THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MANY ATHLETES MAKE MARK

Sporting highlights of 1987

1987 will be remembered in a lot of different ways by a lot of people but here at the Vernon News sports department we like to encourage a little reminiscing at this time of the season: so, we've prepared a condensed version of the entire year for your personal enjoyment.

Many readers will be surprised at the number of athletes who made their mark on the region, the province, the nation and even the international scene during the past 12 months. In fact, we're a bit surprised at this end of the line as well.

The shear volume of outstanding incidents compiled here should give readers a good idea of the kind of sports-minded area they live in and may also serve as encouragement for future athletes in this community.

Naturally, not every item of significance made it to this digest but after making dozens of pages or primary notes we found it necessary to pare the list down a bit to keep from taking up several pages.

This, then, is the year 1987 in retrospect as it appeared in the Vernon Daily News sports pages:

JANUARY

*Fulton Maroons swept Vernon Panthers to win the first ever "Battle of Vernon" high school basketball title.

*Vernon Lakers' defenceman Campbell Blair broke B.C. Junior Hockey League records for most career points, most career goals, and most career assists.

*Steven Vandermeulen won a gold medal at the prestigious Western Canadian Swimming Championship held in Vancouver.

*Randy Brown and his rink capture the zone title and a berth to the B.C. Men's Curling Championships.

*Vernon players stand out in a 5-4 loss by the Interior Division team to their Coastal Division opposition in the Annual BCJHL All-Star Game played in Merritt.

FEBRUARY

*The B.C. Lions defeat the Calgary Stampeders 90-84 in the championship final game of the CFL Kickoff Basketball Tournament held at Vernon Secondary School.

*Vernon Lakers clinch second place in the Interior Division of the BCJHL with a 7-3 win over Merritt Centennials.

*The Vernon Celebrity Ski-A-Thon raises $10,104 for Rick Hansen and his Man-In-Motion fund.

*The Winnipeg Saints beat Richmond 11-2 to win the Annual Vernon Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament.

*Defenceman Campbell Blair sets two more BCJHL records for a defenceman in the Lakers' last regular season game. His records include most goals by a defenceman and most points in a season by a defenceman.

*Vernon disabled athlete Laurie Reeves wins four gold medals at the Windsor Classic Indoor Games for the Disabled.

MARCH

*Vernon Lakers sweep the Penticton Knights in the BCJHL Interior Division semi-final series and advance to the division final series against the Kelowna Packers.

*Hoop star J.D. Jackson scores 30 points to lead the UBC Thunderbirds to their first Canada West University Men's Basketball Championship in 12 years with a 94-91 upset over the UVic Vikings.

*Doug Smith and his rink wins the B.C. Mixed Curling title and advances to the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships in Summerside, P.E.I.

*Vernon Royal-Panthers win the B.C. Junior Girls High School Basketball Championship with a 47-31 victory over Maple Ridge.

*Vernon wrestler Greg Edgelow wins a gold medal in the National Senior Wrestling Championships in Regina.

APRIL

*Pierre Harvey and Angela Schmidt-Foster beat North America's best nordic skiers to win the Vachon Canada Cup Series Championship held on Silver Star Mountain.

*Vernon Goli Club opens its brand new club house facility.

*Vernon nordic skiers Lars Taylor and Grace-Ann Webb are both named to the B.C. Cross-Country Ski Team.

*Brent Thibault of Vernon wins the Youth Bowling Council National Bowling Championship in Toronto.

MAY

*Vernon golfer Mike Latta 16, shoots 74 in the face of gale-force winds and inclement weather to win the Spallumcheen Junior Open Golf Tournament.

*Laurie Reeves wins three gold medals at the Michigan Sports Festival for Physically Disabled Athletes.

*Eddie Johnstone of Vernon, announces his retirement from hockey after spending 13 seasons in the pro ranks including stints with New York Rangers and Detroit Red Wings.

*Vernon's Sandy Leroux is named to the Canadian Women's Fastball Team for the 1987 Pan-Am Games.

*Sharon Philp of Vernon wins the Senior Girls' title at the B.C. Tetrathlon Championships and is selected to the B.C. team to compete in the National Tetrathlon Championships in Red Deer, Alta.

JUNE

*Vernon minor hockey graduate Brent Gilchrist leaves for the National Hockey Team camp in Calgary.

*Team Canada, featuring Vernon athlete Sharon Weitzel, sweeps West Germany in a best-of-five exhibition womens volleyball match held at VSS gym.

*Janine Collinson, 1986 Female Athlete of the Year, places third at the Canadian National Modern Pentathlon Championships held in Vancouver.

*Vernon distance runners Mark Bomba and Mike McNamara capture provincial titles at the B.C. Invitational High School Track and Field Championships.

*Detroit Red Wings draft Vernon minor hockey graduate Dennis Holland in the third round of the NHL Amateur Draft.

*Vernon archers Kevin Glowa and Ted McDowell are named to the B.C. Archery Team which will compete in the Canadian Archery Championships.

JULY

*Corinne Vanderwal is named to the B.C. Under-17 Girls' Basketball Team.

*Jeremy Tymkiw wins the boys 14 and under title at the National Racquetball Championships held in Hull, Que.

*Mike Latta is named to the Provincial Golf Team which is to compete in the Western Canada Juvenile Golf Championships.

*Laurie Reeves wins nine medals, including six gold, at the B.C. Championships for the Physically Disabled in Nanaimo.

*Vernon distance runner Alana Kripps is selected to the B.C. Senior Women's Western Canada Games Team.

*Jean-Paul Duranaleau shoots a red-hot 134 over 36 holes to win the Annual Spallumcheen Golf Tournament.

*Ted McDowell and Kevin Glowa win gold medals at the Canadian Archery Championships held in Trois Rivieres, Que.

*Laurie Reeves sets a Canadian Swim record at the National Cerebral Palsy Games in Windsor, Ont., shattering the existing record of 1:45.0 in the 100m freestyle event by 4.5 seconds.

AUGUST

*Janine Collinson is named to the National Women's Pentathlon Team.

*Vernon swimmer Gary Vandermeulen wins two silver medals in the pool at the Pan Am Games held in Indianapolis.

*Coca-Cola beats Desilets Trucking by a 5-3 margin to win the Second Annual Molson Pro-Am Hockey League Championship.

SEPTEMBER

*Vernon bowler Brent Thibault wins $700 in the TSN (The Sports Network) Bowling Tournament televised on national TV.

*Eddie Johnstone joins the coaching staff of the Vernon Lakers Junior A hockey club.

*Vernon Lakers go unbeaten through the pre-season exhibition schedule with a perfect 5-0 record.

*The Coaching Association of Canada honors Vernon's Dennis Murdoch with the Community Coach Excellence Award.

*J.P. Duranaleau shoots a cool 140 to win the Annual Spallumcheen Golf Club Canada Goose Tournament.

OCTOBER

*Vernon cowboys Vern Elliott and Leo Louis win the Canadian Team Roping Championship held in Prince George.

*Ed Lukowich of Calgary defeats Frank Bailey, also of Calgary, 8-5 to win the 14th Annual Vernon Car 'Spiel.

NOVEMBER

*Seaton Secondary School wins the Okanagan Valley School Swimming Championships for the first time in 10 years.

*Canadian Biathlon Team chooses Silver Star Mountain in Vernon for its Olympic training site.

*Vernon swimmers Gary and Steven Vandermeulen help Canadian relay teams set National short-course records in beating a Soviet Union team in a dual meet held in Toronto.

DECEMBER

*Vernon Lakers dominate the all-star selections for the BCJHL Interior Division all-star team with eight players named to the first and second teams.

*Vernon skier Rob Boyd wins the Men's Downhill race at Val Gardena for the second consecutive year.

*Troy Mick is chosen The Hockey News' WHL Player of the Week for scoring nine goals and assisting on two others in four games with the Portland Winter Hawks.

*Five individuals, including Laurie Reeves, Sharon Weitzel, Ian Gibson, Don MacDonald and John Tykalovich, receive Vernon's Celebration '88 gold medals for their outstanding contributions to the sporting community.