Vernon Daily News | sports
Editor — DON KENDALL

Holland leads Winter Hawks

Rookie Dennis Holland is the leading scorer with Portland Winter Hawks, of the Western Hockey League.

Holland, a graduate of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association, has scored 23 goals and added 52 assists for 75 points. He leads Dave Archibald, who is being touted as a NHL first round draft pick, by three points.

Holland's long-time friend and linemate, Troy Mick, ranks fifth on the Winter Hawks in scoring with 47 points.

Veteran defenceman Jeff Finley, another Vernon product, is eighth in team scoring with 40 points. Rearguard Jay Stark, who played his minor hockey in Vernon, leads the club in penalties with 230 minutes.

Brothers Troy and Trevor Pohl, who played with Vernon Lakers last year, are also among the team's penalty leaders. They have scored 16 and five goals, respectively.

PORTLAND SCORING

PLAYER	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
Holland	48	23	52	75	76
Archibald	43	33	39	72	34
Nicholls	45	26	32	58	40
Bjuhr	39	28	26	54	22
Mick	41	24	23	47	35
Woodley	23	16	25	41	45
Gerrits	45	20	20	40	53
Finley	48	6	34	40	83
Wesley	39	11	28	39	46
McLay	33	15	18	33	97
Mitchell	44	5	27	32	73
Laton	45	17	14	31	151
Troy Pohl	44	16	15	31	115
Melnyk	43	15	15	30	28
Sharples	24	8	21	29	66
Clouston	46	6	14	20	53
Trevor Pohl	37	5	11	15	146
Kloepzig	41	3	9	12	137
Stark	46	0	12	12	230

Giants humbled by their history

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Standing atop the NFL mountain, the New York Giants are not getting carried away with their success. They are humbled by their own history.

Team history, for instance, shows 30 years between Giant championships, a streak that ended Sunday with a 39-20 Super Bowl victory over the Denver Broncos.

After their 1956 National Football League title, the Giants lost their next five title games and than went 23 years without even getting into one after falling 14-10 to the Chicago Bears in 1963.

Coach Bill Parcells and quarterback Phil Simms, the Super Bowl most valuable player with a record-setting 22-of-25 passing performance, can learn from their personal histories. Just three seasons back, they were surrounded by failure. It was a long climb from that 3-12-1 mark to this year's 17-2.

"I know now what real euphoria is," Parcells said Monday. "It's a wonderful feeling and I don't know if I'll ever be able to duplicate it."

Three years ago, Parcells was not even sure he'd be coaching, much less winning a championship. He had replaced Ray Perkins, who left the Giants for the University of Alabama, and those 1983 Giants were not really his players.

At that point, he was just trying to survive in the NFL after stints at seven colleges and a job as linebacker coach in New England.

"You don't think in terms of the Super Bowl," Parcells said when asked if he ever despaired of making it to the top. "You just work hard and hope you put a competitive team on the field."

Parcells began doing that in 1984, when the Giants were a wild-card playoff team with a 9-7 record. They moved up to 10-6 the next season but, each time, lost in the playoffs to the eventual Super Bowl winner.

This year, the Giants started winning on Oct. 27 — the same night the New York Mets won the World Series. The Giants didn't stop winning, taking 12 straight games to give New York a Super Bowl-World Series exacta. Only Baltimore in 1971 and Pittsburgh in 1979 managed a similar feat.

What does it all mean for the future, particularly since the 49ers and Bears didn't come close to repeating after thoroughly dominating the competition in 1984 and 1985, respectively?

"I don't think history means one thing in football because every year is a new year and every game is a new game," Parcells said.

"The historical aspect is for guys who used to play, or for fans."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Slowpitch loop meets tonight

The Okanagan Spring Brewery Slowpitch League is holding a general meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Green Inn. All teams are invited to send representatives to this meeting because several changes to the league will be discussed. Among the topics for discussion will be splitting the league, various means of fundraising and changes to the stealing rules. New teams are also invited to the meeting. Following the meeting there will be a hospitality room at which Skyline Sports of Vancouver will display what's new in terms of sporting equipment.

Bowlers honored

Sharon Myers and John Orton Jr. have been honored as Bowlers of the Week at Polson Bowling Centre. Myers rolled a three-game total of 646, 223 pins over her 141 average. Orton recorded an 811 threesome, 229 pins over his 194 average.

Lotus wins

Lotus Gardens took a 5-1 lead and hung on to edge Brewers 5-4 in Lumby Sportsman Hockey League action Monday. Dennis Hamaguchi

two assists as the Oilers downed the Rangers 7-4 two nights later.

He made a goal and three assists in a 4-2 triumph over Pittsburgh Jan. 24, to give him a league-leading total of 48 goals and 74 assists for 122 points in 49 games.

English is top player

NEW YORK (AP) — Forward Alex English of the Denver Nuggets, who averaged 32.7 points in leading his team to a 3-0 record last week, was named the National Basketball Association player of the week, the

MAINE RECRUITS IN B.C.

Blair earns scholarship



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Campbell Blair has accepted a three-year scholarship offer from the University of Maine. (Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

University of Maine Black Bears will add another member of Vernon Lakers to their growing list of former BCJHL players. Maine Head Coach Shawn Walsh said today that the university is on the verge of signing defensive standout Campbell Blair to a scholarship.

Black Bears presently have four BCJHL graduates, including three former Lakers on their roster. Vernon minor hockey products Dave Wensley and Bruce Major as well as former Vernon goaltender Scott King, and Langley goalie Al Loring currently play for Maine. The BCJHL players have contributed significantly to Black Bears' rise from obscurity to one of the top-ranked university clubs in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"I liked him (Blair) a lot when I saw him and I'm a big believer in track records," suggested Walsh who now considers the BCJHL to be a gold mine of talent for the NCAA. "What he's done in the BCJHL tells me that he can step in and play for us next season."

Blair, a 20-year old rearguard now in his fourth BCJHL season, has already broken one BCJHL scoring record for defencemen and is rapidly closing in on several more including most single season goals and most career points. He currently leads the local junior hockey club with 96 points, including 32 goals.

Though his defensive play has been questioned at times, it is basically Blair's offensive know-how that Walsh is after in order to bolster Maine's power-play.

"He (Walsh) wants me for the power-play," explained Blair. "That's my objective for the first year, but I'll have to work hard to get a regular spot right away. Hopefully, I can perform well for the three years."

Though Walsh has relied on his own eyes and ears for information on new prospects, he is also basing his assumptions on previous experience with BCJHL players.

"Every guy we've gotten from B.C. is a great kid and Campbell fits into that mold too," said Walsh who is in his third year as head coach with Maine. "Scott (King) tells me that he's a great leader and I like his maturity.

"We're going to fly him down here (Orono, Maine) after the (BCJHL) playoffs," he added. "We've got a very close-knit team here."

Blair indicated he is committed to sign with Maine, though he has entertained thoughts of going to other schools.

"It's the best offer I've had and with the best school too," suggested Blair who plans to pursue an education degree at Maine but is, as yet, undeclared in his major subject. "I know those guys there really well."

Walsh has already assigned Blair a numbered jersey for next season indicating that Blair chose the number 44 for somewhat sentimental reasons.

"He (Walsh) asked me what number I wanted so I asked for number 44. I wore number four throughout my junior career so I figured it was a step up in that regard."

Maine has just three scholarships to offer because only three players are graduating this season. One of these has already been filled by a player from Quebec while Blair has now taken the second scholarship.

The third may be filled by Penticton Knights' forward Jackson Penny, who is another friend of Blair, Loring, and King.

28 POINTS IN 26 GAMES

Wensley hot for Bears



GOALIE SCOTT KING is one of the big reasons Maine is now ranked fifth in the NCAA. King, who starred with Vernon Lakers during the 1985-86 season, has lowered his goals against average to 2.72. He also has the highest grade point average on the team.

Three Vernon products figured in Maine Black Bears' two victories over New Hampshire last weekend.

The wins improve Black Bears overall record to 17-7-2 while their regular season record in the NCAA Hockey East Division went to 15-6-1 and enables Maine to climb from sixth to fifth overall in the NCAA top 10 rankings. It is the highest ranking Maine has received to date.

Bruce Major and Dave Wensley, who are both Vernon Minor Hockey Association graduates, scored goals in both victories by Black Bears over New Hampshire. Friday night, Bears earned an 8-2 victory while Saturday night, with former Vernon Lakers' goaltender Scott King between the pipes, Black Bears scored an impressive 10-1 victory against New Hampshire.

Wensley, who trails only Dave Capuano in team scoring, also added assists on both nights for a four-point weekend giving him 28 points, in 26 games.

"Dave is playing really well for us lately," said Black Bears' Assistant Coach Dave Westby.

Major, meanwhile, broke a lengthy scoring drought two weeks ago when he finally notched his 10th goal of the season. His two on the weekend ups his output for the season to 12 now.

"He (Major) works so darn hard and the puck just wasn't going in for him," explained Westby. "Hopefully he is out of that now."

Black Bears have become the Cinderella story of the National Collegiate Athletic Association this season thanks mainly to the work of the three Vernon players. Black Bears, previously unranked, came virtually out of nowhere this season and have been among the NCAA poll's top 10 list every week since the season began.

"We feel good about it (ranking)," suggested Westby. "However, we try not to get too caught up in it — it's good for recruiting and it's good for the fans."

King, a top prospect for the Hockey East Freshman of the Year award this season, further reduced his stingy goals-against average with his one-goal against performance Saturday night.

King, drafted by Detroit Red Wings in the 10th round (190th overall) of last June's amateur draft, continues to lead the Hockey East and the NCAA with his average. That average currently stands at 2.72 goals against overall, and just 2.77 goals against in Hockey East play.

Saturday night, King set another NCAA record — this time for the fewest saves in a single game — nine.

King also leads his team-mates in scholastic achievement with a 3.77 grade point average out of a possible four. If he receives the Freshman of the Year Award, it would be the second time in two seasons that the award has gone to Black Bears' goaltender.

Al Loring, of Prince George, another former BCJHL player (Langley Eagles), whom King shares goaltending duties with at Maine, was the co-recipient of the prestigious award last year.

"They (King and Loring) are both playing their tails off," said Westby.

Black Bears head into more Hockey East action this weekend with a home-and-home series against Providence Friars, Friday night and Sunday afternoon.

Incidentally, both games are carried over the New England Sports Network (NESN) which is transmitted by satellite.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JAN., 1982

Sunset Properties blasted Western Computing 8-0 in Major Women's Broomball League action this week at Centennial Rink. Laurie Grabowski, Barb Weins and Laurie Ogasawara all tallied twice while Leanne Willms and Deb Fester notched single markers. In another game, Jan Podgornik powered Sigalet Brothers to a 1-0 win over Commerce Imperials.

JAN., 1982

Vernon Lakers saw their third place hopes dashed when they lost 7-4 at home to Revelstoke Rockers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. The loss drops the local squad 15 points back of the third-place Rockets. Lakers now lead Merritt by five points in the battle for the final playoff berth. Dale Reimer, Rob Kossan, Mike Wiebe and Bob Morden tallied for the Lakers in their loss to Revelstoke Sunday night.

Foreman in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman, who is planning a comeback after a 10-year layoff, will return to the ring next month in the United States rather than France, as previously announced.

Bill Caplan, Foreman's personal promoter, said Monday that a scheduled bout between Foreman and Bob Hitzenberger at Cannes, France on Feb. 6 won't be held because of the severe snowstorms and cold weather in that country recently.

Caplan said an announcement will be made later this week as to where and when the 38-year-old ex-champion will fight for the first time since March 1977. Caplan said Foreman will face Hitzenberger subject to boxing commission approval.

BCJHL

Coastal Division

	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
Richmond	42	30	12	0	276	163	60
Langley	42	26	15	1	227	209	53
Nanaimo	41	21	19	1	225	230	43
Delta	40	21	19	0	241	214	42
Juan De Fuca	44	16	28	0	193	236	32
Abbotsford	43	13	30	0	188	280	26

Interior Division

Kelowna	40	35	3	2	306	134	72
Vernon	43	27	14	2	316	205	56
Penticton	46	25	18	3	244	186	53
Merritt	43	8	34	1	154	312	17
Summerland	42	4	36	2	145	346	10

SCORING

Coastal	G	A	Pts	Pim
Momotani, Del	52	49	101	20
Tomlinson, Rich	31	51	82	67
Clarke, Rich	50	31	81	141
Holmes, Del	31	47	78	22
Zulinick, JDF	25	53	78	24
Smiley, Abb	31	43	74	66
Eisenhut, Lan	39	34	73	24
Moller, Rich	27	46	73	20
Stotts, Nan	24	36	61	108
MacDonald, Del	24	36	60	57

Interior

DePourcq, Pen	48	49	97	8
Scott, Ver	38	58	96	99
Blair, Ver	32	64	96	157
Taillefer, Kel	33	61	94	174
Mowery, Kel	33	57	90	91
Bedard, Ver	41	46	87	87
Spooner, Ver	38	43	81	117
Mangold, Kel	38	40	78	83
S.Hartnell, Pen	30	47	77	102
Russell, Kel	30	45	75	59