SPORTS BRIEFS

Ex-Laker on squad

Stacey Wakabayashi, who starred for the Vernon Lakers during the 1982-83 season, was named Thursday to Canada's team for the annual Spengler Cup Tournament in Davos, Switzerland. The international tourney is scheduled Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 and will also have teams from Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia. Wakabayashi, who is now a standout with the University of Alberta, is among fourteen collegiate players and six Canadians playing for European first division clubs who were chosen for the squad.

Shinny hockey

Free shinny hockey for women is scheduled Fridays, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Centennial Outdoor Rink, adjacent to the Vernon Recreation Complex. For further information phone 545-6035.

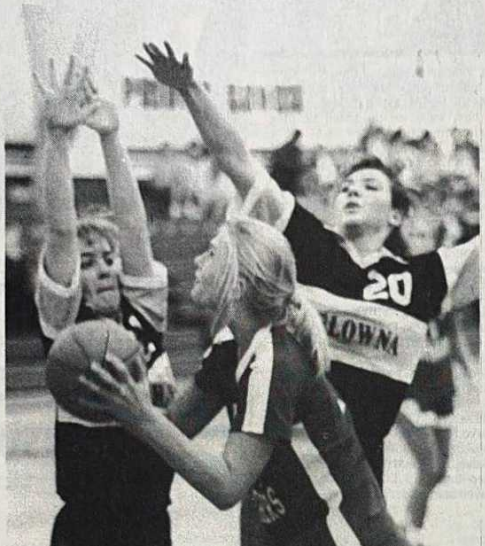
Foreman in ring

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — George Foreman, more than a decade removed from the days when he was the most feared heavyweight around, continues his improbable boxing comeback tonight when he meets



ROAD STREAK ON THE LINE

Lakers visit Coastal Division



The biggest test of the Vernon Lakers' impressive road record will come this weekend when the club plays three games in three nights against teams from the Coastal Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The local club dropped its first three road games of the season including an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the lowly Summerland Buckaroos on Sept. 29. Since then they have been a perfect example of disciplined, spirited performance on the road, winning 11 straight games to become the best road team in the BCJHL.

Under ordinary circumstances, a general manager would be looking for perhaps an even split on a multi-game road trip, but considering the way with which the Lakers deal defeat after defeat to their hosts, Mel Lis says his team is going after three more wins this weekend.

"I think the critical game is the number one game," he suggested. "If we can maintain the momentum after winning the first game, I don't see why we can't win all three."

The Lakers' first stop is in Nanaimo, tonight, where they play their second game of the season against the Clippers. The Nanaimo squad is the biggest, physically, of any of the teams in the league and although Vernon handed the visitors a 10-3 loss at the Civic Arena, the Clippers imparted a great deal of physical damage on the local team during that game.

The Lakers will have their number one enforcer Keith Chase with them once again while newly-acquired forward Darren Hlarsa will come in handy with his size as well.

"I don't know how physical the game will be but it will be tough because of the bus ride," added Lis.

The Lakers left at 7 a.m. today and expect to be in their hotel rooms by 2:30 p.m. with a brief skate and the game meal to follow.

Saturday night, the club plays Juan De Fuca Whalers, who dealt Vernon one of their five home losses this season, a 5-3 decision. Sunday afternoon, the Lakers play their third game of the weekend against the Chilliwack Eagles who occupy fifth place in the Coastal Division. In order to make that date Sunday, the team will catch the 9 a.m. ferry heading for Tsawwassen.

Realistically, Lis doesn't expect to escape with three victories but he doesn't expect to get blown out by any of the Coastal teams either.

"I'd be happy with four of six points, he admitted.

There is one problem this time of the year that doesn't come into focus during other road trips however and that is the holiday season.

"The only reason I worry is that they (Lakers) might start thinking about home and Christmas too soon," Lis said.

In Thursday's lone BCJHL game, the Salmon Arm Tigers dumped the Penticton Knights 7-4.

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Local hoopsters victorious