KENDALL'S KORNER

Gloomy future for junior club

Why did Ray Williment buy the Vernon Lakers Hockey Team this week?

The club has lost money continually for the past decade, and during the past two seasons, finished last in the five-team Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The answer is simple. . .Williment, like so many before him, wants to keep junior hockey alive in Vernon. .Ie has no illusions of making money with the team but, feels the club can be successful.

"If the team is run properly and we have a good competitive team, we can make it," he said.

Unfortunately Ray, we have heard that story before. . .ever since Vernon Essos won the BCJHL title in 1972 and showed a minimal profit.

In the next two seasons, the club stumbled on hard times and the owners decided to hire Joe Tennant, as coach and general manager.

TOUGH TEAM

During his first year in Vernon, Tennant assembled one of the toughest teams in league history. With a minimum amount of hockey talent, the club was able to play .500 hockey be intimidating their opponents.

The following season, Vernon (then called Vikings) set a handful of league records including most wins, most points, lowest goals-against average, fewest losses, and most consecutive home ice victories.

Despite the team's impressive performance on the ice, it is estimated the owners lost more than $60,000 during Tennant's two-year stint.

Director Vern Dye assumed operations of the club, in 1976, as general manager, and later coach. Again, the club struggled for two years and was sold to another local group in 1978.

Sheldon Bloomer was the team's general manager in 1978-79 and Greg Kvisle was imported from Creston as a full-time coach.

Bloomer and his seven partners decided the best way to attract fans was with a large number of local players.

Vernon (then called Canadians) had eight local players on the roster and was competitive with every club in the league. However, that year's deficit was more than $20,000.

Bloomer and his group decided they had spent enough money on junior hockey and when no purchasers could be found, took a one-year leave of absence.

Hank Aarsen took over as team president in 1980 and the club finished in last-place. A group of 12 directors took over Lakers last summer. . . and the end result was the same.

Even though there have been several bad seasons, Vernon fans have been entertained by a goon squad, a record-breaking club, and a team comprised of 50 per cent local players. In that time, total franchise losses are probably close to $150,000.

Williment is optimistic he can ice a good club, but sometimes enthusiasm gets in the way of better judgment.

Few members of last season's club can be termed bonafied junior 'A' players: there are no more than one or two good prospects on the Vernon midget rep team; no scouting has been done in preparation for next year; and an affiliation agreement with Kamloops Oilers appears to be in jeopardy.

FAR BEHIND

Penticton Knights and Kelowna Buckaroos have already acquired the cream of the crop from B.C. midget and juvenile teams, leaving clubs like Vernon and Merritt Centennials far behind.

Kamloops was little help to Lakers this season because that club inherited a woeful roster from New Westminster Bruins, but after some excellent recruiting, Oilers could send up to 10 prospects to Vernon next September. However, due to the unstable management situation here, Kamloops will probably look elsewhere for an affiliate.

Without an affiliate, Lakers will have difficulty being competitive with its closest rival, Merritt.

Williment has good intentions and we wish him luck. But sorry Ray, the situation looks bleak. With no coach or manager, few player prospects, and possibly no affiliate, there is nothing to suggest the club won't sink even farther into the depths of the BCJHL cellar.

Like Tennant, Bloomer, Dye, Aarsen and other owners before him, Williment is going to find out the hard way.

Vernon ruggers win season opener

Vernon Panthers dumped Summerland 11-4 in the Okanagan Mainline High School Rugby League season opener, Thursday, in Summerland.

Panthers' Coach Terry White told the Daily News he was pleased with his club's performance.

"We made some mistakes," he said, "but most of them were because of over-exuberance. Our guys worked hard."

Summerland took a 4-0 lead, but before half-time, Dale Olson tied the game when he dove into the end zone from five yards out.

Vernon took the lead in the second-half when a 60-yard rush was capped off by a 15-yard sprint by winger Gary Fey.

Norm Schwing rounded out the scoring with five minutes to go when he booted a field goal.

White praised the play of his backfield.

OUTSTANDING

"The backs were outstanding," he said. "In my years of coaching, I don't think I've ever seen a backfield do more running. We weren't able to finish off a lot of our rushes, but it will come."

Panthers were without scrum-half Mike Potyrala, but Mike Martin played well in his place.

"Potyrala is a hard guy to replace, but Martin did a great job," White said.

The Vernon coach also named loose forward Pat Campbell and centre Brad Thorlakson as standouts.

Panthers return to the field next Tuesday for the annual Grad Game, at 5 p.m.

Next league game is April 13 when Vernon hosts Armstrong.

HOOP CHAMPS

Beairsto recently won the District 26 elementary boys' basketball title defeating Alexis Park 46-43 in the final game. Team members include, back row, left; Justin Morgan, David Marcellus, Ross Blankley, Dennis Holland and Coach Cyril Foster. Front: Howie Finch, Darren McAuley, Richard Radosh, and Jim Lafferty. Also on the team is Troy Mick. (Daily News Photo)

Funner Daze Sunday

Silver Star Ski Area's annual Funner Daze will be held Sunday.

Silver Star spokesman Mike Duggan said Funner Daze is designed as a family event.

"People of all ages can participate," he said, "and we've got prizes for every event."

All skiers are urged to wear costumes. There will be informal costume judging at 3 p.m.

The events include:

Treasure Hunt: Working in teams of 4-7 youngsters, clues must be followed across the mountain the complete the treasure hunt in the best time. It gets under way at 10 a.m.

Molstar race: A Guess Your Time Molstar Race also starts at 10 a.m. A course, wider and longer than usual, will be used.

Uphill-downhill race: The Uphill-downhill race includes an obstacle course and LeMans start. It starts at 11 a.m.

Garden Hose Classic: Three competitors, including one with cross-country skis, will race through a course from the top of the Poma to the bottom of the Poma Bowl. The three skiers must be connected by a garden hose, with one on each end and the other in the middle. Start time is 12:30 p.m.

Labatts Target Gelandesprung: Three targets are placed at intervals. Competitors are judged on distance, accuracy, and form. The Gelandesprung gets under way at 2 p.m.

An outdoor barbecue is scheduled at 5 p.m.

Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

IN PLAYDOWNS

Vernon's Jason Paul rink will be one of four teams competing this weekend in Kamloops for the B.C. berth in the 1983 Canada Winter Games, in Quebec. Paul advanced to the provincial playdowns by defeating Wallace, of Revelstoke, 10-3 in the Interior final. Team members include from left, rear: third Dave Stephenson and Paul; lead Greg Halverson and second Darin Laface. (Daily News Photo)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local squad in B.C. final

Vernon Chevrons are competing in the British Columbia Junior Girls' Volleyball Championships this weekend in Prince George. Seven teams are competing in the round-robin event. Vernon's first matches are scheduled tonight. Championship game will be played Saturday night.

New executive

Vernon Golf and Country Club women's section has elected its new executive for the 1982 season. Officers include: president Dorothy Gower, vice-president Barbara Silvester, past-president Jean Darroch, day lady captain Roxanne Woodman, first vice-captain Karen Hassard, second vice-captain Celia Merritt, business captain Kathy Sand, secretary Ruth Rikley, treasurer Flo Curtis, handicap chairperson Karen Kindrachuk, social Audrey King, and junior development Mo Orcutt. The first ladies' day is next Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m.

Two tied

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — Bundled-up more like downhill skiers than pro golfers, Lori Garbacz and Kyle O'Brien overcame chilly rains and wind to share the first-round lead in the $310,000 Nabisco-Dinah Shore Invitational.

Garbacz and O'Brien, rising young stars on the Ladies Professional Golf Association circuit, matched one-under-par 71s in Thursday's opening round of the tour's richest event.

Sweeps series

SEATTLE (CP) — Seattle Breakers closed their first round of playoff hockey as they dumped the defending Western Hockey League champions Victoria Cougars in four straight games, taking the final contest Thursday 3-1.

Joins Nicklaus

OAKVILLE, Ont. (CP) — Jerry Pate, whose most recent victory on the Professional Golfers' Association tour was the Tournament Players Champions, in March, has confirmed his entry in the 1982 Canadian Open at Glen Abbey, July 29-Aug. 1. Pate, who won the Canadian Open in 1976, joins course designer Jack Nicklaus and defending champion Peter Oosterhuis in the starting field.

Teams tied

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Alberta and Saskatchewan meet in the final round of the Royal Canadian Legion national seniors curling championship today to break their first-place tie and decide the title.

Both defending champion Walter South of Regina and Ron Morissette of Calgary won games Thursday to improve their records to 7-1.

A surprise

MONTREAL (CP) — Right winger Mike Bossy of New York Islanders was named Thursday the National Hockey League's player of the month for March, snapping a string of six such honors for centre Wayne Gretzky of Edmonton Oilers.

English wins

NEW YORK (AP) — Forward Alex English, who led Denver Nuggets to a 13-2 record in March, including their current 11-game winning streak, was named Thursday player of the month in the National Basketball Association.

Quit booze

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer, tanned and looking fit, said Thursday he has won his fight with alcoholism. Kramer, who voluntarily entered a California hospital March 3 and was released earlier this week, said the treatment helped him mentally, spiritually and physically.

Lendl advances

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, Brian Gottfried of the United States and Peter McNamara of Australia reached the quarter-finals of a $250,000 Grand Prix tennis tournament Thursday. Lendl defeated Joao Soares of Brazil 6-3, 6-3, Gottfried beat Uli Pinner of West Germany 6-0, 6-1, and McNamara downed American Bruce Manson 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.

MEN'S CURLING

Canadian rink on top of pack

GARMISCH, West Germany (CP) — Italy and Denmark threw the men's world curling championship into confusion early today with upset victories in the final draw of the round-robin schedule.

For Canada, it was simple: Sole possession of first place and a berth in the semifinals Saturday.

However, when Andrea Pavani stole one in the 10th end to give Italy a 6-5 decision over defending champion Jurg Tanner of Switzerland and when Per Berg swiped a point in the 11th end for a 7-6 win over Keith Wendorf of West Germany, officials scurried for their rule books.

The victories by the Italians and Danes put five countries in a tie for second place with 5-4 records, meaning tie-breaker games were necessary to sort out the situation.

Lumped in second were Switzerland, Italy, West Germany, Soren Grahn of Sweden and Bjur Loen of Norway.

SECOND PLACE

There was no problem for Wendorf. Because of International Curling Federation rules he was awarded second place in the round-robin standings by virtue of a better record, 3-1, in games among the deadlocked teams.

Al Hackner skipped his Northern Ontario team from Thunder Bay to a 9-2 triumph over Andre Trone of France to finish with a 7-2 record. Hackner, who defeated Switzerland 7-3 in the seventh draw Thursday before losing 5-4 to Italy in the eighth round, scored two points in the first end and stole single points in the second and third for victory over the French rink from Megeve.

After deciding West Germany would advance to the semifinals, and that Norway would be ranked sixth because of the poorest record against the deadlocked teams, it was then announced the remaining three teams — Switzerland, Italy and Sweden — would have a little contest to set up their positions.

But it took more than two hours to set up the draw-to-the button game. Each player from each team threw a rock down the ce and the closest to the button gave his country the choice of which team to meet in the tie-breaker.

Switzerland won and chose Italy, leaving Norway and Sweden to meet in another tie-breaker. The winners will go to the semifinals.

Sweden knocked Steve Brown, skip of the United States entry from Madison, Wis., out of the playoffs with a 5-3 victory in the final game of the round-robin schedule at the Olympic ice stadium, while Norway beat Colin Hamilton of Scotland 6-4.

Denmark, Scotland and the U.S. all wound up with 4-5 records in the round-robin competition, while France had a win and eight defeats.

After splitting two games Thursday, Canadian third Rick Lang said he believes it pays to play it cool against European teams.

"I think we're learning a little more to be patient with these European rinks. We like to get a big lead and jump all over them, but we're finding out that if we don't have that lead in the late ends, we have to be patient."

Eventually, the top four countries will compete in the semifinals, with the survivors meeting in the Air Canada Silver Broom final Sunday, starting at 1p.m. EST.

In other games Thursday, Scotland shaded the U.S. 6-2, West Germany topped France 8-3, Denmark edged Sweden 7-6 and Switzerland beat Norway 5-3.

Norway kept in contention in the seventh draw with a 5-4 win over France, while West Germany downed Scotland 8-2. Denmark beat the U.S. 7-4 and Sweden whipped Italy 9-3.

The Canadians waited for the breaks against Tanner's entry from Lausanne and got one in the eighth, enabling Hackner to steal a point for a 4-3 lead.

Sports highlight Carnival

During Winter Carnival '82, there were 23 sporting events, and seven were new, sports liaison director Evelyn LeRose Tull told the Winter Carnival Society's annual meeting here Tuesday.

"The number of total sporting events, and the new events, is a good indication of the support and participation by residents of Vernon and the surrounding area," she said.

"As sports liaison director, my task entailed keeping open a communication line between the sports organizers and the Carnival Society. This task was successful and unsuccessful. Some problems which arose were: 1, coordinators changing without notifying me; or 2, cancellation of an event without letting me know. I was unable to attend all the events because I was a participant. Problems hopefully will be remedied next year."

The 23 sporting events included: bed races, board sailing, bowling, marathon, broomball, curling, pupo bonspiel, Valentine's Bonspiel, hockey, Pee Wee hockey tournament, ice pro racing, over-the-hill downhill skiing, polar bear swim, racquetball tourney, old-fashioned skating party, snogolf, snowmobile safaris, snowmobile outing, 10 kilometre marathon, tennis tourney, tug-o-war, five kilometre run, muzzle loading rifle shoot, Kokanee Swim Club meet, and 16-game bowling marathon.

Molson Slowpitch League season starts May 4

Molson Men's Slowpitch League will kick its 1982 season under way May 4 with six games.

The schedule was unveiled Thursday night at a league meeting. Each of the 12 clubs in the loop will play 22 games. Top eight teams advance to playoffs in September.

League President Don Lee told the Daily News he is looking forward to an exciting year.

"I think we'll have a very competitive league," he said. "The teams and executive have worked hard in preparation for the season."

Several new rules have been adopted by the Molson loop. Among them are: a foul ball on a third strike is an automatic out; a baserunner can steal as soon as the ball crosses the plate, as opposed to the old rule which stated the ball had to hit the ground or glove before a runner could leave a base, pinch-hitters and pinch-runners are permitted.

Lee said, "I think these rules will make our league more exciting."

THE SCHEDULE

May 4: Muntz Old Stylers vs Team Yamaha at Kin 1; Thorne Riddell Falcons vs Molson Canadians at Kin 2; Tri-Line Hooligans vs. Longhorn Bulls at Kin 3; Club 2929 vs. Team Suzuki at Kin 4; A-1 Pumpers vs. Esso Bs at Army Camp 1; and Four Seasons Cement vs. Century 21-Brandle Realty at Army Camp 2.

May 11: Suzuki vs. Four Seasons at Kin 1; Longhorn vs. Pumpers at Kin 2; Century 21 vs. Falcons at Kin 3; Esso Bs vs. Muntz at Kin 4; Canadians vs. 2929 at Army Camp 1; and Yamaha vs. Hooligans at Army Camp 2.

May 18: 2929 vs. Century 21 at Kin 1; Hooligans vs. Esso Bs at Kin 2; Four Seasons vs. Canadians at Kin 3; Pumpers vs. Yamaha at Kin 4; Muntz vs. Longhorn at Army Camp 1; and Falcons vs. Suzuki at Army Camp 2.

May 25: Esso Bs vs. Falcons at Kin 1; Suzuki vs. Hooligans at Kin 2; Yamaha vs. 2929 at Kin 3; Century 21 vs. Muntz at Kin 4; Longhorn vs. Four Seasons at Army Camp 1; and Canadians vs. Pumpers at Army Camp 2.

JUNE

June 1: Hooligans vs. Canadians at Kin 1; Falcons vs. Yamaha at Kin 2; Muntz vs. Suzuki at Kin 3; 2929 vs. Longhorn at Kin 4; Four Seasons vs. Esso Bs at Army Camp 1; and Pumpers vs. Century 21 at Army Camp 2.

June 8: Century 21 vs. Hooligans at Kin 1; Yamaha vs. Four Seasons at Kin 2; Suzuki vs. Pumpers at Kin 3; Longhorn vs. Flacons at Kin 4; Esso Bs vs. 2929 at Army Camp 1; and Canadians vs. Muntz at Army Camp 2.

June 15: Pumpers vs. Four Seasons at Kin 1; Longhorn vs. Suzuki at Kin 2; Esso Bs vs. Century 21 at Kin 3; Yamaha vs. Canadians at Kin 4; Muntz vs. Falcons at Army Camp 1; and Hooligans vs. 2929 at Army Camp 2.

June 22: Esso Bs vs. Longhorn at Kin 1; 2929 vs. Falcons at Kin 2; Muntz vs. Pumpers at Kin 3; Suzuki vs. Canadians at Kin 4; Four Seasons vs. Hooligans at Army Camp 1; and Century 21 vs. Yamaha at Army Camp 2.

June 29: Yamaha vs. Suzuki at Kin 1; Four Seasons vs. Muntz at Kin 2; Esso Bs vs. Canadians at Kin 3; Hooligans vs. Falcons at Kin 4; Century 21 vs. Longhorn at Army Camp 1; and 2929 vs. Pumpers at Army Camp 2.

JULY

July 5: Canadians vs. Longhorn at Kin 1; Yamaha vs. Esso Bs at Kin 2; Falcons vs. Pumpers at Kin 3; 2929 vs. Four Seasons at Kin 4; Muntz vs. Hooligans at VSSS 3; and Suzuki vs. Century 21 at VSSS 4.

July 6: Muntz vs. 2929 at Kin 1; Canadians vs. Century 21 at Kin 2; Falcons vs. Four Seasons at Kin 3; Hooligans vs. Pumpers at Kin 4; Esso Bs vs. Suzuki at VSSS 3; and Longhorn vs. Yamaha at VSSS 4.

July 12: Yamaha vs. Muntz at Kin 1; Canadians vs. Falcons at Kin 2; Longhorn vs. Hooligans at Kin 3; Suzuki vs. 2929 at Kin 4; Esso Bs vs. Pumpers at VSSS 3; and Century 21 vs. Four Seasons at VSSS 4.

July 13: Four Seasons vs. Suzuki at Kin 1; Pumpers vs. Longhorn at Kin 2; Falcons vs. Century 21 at Kin 3; Muntz vs. Esso Bs at Kin 4; 2929 vs. Canadians at VSSS 3; and Hooligans vs. Yamaha at VSSS 4.

July 20: Canadians vs. Four Seasons at VSSS 3; and Century 21 vs. 2929 at VSSS 4.

July 27: Falcons vs. Esso Bs at Kin 1; Hooligans vs. Suzuki at Kin 2; 2929 vs. Yamaha at Kin 3; Muntz vs. Century 21 at Kin 4; Four Seasons vs. Longhorn at VSSS 3; and Pumpers vs. Canadians at VSSS 4.

DON LEE ... excited

AUGUST

Aug. 3: Canadians vs. Hooligans at Kin 1; Yamaha vs. Falcons at Kin 2; Suzuki vs. Muntz at Kin 3; Longhorn vs. 2929 at Kin 4; Esso Bs vs. Four Seasons at VSSS 3; and Century 21 vs. Pumpers at VSSS 4.

Aug. 4: Esso Bs vs. Hooligans at VSSS 3; Yamaha vs. Pumpers at VSSS 4; Longhorn vs. Muntz at Kal 1; and Suzuki vs. Falcons at Kal 2.

Aug. 9: Hooligans vs. Century 21 at Kin 1; Four Seasons vs. Yamaha at Kin 2; Pumpers vs. Suzuki at Kin 3; Falcons vs. Longhorn at Kin 4; 2929 vs. Esso Bs at VSSS 3; and Muntz vs. Canadians at VSSS 4.

Aug. 10: Four Seasons vs. Pumpers at Kin 1; Suzuki vs. Longhorn at Kin 2; Century 21 vs. Esso Bs at Kin 3; Canadians vs. Yamaha at Kin 4; Falcons vs. Muntz at VSSS 3; and 2929 vs. Hooligans at VSSS 4.

Aug. 16: Longhorn vs. Esso Bs at Kin 1; Falcons vs. 2929 Kin 2; Pumpers vs. Muntz at Kin 3; Canadians vs. Suzuki at Kin 4; Hooligans vs. Four Seasons at VSSS 3; and Yamaha vs. Century 21 at VSSS 4.

Aug. 17: Canadians vs. Esso Bs at VSSS 3; and Muntz vs. Four Seasons at VSSS 4.

Aug. 18: Suzuki vs. Yamaha at VSSS 3; Falcons vs. Hooligans at VSSS 4; Pumpers vs. Century 21 at Kal 1; and Pumpers vs. 2929 at Kal 2.

Aug. 30: Longhorn vs. Canadians at Kin 1; Esso Bs vs. Yamaha at Kin 2; Pumpers vs. Falcons at Kin 3; Four Seasons vs. 2929 at Kin 4; Hooligans vs. Muntz at VSSS 3; and Century 21 vs. Suzuki at VSSS 4.

Aug. 31: 2929 vs. Muntz at Kin 1; Century 21 vs. Canadians at Kin 2; Four Seasons vs. Falcons at Kin 3; Pumpers vs. Hooligans at Kin 4; Suzuki vs. Esso Bs at VSSS 3; and Yamaha vs. Longhorn at VSSS 4.