

Royals meet Hillside at provincial tourney



Vernon Royals travel to Pentticon, Wednesday, to compete in the B.C. Senior Girls Basketball Tournament, which runs until Saturday.

Royals earned the right to go to the tournament by defeating Kamloops Red Angels 66-59, in Okanagan-Mainline League playoffs Feb. 27, in Kamloops.

Royals finished the regular season with an 8-2 record, good for second place. The only two losses they suffered were at the hands of first-place, and undefeated, Pentticon Lakeside. Pentticon is the number one ranked team in the province and is heavily favored to win the title.

At one point in the season, Royals were ranked number two in the province. Vernon is also the team which came closest to defeating Pentticon, losing by one point.

PLAYS HILLSIDE

Royals will be up against Hillside in their first game, Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Vernon Coach Andy Gilbert said he knows the title about Hillside.

"I really don't have much to compare them with," he said. "I know Westminister was number one in Vancouver, and Steveston was fourth and Hillside was in between so they must be good."

Royals have had a week and a half off since their victory over Kamloops and have used the



LYNN ZWARVICH
...key players

time for light workouts. "As long as we're in the gym shooting balls and keeping sharp, that's the main thing," said Gilbert. "We've put in a couple new things both offensively and defensively, but we haven't changed anything basic."

"It's a little late for that," he said. "I know the team was shattered somewhat during the league playoffs when they lost their opening game to Salmon Arm Jewells. The victory insured Salmon Arm of a berth in the provincial tournament, while Royals had to do things the hard way. In the previous two outings, Vernon was four point



LORI ELLIOTT
...for Royals

winners over Salmon Arm and the loss, Gilbert said the girls were feeling down.

GOOD PRACTICE

"Now we've had a good week of practice and I think the girls are feeling good, of course we haven't changed anything basic there," said Gilbert. "I think we're pretty confident for Wednesday's game, we're just going to take the tournament one game at a time."

If Royals manage to make it to

the final, they would probably have to play Pentticon for the provincial title. Pentticon has lost only twice all season, to two teams in the U.S.

"I think everyone is of the opinion that Pentticon is number one and everyone else is second," said Gilbert. "They're (Pentticon) very impressive, well coached and always well prepared."

INEXPERIENCED

This is the first provincial basketball tournament for the entire Vernon team, a factor which could hurt them in the long run.

"None of the girls have been before, so I'm not sure how they'll react to the pressure," said Gilbert. "Some girls have competed before, provincially, volleyball-wise, which is better than no experience at all. I think if the girls have some experience in pressure situations then it should help."

If Royals are going to be successful at the tournament, they are going to need big games from their two top scorers and rebounders, Lori Elliott and Lynn Zwarvich.

"We'll definitely need some big games from those two, we'll need good games from everyone," he said. "It's going to be a tough tournament."

ENDERBY WOMEN'S BONSPIEL

Jackie Rubner and second Karen Sutton. B event winner, top right, was the Eileen Whitehead rink of Sicamous. Back row, third Doris MacNeill and skip Whitehead; front, lead Nancy Van Gilder and second Joan

Williamson. C event winner, bottom left, was the V.I. Blake rink, of Armstrong. Back row, third Maudie Gemmill and skip Blake; front lead Dale Vesty and second Nicole Bieker. D event

winner was the Joyce Case rink, of Enderby. Back row, third Mary Abbott and skip Dale and second Marie Stickland.

(Daily News Photos)



Vernon
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sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

Walker tops in marathon

Irene Walker, of Vernon, won the scratch event in the sixth annual women's 12-Game Bowling Marathon last weekend, at Lincoln Lakes.

Walker had a 12-game total of 2393 and won \$175. Runner-up Corrie Lyles, of Enderby, took home \$150 for her 2383 total. Third place went to Agatha Raymond, of Salmon Arm, with 2447. She won \$125.

Raymond was followed by Carol Wendel, of Vernon, 2353 (\$100); Doris Whittle, of Kelowna, 2349 (\$75); and MacKenzie, of Vernon, 2383 (\$50).

In the handicap competition,

Lyles won \$175 with a 2384 total. Marie Holec, of Salmon Arm, placed second with 2381. Holec earned \$150. MacKenzie placed third with 2383 (\$125), followed by three other Vernon bowlers: Joan Allen rolled 3149 (\$100); Carol Morneau 3120 (\$75); and Sandy Krause 3113 (\$50). High block awards and \$15 went to Lyles 3143, Walker 3082, and Raymond 3060.

Prizes of \$10 for high singles went to Lyles 312 and 307. Holec 317, Lorraine Stalder 303, Fendel 301, Walker 302 and 310, Edie McNeil 299, MacKenzie 312, Morneau 303, Raymond 342, and Allen 300.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local skier wins money

Vernon native Terry Watts earned \$150 prize money at the Pacific Western Airlines Fro Tour Ski Race last weekend at Tod Mountain, near Kamloops.

Watts was among 16 skiers to qualify for Sunday's final round. In the next three weeks, he will compete in a PWA race at Fort St. John, near Calgary; a Peugeot Series slalom in Washington State; and a speed race in Leavenworth, France.

Major men

In Major Men's Volleyball League playoff action Monday, the scores were: Spikers 2, Boomers 0; Golden Road 2, Dynamo 1; National 2, Golden Crown 1; and National 2, Spikers 1.

Playoff game

Undeclared Mountain Meadow Mustangs take on Lotus Gardens in White Valley Hockey League playoff action Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Lumby Arena. If Lotus wins, the decisive knockout playoffs will continue Monday, with the same teams meeting again to decide the league champion.

Honeymooners

In Honeymooners' Volleyball League action Monday, the scores were: Third Wave 2, Darts 0; Vernon 2, Boomers 1; Third Wave 2, Duck Soup 2; Duck Soup 2, Big Ballers 2; Spectacular Spikers 0; Boomers 2; Spikers 0; Vernon 2, Big Ballers 0.

Coach fired

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Cavaliers coach Chuck Daly was fired Monday after leading the team to just nine victories in 40 games.

Sotaert honored

MONTREAL (CP) — Goalie Bob Sotaert was named the Winnipeg Jets, who stopped 133 shots while recording four victories in the National Hockey League's playoff for the period ending March 7.

Sotaert's goalkeeping led the surprising Jets to victories over

Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit and Vancouver as Winnipeg climbed to second place in the Norris Division. The Jets won just nine games last season.

To Quebec

NEW YORK (AP) — Left winger Pat Hickey was sent Monday to Quebec Nordiques by the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League to compete in a Jan. 4 trade that sent forward Robbie Florek to the Rangers. In the original trade, the Rangers sent right winger Jean Talbot and left winger Jere Gill to the Nordiques, but Talbot retired. The teams agreed to arbitration by NFL president John Ziegler to conclude the deal.

Wins again

NEW YORK (AP) — George Gervin of San Antonio Spurs, who scored 50 points in a record-setting 71-minute victory last Saturday over Milwaukee Bucks, including 24 points in the three overtime periods, was named Monday the National Basketball Association's MVP of the week for the period ending March 7. Gervin, also honored for the periods ending Dec. 7 and Jan. 4, becomes the first player to win three times in one season in the three-year history of the award.

Joins Leafs

TORONTO (CP) — Toronto Maple Leafs have acquired defenseman Mike McNeil from Detroit Red Wings for future considerations, the National Hockey League team announced Monday. Korn has played 56 games, scoring a goal and adding eight assists and 104 penalty minutes.

Wins award

NEW YORK (AP) — Sebastian Coe was named Monday the winner of the Owen J. Owens International Amateur Athletic Award. The British runner, who holds world records for 600 metres, 1000 metres, 1500 metres, will be honored at a dinner in New York on March 18.



TROPHY GALLERY'S Kelly Olson goes high in the air to knock a pass away from Randy Matheson, right, during Carling of Keefe Basketball League playoff action Monday, at the Priest Valley

Gymnasium. Olson scored 18 points to lead Gallery to a 71-59 win over Athletics. Armstrong and Gallery will meet in next Monday's championship game. (Daily News Photo)

Gallery rallies to nip Athletics

Trophy Gallery overcame a 14-point deficit to edge Sun Valley Athletics 71-59 in Carling of Keefe Basketball League semi-final action Monday, at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. In the other semi-final, first-place Armstrong Hotel triumphed over Express 78-57.

TOOK LEAD

Athletics, who lost only three of 15 games during the regular season, led 49-32 at half-time. Early in the second half, they stretched that margin to 46-32.

Kelly Olson led the Trophy Gallery comeback with 18 points while Mike Kornos added 16. Lorne Hanson and Ed Waterhouse scored 10 points apiece.

Morris Varley was top sniper for Sun Valley with 18 points while Bob Shannon swished 15. Gallery was able to stop Athletics' two big men inside. Rene Delotto, who stands 6'7" and Matt Trimble, at 6'5", were held to seven and six points respectively.

In the other game, after taking a 16-6 lead, Armstrong never allowed Express to narrow its gap to less than 10 points.

LED ARMSTRONG

Mike McKay led Armstrong's attack with 18 points while Duncan McDonald dropped in 17 and Tony Wolcott added 12. Marv Prinsen replied with 15 points for Express while Rick Wilson and Bob Williamson added 14 points apiece. Championship and consolation games are scheduled next Monday.

KENDALL'S KORNER

History repeating

Vernon Cougars are hoping history doesn't repeat itself. Cougars currently lead Oliver Bighorns 3-2 in the best-of-seven North Okanagan Hockey League championship series. Bighorns avoided elimination Sunday when they defeated Cougars 5-3.

Individual star for Bighorns was netminder Pat Murphy. Murphy made 38 saves, including 15 in the first period when he blanked the defending champions.

Devoted hockey fans will remember Murphy's performance in another series, six years ago, between Vernon Vikings (now Lakers) and Pentticon Vees (now Knights).

BROKE RECORDS

Vikings, under Coach and General manager Joe Temant, had just completed the most successful season in B.C. Junior Hockey League history. Vernon set a handful of records including most wins, most points, and best goals-against average.

Vikings defeated Chilliwack Bruins in the first playoff series and were expected to have little difficulty disposing of Pentticon in the semi-finals. Vees finished the regular season with 57 points, 38 behind the record-breaking Vikings.

Dennis Ewanichuk had been Pentticon's starting netminder for two seasons, but when he was injured in January, Vees acquired Murphy from Vancouver Junior Canucks.

When Ewanichuk returned to the ice, the duo alternated. However, Murphy was so impressive in the final game, he got the starting nod in playoffs. Against Vikings, he was undefeated in four games and posted a 3.00 goals-against average. He was at his best in the final game of the series when he blocked 53 shots and Vees won 5-2.

This year's NOHL final series bears a similar resemblance to that BCJHL confrontation.

LIMITED DUTY

Murphy saw only limited duty this season with Bighorns. In fact, he played less than Doug Cole, Tom Fortune, and Ewanichuk, who was expected to handle most of the netminding duties in post-season play.

Murphy has been between the pipes for both Oliver wins, allowing only five goals.

Bighorns have lost them all.

Oliver Coach Doug Festerling said Murphy will start in Wednesday's sixth game. "Pat is hot," he said. "I've got to go with him."

Vernon is expected to counter with veteran Charlie Brinkman, who has been in goal for all three of his club's wins and has posted a 2.33 goals-against average.

It should be a great game ... too bad it's in Oliver, about 125 kilometres south. However, if a seventh game is necessary, it will be played in Vernon, Thursday night.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

MARCH 1977

First annual junior high north zone Table Tennis Championships were held recently at the Harwood Elementary School. Armstrong 1 placed first overall, followed by Shuswap 1 and Armstrong 11 in the eight team event.

MARCH 1977

Deanna Budd and Val Yasinaki were the big winners in the recent Ladies' 12-game Bowling Marathon at Lincoln Lakes. Budd recorded the high handicap score of 3,174 while Yasinaki topped the scratch event with a 2,835 total.