



Young forward on a hot streak

One hockey player's milestone is often another player's bane.

Vernon Lakers' Coach Gord MacBeth juggled his lines two weeks ago when left winger Derek Walters failed to snap out of a prolonged slump. MacBeth replaced Walters with Peter Oliphant, on a line with Rob Kossan and Ron Ford.

Oliphant, who had been used as a utility player until then, has taken advantage of his chance. In the past four games, the 16-year-old Manitoba native has responded with seven points.

He credits his linemates with the recent success. "They (Kossan and Ford) are great guys to play with. My job with them is to go into the corners and work hard in front of the net. Thanks to them, I'm getting lots of scoring opportunities."

Oliphant was assigned to Lakers by his parent Kamloops Oilers. He spent the 1980-81 campaign with Comox midget rinks and is still young enough to play midget hockey this season. So far, in 27 games with Vernon, Oliphant has seven goals and 11 assists, for 18 points.

"I've never been a big goal scorer," he said. "I enjoy digging and forechecking."



PETER OLIPHANT
...on new line

MacBeth is pleased with Oliphant's performance, particularly since he was united with Kossan and Ford. "He has made the adjustment from midget to junior very well," MacBeth said. "I've noticed a tremendous improvement in Peter's all-around play since training camp."

Oliphant, like his teammates, was excited about Vernon's 6-5 victory over Oilers in an exhibition game this week.

"We've been playing well in the last few games and the win over Kamloops really gave us confidence," he said. "It was great."

FILLED HOLES

Oliphant said the recent addition of forwards Dennis O'Neill and Mark Moberg has helped Lakers get back on the right track after a five-game losing streak.

"We had a couple holes and those guys fit right in," he said. Oliphant is undecided about his hockey future. He is a grade 11 student at VSS and would like to continue his education. However, if he sticks with Kamloops next season, he is eligible for a college scholarship because tier one players are checked as semi-pros.

"It's a tough choice. I probably won't decide until next summer," he said. "If I decide to try for a scholarship, I'll return to the Lakers and finish my grade 12 here."

Lakers are back in action tonight, at home, against Merritt Centennials. Game time is 8 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

Vernon Optical Specialty captured the Monday Hockey League title this week by defeating Ducks 3-0. The Spectacles are from left: Gary Corner, Jerry Walliser, and Graham Lilburn. Syndi Prokopich, Elaine Walliser, Cindy Lilburn, and Colleen Corner. Highballers edged Bar Association 3-2 in the consolation final.

(Daily News Photo)

MEN'S CURLING

M and K still on top after second setback

Pacific Western Airlines Super Curling League teams have all played on home ice this week.

At the Vernon Curling Club, Hong Kong Village edged M and K 5-4. The Spectacles Company downed Smitty's Pancake House, 5-3. Dave Loudoun Mobile Homes defeated Happy Vineyard 5-3, and National Hotel thumped Baron Insurance 8-1, in six ends.

In Kelowna, Labatts dumped Carling O'Keefe 7-4. McDonalds beat Bob Harris Sports 6-4. NW Office Supplies whipped Gilmore Construction 9-5, and

Royal Anne Hotel nipped Petracan 7-5.

Randy Brown's M and K Ready Mix rink leads the league with 16 points, two more than Labatts, skipped by Bert Gretzinger.

Gretzinger's team has already earned more than \$40,000 in cash spoils this season.

Six teams are tied for third-place with 12 points. Three of the four games

played in Vernon went right down to the wire. Ron Houston's Hong Kong Village rink needed 11 ends to hand M and K its second setback, after eight consecutive victories.

Ships Valley Lalace, of Cattle Company, Frank Brewer, of Dave Loudoun Homes, won their games on the final rock.

No Okanagan zone playoffs get under way today, in Lumby.

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

CURLING CLUB NEWS

By RON HOUSTON
VERNON CURLING CLUB
MANAGER



XMAS PARTY AND DANCE TONIGHT

Our third annual Xmas party is on tonight in our club rooms. Music is by Dave's Band and snacks will be served throughout the evening. Our Xmas raffle draw will take place at 11:30 p.m. Anyone who still has tickets to turn in please do so today. All members are welcome; this is the time for the holiday get-together with your clubmates.

MIXED ZONE CHAMPIONS

Last weekend at Armstrong Jack Hockey and his strong team of wife Diane, Scott Pringle and Joanne Goldthorpe won five straight games to go through undefeated and advance to District playoffs at Kamloops. Good luck on your SR MENS ZONE.

At Enderby Bonnie Sammartino skipped the Vernon team to 5 straight wins after losing his first. Curling with Bonnie are John Konowalchuk, Dick Ratke and Peter Kelly. Next stop is MacKenzie in late January.

JUNIOR MENS ZONE FINALS

A big weekend in our club as six top junior mens teams from our zone compete for a trip to Kimberley and a crack at the B.C. finals. Teams entered are from our own club plus Revelstoke, Enderby, Salmon Arm and Armstrong. Draw times are Saturday 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

MENS LABATT TANKARD PLAYOFFS

Starting this afternoon and continuing through to Sunday afternoon fifteen teams from throughout the North Okanagan compete for a berth into the BCCA provincial finals at Nelson in late January. We have eight teams from our club competing and I think all teams have an equal chance of winning it all. But I can't see any team going through undefeated.

WEDNESDAY LADIES LEAGUE

Here we are roughly half way through this curling season and we have two teams fighting it out for top spot, Dorianne MacArthur and Sherry Wood are running 1 and 2 in the aggregate race with 12 and 11 points, followed by Sandy Lefebvre and Liz Edwards each with 10 points.

HOLIDAY SEASON SCHEDULE

Dec 24-25 Closed
Dec 26-27 Holy Spirit
Dec 27-29 Holy Mixed Spiel
Dec 31-2 Jan 2 Closed for holiday and ice work.

CURLING TIP — THE POSITIONS

LEAD: The first position is sometimes thought to be easy and unimportant. This view is ridiculous. The lead has the most difficult job determining draw weight since he throws the first stones each end. A good lead, while being able to draw consistently at all times, must also hit as accurately as the second. The lead will often set the complexion of an end, or an entire game by successfully completing a very delicate shot. In contrast, the lead can also change the outcome of an end by missing a shot. The most important member of all teams.

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Baron Insurance - 16 points
Spall Golf - 14
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B.J. Chicken - 10
Garden Optical - 8

Tri-Lake Lincoln - 6
Goon Hong - 6
Spekhan Carpet - 4
Willy's Motor Inn - 4

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1976

More than 200 bowlers took part in the Family Tosome Tournament on Sunday at Lincoln Lanes.

For the second time in a year, Vernon is searching for an Aquatic Supervisor. Superstar Hugh Brown recently tendered his resignation from the post.

Indoor Tennis Special

Bring in this ad and you will be eligible for an entrance fee to the Village Green Tennis Centre for \$25.00 (regular value \$200.00)

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Eight teams entered in pee wee tourney

All eight teams that will compete in the annual Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament have been confirmed. Joining the host Vernon team will be Richmond, Cowichan Valley, Port Moody, Prince George, Kamloops, Stittsville,

Park, Alta., and St. Boniface, Man. The tourney is scheduled Feb. 11 to 14, at the Civic Arena. Anyone interested in advertising in the tournament program is asked to phone George Green at 542-3381.

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For estimates 542-4807

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