

IRWIN PLACES THIRD

Canada dominates race



ROB ZIMMERMAN, of Kel Lake, pleads with the referee for a foul call while a Barriere player says, "Who

me." During the Okanagan Junior Boys' Basketball Championships over the weekend, at Kalamalka

School, Barriere, which placed third in the tourney, defeated Lakers 70-53. (Daily News Photo)

THE DAILY NEWS

Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, won the Molson World Downhill, Saturday, at Whistler Mountain. However, it was Canada's national team that stole the show.

Steve Podorski, of Toronto, led the tremendous Canadian charge down the 3,795 metre course with a second place finish in 2:15.53. Then came Vernon's Dave Irwin, in third place at 2:16.37, and Ken Reid of Calgary, in seventh at 2:16.62.

Podorski leads World Cup downhill points with 115, 36 more than Mueller and Hartl who is at third place.

MUST WIN

Weirather must win the two World Cup downhill races of the season, Friday and Saturday at Aspen, Colo., to catch Podorski in the standings.

"For Hartl to do that is going to be extremely difficult," Canadian coach John Ritchie said. "First of all, he has to beat Steve."

"Secondly he has to beat everybody else in the world. It's not an easy thing to do. I'm becoming more and more convinced that Steve will do it at Aspen."

Weirather, who became known as the grumbling,



STEVE PODORSKI ... near title

numbering Austrian, after continually complaining about the Whistler course, finished 15th.

CHANGED BOOTS
Irwin credits a change in ski boots with his best placing in 1975 when he won at the World Cup.

"I've been skiing since I was 11, but I've only changed my boots once since I changed my boots prior to the last training run at Schladming (West Germany). My new boot is finer tuned ... it gives me a better feeling for the snow

and my turns have been a lot more precise."

Irwin told the Daily News it was the most exciting day of the season for the Canadian team. "As soon as we (the Canadians) left the starting gate, people started cheering ... and it continued all the way down the course."

The Vernon skier's fine performance at Whistler was unexpected because the course was suited for gliders, and Irwin is known as a turner.

"I've got to admit, I was a little surprised," he said.

WILL RETIRE

Just two weeks ago, Irwin and another veteran member of the Canadian team, Dave Murray of Whistler, announced they will retire at the completion of the season.

"I've been on the (World Cup) circuit for 10 years and this is a great way to leave the team," Irwin said. "You never know from week to week, but I expect to be well at Aspen too. I'll know better after a training run here."

STARTED EARLY
Mueller, 24, is known for his gliding ability and he cruised over the flat portions of the Whistler course easily, winning in 2:14.58. He also had the best interval time over the tougher, higher section of the course.



DAVE IRWIN ... changed boots

Read, who had the disadvantage of starting third, vividly illustrated the team-work of the Canadians by the messaging strategy to the waiting Canadian racers at the top of the course.

"Ken told me to stay in the groove and really go for it," said Podorski, 34. "He told me everything I needed to know, he's a good man."

Ritchie said Podorski nearly fell at the top of the 40-gate course when he hooked

an edge and got off the track into soft snow.

"He went right onto the track of the course," said Ritchie. "For Steve to come second, after a mistake like that, is phenomenal."

Canada, with four racers in the top seven, got another surprise when unheralded Doug Sloan of North Vancouver, starting 38th, finished in 13th spot in 2:17.85.

Other Canadian placings included: Chris Kent of Calgary, 23rd, 2:19.00; Doug Kerr of Cranbrook, B.C., 30th, 2:19.52; Robin McIntosh of Kanata, Ont., 34th, 2:19.83; Murray, 36th, 2:19.99; Felix Belczyk of Castlegar, B.C., 37th, 2:20.04; Paul Rovin of Montreal, 43rd, 2:20.68; Jeff MacInnis of Toronto, 44th, 2:20.68; Gary Athans of Kelowna, B.C., 47th, 2:21.32; Brian Fry of Vancouver, 51st, 2:22.08; and Derek Truett of Vancouver, 52nd, 2:22.73. Bob Taylor of Vancouver didn't complete his race.

One of the biggest cheers of the day from the thousands of spectators was for Paul Mahre of White Pass, Wash., starting 58th and last, Mahre cruised down the course for a remarkable ninth-place finish. He's the younger brother of U.S. slalom and giant slalom stars Steve and Phil Mahre.

Penticton wins in junior tourney

Penticton High emerged the victors of the Okanagan Junior Boys' Basketball Championships with a 39-56 win over Okanagan Mission, Saturday night, at Kalamalka Junior Secondary School.

Penticton now advances to the provincials to be held March 11-12 in Richmond. The other team to advance to the provincials from the tournament will be decided, Tuesday, between Filton Maroons and Okanagan Mission, of Kelowna.

The tournament rules stated that the second-place team in the tournament was not guaranteed a provincial berth, they could be challenged by the third place team providing that team had not lost to the second place finishers.

Barriere finished fifth in the tournament by defeating Kalamalka Lakers 70-53. However, Barriere does not compete on a provincial level. This leaves Penticton an opportunity to challenge OK Mission for

Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor - DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Edgelow wins wrestling title

Vernon's Greg Edgelow won the 71 kilogram weight class at the British Columbia High School Wrestling Championships held over the weekend in Kamloops. Vernon finished fifth in team standings, the highest ever placed by a team from outside the Lower Mainland. Kevin Banks placed third in the 45 kg division; Barry Dennis was fourth in 54 kg; and Grayson Moran was fourth in 41 kg. Steve Dymitry, Randy Hepler, and Norm Tryer were also among the top eight grapplers in their respective divisions.

Playoffs start

Carling O'Keefe Men's Basketball League playoffs get underway tonight, at Priest Valley Gymnasium. At 7:30 p.m., National Hockey Express Conquest, and Valley faces Wheelhouse Drywall.

Honeymooners

In Honeymooners Volleyball League play Sunday, the scores were: Valley Volley 3, Sunday Smashers 0; Pterodactyls 3, The Force 1; Nomads 3, Animals 0; Gordie's Mini Motors 3, Counter Attack 0; Old Struts 3, Heads Up 0; and Dirty Diesel 3, East Hillers 0.

Club meeting

Vernon Motors Club will hold its annual meeting and awards presentation Tuesday, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union meeting room. The public is welcome.

In play ride

MAPLE RIDGE, B.C. (CP) - Ed Ventura, the best club driver of Vancouver upset top-ranked Gary Tonnies of Calgary, Bernie Sparks of North Vancouver, Glenn Hillson of Vancouver, Orest Meltesch of Winnipeg, Rick Folk of Saskatoon, Keith Switzer of Vancouver, and Jamie Sexton of Delta B.C.

Pulls upset

MONTREAL (CP) - John Picken and Joseph Brabec of Vancouver upset top-ranked Bill Cowan and Harry Fritz of Kelowna 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 Sunday in the Quebec Open doubles tennis championship.

Serves upset

The provincial championship served as a tune-up for the

First victory

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - Ayako Okamoto has trouble speaking English, but she let her putter do all the talking Sunday when she sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff with Sally Little to win a \$125,000 Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament.

Connors wins

MONTREY, Mexico (AP) - Top-seeded Jimmy Connors won the U.S. defeated South African Johan Kriek 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 Sunday to win the Monterrey and the \$60,000 first-place prize.

Will be sidelined

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Right winger Paul Holmgren of Philadelphia Flyers will be sidelined three to six weeks as a result of a collision with a goal post.

Signs contract

PORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - Catcher Rick Cerreto of New York Yankees signed a one-year contract Sunday. Cerreto made a reported \$440,000 last year and is believed to have signed for about the same amount.

Lendl captures title

GENOA, Italy (AP) - Top-seeded Ivan Lendl's blistering forward won out second-seeded John McEnroe of the United States to give the 29-year-old Lendl the title in a \$100,000 men's tennis tournament Sunday. Lendl triumphed 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 to collect a first-place prize of \$10,000.

Wins golf title

HONG KONG (Reuter) - Kurt Cox of the United States won the Hong Kong Open golf championship Sunday on the fourth extra hole in a three-way sudden-death playoff.

Maroons finish fourth

Bill Baron and Rick Kaufman won the second provincial berth, Maroons finished fourth in the tournament by defeating Kalamalka Lakers 49-43, in the consolation final.

Barriere wins

Barriere won the consolation side after taking a 57-55 loss to Kalamalka. Coach Dave Jackson, "they had us down 12-2 and we fought back and then at three-quarter time we were down 45-34 and fought back again. Then when 11 seconds left we took a charging foul and got it back to 10-10."

Lost squeaker

Kalamalka had an opportunity to advance to the final game, but dropped a 5-32 decision to OK Mission.

NAMED MVP

McKay earned most valuable player honors with 90 points in his three games, named to the first all-star team. He also was named MVP of Penticton; Reid, of OK Mission; Don Currie and Kai Wood, of Barriere; and Kipman of Penticton.

Johnson, of Penticton, and

Lorne Babluk and Richard Johnson, of Kalamalka, were named to the second team, along with Greg Wood, of McNichol Park, and Tony Chisholm, of Brocklehurst.

OLIVER BIGHORN'S Jerry

Thygeson tried to stiff the puck in the first period, but Vernon Cougars netminder Charlie Briskman, during 19th play action Sunday night at the Civic Centre, blocked the shot.

COUGARS LEAD SERIES

Vernon Cougars scored four consecutive goals in the second period to tie the game. Briskman made 41 saves, including 21 in the first period when his club was assessed a power play. The Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson said, "There is no doubt about it, Charlie kept in and we were down three or four goals in the first period. The stocky goalie has now limited Bighorns to just two

goals, in two full games.

Terry Lowe and Marty Stein scored two goals each for Cougars while Wayne Dye added a single.

Jerry Thygeson and Gord McKay applied for Oliver.

TWO LEADS

Thygeson put Bighorns in front, at 17:00 of the first period, when he deflected a shot, on the penalty.

In the second period, Dye tied the game at 2:32 when he tapped a pass from Ernie Gyle past Oliver netminder Dennis Ewanichuk. Seven minutes later, Stein put Cougars in front to start.

THROUGH LEGS

Lowe scored twice, but before the period ended, McKay narrowed the gap when he took a shot from Thygeson, who was positioned behind the net.

Stein killed Oliver's come

back hopes when he blasted a

shot between Ewanichuk's legs, midway through the third period.

Ewanichuk also played well in five steps, including 20 in the Cougars took 15 of 22 minor penalties, one of two fighting majors, and one of two game misconducts.

AME PLAN

Vernon defenceman Murray Batty and Oliver's Dan McKay broke out at any time, the teams settled down and played fast, hard-hitting hockey.

TWO REBOUTS

Swanson said his club followed its game plan. "We have to play aggressive ... it's our style. When we're hitting, we take control of the game."

On the other hand, Swanson didn't feel his club deserved nine consecutive penalties. "Oliver isn't a tame hockey team," he said. "They did some high sticking and slashing too."

THE FIRST PERIOD

After the first period, when it appeared a donnybrook could break out at any time, the teams settled down and played fast, hard-hitting hockey.

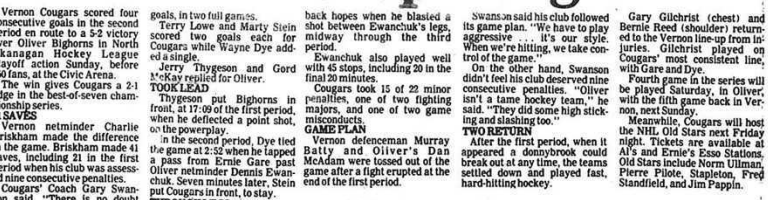
Bighorns 5-2, to take a 2-1

lead in the final series. Preventing Thygeson from

circling the net is Vernon

defenceman Lyle Brewer. (Daily News Photo)

Briskman stops Bighorns



Royals qualify for hoop finals

Junior club humiliated in final game of year

Lakers had a home game

scheduled with Revelstoke Tuesday, but it has been cancelled since it will not reflect league standings.

Buckaroos scored three goals

in a span of 22 seconds en route to their win. Dan Nugent led the Bucks' attack with three goals. Target Raby and Greg Adams each scored twice.

At one point in the second-half

of the season, Lakers were battling Revelstoke for third spot. Merritt didn't seem to be any threat. But at Macbeth's 1:39, followed by another Merritt win over Lakers, 6-4, Feb. 11, gave the incentive they needed.

INJURIES

In the Jan. 29, Lakers blew a 6-3 lead going into the third period. If Lakers had won that game, it could be Vernon starting a best-of-seven playoff series with Penticton Knights. Tuesday instead of Merritt.

ROCKETS WIN

In other B.C. action, Mike Stalton scored three goals to lead visiting Revelstoke to an 8-5 victory over Merritt in one of three games, Sunday.

In other games, Cowichan

Valley downed Nanaimo 6-1 and New Westminster beat Richmond 4-2.

ON SATURDAY

Westminster trounced the Clippers 10-1 at Nanaimo, and the Bruins beat the Cougars 4-2. In a sudden-death overtime, Cowichan Valley downed Langley Eagles 6-3 in Duncan.

Vernon Royals earned a berth

in the B.C. Senior Girls' Basketball Tournament with a 66-59 win over Kamloops Red Angels in Okanagan-Mainland League playoffs, Saturday in Kamloops.

Royals had an opportunity

to grab a spot in the provincial tournament, Friday, however Arm Jewells, forcing Vernon to do the hard way.

Number one ranked girls

team in the province, Penticton Lakettes, also gained a berth in the tournament with a 61-51 win over Kamloops Friday. At the provincial tournament, March 19-21 in Penticton, Lakettes will meet Stevenson, Salmon Arm is up against Prince George, and Royals battle Hillside.

TOUGH GAME

In their previous two outings against Kamloops, Royals were winners, but by slim margins. Vernon Cougars coach said he knew the game was going to be tough especially with Angels having the home-court advantage.

They definitely needed

one, it was a very close but managed to pull it off.

Royals had built up a 35-25 lead in the second half-time. However, with two minutes remaining, Vernon was in a bonanza situation which it used to an advantage.

"They (Kamloops) tried for a

couple of turnovers which turned

into fouls and we won a couple of foul shots to give us the win."

The loss to Salmon Arm was a disappointing one in the playoffs, and it couldn't have come at a more inopportune time for the Royals.

"The girls were feeling pretty

low after that loss and I really didn't know who was going to win. They were in for the Kamloops game. But the girls did it, I was pleased with their performance."

SCORED 21

Lynn Zwarych had 21 points for Royals while Lori Elliott, hopped 14.

It was nice to have our big girls back in the game scoring some points."

Kamloops would use a press

against Royals to try to cause turnovers.

"We talked about that before the game and we broke it down one time, that was one thing; that was what we were going to do. We probably got it done."

Royals now are preparing for the provincials, working on old plays and developing a few new ones.

"We're not going to totally

rework our system. I'm going to throw in a few things because we're not really playing the way we should be."