



GORDIE HOWE faced a hectic and varied schedule during his visit to Vernon for the B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star game. On Thursday afternoon, he was the guest speaker at the all-star luncheon in the Vernon Lodge Hotel. At the luncheon, he met the all-stars including

Vernon minor hockey graduates Greg Kowal, left, Nick Kapicki, and Bruce Major, right. Kowal and Kapicki, from Vernon Lakers, played for the Interior while Major, who now stars for Richmond Sockeyes, was a member of the Coastal squad. Earlier in the day, Howe toured the



Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame with founder Nick Alexis. One photo which caught Howe's eye was of Alexis about 40 years ago.

(Daily News Photo)

BCJHL ALL-STAR GAME

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

A surprisingly powerful, Interior Division team outscored their Coastal Division rivals 3-1 in the second period, then added two unanswered markers in the third period to earn a convincing 7-3 victory in the annual B.C. Junior Hockey League contest, played Thursday night, at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The hard-hitting, cleanly contested game, played before a near-capacity crowd of about 2,000 featured a fine display of junior hockey skills.

"It was an entertaining game," said Muzz McPherson, the colorful coach of Burnaby Bluehaws who was in charge of the Coastal Division squad. "Both teams worked hard and it was a real credit to the league."

Although the action went end-to-end throughout the night, the Interior Division dominated the Coastal team in their own end, and carried a slight advantage in defending their own zone against the big guns of the other division.

Rod Ware, recently traded from Langley to Penticton Knights, scored twice during the contest with both goals set up by Vernon's Nick Kapicki. Kapicki, relegated to left wing from his usual centre position, adapted very quickly to his new spot and, along with Ware and centre Todd Brost, also of Penticton, provided the crowd with some of the most dazzling displays of passing on the night.

Ware's goals came at 14:45 of the first period, giving the Interior a short-lived one-goal lead, and 15:10 of the third period, putting the icing on the cake.

The teams were tied 2-2 after one period, but three straight goals by the Interior Division, off the sticks of Darin Servatius, of Salmon Arm Totems, Murray Winnicki, of Knights, and Jim Klenk, of Summerland Buckaroos, opened a healthy lead.

Brent Mowery, of Summerland, and Shawn Pettyjohn, also of the Bucks, added singles in the first and third periods to round out the scoring for the Interior Division, which outshot their Coastal counterparts 49-42.

Doug McFaul, of Abbotsford, Ken Jorgenson, of Burnaby, and Keith Street, of Richmond, a last minute

replacement for Burnaby's Derrick Ruppel who was unable to attend, replied for the Coastal Division all-stars.

"The second period was the turning point," offered McPherson in retrospect of his team's loss. "We had two good changes and didn't score and then they got two quick ones on us."

"What surprised me was that it was a hard-hitting game. It had everything you could want."

The hitting, while hard at times, was clean and generally used effectively. Each team picked up just three minor penalties in the contest, but neither club managed a power-play goal. One player, three-time all-star veteran Rene Command, of Sidney Capitals, left the game in the first period after being dealt a bone-shaking check by Summerland's Ron Lyver.

Rick Kozuback, coaching the Interior all-stars, admitted that he expected to be the loser in the game upon entering the contest. However, the Penticton Knights coach changed his way of thinking after the game got under way.

"We thought from the first three or four shifts that we deserved to win and we just didn't get a lead for a while," Kozuback said.

The Interior squad made excellent use of the slot area, being virtually uncontested for that domain by the weaker defensive unit of the Coastal Division. The puck control exhibited by defencemen such as Ian Kidd and Servatius, also helped to keep the momentum up during Interior scoring drives.

Another area the Interior held an edge in was the checking game with relentless forechecking by the Interior squad spearheaded by Vernon's Kapicki and Greg Kowal, who set up a goal by Klenk during the second period.

"We had to make sure we got the good checking efforts," added Kozuback. "We had some real gunners though and they came through."

Meanwhile, Lakers have no time to dwell on the all-star game since they entertain Abbotsford Flyers tonight at 8 p.m. at Civic Arena. Lakers have a 10-game unbeaten streak to keep alive and a push down the line may even give them a chance to catch up to division-leading knights, whom they trail by 12 points.



Revelstoke Rangers' puck wizard Vern Kinley, centre, splits Coastal Division defencemen Wade Michelenko, of Nanaimo foreground, and Brian Bull-

inger, of Richmond, during action Thursday night at the annual BCJHL All-star game held at Vernon Civic Arena. Kinley and his Interior Division team-mates dominated

the night and skated to a 7-3 victory over their Coastal Division rivals in a terrific display of hockey talent witnessed by about 2,000 fans.

(Daily News Photo)

PIN POINTS

JAN 9

WEDNESDAY GOLDEN AGE

Women's High Single: Mairreen

Poyner, 224; High Triple: Ann

Spey, 294; High Average: Mina

Black, 170

Men's High Single: Steve

Chemko, 274; High Triple: Wally

Fleischman, 474; High Average:

Gordon Young, 204

Team High Single: Happy Gang,

+173; High Triple: Blue Jays,

+202

100 POA: Steve Chemko, ave.

150, bowled 274

TEAM STANDINGS

Ups and Downs 47

Blue Jays 44

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THURSDAY MATINEE

Women's High Single: Cathy

Douglas, 279; High Triple: Cathy

Douglas, 666; High Average: Cathy

Douglas, 196

Team High Single: Cameos,

+130; High Triple: Jetset, +211

TEAM STANDINGS

Jet Set 43

Keglers 39

Happy Wonderers 35

Capricorns 32

Go Getters 29

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THURSDAY 7-9

Women's High Single: Carol

Skidmore and Donna Desmarais,

281; High Triple: Bev Thibault,

716; High Average: Marie

MacKenzie, 232

Men's High Single: Len Chahley,

311; High Triple: Len Chahley, 835;

High Average: Denis Thibault, 248

Team High Single: 1 2

Electric, 1297; High Triple: 1 2

Electric, 3533

TEAM STANDINGS

Family Feud 40

1 2 Electric 39

Five Stars 34

Crazy Five 33

JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Lumby wins tourney

Charles Bloom, of Lumby, went undefeated through three games to capture the A-final championship of the eight-team Charles Bloom Junior Boys Basketball Tournament held recently in Lumby.

The Lumby squad defeated Vernon Secondary Junior Panthers 33-29 in the A-final to capture the championship with Mike Dolman scoring 16 points for the winners. Peter Sorokovsky was tops for Panthers with eight points.

In round-robin play Charles Bloom defeated Kal Lakers, of Vernon, 49-35 while Dolman notching 20

points and Ted Stuchberry adding 14. Rick Streibel was tops for Lakers with 15 points.

In their semi-final matchup, it was Lumby over Seaton Sonics, also of Vernon, by a 45-37 score. Again, Dolman was top scorer with 21 points while Stuchberry contributed 12.

Jamie Caldwell, a guard with Charles Bloom, was selected the most valuable player for the tournament with Peter Sarmatzis and Dennis Hitch, both of Vernon Secondary, along with Mike McNamara, of Seaton, selected to the all-star lineup for the tourney.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Two men deserve pat on back



GORDIE HOWE was a busy man for the 36 hours he was in Vernon. Howe was besieged by autograph seekers

before, during, and after the B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star game, Thursday night. He had to take a couple

breaks, in an office away from the fans, to give his hand a rest.

(Daily News Photo)

Two men, Carl Enemark and Gordie Howe, deserve much of the credit for the success of the B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star game, played Thursday night in Vernon.

Enemark, president of Vernon Lakers, did some slick lobbying to get the all-star game for Vernon, for the second time in the last decade. Due to the prestige and media exposure, every BCJHL team loves hosting the all-stars.

ATTRACTION

Then, after Lakers were awarded the game, Enemark realized he needed a special attraction. Even the best players in the BCJHL have been unable to attract large crowds in recent years. The last two all-star games, played in Richmond and Kelowna, attracted less than 1,000 spectators.

So, Enemark recruited the biggest attraction he could find... Howe. Howe, who rewrote the National Hockey League record book in three decades of pro hockey, added some class to the event.

About 250 people attended the all-star luncheon Thursday, in the Vernon Lodge Hotel, and an estimated 2,000 fans were on hand for the game. And many of the spectators were there for one purpose... to get a glimpse of Gordie.

Howe had the busiest right hand in the world during his brief visit to Vernon. From the time he arrived Wednesday night, he was signing autographs. Hockey fans, of all ages,

had an opportunity to pic, up his autograph and chat for a few seconds with a living legend.

Seeing Howe in the midst of autograph seekers, an hour before game time Thursday, brought back some memories for me.

I saw Howe play twice for Detroit Red Wings in Vancouver, before he jumped to the World Hockey Association. It was after his defection to the WHA, in 1974, that I had an opportunity to witness by he is called a great ambassador for hockey.

Howe was a member of Team Canada, comprised of WHA players, which was taking on the Soviet Union. It was quite a thrill to go to the banquet on the eve of the Vancouver game with greats like Bobby Hull, Frank Mahovlich, J.C. Tremblay, Pat Stapleton, and Howe in attendance.

STILL SIGNING

After the game hundreds of fans filled the Hyatt Regency Hotel lobby area with the hope of getting an autograph or two. I left the hotel for two hours and when I returned, at about midnight, four players were still signing autographs... and smiling.

Hull, Howe, and his two sons, Mark and Marty, didn't leave until the last hockey fans were satisfied.

It is a good feeling when you find out a hockey hero is deserving of the envy and respect he receives!

