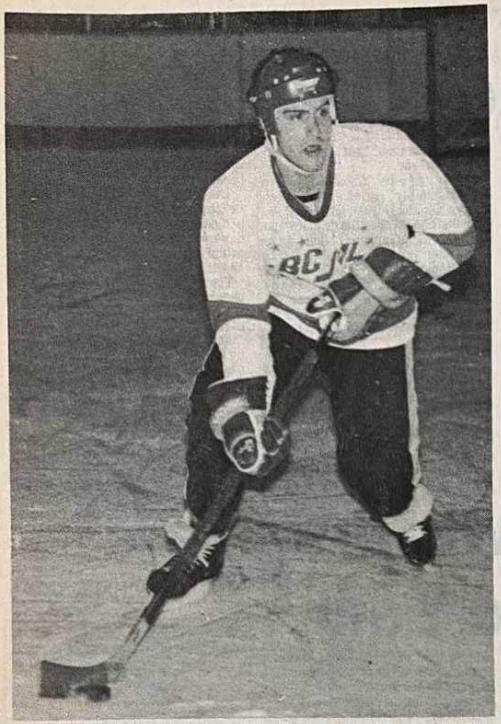
Coast stars hang on to edge Interior 5-4



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Greg Olson moves the puck into the Coast Division zone during the annual BCJHL all-star game, Thursday, in Merritt. Olson and his teammates dropped a 5-4 decision to their rivals from the Coast. (Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Coastal Division All-star team leapt in front of their Interior Division counterparts by five goals early in the contest, but barely hung on for a 5-4 victory in the 12th annual BCJHL All-Star game, played in Merritt, Thursday night.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak by the Interior Division, which last lost an all-star game in January, 1983, in Kelowna.

The Coastal Division caught the Interior skaters flat-footed in the first period and, coupled with a bit of shaky goaltending by Penticton's Jamie Loewen, carved out an impressive 4-0 lead after 20 minutes.

Less than five minutes into the second frame, with the Interior squad pressing to get on the scoreboard, the Coastal All-stars increased their lead to 5-0. Single goals by Brad Smiley, of Abbotsford, Tony Bobbitt of Richmond, Aaron Nosky of Delta, and Mike Knapton of Nanaimo accounted for the first period goals while Darren Biggs of Nanaimo, scored the first marker of the second period.

It was all Interior All-stars from that point on, however, as veteran Kelowna forward Pat Mangold started the ball rolling with his goal at 5:42 of the middle stanza. Mangold's marker came off a neat set-up by Penticton's John DePourcq and Chris Hicks of Summerland.

At 9:48 of the second frame, Loewen ended his stint in the Interior nets after making just 11 saves. His replacement, Lucien Carignan of Kelowna, shutout the Coastal Division team for the remainder of the game. His effort earned him the Interior Division Most Valuable Player award.

Vernon forward Craig Bedard gave the Interior team something more to hope for as he closed the gap to three goals with his marker at 11:05. Ed Tuckwood, also of Vernon, and Kelowna centre Kerry Russell drew assists on the play.

Before the period ended, the Interior had made it a two-goal game when Merritt's Steve Manuel who scored off a rebound from team-mate Darryl Kirkpatrick.

When the dust had settled the score was 5-3 after 40 minutes and the Interior had outshot the Coastal All-stars 18-8 during the middle stanza.

Kirkpatrick notched the only goal of the third period, on a power-play, with Campbell Blair of the Lakers drawing the assist.

Despite all their efforts in the dying minutes, including pulling Carignan for a sixth attacker, the Interior squad couldn't notch the equalizer. Bedard was fingered for roughing with 15 seconds to play and that nullified any chance the team had of gaining a tie.

Carignan made 22 saves for his portion of the show.

Smiley, formerly of Merritt, was chosen the MVP for the Coastal squad.

The Coastal squad boasted several decades of coaching experience behind their bench with Langley's Muzz MacPherson and Richmond's Orland Kurtenbach sharing coaching duties. Both were extremely impressed with the calibre of play by both clubs.

"It was the kind of game I like to be associated with," offered MacPherson, who has more than 20 years of junior hockey coaching behind him."

"Win lose or draw the fans couldn't have seen a better game and I was proud to be a part of it," suggested Kurtenbach.

Interior Head Coach Bill Hogaboam, of Kelowna Packers, was equally impressed with both the outcome and the game itself.

"It was a great game for both teams," he said. "The guys just said, 'we've got just as good a team as they have, when wer down by those five goals.'

"(Lucien) Carignan played super, he helped us get back into the game. The good shots they did have he was there to make the big saves."

Hogaboam agreed with a suggestion that in spite of the loss it was a great moral victory for the Interior Division team after being down by five goals early in the contest.

Meanwhile, many other people, including the majority of scouts on hand, also thought highly of the game.

"I've seen the all-star games in every junior A league across the country in the past week and this was by far the best," suggested University of Minnesota scout Mel Pearson. "The skills, the shooting, the goal-tending, the passing . . . everything was just superb tonight."

Vernon Lakers entertain MacPherson's Langley Eagles tonight at the Civic Arena as the BCJHL regular season resumes.



WINGER Ed Tuckwood of Vernon Lakers, left, lets a shot go during the BCJHL all-star game, Thursday. Tuckwood and Laker teammate Craig Bedard combined for the first Interior goal, but their club lost a 5-4 thriller to the Coast Division. (Daily News Photo)

Vernon Daily News | **sports** Editor—DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hoop battle starts tonight

Basketball supremacy in the North Okanagan will be decided this weekend when Clarence Fulton Maroons take on Vernon Panthers in the 'Battle of Vernon'. The two-game series begins tonight, at Fulton, with the second game Saturday, at VSS. Both contests get under way at 8 p.m. Meanwhile, Fulton Maroons improved their record to 5-1 in North Zone 'A' League play with a 50-43 win over Charles Bloom, of Lumby, on Thursday. Panthers record in the Okanagan 'AA' League fell to 4-3, Thursday, after a 64-34 loss to Kamloops Red Devils.

Magicians win

Dave Munk scored two goals to lead Molson Magicians to a 7-6 win over Big Mommas in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action, Thursday night. Bob Powell, Lyle Brewer, Dave Caldow, Murray Batty, and Dave Schneider were the other marksmen for Magicians. Les Salo replied with three goals for Big Mommas while Graydon Brown added two and Ken Dodds rounded out the scoring.

Hawks battle back

Portland Winter Hawks overcame

United States this year, not so much overseas, work on my game and try to get back on top," O'Meara said.

He took the first step toward that goal with an eight-under-par 63 that provided him with the lead Thursday in the unfinished first round of the $600,000 Phoenix Open golf tournament.

Frost and frozen greens delayed the start of play by 1½ hours, backed up the starting times and left 45 players stranded on the course by darkness.

Septien charged

Alberta ski racers quick and confident

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Writer

Alberta racers captured three of the top four positions in a Canadian Alpine Ski Series slalom event Thursday at Silver Star Mountain.

Scott Bexton, of Calgary, won the race with a two-run combined time of one minute, 50.43 seconds. Bexton finished just over a second ahead of Laurence Facchina, of Nelson, who also was second in a slalom race Wednesday.

Troy Panrucker, of Calgary, was third in 1:51.90 and Frederic Jolivet, of Edmonton, was a distant fourth in 1:54.86. Kelowna's Doug Ito was fifth in 1:55.31.

Bexton said the Alberta racers gained confidence Thursday after a disappointing effort in the opening race of the series.

"We got used to the hill today and it made a big difference, particularly in the second run," said Bexton. "We

