

Junior improvement

Vernon may once again have a junior hockey organization it can be proud of.

Vernon Lakers came dangerously close to folding after the 1980-81 B.C. Junior Hockey League campaign. The team won only eight of 56 games, and was a dismal failure at the box office.

But, according to team president Al Thomas, "Last season is history."

Lakers have a new coach (Gord MacBeth), new general manager (Vern Dye), and a new board of directors which includes 10 owners.

Thomas said, "I wasn't interested in staying involved this year unless things were going to be different... and I think they will be."

IN TURMOIL

The club was embroiled in turmoil almost all season. Three coaches and about a dozen players quit; General Manager Hank Aarsen was suspended for two months after pulling the team off the ice during an exhibition game; the team bus was involved in an accident on the way to Merritt; there was little communication between the players and executive; and there was seldom more than 250 fans in the stands.

Thomas said, "We're starting right from scratch. Every director has a job to do... and is responsible for making sure it is done. Coaching was one of our biggest concerns and we feel we have an excellent man to fill that spot."

GOOD BACKGROUND

MacBeth has an extensive coaching background which includes guiding the Kelowna Jr. Canucks to the B.C. title. He also has experience in the BCJHL, with Merritt Centennials.

With only a minimal number of players from last year's club expected to return, MacBeth has a mammoth recruiting job. He is looking at the task as a challenge.

"My goal is for the club to be competitive," he said. "I want to be able to give any team in the league a battle, on any given night."

Director Monte Morden, who is in charge of public relations, is one of the people excited about the upcoming season.

BEST SHOT

"All we want is a chance to prove ourselves," he said. "Believe me, we'll give it our best shot."

Morden helped the club last season in an unofficial capacity. "We know there were mistakes in the past. All we can do is make sure they don't happen again."

First two major tasks facing the executive are player recruitment and a season ticket drive. MacBeth and Dye have already talked with dozens of players and plans are near completion for an aggressive ticket campaign.

If encephalitis is contagious, the Lakers' executive could cause an epidemic.



CARYN BULOCK attempts to slide into home plate as two MacBeths.

Longing players from Kelowna converge on home plate. Her Coldstream Hotel

teammate Leanne Williams who has just made it home

waits for her. Caryn was tagged out on this play although

Coldstream Hotel went on to win 13 to 4.

POSTING AN IMPRESSIVE WIN

Coldstream takes finals

Coldstream Hotel wrapped up their best of three final series with an impressive 13-4 win over Kelowna Logging, of Kelowna, in Okanagan Senior "C" Women's Fastball action.

Vernon coach Gary Corner said his team played a strong game, especially in the fifth inning, when the team scored eight runs on six hits. Elaine Walliser, who batted the entire

game, was credited with the win, while Debbie Keuhl was tagged with the loss. Coldstream took the playoffs two game straight, following a 4-3 defeat of Kelowna, Wednesday, in Kelowna. The Vernon team is entitled to go to the provincial finals for the fourth year in a row.

TOP HITTERS
Vernon's top hitters were Cheryl Smith, who hit three for four, getting two singles, one double and four runs batted in; and Sue McLennan, who also hit three for four, including two singles and the team's only home run.

Leanne Williams hit two singles during three times at bat and Elaine Walliser hit a triple, a double and batted in four runs.

The team's strength in the game, according to Corner, was the hitting, and he said the defensive play was also good. He said that the team is probably playing together better this year than last.

"I am obviously pleased with the team's performance, and now we have a series of tournaments leading up to the final in Prince George. It has been a good year," he said.

Tournament play will begin next weekend in Kimberley, then the team has one in Cranbrook. In tournament play this year the Coldstream team has won two firsts, including the tournament, and a second place finish, in the three they have played.

"We have already won more than \$900 in tournaments this

year, which really helps out. It was a real boost to win our own in terms of finances."



Summer sports clinics

Summer sports programs are gearing up at Cariboo College.

A summer sports clinic will be held from August 17 to 28, offering clinics in basketball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. The duration will be 10 days and the clinic will be offered to boys and girls from the ages of eight to 14 years.

Each participant has the opportunity to receive instruction in any or all of the sports areas offered. The charge is \$50 per camper and the final day of registration is July 20.

For more information, contact Debbie Steele, at 374-0123. Cariboo College will also be playing hockey in the coming year, and Terry Panen has been appointed coach.

A total of 16 games have been tentatively scheduled with the Albert Colleges and 20 games have been set with the British Columbia Junior Hockey League interior division.

Players interested in playing college hockey should contact Panen at 374-0123 extension 01 and leave a message. Game dates are still to be confirmed as is the home arena.

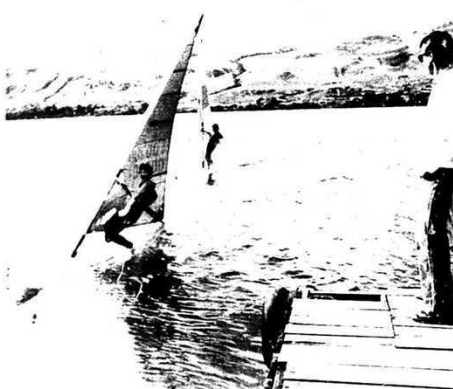
SPORTS BRIEFS

About 100 horses are expected to be on hand for Vernon Racing Days. The meet is scheduled July 17, 18, 20, 24, 25 and 27. There will be eight to 10 races daily, with the running of the Vernon Stakes slated for July 18.

WONDER
Vernon's Paul Harpnick won a water ski competition last weekend at Lake Cowichan, on Vancouver Island. He finished first overall after capturing the trick and slalom events. Harpnick will compete in the provincial finals, July 18, and 19, also at Lake Cowichan.

MEN'S SLOWPITCH
In Men's Slowpitch League action this week: Expos edged Four Seasons 7-5; Capitol Tractors defeated 35th Street All-stars by default; Killer Bees trounced Kal Tire 21-3; Denver whipped Riverside Slugs 24-11; and Esso 89 nipped JCB All-stars 15-1.

PUBLIC SKATING
There will be public skating every Sunday, starting July 19, in the Priest Valley Arena. The sessions will run from 1 to 2:30 p.m.



WITH UNUSUAL winds a simple sail becomes a launching pad for a first sailor, who is about to take a dip, has learned. He and John Trollo, background, are the organizers of the second annual Labatt's Windsurfathon and they were showing their skills to Vernon and

District United Way Chairman Ian MacLean Thursday, to whom the proceeds for the event will go. The

surfers will attempt to sail from Kelowna to the Lakeside Inn on July 18. (Daily News Photo)

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LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JULY, 1976
It isn't very often a pitcher hurts a two-hitter and loses the game 10-2. But it happened in Kamloops in the opening round of the Okanagan Senior Bats Ruth championships Friday. Vernon pitcher Gary Redman allowed only two hits and struck out five but came out on the short end of a 10-2 score against Kamloops Jay Rays.



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