

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

KENDALL'S KORNER

Sports
weekend

We've got another great Daily News Sports Weekend planned for you.

This time, instead of going southwest to Vancouver, we're heading northeast to Edmonton.

In the Alberta capital we'll see Edmonton Oilers, featuring the Great Gretzky, twice.

We leave Kelowna Airport, via Pacific Western Airlines, March 12 at 1:20 p.m. That evening, Oilers host Buffalo Sabres.

The following day, we'll get an opportunity to watch Gretzky and Company meet Vancouver Canucks.

We return to the Kelowna Airport, March 14, at 3:40 p.m.

While in Edmonton, we'll stay at the Green River Motor Hotel. Total cost of the package including airfare, game tickets, accommodation, ground transportation in Edmonton, and refreshments is \$299 per person.

A SELLOUT

Every home game the Oilers play is a sell-out, so, there are only a limited number of Sports Weekend seats available.

As you probably know, Edmonton is currently the top team in the National Hockey League... and Buffalo is second.

On one weekend, you'll get an opportunity to watch Gretzky, Mark Messier, Paul Coffey, rookie sensation Grant Fuhr, Gilbert Perreault, Dale McCourt, Don Edwards, and Thomas Gradin.

To avoid disappointment, book early. For a reservation, or further information, phone Don Kendall or Bill Allum at 545-6671, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. (weekdays).

DAILY NEWS

SCOREBOARD

MAJOR MEN'S BASKETBALL	W	L	GP	PTS
Sacramento Kings	12	10	2	6
Golden State Warriors	11	11	2	5
Los Angeles Lakers	10	12	2	4
Portland Trail Blazers	9	13	2	3
Phoenix Suns	8	14	2	2
San Antonio Spurs	7	15	2	1
Utah Jazz	6	16	2	0
San Diego Clippers	5	17	2	0
Memphis Grizzlies	4	18	2	0
Atlanta Braves	3	19	2	0
Charlotte Hornets	2	20	2	0
Washington Wizards	1	21	2	0
Orlando Magic	0	22	2	0

TOP SCORERS	PTS
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LAKERS BLOW 6-3 LEAD

Merritt closes gap on Lakers



MERRITT CENTENNIALS
goaltender, Al Hrynuk,
sprawls out in his crease as
he makes a save off Vernon

Lakers forward, Richie
Ondrejo, lost the puck
to Merritt's 7-6 after hav-
ing a 6-3 lead and are now on-

ly five points up on Centennials
for the fourth and final
playoff spot in the B.C.
Junior Hockey League Inter-
division

Vernon easy winners,
one game from final

Vernon Panthers are one game from reaching the seventh annual Chimo Classic Senior Boys' Basketball tournament final after trouncing Sturgeon Creek from Winnipeg 82-60, Friday night at VSS.

In other tournament action, Friday, Princeton defeated Penitence 65-39; Killarney beat Westwood 54-32 and St. Joseph's beat by Crescent Heights.

Dale Olson led Panthers scoring with 26 points while Kevin Kroll replied with 16 as Vernon cruised to the win. Kerry Chartrand and Neil Smith had 11 and 10 points respectively.

Sturgeon kept things close in the first-half, trailing 36-27 through the contest. However, Panthers aren't known for their fast starts and waited until the second-half to get things going.

"You've got to give them (Sturgeon) credit, they came out and wanted to win," said Panthers coach Jack Yamaoka.

Yamaoka said his team could have been too excited for the game which could have been one of the reasons for their slow start.

"Because of the home crowd the guys could have been a little too up for the game," he said. But after they settled down they really played well."

Before the tournament began, Yamaoka said he wanted to make the finals. The only thing



JACK YAMAOKA
...pleased with team

between Panthers going to the finals is PRINCETON.

Princeton is one of the top ranked single A schools in the province, but Panthers would have to be favored to win.

Princeton is only carrying six players and with Panthers bench strength, Princeton could be in trouble.

"I still think it should be a good game, they're a mature team and they don't get too excited," said Yamaoka.

Yamaoka said he wanted to make the finals. The only thing

he's pleased with the way his team is doing so far.

"Overall we're having a good time. The guys are really at-tacking and putting a lot of pressure on," said Yamaoka.

"We had our fast-break going against Sturgeon and it was working well."

Princeton and Vernon meet at noon at VSS while at 1:45 Killarney and St. Joseph's battle.

This morning Westwood met Crescent Heights; Vincent Massey from Winnipeg goes against Armstrong and Penitence goes against Sturgeon Creek. In the morning contest Salmon Arm meets Cowichan.

At 12 p.m. Richmond meets KLO and at 1:45 Kamloops is up against North Kamloops, at Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary.

Consolation semi-finals go at 3:30 at VSS with the consolation finals scheduled for 7:15. Tournament final goes at 9 p.m. at VSS.

LOOK BACK
FIVE YEARS

Vernon's Paul Babiniau will be one of 12 bowlers representing the Okanagan in the provincial five-pin championships to be held April 11-11 in Surrey.



Ernie Phillips, left, and Randy Barich, World Cup Freestyle skiers, thrilled

onlookers at a ski show this week in the Village Green Mall. The two skiers

demonstrated freestyle routines on a motorized ski slope, one of only three in

Vernon Lakers Coach, Gord MacBeth is wondering what his team has to do to win a game these days.

Lakers dropped a 7-6 decision to Merritt Centennials, to move Merritt within five points of Lakers for the fourth and final playoff spot in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Inter-Division.

For the first time in games, Lakers managed a couple of powerplay goals and looked well on their way to victory, leading 6-3 with 12 minutes remaining in the game.

Paul Hiron narrowed the score to 6-4 on a Laker miss in the second and then the fireworks started.

Within six minutes Merritt had put four pucks past Laker goaltender Shawn Oswald and the game that was, wasn't.

After the game, MacBeth said he was mind boggled as to what happened to his team.

"We have command of that game, our guys were working hard, we were scoring goals, with our checking, that was one thing. We just don't have those

persistent forecheckers and skaters."

Richie Ondrejo opened Lakers scoring less than two minutes into the game while Jeff Armstrong scored the other Lakers goal in the first period. Guy Lawki scored both Centennials goals in the first and the period ended 2-2.

In the second, Dennis O'Neal, Dean Hascart and Ondrejo with his second replied for Lakers while Lawki picked up his hat-trick.

6-3 LEAD
Armstrong gave Lakers their final three goals.

6-3 lead at the 7:57 mark of the third, but from there it was all Merritt Allan Wall and Frank Bridges with two, including the winner accounted for Merritt's final three goals.

Oswald really couldn't be blamed for Merritt's onslaught of goals. He played well, at least well enough to win the game for Lakers.

"They got a couple of power play goals and sure he let a couple of bad ones in, but he only let in three goals in two and a half periods," said MacBeth. "You really can't blame him

(Oswald), we just had a weak defence."

MacBeth said he was upset that no one showed any composure when Centennials started their comeback.

"We don't have a leader, a take charge guy who can control the situation," he said.

Lakers travel to Kelowna tonight for a game with the second place Buccaneers and are home Sunday to league leading Penitence Knights.

MacBeth said he was hoping for two of three wins this weekend, but the likelihood of that happening appears slim.

"Who knows, we'll probably play good in Kelowna and beat them," said MacBeth.

In other B.C.J.H.L. action Cowichan Valley Capitals embarrassed