Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

First place up for grabs

First place is on the line tonight when Coldstream Hotel Eagles meet National Hotel Oldtimers in Vernon City soccer League action, at MacDonald Park. The two clubs have identical 3-0 records. Kick-off is 5:30 p.m., on field B. Also at 5:30 p.m., on field A, Super Shoe Selects take on Lumby Kickers. At 7 p.m., Toros battles King Cam Towing Camels and Armstrong Hotspur clashes with Longhorn.

Coaches needed

The newly-formed Vernon Bantam Girls' Softball League (aged 12-15) needs coaches. Games are played on Monday nights. Anyone interested is asked to phone 545-6035.

Tennis trials

Okanagan Zone tennis trials, for the B.C. Summer Games, will be held June 18-20 at the Basil Meikle Tennis Courts, in Kelowna. The categories include: junior boys singles and doubles, junior girls singles and doubles, junior mixed, senior men singles and doubles, senior ladies singles and doubles, and senior mixed doubles. For further information, phone Vic Friesen at 493-0660.

First round

The first round of the Dugald Gillespie competition will be held May 16, at the Vernon Golf and Country Club. Women pick their partners. Entry fee is $5 per couple. Match play competition will continue throughout the summer.

Streak stopped

Naps Cleaners halted Lumby Hotel Canadians' win streak at six games by edging Canadians 6-5 in Lumby Major Men's Slowpitch League play this week. In other games, Drillers defeated Lumby Legion 6-4 and DCT Wheelers whipped Lavington Aztecs 15-7. Canadians still lead the loop with 12 points, two more than Naps.

Multi wins

Multi Enterprises blasted Western Computing 21-3 in Major Women's Fastpitch League play Tuesday night. In other games, OK Cattle Company trounced Ar-Tech Angels 15-2, Lumby dumped Associated Trucking 11-9, and Al's Esso bombed Falkland 18-2.

Church loop

Elim Royal Knights dumped Trinity Thunder 15-8 in Church Men's Slowpitch League play this week.

Women's fastball

In Intermediate 'A' Women's Fastball League play Tuesday, Interior Fuel Injection tripled High Flyers 15-5, Polson Place Sports hammered Royals 23-3, National Hotel Stealers whipped Al's Gutter Gals 28-13, and Big Chiefs nipped Longhorn 12-8. In the 'B' loop, Branta Beernuts beat Medi-Cats 28-23, Farrer Forms defeated Fabricland Remnants 16-6, Cowgirls upset Prime Plus 11-8, Turbo blanked Bank of Montreal 21-0, Okanagan Chimney Sweeps outscored Team Yamaha 25-3, and Club 2929 blasted Steak and Stein 36-2.

Three straight

First place Kalamalka Lakers blasted Fulton Maroons 25-3 in junior boys' rugby action Tuesday. Robert Robatzek led Lakers to their third consecutive victory with three tries. Kal placed second in a tournament last weekend in Rutland.

Hearns injured

DETROIT (CP) — Problems continue to mount for the middleweight title fight between Thomas Hearns and undisputed champion Marvin Hagler, prompting the possibility the bout may be delayed until mid-July.

It's expected an injury to Hearns's baby finger on his right hand, suffered while jogging two weeks ago, will be the main reason for delaying the event, scheduled for May 24 at Windsor, Ont.

Fergie honored

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Sportings News has named John Ferguson, general manager of Winnipeg Jets, as the National Hockey League's executive of the year, it was announced Tuesday.

Selection of Ferguson, 43, was by his peers. He polled 12 of 29 votes cast in the weekly publication to six by Glen Sather of Edmonton Oilers and Bill Torrey of New York Islanders.

Trade completed

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia Flyers said Tuesday they have sent centre Kenny Strong to Toronto Maple Leafs to complete the National Hockey League deal that brought Darryl Sittler here last winter. Strong was the Flyers' third pick in the 1981 draft and 58th overall. He played in 106 games with Peterborough of the Ontario Hockey League.

Player of month

NEW YORK (AP) — First baseman Eddie Murray of Baltimore Orioles, who led the American League in slugging percentage for the month of April with a .794 mark and an on-base percentage with .506, was named the league's player of the month Tuesday.

Kriek ousted

NEW YORK (AP) — Unheralded Eddie Edwards upset fourth-seeded Johan Kriek 6-3, 7-6 Tuesday in a first-round battle of South Africans at the $500,000 World Championship Tennis Tournament of Champions. Earlier, second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and third-seeded Jose Luis Clerc of Argentina eliminated their first-round opponents. Lendl crushed Damir Keretic of West Germany 6-1, 6-3 and Clerc defeated Bruce Derlin of New Zealand 6-2, 7-6.

Top pitcher

NEW YORK (AP) — Geoff Zahn of California Angels was named Pitcher of the Month for April by baseball's American League on Tuesday.

Zahn won four games during the month, pitching three complete games in five starts. In 42-3 innings, he allowed 31 hits and five earned runs. His two shutouts helped him to a 1.05 earned-run average for the month.

Free agents

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — New York Giants signed nine National Football League free agents Tuesday, including defensive end Mike Mitchell, who arrived via the Canadian Football League's British Columbia Lions, and running back William Trent, formerly with Ottawa Rough Riders.

VANCOUVER 5, CHICAGO 3

Canucks lead series 3-1

VANCOUVER (CP) — Everyone keeps waiting for Vancouver to knuckle under to Chicago in the National Hockey League playoffs, but the Canucks keep kicking sand in the face of the Black Hawks.

The Canucks, who had never won a playoff series before this spring, now are one game away from a berth in the Stanley Cup finals against New York Islanders following a 5-3 win Tuesday night over the Hawks.

"We're a hungry team that hasn't had its fill just yet," said Vancouver defenceman Harold Snepsts. "We've matured in the playoffs and it's getting pretty scary.

"We want to end this thing (with Chicago) as soon as possible. Everything has fallen into place. We're on a lucky streak and we don't want it to end."

Vancouver has a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Clarence Campbell Conference final and can put the Black Hawks out of their misery Thursday in Chicago.

HAROLD SNEPSTS
... hungry

The Canucks have ridden the hot goaltending of Richard Brodeur to unexpected heights in the playoffs. Brodeur has allowed just 30 goals in 12 games and Vancouver has won 10 times.

"Chicago has been having trouble beating Richard and we've played pretty good defensively," said associate coach Roger Neilson of the Canucks, who has directed the team in the playoffs. "We'll go into Chicago and play as aggressively as we can."

Brodeur stopped 27 shots Tuesday and twice robbed Al Secord of the Hawks of seemingly sure goals. Brodeur has the Hawks so frustrated that their shooters are passing instead of shooting on some good scoring chances.

Ivan Boldirev and Darcy Rota, two former Hawks, turned on their old teammates, combining for three goals. Boldirev scored twice and Rota once and both scored on the much-improved Vancouver power play.

Defenceman Doug Halward and Thomas Gradin completed the Vancouver scoring, while the only Hawks to solve Brodeur's netminding were Glen Sharpley, Dennis Savard and Grant Mulvey.

NOT AS SHARP

Tony Esposito in the Chicago net wasn't nearly as sharp as Brodeur in stopping 26 Vancouver shots. Esposito looked particularly weak on Halward's shot from the blue line which turned out to be the winner in the third period.

"Vancouver played great and deserves a lot of credit," said Savard. "They deserved to win, especially because of Brodeur.

"But we can come back. We came into the dressing room and said we'll win Thursday and then come back here for game six. We're not beat. We won't quit."

Chicago coach Bob Pulford was in a surly mood after the game. He said Chicago had enough chances to win, but couldn't cash in against Brodeur.

TONY ESPOSITO
... not sharp

"We fought the puck really bad tonight," Pulford said. "We had lots of chances in the first period, but we fought it bad.

"But, don't worry. We'll be back here for another game. We can win at home and come back."

GOOD ROAD RECORD

The Canucks will take a 4-1 road record into the Thursday game. Vancouver is 16-2-3 since March 13.

Vancouver won't have centre Ivan Hlinka for the next game. He suffered a shoulder injury when hit behind the Chicago net. The Hawks hope to have centre Terry Ruskowski back Thursday after missing one game with a similar shoulder ailment.

"It's a great feeling to be part of something like this," added Rota. "Like the sign (on the dressing room wall) says, take enough clothes for a seven-day trip."

SWIM CHAMPIONS

Vernon Kokanees Swim Club Coach Tom Bryce, left, accepts the first place trophy on behalf of the team from Len Jarvis, swim meet official, after the Kokanees piled up 1,186 points to win their home sprint meet held at the recreation pool, Sunday. Results on pg. 14.

(Daily News Photo)

Rugby squad blanks Saints

Vernon Panthers improved their record to 6-1 by blanking North Kamloops Saints 3-0 in Okanagan-Mainline High School rugby action, Tuesday, in Kamloops.

Panthers Coach Terry White said the teams were evenly matched throughout the game. The only difference was Ken Thorlakson's 30 yard field goal, with 10 minutes remaining in the second-half.

"The game was played between the 25 yard lines," said White. "What it boiled down to though, was one of their guys had a 60 yard run, and one of our guys tackled him on the two or three. If he would have been able to score that could have killed us."

EVENLY MATCHED

Because the teams were so evely matched, White said he knew the first club that scored was going to win.

"I was happy to see that ball go through the uprights," said White. "I really didn't know what to expect from them (NorKam), both teams were a little leary about making mistakes."

Panthers were without Dale Olson because of an injured ankle. He is a key performer on the lineouts and getting the ball to the backs.

"Kevin Korol filled in really well and we made a few adjustments," said White.

Mike Potyrala, scrum-half, made his first appearance in Panthers' lineup. He had missed the first seven games for personal reasons.

"His (Potyrala's) experience really helps, you just can't buy that sort of thing," said White. "He has to start feeding the backs a little more, but he really helps us in just knowing what to do out there."

White said he had no problems getting his players up for the game, unlike the one loss the team suffered to Kelowna.

BIG GAME

"They knew this was a big game and if we could win one of two this week, we had a playoff spot sewn up."

Vernon visits Kamloops Red Devils, Thursday, in a battle for first place.

"We're going to have to keep going ... Thursday is a big game and we'd like to win it," said White.

Before the season began, White said he knew his team was going to be competitive, but didn't know how strong.

"We knew we were good, but I didn't know what the other teams have," said White. "We don't have any individual stars, but we play as a unit and get 100 per cent from everyone, that's why we're in a battle for first."

In other rugby action, North Kamloops, 2, defeated Armstrong 22-6. Norkam 2 led 6-4 at the half, then cruised the rest of the way for the win.

Lance Demeria scored Armstrong's lone try while Joe Kramer added the convert. Next game for Armstrong is Monday when it hosts Summerland.

Parker attempting to get WHL franchise

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports

Penticton Knights, defending B.C. Junior Hockey League champion, has been suspended by BCJHL league governors because the team's owner is trying to secure a Western Hockey League (tier one) franchise in Kelowna.

Governors of the tier two BCJHL have also asked for the resignation of Penticton owner Chris Parker as league vice-president.

Parker had been attempting to put a WHL franchise in Penticton, but was refused by WHL president Ed Chynoweth on the grounds of Penticton being too small. However, Parker said Tuesday that Chynoweth told him if he wanted a tier one franchise, then he should go to Kelowna and the WHL would back him.

ONE OBSTACLE

The one obstacle in Parker's way is obtaining ice time in Kelowna. Kelowna City Council voted Monday night to delay a decision on Parker's application. Council is now waiting for a report from the city's recreation department on how a tier one franchise would effect the existing users, namely the Kelowna Buckaroos of the BCJHL, and Kelowna Packers, of the North Okanagan Hockey League.

Wayne North, owner of the Buckaroos had given indications that if a WHL team moved into Kelowna, then he would fold the Buckaroos. However, in a statement released Tuesday, North said he would stay and fight the tier one franchise.

North said the Buckaroos will definitely ice a team next year even if city council does grant ice time to a tier one team.

THREE FRANCHISES

The WHL-BCJHL battle was brought to a head last week when it was learned the WHL plans to install at least three franchises into rinks currently used by BCJHL teams.

The WHL moved Billings Bighorns to Nanaimo last month and is attempting to locate a team in Vancouver, as well as Kelowna.

BCJHL president John Godfrey said the WHL plan could have, "very serious ramifications for our league," and also said that Parker's actions are, "in direct contravention to the constitution of the BCJHL."

Parker said when he decided to make the move to Kelowna, that he wasn't thinking as a vice-president.

WAYNE NORTH
... will fight

"I wasn't acting in that capacity, it's purely a business decision."

The WHL has also been criticized for not consulting with the BCJHL cities before making a move to set up franchises.

However, Parker said North had been contacted prior to Parker's move towards a Kelowna team.

"We tried to get North involved, but he refused to meet with WHL officials," said Parker.

As for the BCJHL asking for Parker's resignation, it may be too late. He said Tuesday, "actually, I should probably resign as vice-president."

If Parker is successful in obtaining ice time for his tier one team, he said he sees no problem in it being a money making venture. However, Buckaroos averaged 800 fans last season and for Parker to break even with a WHL club, he needs at least 1,900.

GOOD MARKET

"We feel good about the market in Kelowna, a tier one franchise is something I think the people want and we're ready to give it to them," said Parker. "We'll be bringing a better team into Kelowna and we'll have a better marketing scheme."

Parker said he intends to keep Knights in the BCJHL, but admits probably half the team would follow him to Kelowna.

"We have everything pretty well lined up for next year, we've got the players we want," said Parker. "We'd use the tier two team to develop players for tier one."

LAKERS SUPPORT BUCKS

BCJHL is in turmoil

Ray (Dick) Williment could have probably found a better time to become owner of Vernon Lakers of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

Williment became sole owner of Lakers in March when he purchased the team from its 12 directors. However, the BCJHL has been sent into turmoil because of the Western Hockey League's (tier one) plan to install at least three franchises into rinks already occupied by BCJHL teams.

Nanaimo has been invaded by the Billings Bighorns franchise and there are indications that the WHL is moving a team into Vancouver. What has Williment worried though, is the WHL's plan to locate a franchise in Kelowna.

The move to Kelowna is being spearheaded by Chris Parker, owner of Penticton Knights, defending champions of the BCJHL.

SUSPENDED

Williment said if Parker does obtain a franchise in Kelowna, it would be the end of the Kelowna Buckaroos, which is also part of the BCJHL. However, if Parker is successful, it could be the demise of two teams since Penticton was suspended from the BCJHL, Tuesday, by league governors because of Parker's plan to form a WHL franchise in Kelowna.

"Something is definitely going to lose, there's no way both teams could operate out of Kelowna," said Williment.

Williment said the Lakers' organization backs the Buckaroos in attempting to fight the WHL.

"We sat down and discussed what was happening and we decided we need Kelowna in the league," he said. "There's always been a rivalry between Vernon and Kelowna, and if we can build up our team here, the rivalry would be even greater."

LAST PLACE

Lakers could do nothing but improve on last season's record which saw them win nine games and finish the year riding a 21-game winless streak, good for last place in the Interior Division.

Parker said if he is granted a WHL franchise, he can't see how it would effect Vernon.

"The Vernon franchise has never been able to draw many people anyway; so I don't see how a tier one team in Kelowna would hurt them," said Parker. "there would still be Merritt, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm is talking about getting into the league. Then if they go back to an interlocking schedule with the Coast, it shouldn't hurt them at all."

The only thing standing in Parker's way is getting ice time for his team. Kelowna City Council is waiting for a report from the recreation department to see how a tier one franchise would effect other users of ice time.

Williment said he can't see Kelowna council granting Parker an equal share of ice.

"Personally I don't think it will happen, if it did it would mean disaster for the BCJHL."

Before Williment bought the Lakers, the organization was at a standstill concerning scouting because Parker wanted to put a WHL team in Penticton. Lakers' officials said it wasn't feasible to scout players because of the unstable situation in Penticton.

If the situation was unstable then, it is in utter turmoil now, but Williment said Lakers have started their scouting program and will continue with it.

"We're not looking bad right now, we're just waiting to hear from Kamloops, (tier one affiliate)," said Williment. "We're still looking for a coach, but we have a couple of possibilities on the prairies and one from the Coast."

Williment said he expects to make an announcement concerning the hiring of a coach by the end of the month.

Builders tied for league lead

Builders Group edged Kal Tire 1-0 in Major Men's Fastball League play Tuesday, at Alexis Park.

The victory moves Builders into a tie for first place with the idle Coldstream Hotel Colts.

Winning pitcher Jamie Thoms threw a four-hitter. Losing hurler Dave Johnson gave up six hits.

Rob Morphy was the offensive leader for Builders. Morphy cracked two doubles and scored the winning run, in the fifth inning, on a single by Mark Holmes.

Meanwhile, in Lumby, Royals blasted Falkland 8-1.

Winning pitcher Dewey Thompson surrendered five hits while loser Jack Graham was tagged for 10 hits by Royals.

Lumby took a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Falkland evened the score in the second, and Royals put the game out of reach with four runs in the bottom of the third.

Vic Szestopalow was the leading hitter for Lumby with two singles and a double, in four trips to the plate.

League play resumes tonight at Alexis Park when Builders host Royals, at 6:30 p.m.

MOONSHINERS HELP

Les Simons, president of Vernon Moonshiners Oldtimers Hockey team, recently presented a cheque to Aqua Percept Program Coordinator Betty Masson. The money will enable two children to attend the current session of the program, currently under way at the Recreation Complex. The program is designed to develop the motor skills of perceptually handicapped children.

(Daily News Photo)

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

MAY, 1977

Bruce Berger, representing the Kokanees Swim Club at the Canada Cup Swim meet held in Calgary last weekend, finished sixth in the 1500 meter freestyle and seventh in the backstroke.

MAY, 1977

World champion Ragnar Kamp of Sweden and Canadian champ Jim Ursel of Montreal head the list of rinks that will be invited to the fourth annual Vernon Carling O'Keefe Car Spiel.

TEAM YAMAHA shortstop Dan Sanders guns down a runner at first base during Molson Men's Slowpitch League action Tuesday, at Kin Race Track Park. Yamaha, the defending champion, dropped a 14-9 decision to Muntz Old Stylers in the league's season opener.

(Daily News Photo)

Muntz hangs on to defeat Yamaha

Muntz Old Stylers defeated defending champion Team Yamaha 14-9 in the Molson Men's Slowpitch League season opener Tuesday, at Kin Race Track Park.

Old Stylers took an 11-1 lead in the second inning. Yamaha narrowed the gap to 11-9, but Muntz picked up three runs in the bottom of the sixth to increase its lead.

In other games, Team Suzuki nipped Club 2929 8-6, Tri-Line Hooligans edged Longhorn Bulls 8-7, Thorne Riddell Falcons aced Molson Canadians 6-5, Four Seasons Cement blasted Century 21 Brandle Realty 18-1, and Esso Bs whipped A-1 Pumpers 11-3.

League play resumes with six games next Tuesday.

Trials scheduled for lawn bowlers

Dates and sites have been announced for Okanagan Zone lawn bowling trials, for the B.C. Summer Games.

The men's playoffs are: singles, June 12 in Kamloops; doubles, June 19 in Kelowna; triples, June 26 in Armstrong; and foursomes, July 10 in Penticton.

Women's playdowns will be held: singles, June 14 in Vernon; doubles, June 17 in Kelowna; triples, June 21 in Penticton; and foursomes, June 29 in Armstrong.

Vernon will host the B.C. Summer Games, Aug. 26 to 29.

For further information phone Helen Hare (women) at 762-2368 or C. G. Kirstine (men) at 494-5911.