

KENDALL'S KORNER

Ice time controversy



When Laurie Dignan became Vernon Minor Hockey Association's junior pup division manager this season, he knew he was going to have a busy winter.

What he didn't realize is that he was going to be in the centre of controversy about the use of ice time.

There is a debate in Vernon, and the rest of British Columbia, about how junior pups (aged 5 to 8) should use their ice time.

The B.C. Amateur Hockey Association and Vernon Minor Hockey President Ernie Kowal have suggested that junior pups practice and play their games on half-ice.

Dignan has received recommendations, but no firm policy has been established. "So, I have been trying to do the best I can," Dignan said.

RECEIVED CALL

The junior pups held their first practice on half-ice in early-November. After that workout, Dignan received a phone call from one irate father and heard through the grapevine that several other parents were upset.

"I admit that first practice, on half-ice, wasn't very well organized," he said, "but we tried it again last week and I thought it was much better. From now on, whenever possible, the kids will practice on half-ice and play games on full ice."

POSITION CLEAR

Kowal has made his position clear. "The kids should practice and play on half-ice," he said. "There is no way a 6 or 7 year old needs a full ice surface to learn the skills of hockey. I've watched junior pup games, on full ice, when a goalie or defenceman hasn't even touched the puck. With half-ice, you have twice as many kids on the ice and they get more involved with the game, or practice."

The idea of splitting ice isn't new. "When I started coaching in the early-1960's, younger boys always played on split ice," Kowal said. "In fact, I can remember times when the ice was split in three sections."

POLICY EXPECTED

BCAHA is expected to formulate a policy, perhaps as early as next season, which will instruct minor associations to use split ice for their younger players.

It makes sense. The main objective of junior pup coaches is to develop skills in their players; to develop skills, the kids need ice time; and the best way for them to get more ice time is to split the ice.

In the meantime, Dignan will continue doing what he feels is best for the kids.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1976
Tilikum Valley Ski Area will be the scene of a Team Challenge League in January. Firms and organizations are invited to enter teams in the five-week league.



VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Old Stylers captured the Sunday Honeybees Volleyball League title this week by defeating Valley Volleys and Dirty Diesel.

Team members are from left: Jim Duddle, Ken McCuskey, Brian Barton, and Bob McMullen; Janet McCuskey, Maggie Duddle, Lucy Muckle, and Sheila McMullen.

(Chris Castrow Photo)

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SANTA AT RINK

Santa Claus filled in for third Lord Udeli, on the Labatt's team, in Commercial Men's Curling League action last weekend. Santa's team-mates were from left: lead John Robinson, second Doug Butlin, and skip Percy Briggs. (Daily News Photo)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Canadians win broomball game

Canadians whipped Western Computing 4-1 in Women's Broomball League action this week. Heather Andrews scored three goals for Canadians while Kathy Trachuk added a single. Karoline Smith replied for Western. In another game, Laurie Ogawara scored to give Sunset Properties a 1-0 win over Commerce Imperials.

DOUBLEHEADER

Two games are scheduled Wednesday in White Valley Hockey League action, at the Lumbly Arena. At 7 p.m., National Hotel Raiders take on Mountain Meadow Mustangs; and at 9 p.m., Lotus Gardens meets Labatt's Sabres. Statistics released by the league today show Jeff Vest, of Lotus, leads the scoring race with 26 points, two more than Paul Inquist of Mustangs.

WINTER GAMES

Winfield men and Sicamous women have qualified to represent zone three (Okanagan) at the B.C. Winter Games, in March, at Trail. Eleven cities participated in the trials last weekend. Teams were comprised of five bowlers from different average classifications.

TEAM HANDBALL

Drop-in team handball is scheduled every Thursday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Priest Valley Gymnasium. Males and females are invited to participate. No previous experience is necessary. VSSS physical education instructor Terry White instructs the program. Cost is \$1, at the door. For further information phone 545-6035.

LANNY IS BEST

MONTREAL (CP) — Right winger Lanny McDonald of Calgary Flames, who scored three goals and added four assists in three games during the week ended Sunday, was named Monday the National Hockey League's player-of-the-week. Other can-

Vernon Lakers host their Western Hockey League affiliate Kamloops Oilers, in an exhibition game tonight, at 7:30 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Local hockey fans will have an opportunity to watch one of the greatest junior players in the world, "Niger" Jan Ludwig was assigned to Kamloops this week from the parent Edmonton Oilers.

Ludwig, 20, defected from Czechoslovakia this year. He spent two seasons in the Czech Senior League, including a three-month stint on a line with Ivan Hlinka, now with Vancouver Canucks.

ALL-STAR

At the 1970 world junior championship, Ludwig was top scorer and named to the all-star team.

Kamloops has been in a horrendous slump with 18 losses, in their last 19 games.

However, since a major shuffle two weeks ago, Oilers have been playing better. In the shake-up, rookie coach Lyle Moffatt was fired and replaced by Ron Harris, who was left without a team when Spokane Flyers folded.

Three Flyers followed Harris to Kamloops. In back-to-back games last weekend, Oilers

dropped a pair of one goal decisions to first-place Portland Winter Hawks.

HELPED WENZLEY

One player the changes have helped is Vernon Minor Hockey graduate Bob Wenzley. Wenzley has collected seven points, in two games, since being united with Steve Bull and Dean Evason, both from the defunct Spokane club.

To date, the 18-year-old winger has collected nine goals and nine assists, for 18 points.

LAKERS EXCITED

Lakers Director Morden Morden told the Daily News his club is excited about the game.

"Our players are looking at the game as a challenge," Morden said. "There hasn't been a tier one team here for several years (1976)," Morden said. "When Medicine Hat Tigers used to play in Vernon, there was a lot of interest."

Oilers, like all other WHL teams, use Cooperall uniforms. Only NHL club that wears Cooperalls, which resemble a sweatsuit, is Philadelphia Flyers.

Hotmen in third spot after recording victory

National Hot moved into third place in the Carling Valley and Armstrong are tied for first-place with 12 points.

LEADS LOCK

League scoring leader Bob Martindale led the Hotmen with 17 points. Martindale has sunk 160 points, in seven outings. Gary Hottle added 14 for National.

National now has eight points, two more than Express. Valley and Armstrong are tied for first-place with 12 points.

After dumping Westbank's George Prince 49-38, Martindale dropped a 46-45 decision to Kelowna in the semi-final.

Then in the consolation final, Puntown downed Rutland 47-36.

Martindale was named most sportsmanlike team and Rick Kaufmann earned a berth on the all-star squad.

OK Mission won its own tournament by blasting Kelowna 39-38.

Kal second in tournament

Pentlitz defeated Kalamalka Oilers, 48-38, in the championship game at the Pentlitz Junior Boys' Basketball Tournament last weekend.

Despite the loss, Lakers' Coach Jackson was pleased with his team's performance. "Due to injuries and holidays, we only had two of our starters in the final game," Jackson said. "So, it was great to get within nine points of the top team in the valley."

Pentlitz has won five consecutive tournaments.

Earlier, Kal defeated Dr. Koor, of Kelowna, 47-38, and Princess Margaret, of Pentlitz, 53-45.

Ken Zubly was Lakers' top scorer in the three games with 35 points while Don Balcombe added 33 and Stuart Graham sunk 28. Balcombe missed the final game with an ankle injury.

WONT'20

In a grade 8 round-robin tournament, Kalamalka Bruins won two games and lost one. Bruins defeated Dr. Knox 49-39 and Pitt Meadows 48-34 before losing to Pentlitz, 48-32.

Tim Teitrop was top sniper for Kal with 34 points, in three outings, while J. D. Jackson added 33.

PIN POINTS

GYM AND CLUB

DEC. 11
Women's High Single: Diane Sher, 30; High Double: Diane Falow, 16.
Men's: Mervyn, 18; Rajah Makarens, 23; High Double: Rajah Makarens, 30; High Average: Tom Wiles, 17.
Women's: Bonnie Erickson, 40; pins over 200: Rajah Makarens, 23; pins over 200: Rajah Makarens, 23; pins over 200: Rajah Makarens, 23.

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