

VERNON INCREASES LEAD

Lakers blast short-handed Rockets



VERNON MOONSHINERS leave this weekend for an oldtimers' hockey tournament in Anaheim, Calif. Team members are from left, back row: Norm Masson, Dennis Hamaguchi, Hubert Petersen, Don Hunter, Don Lauder, Dean Halbert, Les Simons, Bob Stein, Wayne McGrath, John Bakey, Herb

Rideout, Reg Scott, and Ralph Beck. Front row: Dennis Brown, Bob Ferguson, Jim Proctor, Angus Johnson, George Beck, Bruce Barnard, Larry Harmata, and Merv Rotzien. Also on the team are Ed Sorochuk, Tom Stecyk, and Al Hooper.

(Daily News Photo)

Moonshiners visit California

Vernon Moonshiners Hockey Team is going on a road trip. However, this time it isn't going to Logan Lake, Canal Flats, or Merritt.

Moonshiners leave this weekend for the third annual Southern California Oldtimers Hockey Association Tournament in Anaheim, Calif.

Eighteen teams, from throughout the United States and Canada, are entered in the five-day tourney.

Vernon will play in a four-team, round-robin section. First game for the local club will be Monday, against West Covina Wolf Pack, of California. Moonshiners take on another California team Tuesday, Santa Monica Sharks. Then Thursday, the local club meets Cote Band Wagon Burners, from Saskatchewan. Playoffs are scheduled next Friday.

The Vernon team was formed three years ago and has been involved in numerous community projects.

Spokesman Bruce Barnard said, "We enjoy hockey at our age and believe every boy should have an opportunity to play the game."

Moonshiners have donated money to both Vernon and Armstrong Minor Hockey Associations, to be used for underprivileged children. In addition, six team members are involved in minor hockey, at the coaching or executive level.

The team also supports the Aqua Percept Program, designed to develop motor skills of perceptually handicapped children; and Snowarama, which aids the crippled children of B.C.

Barnard said, "We're proud of our involvement in the community and plan to continue with these projects in the future."

Moonshiners will host their third annual summer tournament, Aug. 26-28, in the Priest Valley Arena.

Vernon Lakers strengthened their hold on first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division with a 12-6 win over Revelstoke Rockets, Thursday, in Revelstoke.

Lakers now have 61 points, three more than the idle Kelowna Buckaroos and Penticton Knights.

LED ATTACK

Stacey Wakabayashi led the Vernon attack with four goals. The speedy forward has scored 34 goals, in 35 games, since joining Lakers early in the season.

Mark Holland, called up from the Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps, scored twice for Lakers while Ken Fenton, Glen Doucette, Dave Munk, Mike Enemark, Gavin Shuya, and Todd Ewen added singles.

The fifth-place Rockets got two goals from Louis Gagnon, and singles from Bruce Baker, Dean Dietrich, Wade Watters, and Rick Bafaro.

Vernon held period leads of 3-1 and 6-5.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said his club didn't really take control until the third period. "Revelstoke stayed right with us for 40 minutes," Dye said, "but then they ran out of gas."

Rockets had only 11 players dressed, including two goalies. Six remain under suspension by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association after an incident Feb. 1 at Kelowna, and two others are injured.

Vernon also has its share of problems. Fenton was added to the growing injury list when he left Thursday's game with a bad charleyhorse. He is considered a doubtful starter for tonight's game, in Vernon, against Merritt Centennials. Lakers are already without forwards Ron Berezowski, Nick Kapicki, and Gord Simpson.

To fill the roster in



STACEY WAKABAYASHI
... four goals

Revelstoke, Vernon used three affiliated players: Holland and Rob Hocken from the juveniles; and Munk, from the midget reps.

Dye said, "The kids we called up played pretty well. Lucky we've got some talented affiliates because we're going to need some more help tonight."

Vernon goaltenders Matt Sekela and Rex Grant combined to block 32 shots. Sekela pulled himself, midway through the third period, after allowing Rockets' sixth goal. At the other end, Jim Young and Roy Drohobyski turned aside 35 shots.

The last-place Centennials are much-improved under new Coach Pat Rabbitt and Dye said his club can't take Merritt lightly. "They gave us a battle last time we played them and they knocked off Shuswap (Totems) last weekend," he said. "We'll have to work hard, particularly because of all the injuries."

Game time tonight is 8 p.m.

Lakers hit the road again Saturday for a crucial game in Penticton, against the Knights.



VERNON MINOR HOCKEY Association Treasurer Doug Anderson, centre, accepts a \$150 cheque from Bruce Barnard, left, and Les

Simons of the Vernon Moonshiners. The money was used to cover registration fees for underprivileged players. (Daily News Photo)

NOHL FINAL SERIES

Cougars host Bighorns

North Okanagan Hockey League championship series gets under way Saturday, at 8 p.m., when Vernon Cougars host Oliver Bighorns.

Second game in the best-of-seven series is scheduled Sunday, at 7 p.m., in Vernon. The series then shifts to Oliver for two games, Feb. 26 and 27.

Cougars placed first during the regular season with 38 points, six more than the second-place Bighorns. However, Oliver managed four victories, in eight games, against Vernon.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson told the Daily News he expects a tough

series. "Oliver has a good club," he said. "There is no way we're going to take them lightly."

EXCESS PENALTIES

One aspect that has the Vernon coach concerned is his club's habit of taking excess penalties. Cougars were assessed 996 penalty minutes, in 1,380 minutes of hockey, during the regular season.

"The key for us will be staying out of the penalty box," Swanson said. "We can't afford to take stupid penalties ... Bighorns have a good powerplay."

For the first time this season, all 21 players on the Vernon roster are

healthy. That means Swanson will have to sit out two players every game.

"I'm not sure who will be dressing for the games," he said. "We've got seven defencemen and 12 forwards, so we'll probably sit out one forward and one defenceman every night."

Veteran defenceman Bernie Reed will not be available for Saturday's game due to a suspension.

IN GOAL

In goal, Charlie Briskham will start the first game, with Ed Forslund expected to play Sunday.

Swanson said, "I pain to alternate the goalies until

one of them starts playing better, or worse, than the other. I've got confidence on both those guys."

Only units that will probably remain intact during the playoffs have Terry Lowe between scoring champion Dave Caldwell and Gary Gilchrist; and speedy Randy Merritt centering Ernie Gare and Muayir Wilcox.

"Those two lines are pretty well set," Swanson said. "I'll probably do quite a bit of juggling with the third line and the defensive combinations."

Caldwell had 79 points during the regular season followed by Gilchrist 75, and Lowe 69. Jerry Thygesen was Oliver's top sniper, and fourth overall, with 54 points. Randy Conley (41 points) and Gord McKay are among Bighorns' other offensive standouts.

Swanson said, "I know every player on our club wants to win this series. It



DAVE CALDWELL
... scoring champ

means a lot to us because all the Coy Cup playdowns are in the Interior this year."

Winner will host the Vancouver Island champion, in Coy Cup quarter-finals, March 11-13.

79 racers in BMX event

Seventy-nine riders competed in a recent BMX Race in Vernon's Ranger Park.

There were a total of 15 classes, for competitors six and up.

Boys age 6 beginners: Chad Franklin, Mark Erickson, Bruce Williams.

Boys age 8 beginners: Travis Franklin, Des Fries, Ken Jacobs.

Boys age 9 beginners: Jason Smith, Wade Foreman, Wayne Knopf.

Boys age 10 beginners: Bradley Sindlinger, Darren Friesen, Shane Foreman.

Boys age 12 beginners: Jason Dewinetz, Ed Huber, Tony Mueller.

Boys age 13 beginners: Brian Moncion, Sean Worth, Peter Catt.

Boys age 14 beginners: Mike Braithwaite, Lee Bellamy, Jason Farlette.

Boys age 16 beginners: Dave Whitewell, Brent Hewitt, Gord Fearnley.

Boys age 12 novice: Jamie Cowie, Anthony Comazzetto, Calvin Reich.

Boys age 13 novice: Joss Murray, Brian Lamb.

Boys age 17 novice: Glen Breikreutz, Garrett Choquette, Craig Inouye.

Boys age 14 expert: Rob Cochrane, Tim McAlpine, Terry Myer.

Girls age 10 beginners: Kathy Meyer, Laura Cowie, Beckie Mueller.

Girls age 13 beginners: Karen Omelchuk Michelle Cochrane, Tracey Bellamy.

Trikes: Wayne Schultz, Danielle Booth, Tanya Murray.

Junior hoop finals get under way today

Okanagan North Zone Junior Basketball League playoffs get under way today.

the championship game at 8 p.m. Top two clubs advance to the valley finals. March

CURLING CLUB NEWS

By RON HOUSTON

