

panthers win championship

Vernon Panthers set two tournament records on route to the Rutland Senior Boys' Basketball Tournament championship over the weekend.

Panthers defeated the host Rutland team 28-24 Saturday in the final establishing a record for least points allowed in the tournament, 125. In the first game of the tourney, they defeated KLO Cougars 77-39 Friday to set a record for least points allowed in one game.

Panthers advanced to the final with a 65-2 victory over fifth-ranked Kelowna Secondary.

Coach Jack Yamaoka said he expected Kelowna to be a lot tougher than it was, but knew Rutland wasn't a strong team.

"I thought we would have had much more of the game in the tournament, but I knew Rutland was the best," said Yamaoka. "This is one of the top tournaments in the valley so I'm pleased."

NAMED MVP
Yamaoka had every right to be pleased especially since centre Dale Olson and guard Kevin Burnham were named the most valuable players of the tournament while Burnham was named the all-star team.

"Olson is our star. I was really pleased with both his and Burnham's play," said Yamaoka. "Olson led the Panthers in scoring in the final game hooping 28 while Burnham sunk 13 and Kevin Kroll added 12."

Panthers continued with their fastbreak style offense in the final game, much in the same way they disposed of Kelowna in the semi-finals.

KENT BURNHAM
all-star

Yamaoka said he thought Kelowna was a fast team so he thought he'd counter that with a fast-style offense.

"Kelowna was supposed to be really quick, but our fastbreak seemed to work well again," said Yamaoka. "As long as we play well, we should be a tough team."

STRONG INSIDE
Yamaoka also said it was his team's ability to use their strength under the basket that led to the win.

"We were positioning three of

our men under the basket and the boys really played tough inside," he said. "We really killed them on the boards... I don't know what the stats were but they (Kelowna) didn't get too many rebounds."

Panthers held a half-time 25-22 and had a problem getting used to a Kelowna press in the first half.

"They tried to press us early, but after a few attempts our guards got used to it and we were okay," said Yamaoka.

"Our guys were really flying and Dale (Olson) was leading us into the fastbreak."

Kelowna's Panthers' scoring against Kelowna with 16 points while Olson had 14.

FOURTH TOURNEY
The Rutland Tournament was the Panthers' fourth tourney this season and their record stands at 11-1. But Yamaoka said he still doesn't think that's good enough to get the team ranked provincially.

"Actually, I don't really care if we get ranked or not, I hope not because sometimes that can go to a player's head if he starts thinking he is a little too good," said Yamaoka. "As long as we play well, we should be a tough team."

Panthers start league play Wednesday, in Kamloops, and open their home schedule on Jan. 14, against Rutland. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS just a second between Bruce Rimmer, left, and Kevin Hann during the first run of the final race of the Pacific Western Airlines Pro Ski Racing tour. Hann won the first run and was able to hold on in the second run to win the \$1,000 first prize. (Don Weitz Photo)

ON SILVER STAR

Hann captures ski race

By GORD SMILEY

Daily News Sports
Kevin Hann started the ski season on the right note winning the first leg of the Pacific Western Airlines Pro Ski Racing Tour at Silver Star Ski Area, Sunday.

Hann defeated Bruce Rimmer, overall champion in the PWA pro tour the past two seasons, in the finals.

In the first run of the final match-up Rimmer made a costly error near the end of the run forcing him off the course and giving Hann a 1.16 second advantage.

COSTLY SLIP
Rimmer won the second run of the finals, but only gained .791 seconds, giving Hann the win and \$1,000 in prize money. Rimmer picked up \$700 for his second-place finish.

Rimmer said of his slip, which cost him \$300, that it was just lack of concentration on his part.

"It was just lack of concentration, a small mental lapse," he said. "I just didn't extend enough and I slipped a little."

However, Hann from Banff, Alta. earned full marks for the win and was more than pleased with the victory.

"It feels great to win in the first race, it's always nice to start the season like this," Hann said. Hann said he did get a little anxious when Rimmer was ahead in the second run, but still knew he was going to pull through.

"I was a little worried when Bruce (Rimmer) was ahead in the second race, but I knew the blue course was a little faster so I wasn't too worried."

Race conditions at Silver Star weren't ideal and the course was getting rough towards the end of the run.

EATEN UP
Hann said because of the rough course, he said Rimmer, that the course was getting eaten up.

"Actually the conditions were pretty rotten, the snow was really soft and was getting rutted," he said.

Rimmer, on the other hand said he wasn't bothered by the rough course conditions or blowing snow.

Actually the conditions were better for me, a lot of the skiers like the sunshine but I like the rough course," said Rimmer. However, even with the conditions favoring Rimmer he said that in the back of his mind he didn't think he could overtake

Hann in the second run.

"Realistically no, I didn't think I could beat him after what happened in the first run, but you never really want to say that to a chance."

Hann, who finished fifth overall last season on the tour with a win in a long way away. This is only the first race of the year and there's still a long way to go," said Hann. "But I still feels nice to win, especially when you're on the podium."

PLACES THIRD
Rick Lewon, of Winfield, came third followed by Blake Anderson, of Invermere, in fourth and Brent Frostad, of Calgary, in fifth spot.

The PWA circuit is the first pro racing tour in Canada and one of the largest in the world. It has 10 events this year.

The tour, which on alternate weekends runs slalom and giant slalom races, attracts skiers from throughout Canada and the United States.

Racing resumes next weekend at Panorama Ski Area, near Invermere.

George Bust and Duane Johnson replied for Packers.

RAIDERS suffer setback
The victory leaves second-place Mountain Meadows five points behind Lotus Gardens. Raiders trail third-place Lakeland Sabres by one point.

Keith Louis and Tony Kopp scored two goals each for Raiders against Fabian Alecia, Bernie Smith and Randy Looki added singles.

Graydon Brown, with two goals, Neil Herzog, and Wayne Nuyens replied for Raiders. Dave Fish had three assists for National Hockey.

Mustangs led 2-1 at the end of the first period and 3-1 after 40 minutes.

Mountain Meadows took nine of 13 minor penalties.

League play resumes with a doubleheader Wednesday, in Lumbay. At 7 p.m., Mustangs lead Lotus and at 9 p.m., Raiders take on Sabres.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS
JANUARY, 1977
Sandy Boyd, of Tillamook Valley, was named MVP of the newly-formed Canadian Ski Area Perators Association this week.

He is also president of the Canada West Ski Association, was chosen at a meeting held in Kimberley, Oct. 19, to lead the tour of miles northwest of Toronto.

Snowaroma, sponsored by the Lion's Club and Vernon Snowboarders, will be held Jan. 31 on Silver Star Mountain. Proceeds from the 100-mile ride go to the crippled children of B.C.

Anyone wishing to make a pledge can phone 545-0771, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

McDonald's Restaurant and Vernon Curling Club have both pledged \$1 per mile, for a total of \$100.

Staff of the Daily News Sports and the Vernon Daily News have pledged \$25.

Other pledges include: a per mile basis: Heritage Realty \$24, Ron Ashurst \$24, Chris Nelson \$24, Lincoln \$24, Village Racquetball \$24, A.S. Esso \$24, Famous Players Theatre \$24, Valley Fruit Stand \$24, Mary Frisken \$24, Root \$24, Glen Claret \$24, Devoe \$24, Bill Howard \$24, Margaret \$24, Quessel \$24, Adrian Lemaire \$24, Dave Charlton \$24, Chris Finckson \$24, Dan Hays \$24, Leslie \$24, and Bob Martindale \$24.

Cougars trounce Packers

First-place Vernon Cougars dominated Kelowna Packers 6-2 Sunday, at Kelowna Memorial Arena.

Terry Lowe led the Vernon attack with three goals while Rod Katsura added a pair and Reid Beek added the red light one.

BEAT FIRST
George Bust and Duane Johnson replied for Packers.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson called it probably his team's best performance of the season. "It is a long time since we've played one of our best games," he said. "We scored one goal, our defence was outstanding, and Charlie Levesque was great."

Briskman had 27 stops for Vernon. At the other end, Steve Egeland kicked out 54 shots, including 20 in the second period.

Cougars took 13 of 23 minor penalties.

Swanson had special praise for his checking line with Katsura behind Martin Stey and John Box.

"Not only did they shut down (Rod) Danchuk's line," he said, "they got two goals of their own."

Danchuk centres Kelowna's top line with Bust and Jack Horning on the wings.

HOT ACES
Cougars return to the ice Wednesday, at 7:15 p.m., when they host Salmon Arm Aces.

Meanwhile, tickets for Vernon's game against the N.H. Old Stars, on March 5, go on sale today. Old Stars feature Eddie Shack, Derek Scuderi, Eddie Norm Ulfmann. Ticket outlets include Sun Valley Sports and Fort St. James Landing Motel.

Pledge total growing
Snowaroma \$2 pledge, on behalf of Daily News Sports and Derek Kroll, continue to pour in.

Kendall's total now stands at \$1,600.

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Vernon Daily News sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Lakers lose races in Revelstoke

Vernon Lakers dug themselves into a deeper hole when they lost to Revelstoke Rockets, 5-3, in BCHL action Saturday, in Revelstoke.

The best-laid plan spot in the Interior Division now seven points in front of fourth-place Lakers.

Lakers had 3-2 lead going into the third period, but ran into some penalty problems playing their third game when Revelstoke took the lead.

Lakers coach Gord MacBeth said he doesn't believe Revelstoke is better than the Lakers, despite the loss.

"It wasn't really Revelstoke that was giving us much of a problem, it was the ref," said MacBeth. "He called a couple of cheap penalties that really hurt us."

NEW WINGER
Inserted into the Lakers' lineup for the game was winger Rod Ramsey, brother of former Kamloops Clipper star forward Ian Ramsey.

However, MacBeth said he wasn't too impressed with Ramsey's play. "He needs to do some work yet."

"He's been away for hockey for awhile and it's going to take some time before he's really ready to play."

MacBeth said he's looking for about a year but has been on a soccer scholarship since 1971 and is 15-10. He has his team run into penalty problems as they're the least penalized team in the league.

PLAYED WELL
"We played well for two periods and had command of the game," said MacBeth. "We were never behind, but just got a little lax and they tied it up and then we ran into some trouble with the ref."

TEAMS TIED
The teams were tied at 2-2 after the first period on goals by Derek Waters and Rich Odorne. Terence Grams and Mike

Fischer in the first period. Lakers took the lead in the second period 3-2 on a goal by Gord MacBeth.

In the third, Revelstoke got goals from Doug Kowler, Randy Horvill and Daryl James with James scoring on an empty net at the 19:37 mark.

Despite the setback to Revelstoke MacBeth still said he doesn't expect to catch them and share the throne.

"They're (revelstoke) good, but they're not that good," he said. "They had excellent goaltending and we're still a little young and inexperienced."

MacBeth also said it doesn't help when new players are still coming into camp.

"Our biggest problem was we were not able to start the season," he said. "MacBeth, it's a little difficult to get a consistent line of new players in."

To try and catch Revelstoke now, MacBeth said they're going to have to knock some of the bigger clubs.

"It's not easy to do because we have some of the talent of other clubs," he said. "But we're still in fourth spot and that's a good position to be in."

Lakers record now stands at 9-19.

In their BCHL action, Cowichan Valley Capitals edged Vancouver Canucks 2-1, while Westminister Royals trounced Kamloops Clippers 7-2, Merritt Centennials defeated the Kelowna Rockets 4-2, and Abbotsford Flyers double-clipped the Penticton Panthers 4-1.

Duane Petekal led New Westminster with three goals in its win over the Clippers while Joe Lechman scored two goals. The Royals led 2-0 after the first period and 5-1 after the second. The win gave the Royals first place in the league's Coast Division.

In Merritt, Guy Lanki and Fritz Marner scored two goals each, to lead the Centennials.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball team in B.C. Games
Vernon Midget Girls' Volleyball Team has earned the Okanagan Zone berth in the B.C. Winter Games, from March 4-7, in Trail. Vernon defeated Kelowna 15-11 and 15-10 at Kamloops 15-5 and 15-8 in weekend action over the weekend. In Penticton, in the final match, the local squad defeated Kamloops 15-11 and 15-4. The Vernon team is coached by Cyndy Foster.

THREE GAMES
Three games are scheduled in Carling O'Keefe Men's Basketball League action tonight. At 7:15 p.m., Vernon will play at the Carling O'Keefe. At 7:15 p.m., Vernon will play at the Carling O'Keefe. At 7:15 p.m., Vernon will play at the Carling O'Keefe.

MOTORCYCLES
Swan Lake will be hosting two motorcycle races this month. The races are the 100-mile and the 200-mile. The races are the 100-mile and the 200-mile. The races are the 100-mile and the 200-mile.

HONEYMOONERS
In Honeymooners' Volleyball League, the 2-0 scores were: Dirty Devils 2-0, Gordo's Mini Motors 1-0, Valley Lancers 2-0, and the 2-0 scores were: Dirty Devils 2-0, Gordo's Mini Motors 1-0, Valley Lancers 2-0, and the 2-0 scores were: Dirty Devils 2-0, Gordo's Mini Motors 1-0, Valley Lancers 2-0.

STANDSTILLERS
In Standstillers' Hockey, the 2-0 scores were: Dirty Devils 2-0, Gordo's Mini Motors 1-0, Valley Lancers 2-0, and the 2-0 scores were: Dirty Devils 2-0, Gordo's Mini Motors 1-0, Valley Lancers 2-0.



TOP FOUR finishers in the Pacific Western Airlines pro ski racing event Sunday were from left, Bruce Rimmer, second; Kevin Hann, first; Rick Lewon, third and Blake Anderson, fourth. (Don Weitz Photo)

MEN'S OPEN BONSPIEL

Longworth skips rink to win

Barry Longworth proved that a lead can do more than just sweep as he skipped his rink to victory in Vernon Men's Curling Bonspiel, Sunday.

Longworth is the regular lead for the team. He decided to change things around for the bonspiel. They elected before the sport to have the lead, throw skip, second play third, the third play second and the third play lead. If they lost their first game, then they'd just rotate positions until they got things right.

As it turned out, no rotation was necessary as Longworth defeated Dan Puetz from Salmon Arm in the final game 6-5.

Longworth stole the first three ends and then kept Puetz down to one in the fourth. Longworth took one in the fifth and then gave up two in the sixth to have his lead narrowed to 4-3.

BLANKED SEVENTH
Longworth then blanked the seventh setting himself up for two in the eighth for a 6-4 lead. The Canucks' Dave turned out much better for Longworth in the ninth end forcing Puetz to one and giving himself the winner, one up coming home.

Longworth ran into some problem in the 10th allowing Puetz to set up a couple guards on front. On Longworth's first shot of the last end he was trying to take on a Puetz rock, jammed on his own leaving Puetz a chance to come in for second shot.

However, with last rock in hand and an easy shot, Longworth had to hit only one of Puetz's rocks to win. Longworth hit and rolled out, leaving Puetz with just one.

Longworth praised the whole team for the bonspiel win, especially the front end of Lafance and Mark Longworth. "With those two throwing in front of me we never did run into much trouble," said Longworth. "The whole team really played well. It was good practice for the BCCA's (B.C. Curling Association Bonspiel)."

INEXPERIENCED
Longworth did say that because he's played lead all year that he lacks experience in calling the ice.

"I never really got into any kind of trouble, but I was a little inexperienced as a skip," he said. "Wayne (Lafance) has been a skip for more experience than me as a skip, but he let me play my own game."

Longworth also said a lot of his decisions were fairly easy because of the way the team plays.

"We basically stick with a takeout style of game and just play for the other team to miss."

Meanwhile in the 'B' final, Dave Puetz of Revelstoke stole one in the tenth end to defeat Ian McKay of Salmon Arm 4-3. In the 'C' event Frank Brewer of Vernon defeated Glen Mostaf of Armstrong 9-4 in eight ends.