclose the team's operating deficit during the 1980-81 campaign, but in past years the figure has fluctuated from \$10,000 to \$35,000.

Why do owners continue beating their heads against the wall? "Because junior hockey is good for the players and the city," Thomas said.

Or in Dye's case, junior hockey gets in your blood. He has been involved with the local club more than a decade. And he is confident the Lakers will continue to operate.

"I think we'll get a group together," Dye said, "but it has to be soon. We've been approached by four men who are interested in coaching and I know there are a lot of kids who'd like to play hockey here. However, we have to act quickly or we'll lose them."

## AARSEN OUT

One man who has apparently had enough is Hank Aarsen, who acted as president and general manager last season. According to Thomas, "Aarsen has not been at any of our meetings and doesn't plan to be involved."

Men like Thomas and Dye are to be commended for wanting to keep junior hockey alive here. Hopefully, there are enough other community-minded people, willing to donate their time and money, to keep the franchise afloat.

## Daily News

# SPORTS

DON KENDALL — Sports Editor  
Phone 545-0671

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

# Honeymooners start playoffs

Honeymooners' Slowpitch League playoffs got under way Monday, with four games: B and C Forest Products beat Okanagan College 11-7, Tornadoes nipped Longhorn Balthart's 10-8, Gordie's Maui Motors defeated Cling-on Crushers 10-1, and Tigers downed Old Stylers 10-7.

In Highway 97 Men's League play this week, George's Place edged Grindrod Brewers 7-5 and 15-14 in a doubleheader.

MILLEN INKS PACT

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Anxious to shore up a porous defence, Hartford Whalers signed free-agent goaltender Greg Miller to a multi-year contract. The National Hockey League team announced Monday Miller, who was the starting goalie for Pittsburgh Penguins last season, will receive a reported salary of \$160,000 per year. Under NHL rules, Hartford must provide proper compensation to the Penguins for Miller.

EXCHANGE LINEMEN

MONTREAL (CP) — Rookie offensive linemen Greg Barrow of Montreal Alouettes have been dealt to Hamilton Tiger-Cats in exchange for veteran defensive tackle Jim Houghton, the Canadian Football League team announced Monday. The Alouettes also obtained offensive lineman Randy Fournier from Calgary.

## Spallumcheen ladies' draw

NUMBER 1 PICK  
3:30 a.m. — Travis Schmidt, Middlebrook, Man. 10-0  
3:36 a.m. — Kathleen Scher, Nell Dandley, Lillooet 10-0  
4:02 a.m. — Shirley White, Irene Harkins, Pelly 10-0  
4:40 a.m. — Diane Luckey, Marg Fickelhart, Kootenay 10-0  
5:02 a.m. — Robert Thompson, Rae Barner, Pelly 10-0  
5:04 a.m. — Freda Halland, Mary Kell, Pelly 10-0  
5:06 a.m. — Fran Lene, Ruth Valley, Pelly 10-0  
5:08 a.m. — Lynn West, Marion Stearns, Pelly 10-0  
5:10 a.m. — Rosemarie Van Pelt, Kay Coleman, Vernon 10-0  
5:12 a.m. — Ray Mayson, Audrey Harvey, Pelly 10-0  
5:14 a.m. — Vera Jensen, Pelly 10-0  
5:16 a.m. — Mary Burgess, Edna Hughes, Pelly 10-0  
5:18 a.m. — Kelly Scott, Stacey French, Pelly 10-0  
5:20 a.m. — Theresa Collins

## GOLF WINNERS

More than 80 men competed in the Gentlemen's Golf Tournament, Monday, at the Vernon Golf and Country Club. Eddie Johnstone, low net, Brian Giesbrecht, low gross with 71, and Robert Gove, winner of a \$500 coat in a draw. Randy Rota was gross runner-up while Don O'Brien placed second in net. Closest-to-pin awards went to Willy Lichtner and George Dansereau. Bill Morrison and Johnstone earned prizes for longest drives.

(Daily News Photo)

# Autosport club schedules rally

Interior Autosport Club will host a rally Friday, at 6 p.m.

The two-hour event will get under way at the Vernon Senior Secondary School parking lot.

Entry fee is \$15 per car (driver and navigator), which includes admission to a rally dance. There will be trophies for winners in three categories.

100 CARS

Club President Vince Hurst told the Daily News he is hoping for about 100 entries.

"We've run several slaloms, but this is our first attempt at a rally," Hurst said. "If the response we've heard is any indication, we should have a great turnout."

All entries must present proof of registration and insurance.

Hurst said, "We want to be sure all cars are street-legal."

DOOR PRIZES

There will be more than \$1500 in door prizes, donated by 32 local merchants, drawn for at the dance.

Pre-registration is available at Centre-Trade and Book Exchange and Brandie Realty.



VINCE HURST  
— good response



THIRTEEN CARS roared around the track last weekend at Lumby Raceways. After two consecutive rainouts, the weather cooperated and a near-capacity crowd was on hand. Below: 'B' trophy dash winner Steve Kubash, of Lumby, receives congratulations from trophy girl Debbie Seneff.

# Track record broken

A capacity crowd of about 1,000 people was on hand last Sunday for stock car racing at Lumby Raceways.

After two consecutive rainouts, the fans were treated to some exciting racing by the 13 cars on hand.

Lumby's Terry McCuskey set a track record in the second 'A' heat when he rounded the oval in 15.06 seconds.

Another Lumby driver, Steve Kubash, captured the main event.

THE RESULTS

The results were:

'A' trophy dash: Del Hibbert, Kamloops.

'B' trophy dash: Steve Kubash, Lumby.

1st 'A' heat: Art Fiset, Lumby.

2nd 'A' heat: Terry McCuskey, Lumby.

3rd 'A' heat: Pat McCuskey, Lumby.

1st 'B' heat: Steve Kubash.

2nd 'B' heat: Dave Fellingham, Lumby.

3rd 'B' heat: Art Stewart, Vernon.

WOMEN RACE

1st women's race: Verle Gertt, Vernon.

2nd women's race: Joan McCuskey, Lumby.

Mechanics' race: Robert Kennel, Lumby.

Racing resumes June 28 with the 50-lap Tri-Lake Main event and the annual Media Race.

# Colts dump Falkland

Vernon Colts strengthened their hold on first place in the Major Men's Fastpitch League with a 7-4 win over Falkland, Monday, at Alexis Park.

After a shaky start this season, the defending champions have won 10 of their last 11 games.

Falkland occupies the cellar, in the seven-team loop, with three victories, in 14 outings.

THE WINNER

Dave Jackson was the winning pitcher while Pete Huhn got tagged with the loss.

Bob Powell was the offensive star for Colts. Powell belted a triple, two doubles, a single, and knocked in one run, in four trips to the plate.

Colts led 2-1 after the fourth inning and broke the game open with five runs in the top of the fifth.

GAMES TONIGHT

League play resumes tonight with two games. At Alexis Park, second-place National Hotel meets Builders Group at 6:30 p.m.

Lumby, at 8 p.m., Royals host Colts.

## LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JUNE, 1976

Corbett family dominated the men's section of the Kalamalka Country Club Tennis Championships, which wound up this week.

Mark Corbett defeated brother Bob to capture the men's single title, while Mark and Dan Corbett combined to win the men's doubles championship.

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