Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

GUIDE REPORT

Boating safety

By SMOKEY TRUMBLEY

Outdoor people tend to look upon water as our friend and ally, be we lake fishermen, pleasure boaters, sailors, water skiers, scuba divers, hunters, campers, photographers, bird watchers, dog trainers or you name it.

We, who love the outdoors and the freedom of expression it provides every individual who appreciates it, sometimes forget that although the proximity of water heightens the enjoyment of our cutdoor purusit, that same water is a potential killer.

We must, therefore, take positive steps toward full education of ourselves regarding general boating and water safety. Certainly a minimal percentage of accidents are going to occur, regardless of what knowledge we obtain, precautions we take, or equipment we install. One good way of educating ourselves is to enroll in the basic piloting course, sponsored annually by the Canadian Power Squadron.

Our unpredictable weather factor, as well as the ever present and constant danger from killer dead heads and low floating logs, are hazards that none of us can do anything about, except to keep a sharp lookout and try to read the weather signs on the spot. Also, try to keep up to the minute with weather broadcasts over commercial public broadcasting stations and govern your marine movements accordingly.

SELF EDUCATION

There are many things all of us can and must do to increase our knowledge of the dangers and everyday hazards of boating and all water associated activities. If you are a boater, or thinking of becoming one, try to accomplish and acquire as many of the following steps to boating safety as possible before venturing on the water for the first time.

Throughly read and understand the facts contained in the Ministry of Transport pamphlet, "Safety Afloat," available free of charge from the RCMP office, as well as at most marine retail outlets and marinas. The basic minimum legal safety requirements for all sizes of boats, as well as many distress signals and procedures are all explained there, and need no repeating in this column.

Try to equip your boat with more than lawful minimum standards regarding safety and survival equipment. By this I mean, extra flotation, extra life jackets, extra flares and rockets for night emergencies and smoke cannisters for daytime mishaps, a VHF radio or even a CB radio, extra life rings, a better than required first aid kit, (including wire cutters for removing fish hooks from flesh), a good 360 degree spotlight, anchor, a towline, a heaving line, a good portable electric torch (flashlight), key spare parts, simple tools for their replacement, and so on. The list is almost endless and it's all up to you. How much do you value your life and lives of others on board your boat?

BE PREPARED

There is one last thought I would like to leave you with before leaving water and boating safety, and that is this . . . the older I become, the more respect I have for water. Water is the ocean, our lakes, our rivers and streams, snow, ice, rain, sleet, hail, fog, cloud and steam. Water can be, and often is, a magnificent aid in outdoor recreation, but all too suddenly, water in one or more of its many forms can turn on you and become a violent killer. Not only must you respect it and acquire all the knowledge and skills required to survive its many moods, but above all else, use your common sense and think before you go near it. From the 75 year old Boy Scout motto, "BE PREPARED." Teach your children to do likewise.

BOUQUET OF THE WEEK

Goes to all Boy Scouts and their Leaders. 1982-83 is the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement.

BRICK OF THE WEEK

Goes to snowmobilers who trespass on private property without owners' permission. Such an incident was brought to the attention of the Vernon Snowmobile Association recently and they advised the property owner to post his asparagus field. Future violators will be prosecuted.

GUIDE TIP

Fans of my, "Smoke In The Country," radio program heard daily on CKAL radio will have to set their alarm clocks earlier starting Monday. The new time will be 6:55 a.m. daily.

BEST HOURS

Saturday from 1:50 to 3:50 p.m. and Sunday from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m.

BREAKS SCORING RECORD

Gretzky is the greatest

By The Canadian Press

He's no longer just the Great Gretzky. Now he's the Greatest.

The sensational Edmonton Oilers centre shattered what was thought to be one of the National Hockey League's unbreakable records Wednesday night when he scored his 77th goal of the season, obliterating Phil Esposito's record established 11 years ago with Boston Bruins.

As if the goal wasn't enough, Gretzky added two more as the Oilers beat Buffalo Sabres 6-3.

In other games, Hartford Whalers shaded Boston Bruins 4-3, New York Rangers handed Chicago Black Hawks a 6-4 setback, Minnesota North Stars outlasted Toronto Maple Leafs 7-5, Winnipeg Jets defeated Philadelphia Flyers 6-2 and Los Angeles Kings downed Detroit Red Wings 5-3.

Ever the team man (he's also got 97 assists), Gretzky's first thought when the red light went on was not about his own place in history.

"The first thing I thought was that it put us up 4-3," Gretzky, 21, said of his ice-level, 10-foot wrist shot with 6:36 remaining in the third period that beat Sabres' goalie Don Edwards.

Esposito was there to see it all happen — and to present Gretzky with the puck.

ESPO EXCITED

One of Gretzky's greatest admirers, Espo was as excited as the young Brantford, Ont., native.

"When you got it, I felt goose bumps I was so excited," he told Gretzky.

Now Gretzky can set his sights on two more once-impossible dreams — 100 goals and 200 points in a season. He's got 16 games to get the 21 goals and 21 points needed to reach those plateaus and don't think for a moment that he doesn't have a chance.

"I remember when Wayne was 14 and playing in Sault Ste. Marie," Esposito said. "My Dad saw him and told me he saw a player who will break all of my records."

And Gretzky observed: "I'm sure someday somebody will break my records."

After the game, more congratulations poured in, including a message from U.S. President Reagan, relayed to Gretzky by an NHL official.

"Congratulations on your extraordinary achievement," the message read. "The record for most goals in a season is one that many people thought would never be broken.

"Your brief National Hockey League career has already produced many record-breaking performances, but I know that this record is of special significance."

Virtually lost in the commotion was the performance of Gil Perreault of the Sabres, who scored three goals. Perreault, tabbed as the next super centre when he arrived in the NHL a dozen years ago, has 26 goals this year.

Whalers 4 Bruins 3

Russ Anderson's first goal of the season capped a three-goal, third-period rally as Hartford upended Boston and stopped a six-game losing skid.

Pierre Larouche ignited the rally with his 30th goal of the season and Chris Kotsopoulos, with his second goal of the game, tied the score with his 12th of the season at 14:26. Peter McNab, Bruce Crowder and Keith Fergus countered for the Bruins.

Rangers 6 Black Hawks 4

Dave Silk broke a 3-3 tie with his second goal of the game with 4:15 left to play and Mark Pavelich added a pair of goals later in the period to lift New York past Chicago.

Ron Duguay and Dave Maloney were the other New York marksmen. Defenceman Doug Wilson scored three times and Grant Mulvey added a single for the Black Hawks.

North Stars 7 Maple Leafs 5

Steve Payne converted Bobby Smith's pass at 10:10 of the final period for the winning goal, giving Smith a team-record 96 points this season.

Dino Ciccarelli, Tim Young, Neal Broten, Brad Palmer and Steve Christoff also scored for the North Stars.

Normand Aubin and Rick Valve, each with a pair, and Bill Derlago replied for the Leafs, who battled back to tie the game 4-4 in the second period.

Jets 6 Flyers 2

Dave Christian sparked Winnipeg with a pair of goals, both in the first period, as the Jets added to Philadelphia's woes this season.

Dale Hawerchuk, Morris Lukowich, Larry Hopkins and Lucien DeBlois added singles for the Jets, while Darryl Sittler and Tim Kerr were the Philadelphia scorers.

Kings 5 Red Wings 3

Marcel Dionne and Charlie Simmer led Los Angeles with a goal and two assists apiece as the Kings held off a stubborn Detroit team. Jim Fox, Dave Taylor and Ian Turnbull also scored for Los Angeles.

WAYNE GRETZKY . . . 79 goals

VERNON COUGARS' defenceman Bruce Green clears a loose puck from in front of netminder Charlie Briskham during NOHL playoff action Wednesday night at the Civic Arena. Briskham blocked 37 shots as Cougars blanked Oliver Bighorns 6-0. Second game in the best-of-seven series will be played tonight, in Oliver. (Daily News Photo)

Briskham posts shutout in NOHL series opener

Charlie Briskham turned away 37 shots en route to Vernon Cougars 6-0 triumph over Oliver Bighorns in the first game of the North Okanagan Hockey League championship series, Wednesday, in Vernon.

Second game in the best of seven series will be played tonight in Oliver.

Briskham turned back eight power-play opportunities by the Bighorns. On several occasions, he flopped, dropped, and did just about everything possible to disappoint Oliver shooters.

W.NNING GOAL

Vernon opened scoring at the 12:13 mark of the first period when Dave Caldow tapped in a loose rebound and that was all the Cougars needed for the win. Other Cougar goal scorers were John Box, with two, Dave Schneider, Ernie Gare and Les Salo.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson said he expected a tough series, but after the game he said he thinks his team can win four straight against Bighorns.

"If we can beat them when we go to Oliver, then I think we'll be sitting pretty good. We should be able to take them in four."

Cougars led 3-0 after both the first period and second, until Salo broke the scoring drought early in the third.

Vernon ran into some penalty problems midway through the third period, but Swanson said he wasn't worried.

"we've been killing penalties all year, we're used to them," he said.

Cougars were missing three regulars from the lineup: Gary Gilchrist (chest), Bernie Reed (shoulder) and Rod Kashuba (mononucleosis).

"We may get a couple guys back as the series progresses, so we're going to get tougher," said Swanson. "But they're (Oliver) not going to lay down and die."

THREE INJURED

With Gilchrist, Reed and Kashuba out of the lineup, Swanson said his team does miss some of the extra scoring power.

"We're giving up some pretty good scorers, but I've got to give the other guys credit, they all had a good game tonight."

Before the series, Swanson said his team's defensive play would be crucial and the message got to his players.

"We made some mistakes in our own end, but nothing that we couldn't make up for, nothing that was glaring," said Swanson. "Plus Charlie (Briskham) really deserved a shutout . . . there's no two ways about it."

DEFENCE STRONG

Cougars' defencemen played well, able to move the puck out of their end with relative ease, with sharp crisp passes.

"Our defence was strong tonight, we had a good game all the way around," said Swanson.

Vernon will return home from tonight's game to host Bighorns, Sunday, in the third game.

"If we can win Thursday, then we should be able to win Sunday and we'll be right where we want to be," said Swanson.

Winner hosts the Coast champion in a best-of-three Coy Cup series, March 12-14.

Cents dump Lakers 5-3

Vernon Lakers now have only a slim, mathematical chance of qualifying for the B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs.

Merritt Centennials overcame a 2-0 deficit to defeat Lakers 5-3, Wednesday, in Merritt.

Vernon now trails Merritt by five points in the battle for the fourth, and final, playoff berth in the Interior Division. Lakers must win their three remaining outings, including a home game tonight against Merritt, to catch the Cents.

SLIM CHANCE

"I know our chances are slim," said Vernon Coach Gord MacBeth, "but we're not going to quit."

Paul Herron led Centennials with two goals, including an empty net marker in the final minute. Frank Bridges, Barry Smith, and Harvey Makortoff also scored for Merritt.

Richie Odiorne, with two goals, and Derek Waters replied for Lakers.

Nick Kapicki, called up from the Vernon Juvenile Reps, was a standout for Lakers. He centered Vernon's best line, with Jeff Armitage and Odiorne on the wings, and collected one assist.

THREE ASSISTS

Defenceman Bob Morden also turned in a strong performance for Lakers. He cleared the puck well and collected three assists.

Lakers led 2-1 at the end of the first period and the teams were deadlocked 2-2 after 40 minutes.

MacBeth said, "I don't like to complain about the officiating, but we got jobbed. There was one point in the second period when all four of my defencemen were in the penalty box."

Despite the penalties, Vernon had ample opportunities to win the game. Rob Kossan, Armitage, and Odiorne all missed breakaways.

MacBeth doesn't plan to do anything different tonight against Centennials. "We played well enough Wednesday to win," he said, "and if we play that well again, I think we'll beat them."

Game time is 8 p.m.

Vernon's final two games are against Revelstoke Rockets and Kelowna Buckaroos.

In another BCJHL game Wednesday, Brent Gropp scored three goals to lead Penticton Knights to an 8-4 win over Revelstoke.

Penticton, which held period leads of 2-1 and 5-3, also had goals from Dave Hardie, Jim Camazzola, Randy Maxwell, Ray Perraro and Dan Brennan. Mike Stainton scored twice for Revelstoke, while Fred Bower and Les Trainor added singles.

Panthers hammer Nor Kam

Vernon Panthers blasted North Kamloops Saints 80-53 in the final Okanagan-Mainline Senior Boys' Basketball League game of the season, Wednesday, in Kamloops.

Panthers placed first in the league's north division with an 8-1 record.

Dale Olson led the Vernon attack with 24 points while Kevin Korol scored 14 and Dean Sofiak dropped in 13.

Brian Peterson replied with 23 points for Saints.

EXPLOSION

Panthers led 38-34 at half-time and exploded for 20 consecutive points in the third-quarter.

Despite the close half-time score, Vernon Coach Jack Yamaoka said the outcome was never really in doubt.

"We got in foul trouble early so I gave our starters a rest in the second-quarter," he said. "When we came back with our starting five and went to a full-court press in the third-quarter, we took control of the game."

Panthers held Saints to just two points in the third-quarter.

Vernon will host Okanagan College, of Kelowna, in an exhibition game next Tuesday, at 8 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Silver Star hosts racers

Silver Star Ski Area hosted 16 teams for an Interior Molstar Pro Race this week. Silver Star Ski School placed first in the men's division followed by Apex and Big White. In women's team race, Big White took top honors with Silver Star second and Apex third. In men's individual standings, Silver Star's Mike McGrath had the fastest time followed by Stu Green, of Apex, and Beven Howorth, of Last Mountain. Colleen Gilhooly, of Big White, was the fastest woman with Janice Harvey, of Big White, in second spot and Barb Johnston, of Apex, third.

Lumby snogolf

Snogolf will be held March 7, at the Lumby Golf Course. Registration will be at the Lumby United Church Hall, at 9:30 a.m. The event is being organized by the golf club and prizes have been donated by Lumby merchants.

Hockey school

Enderby Hockey School Manager Gord MacKintosh has announced three National Hockey League players will be guest instructors at the seventh annual school this summer. They are Keith Acton, of Montreal Canadiens; Ed Johnstone, of New York Rangers; and rookie star Ron Flockhart, of Philadelphia Flyers. The school runs from July 25 to Aug. 21. For further information phone 832-4520 or 832-7265.

Major women

In Major Women's Volleyball League play Wednesday, the scores were: Four Seasons Cement 2, Postill Diggers 0; Four Seasons 1, Vernon Interior Printers 1; VIP 2, Coldstream Hotel 0; Postill 2, Coldstream 0; Postill 1, Kal Nursery 1; Keshiki Gardening 2, VIP 0; Keshiki 2, Postill 0; Keshiki 2, Kal 0; Keshiki 2, Coldstream 0; Four Seasons 1, Kal 1.

Wins four

Thriftys defeated H and L Glass 4-0 in Women's Intermediate 'A' Volleyball League play Wednesday night. In other matches the scores were: Sight N Sound 3, Taylor Service 1; Gilbey's Girls 3, Golden Crown 1; Al's Gutter Gals 3, Peters Tirecraft 1; Downtown Realty 2, Pizza Patio 2; and Colts 3, Jokers 1.

Offer refused

MONTREAL (CP) — Gaston Gingras, Montreal Canadiens disgruntled defenceman, spurned a three-year contract offer by the National Hockey League club, his agent said Wednesday.

Alan Eagleson said he advised Gingras to turn down the offer, which included a substantial raise. Eagleson said Gingras told him several weeks ago he was unhappy about his lack of playing time and that he was concerned about his contract status. Gingras enters his option year next season.

Beck injured

NEW YORK (AP) — All-star defenceman Barry Beck of New York Rangers will miss two to three weeks with a slightly separated shoulder, the National Hockey League team said Wednesday night.

Defends title

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Carlos DeLeon retained his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title Wednesday night when the ringside physician determined a cut over challenger Marvin Camel's right eye was bleeding too heavily before the start of the eighth round.

DeLeon, 22, of Puerto Rico, who has a 30-1-1 record, won the 195-pound title from Camel (39-4-2) on Nov. 25, 1980, in New Orleans.

Super league playoffs start

Wayne Laface (OK Cattle Co.), Dan Worley (Bob Harris Sports), Randy Brown (M and K Ready Mix) and Barry Smith (Carling O'Keefe) were winners in the first playoff round of Pacific Western Airlines Inter City Men's Super Curling League, Wednesday.

Laface doubled Herb Van Grootel (National Hotel) 8-4 in Vernon; Worley beat Frank Brewer (Dave Loudoun Mobile Homes) 6-5; Brown defeated Brian Scott (Gilmour Construction) 5-2 and Smith was an upset winner over Bert Gretzinger (Labatt's) 5-3, in Kelowna.

Brown, the league's grand aggregate winner this year with a 12-5 record, will meet Worley while Laface will go against Smith next Wednesday on the A side of the draw.

On the B side Brewer goes against Scott and Van Grootel is up against this year's provincial men's runner-up, Gretzinger. All four games will be held in Vernon.

GAME TIED

Laface and Van Grootel were tied 1-1 after three ends before Laface took two in the fourth to be up by two. In the fifth, Van Grootel was facing three Laface counters with his last rock. Van Grootel needed most of the four foot to count, but was a shade heavy and allowed Laface to steal one, to be up 4-1.

Van Grootel got right back in the game in the sixth end when he hit and stuck for two. However, he was lucky to get that many. On his first shot, he flashed his takeout followed by an uncommon Laface flash. Van Grootel then was able to make the hit and stick for two.

UNSUCCESSFUL

Laface then picked up a deuce in the seventh and Van Grootel tried to blank the eighth, but was unsuccessful and ended up taking one. This left Van Grootel trailing 8-4.

In the ninth, Van Grootel needing a steal, tried to draw behind a Laface guard set up out front. He drew to the back of the 12 foot, a second counter to a Laface rock already in the eight. Laface then had a draw for two to make the score 8-4.

In the 10th, Van Grootel simply ran out of rocks to take the loss.

In Kelowna, Gretzinger had the hammer in the 10th, needing two to tie. He drew his first rock into the clean house and all Smith had to do was hit for the win, which he did.

SKIP WAYNE LAFACE, left, came out of the house to give his team-mates some sweeping assistance during PWA Super Curling League action. Wednesday, at the Vernon Curling Club. Laface's foursome defeated clubmate Herb Van Grootel 8-4. Sweeping lead Barry Longworth's rock are third Mark Longworth, centre, and second Ross Hadfield. (Daily News Photo)