VERNON MIDGET Boys' Volleyball Team will be representing the Okanagan at the B.C. Winter Games, in Trail, March 4. Team members include, back row, left: Coach Ken Kereliuk, Rick Kaufman, Rob Neid and Chris Bennett. Front: Rob Gardner, Norm Morin, Frank Delen and Coach Ken Richardson. Also on the team are Bill Baron and Daryl Webster. (daily News Photo)

NOHL final series starts here tonight

Vernon Cougars host Oliver Bighorns in the opening game of the North Okanagan Hockey League championship series tonight, at 7 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Second game in the best-of-seven series will be played Thursday, in Oliver. Winner will host the Coast champion in Coy Cup playdowns, March 12-14.

TOUGH SERIES

First-place Cougars finished five points ahead of Bighorns in NOHL standings and won four of six meetings between the two clubs. However, Vernon Coach Gary Swanson said he expects a tough series.

"Oliver has a lot of guys who can put the puck in the net," he said. "We'll have to be ready for every game."

Vernon's Terry Lowe won the league scoring race with 65 points, five more than linemate Dave Caldow, who placed third. Gary Gilchrist, of Cougars, was seventh with 39 points.

IN TOP 10

Oliver placed four men in the top 10. Gerry Thygeson was fourth with 48 points followed by Doug Lawton, sixth (44); Gord McKay, eighth (39); and Brent Feist, ninth (35).

Swanson said his club's defensive play is crucial. "I know we'll score enough goals and our goalies (Ed Forslund and Charlie Brinkham) have played well all season," he said. "The key will be our play, in our end of the rink. We have to work hard . . . and hit."

Cougars will be without Gilchrist (chest), Bernie Reed (shoulder), and Rod Kashuba (mononucleosis). Gilchrist may be ready for the third game, Sunday, in Vernon.

Despite the injuries, Cougars still have enough personnel to utilize three forward lines and six defencemen. "we'll start off using everybody and see how it goes," Swanson said. "If we run into more injuries or a lot of penalties, we'll have to make some adjustments."

POWERPLAYS

Vernon will employ two different powerplay combinations, including one with rugged defenceman Dave Schneider planted in front of Oliver's net.

Swanson said, "Putting Schneider up front could create a problem for Bighorns. They'll have trouble moving him which gives us a better opportunity for deflections, screen shots, and rebounds."

Local athletes named to Winter Games team

More than 50 North Okanagan athletes, coaches, and managers will travel to Trail, March 4-7, for the British Columbia Winter Games.

Another 12 local competitors have been named to the Okanagan Zone squad as alternates.

VOLLEYBALL

Two volleyball teams top the list of local entrants. The Vernon girls' team includes: Lisa Armstrong, Terri Elliott, Sandra Eloff, Lisa Glennie, Janet Goodall, Geordy Grazier, Lisa Hague, Kathy Michaluk, Susie Osbourne, Judy Radosh, Cathy Stenhouse and Betty Wegner. Coaches are Cyril Foster and Barb Murdoch, with Tom Stenhouse acting as manager.

The boys' squad is comprised of Bill Baron, Chris Bennett, Tony Bjarnason, Frank Delene, Rob Gardner, Rick Kaufman, Norm Morin, Rob Neil, Daryl Webster, Coach Ken Richardson, and Manager Ken Kereliuk.

Three Vernon disabled athletes will be competing in wheelchair volleyball. They are Laurie Reeves, Dave Swatski, and Helmut Wolf.

WRESTLING

Six local grapplers have been named to the 16-man Okanagan contingent. Competing on the wrestling mats will be Kevin Banks, Lance Demerig, Barry Dennis, Steve Dmytriw, Drew Perry, and Kam Randkawa.

On the ski slopes, Leslie Allen, Brent Nixon, Chris Sigurdson, Robin Smith, and Coach Mike McGrath will race for this zone.

In cross-country skiing, Lisa Halsey is the only Vernon resident on the 11-member team.

Other local athletes include: Donna Hansen (judo), Brian Yakura (judo), Lloyd Duggan (bowling), John Wilson (boxing), Leeann Reimer (figure skating), Karen Shea (racquetball), Jill Zimmerman (racquetball), and Barb Walters (table tennis).

BOXING COACH

Vernon's Don McDonald will coach the Okanagan boxing team and Edna Palfrey is manager of the figure skating squad.

Team alternates include: Brian Adams (badminton), Brian O'Keefe (badminton), Murray Comley (judo), Maryon Pynvandraat (judo), Lloyd Bie (Alpine skiing), Paul Birzins (cross-country skiing), Jennifer and Joan Moncion (cross-country skiing), J. Barte (table tennis), Steve Ladd (wrestling), Grayson Moran (wrestling), and Norman Tyler (wrestling).

There will be a total of 2,250 athletes competing in 22 different sporting events.

Knights whip Lakers

Vernon Lakers felt the effects of Penticton Knights gearing up for the playoffs as Lakers were thumped 10-1, by league-leading Knights, in Penticton, Tuesday.

Knights have only lost five of 51 games all season. Lakers are currently last in the Interior Division, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, trailing Merritt Centennials by three points for the fourth and final playoff spot, with one game-in-hand.

FOUR TO PLAY

With only four games left in its schedule, Vernon has an opportunity to grab the final playoff spot. Lakers will travel to Merritt tonight and will have a return match-up with Cents, Thursday.

There's no doubt Lakers must win both games, however, if they lose tonight they're still not mathematically eliminated, depending on what happens Thursday.

Whatever the case, Lakers are not in an enviable position. They're currently riding a 19-game winless streak. The last time Lakers won a BCJHL contest was Dec. 11, when they beat Centennials 5-2, in Merritt.

Even if Vernon manages to make it into the playoffs, it must then face Penticton in a seven-game series.

Lakers Coach Gord Macbeth said Penticton was already playing like it was playoff hockey.

"They were just awesome, just unreal, they worked like it was a playoff game," said MacBeth. "Our kids worked hard, it wasn't for lack of trying that we got beat so bad."

SIMPSON HURT

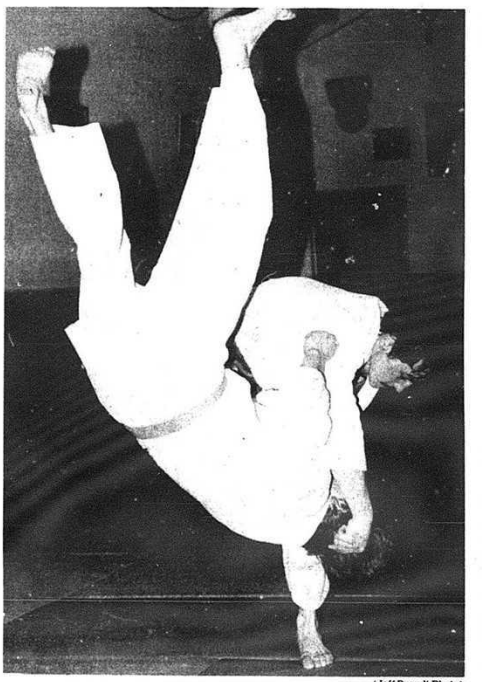
Lakers added another player to the injury list when Gord Simpson tore ligaments in his knee.

"He took a pretty rough check, came back to the bench and just slumped over," said MacBeth. "He should be out for a week to 10 days."

That leaves Lakers with just one centre, Rob Kossan. Vernon's other centres, Dean Hascarl and Heimo Brandstetter are both injured and won't see action against Merritt. Peter Oliphant is out for the year because of a broken jaw, which leaves Lakers with four injured.

Jeff Armitage was Lakers' lone goal scorer while Ray Ferraro scored two goals and added four assists in leading Knights to victory.

In other BCJHL action, Nanaimo Clippers defeated hometown Richmond Sockeyes 4-9 while Abbotsford Flyers clinched second-place in the league's Coastal Division with a 14-7 triumph over cellar-dwelling Langley Eagles, in Abbotsford.



(Jeff Brandt Photo)

OVER YOU GO!

Jacques Ricard completes a shoulder throw on Ken Walkden during a Vernon Judo Club workout this week. Local judokas are training for an important meet March 13, in Burnaby. Placings at the Burnaby tournament will be a determining factor in selection of the B.C. team, for the Canadian junior championships, in May.

Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

HORSE TALK

with Janice Neufeld

Excitement, like an electric current, charged through the Four Seasons Equestrian Centre last Sunday morning.

Hundreds of keyed-up bidders jostled in the hallways to view the dozens of thrilling stallions waiting impatiently to be displayed at Vernon's second Stallion Service Auction.

Even the loudspeakers could not compete with the challenging calls of the 32 stallions gathered in the stables. There is nothing in the animal world to compare with the charisma of the stallion. Although each one of these horses representing 14 different breeds was perfectly obedient and mannerly, the fire in their dark eyes and the defiant tosses of their heads gave unmistakable evidence of the power and pride of these fine herd sires.

When the bidding began in the arena, spectators were crammed onto the bleachers, crowded deep around the rail and even up in the rafters overlooking the ring. Stallion owners each put their horses through their paces showing their best features and traits.

SERVICE AUCTIONED

One service to each stallion was auctioned to the high bidder by Auctioneer Don Raffan after B. J. White, pedigree reader, had given a resume of each horse's accomplishments.

Mare owners who took advantage of this opportunity to purchase a breeding at bargain prices spent over $5,000.

One stallion service which wasn't a bargain was that of Wilf Wagner's quarterhorse, American Man. Someone got so enthusiastic they bid $950 which is $150 over American Man's regular fee!

The service to the Neufeld's Arabian stallion, NaMaram, was purchased by a man who became so carried away he forgot that he didn't yet own a mare! Dirjahid, owned by Bill and June Pitcher, was also bid above his regular fee.

A number of horses, most trained, were for sale after the service auction. Lots of color and action accompanied the sale and it was a real treat to be able to see some of the more unusual breeds that are being raised in this area.

The Norwegian Fjord Horse and the Austrian Haflinger are strong, hardy little fellows with very kind temperaments. The huge Belgian, Rocky Bar Sundown, tried to perform a ballet for the spectators much to the amusement of the crowd.

A wonderfuly smooth, gliding gait was displayed by the Tennessee Walking Horse, Boothill's Sundown.

The colorful stallions ranged from gleaming black to snow white. In between were the chestnuts, bays, buck-skin, grey, spotted appaloosa, golden palomino and a paint. All were beautifully turned out. This region seems to offer a great variety of breeds and types of horses for the choosing.

The event was sponsored by the British Columbia Competitive Trail Riders, who did a super job of organizing it and carrying out all the work involved. They wish to send bouquets and thank you to all who made contributions to the planning and operation of the sale.

Final registration for youth soccer

Vernon youth soccer will be holding its final registration, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Coldstream Hotel Banquet Room.

Registration is open to boys born in 1967 to 1976. Registration fees for the Fun League is $10 plus $5 for the uniform deposit. Others $20, plus a $10 uniform deposit. Uniform deposits will be returned at the end of the season.

Teams will be selected by March 13 and the leagues get underway April 1. Players will be contacted one week prior to the start of the season.

SPORTS BRIEFS.

Two games at Lumby rink

White Valley Hockey League playoffs get under way tonight, in Lumby, with two games. At 7 p.m., second-place Mountain Meadow Mustangs take on Labatt's Sabres and at 9 p.m., first-place Lotus Gardens battles fourth-place National Hotel Raiders. A double-knockout format is being used. Championship game is scheduled March 10.

Annual meeting

Vernon Motorcycle Club will hold its annual general meeting and awards night next Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Slumber Lodge Motel meeting room. The public is welcome.

In marathon

Several Vernon skiers competed in a 35-kilometre cross-country marathon, last weekend, at Lac la Jeune. Flora Wylie, Carl Wylie, Lars Taylor, Joan Moncion, Joyce Taylor, and Al Melland won gold medals in their classes. Kathleen May earned a silver medal while Heinz Mueller and Lisa Halsey brought home bronze.

Service auction

The 15th annual Stallion Service Auction, sponsored by the Pine Tree Riding Club, will be held Sunday at the KXA Grounds, in Kamloops. Public viewing is available in the morning, with the auction scheduled to start at 12 noon. About 45 services will be auctioned.

Castino signs

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — John Castino and Minnesota Twins have agreed to a new contract that may earn the third baseman an estimated $300,000.

The settlement avoided an arbitration hearing scheduled Tuesday in Chicago.

Richard throws

COCOA, Fla. (AP) -Houston Astros pitcher J.R. Richard threw an erratic 15 minutes of batting practice at the club's spring training site Tuesday as he continued his attempt to come back from a life-threatening stroke.

Player demoted

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Defenceman Alan Hangsleben of Los Angeles Kings was assigned to New Haven Nighthawks of the American Hockey League, the National Hockey League club reported Tuesday.

Hangsleben, 29, was acquired by the Kings on Jan. 4 from Washington Capitals.

Future uncertain

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Gaylord Perry, needing only three victories to become baseball's 15th 300-game winner, says he may have a better idea soon of his major-league future.

"We'll just have to wait and see in the next few days," said Perry, 43.

Wants trade

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Right winger Reggie Leach, in his eighth season with Philadelphia Flyers, has asked the National Hockey League team to trade him. Leach, 31, who has not played in five of the Flyers' last six games, joined the team in 1974-75 after 2½ seasons with California Golden Seals and scored 45 goals in his first season with Philadelphia.

Approves fight

MEXICO CITY (Reuter) — The World Boxing Council has approved a middleweight title fight between champion Marvin Hagler of Brockton, Mass., and Willie (Caveman) Lee of Detroit, the 10th-ranked challenger. The fight, promoted by Bob Arum, will be held at Bally's Park Place Hotel in Atlantic City on March 7 and will be televised by ABC.

Has new role

SUN CITY, Ariz. (AP) — Sal Bando arrived at Milwaukee Brewers' baseball spring training camp in a new role Tuesday. For the first time since he left Arizona State University and signed with the old Kansas City A's organization in 1965, Bando isn't a player. Instead, the former all-star third baseman is one of the Brewers' instructors as part of his new role as special assistant to Harry Dalton, general manager of the American League club.

Struck in head

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Rookie pitcher Andy McGaffigan was struck in the head by a thrown baseball while pitching batting practice at New York Yankees' spring training camp Tuesday. McGaffigan was not seriously injured. Pitcher Rudy May, who had sat out a workout Monday because of back spasms, threw lightly and is expected to resume throwing today.

Stuart dies

EDMONTON (CP) — Ira Gaylet Stuart, who coached Edmonton Superiors to a world amateur hockey championship in 1932-33, is dead at the age of 81.

Appoint coach

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Cosmos named Julio Mazzei interim head coach Monday and re-signed Brazilian soccer star Carlos Alberto, the North American Soccer League club announced.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY, 1977

Vernon Royals opened the Okanagan Valley senior girls' basketball championships Thursday with an impressive 57-39 victory over North Kamloops at VSSS.

First-place Panthers visit North Kamloops

Vernon Panthers will take its 8-1, first-place record into North Kamloops tonight for their final league game of the season.

Panthers clinched first-place in the north division of the Okanagan-Mainline Senior Boys' Basketball League with a 67-41 win over Salmon Arm, last Saturday, in Vernon.

Panthers' Coach Jack Yamaoka said the game against NorKam doesn't mean that much, especially since Panthers already have first-place locked up and NorKam isn't a strong team.

First on the priority list is getting the Panthers ready for the playoffs, March 4-6, in Kelowna.

Vernon will meet Okanagan Mission or Rutland in the first round of the playoffs, neither team considered a serious threat to Panthers.

Panthers home schedule is over for the year, however, they'll be hosting Okanagan College of Kelowna, in an exhibition game, March 2.

Seaton hosts tourney

Local competitors managed to walk away with two first place finishes while placing second in five events in the second annual Junior Badminton tournament, at W. L. Seaton Junior Secondary School, last weekend.

In the under 19 category, Wayne and Sonja Dalin, of Chase, won the mixed doubles with a 15-7, 15-11 victory over Ying Chen and Snez Blaskovic, of Maple Ridge.

In the boys doubles, Dalin teamed up with Colin Milledge, of Kelowna, to down Kim Dalin and Aaron Fleury of Chase, 5-15, 15-5 and 17-15.

Snez Blaskovic and Chris Pearson, of Maple Ridge, defeated Heather Chapman and Sue Schwarz, of Penticton, 15-5 and 15-5 to win the girls' doubles title.

Damian Chang, of Coquitlam, whipped Wayne Dalin in boys' singles 15-4 and 15-1.

In girls' singles Sonja Dalin defeated Sue Schwarz of Penticton 11-5 and 11-1.

UNDER 16

In the under 16 category, Ying Chen and Kathy Burrell, of Maple Ridge, downed Darryl Sochan and Donna Koch, of Vernon, in mixed doubles 10-15, 15-9 and 15-6.

In boys' doubles, John Manitoski and Troy Knox, of Penticton, defeated Ying Chen and Aladar Rathonyi of Maple Ridge, to beat Donna Koch and Coreen Wagman, of Vernon, 15-8 and 15-6.

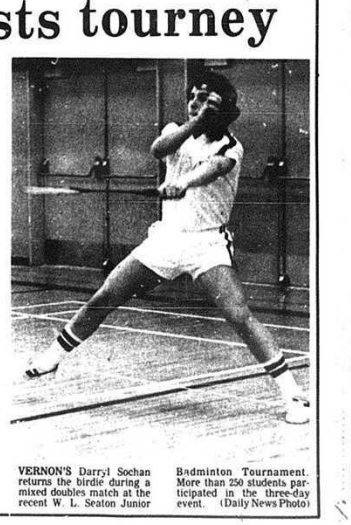
Chen won boys' singles with a 13-15, 15-2 and 15-3 victory over John Palin, of Vernon. Kathy Burrell defeated Koch in the final of girls' singles, 11-8 and 11-5.

UNDER 14

In the under 14 age category, Mike Palumbo and Sandra Wachowski, of Golden, blasted Jason Conquergood and Linda Holzaus, of Keremeos, 15-5 and 15-11 to win the mixed doubles. In boys' doubles, Brad Hansen, of Vernon, teamed with Palumbo to down Brent Land and Travis Yablonski, of Vernon, 15-3 and 15-5.

Girls' doubles winner was declared by a round-robin event so no final was necessary. Sandra Wachowski and Darlene Oppliger, of Golden, won girls' doubles while Jill Webb and Rhonda Finch of Penticton were the runners-up.

In boys' singles, Palumbo trounced Clark Johnston, of Summerland, 15-10 and 15-4 while in girls' singles, Michelle Parrish, of Vernon, edged Linda Holzhaus, of Keremeos, 12-11 and 11-5.



VERNON'S Darryl Sochan returns the birdie during a mixed doubles match at the recent W. L. Seaton Junior Badminton Tournament. More than 250 students participated in the three-day event. (Daily News Photo)