Civic Arena is 50 years old



ROLY SAMMARTINO



IRISH CONLEY



THE VERNON CIVIC ARENA is 50 years old today. When it was built, the Civic Arena was the first structure of its type in the Thompson-Okanagan Region.



BEN DOUGLAS



DAVE OGASAWARA

To commemorate the birthday, the Vernon Lakers have scheduled a special ceremony before Saturday night's B.C. Junior Hockey League game.

The Vernon Civic Arena is 50 years old today.

When the Civic Arena was constructed in 1937, it was the only structure of its type between the Lower Mainland and the Kootenays. Total cost of the project was $50,000.

Since the original building was completed, the Civic Arena has received several facelifts. The most recent, in 1978, added a new front entrance, foyer area, and walkways around the top of the rink.

The Civic Arena provides memories for many North Okanagan residents. Some of the great events have included the Allan Cup playoffs in the 1950's; an exhibition game featuring the Montreal Canadiens Oldtimers; the appearance of the Harlem Globetrotters; a concert by the rock group Heart in 1975; the annual visit of the Shrine Circus; and the 1978 President's Cup Lacrosse Championships.

Pictured below are some hockey players who provided some of those memories . . . and on the left are lacrosse players who helped Vernon become a local, provincial, and then national powerhouse.

The Vernon Lakers will be holding a ceremony, before Saturday night's game against Abbotsford, in honor of the birthday. The first 350 fans through the doors will receive free coffee and donuts.



JIM MORO



ODIE LOWE



WALT TRENTINI



STAN HUNT



BOB GASSOFF



TOM SERVISS



EDDIE JOHNSTONE



WAYNE DYE



LAWRENCE QUECHUK



JOHN PRICE



DON MURDOCH



TERRY LOWE



JACK LEFLEY



BOB WENSLEY



CAMPBELL BLAIR



KEVIN SCOTT



DICK McCLUSKEY



TERRY GARRETT

Artificial ice assured for winter activities

Editor's Note: The following stories are reprinted from the front page of the Jan. 6, 1938 edition of the Vernon News.

Today, Thursday, the attention of the entire Okanagan and of a large portion of the vast Interior is centred in Vernon's new $50,000 sports arena, the only structure of its kind between Vancouver and the Kootenays that is equipped with artificial ice.

The original requirements as set up for planning were very simple. The architect, Richard Curtis, was asked to draw plans for a building housing an ice surface of 180 by 80 feet, and providing accommodation for 2,500. Lots near the Inland Ice and Cold Storage Co. Ltd. were leased, others purchased, giving a land measurement sufficient for a building of 230 feet long by 130 feet wide, playing surface, and a series of bleachers all around, 25 feet in depth and built up in steps, giving a clear, unobstructed view from any part of the structure. The four corners above the entrances were reserved for special treatment: committee room, concessions, band space, and time clock and additional seats.

Under the raised bleacher stands, which were constructed semi-fireproof, there is available a space equal to 12,000 square feet, sufficient accommodation for public and team dressing rooms, showers, heating, storage. Along the entire left side is a 150-foot rifle range with separate entry.

The walls, rising to a height of 20 feet above the playing level, have been erected in reinforced concrete, with an anchor band running clear around the building, forming a tie at the apex. Upon this super-structure has been built what is considered the largest timber truss in Canada, using the new "Teco" connector principle.



JEFF SHIRLEY



BOONIE SAMMARTINO



DAN HOLTE



GREG WALMSLEY

Special trains and buses operated

By 7:30 o'clock this evening, Thursday, when the opening ceremonies commence, Vernon's $50,000 sports arena will be jammed to capacity with a crowd estimated confidently in advance at close to 3,000, drawn from all sections of the Okanagan Valley, from Sicamous, Salmon Arm, and Kamloops, south to Penticton.

The powerful reflector lights, blazing 60,000 watts, will flood their rays over by far the largest crowd ever assembled for any event in Vernon's half-century history or, it is believed, in the Okanagan's.

Under the vast roof, which is the largest timber truss type ever erected in Canada, will be this tremendous crowd, drawn together to observe the opening of the Interior's first artificial ice equipped arena.

Demand for accommodation this evening has far outstripped possibilities, though blocks of seats were offered for sale in all principal valley communities.

Numbers of citizens in several centres have voiced their disappointment at being unable to secure pasteboards. Anticipating this demand, the Civic Arena Commission endeavored to distribute accommodation on an equitable basis, and did so. The only fault, if there be a fault, is that the arena is not large enough for the opening.

Indicative of the interest that construction of the arena has roused is this widespread attendance. Special buses have been arranged.

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fitness course for instructors

The Kamloops YM-YWCA has scheduled a fitness instructors' course this month at the Body Shop Workouts, on 31st Avenue, in Vernon. The course covers all aspects of theory and practical teaching skills for fitness instructors. Classes will be held Jan. 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, and 31. The course is recognized by the B.C. Recreation and Parks Association. Registrations will be accepted until this Friday, at the Body Shop. For further information phone 545-3002.

Vernon Lodge wins

Mike Dionne scored two goals and added an assist to lead the Vernon Lodge Hotel to a 6-3 win over the Beer Factory Scouts in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action, Tuesday night, at the Vernon Civic Arena. Wes Gentles also scored twice while Greg Kowal and Charlie Schaal added singles for the winners. Keith Sheffield picked up three assists. Dave Simms, Garnet Beninger, and Randy Marchand countered for the Scouts.

Janzen is hot

Donna Janzen scored four times to lead Bud's Broomballers to a 4-1 win over Kal Hotel in Labatts Women's Broomball League play, Tuesday night. In another game, Madeline Pelletier and Stacy Wagman scored two goals each to lead Toros Shooters to a 4-1 victory over Mad Max.

Register now

Registrations are now being accepted from teams wishing to compete in the Vernon Winter Carnival Snowpitch Tournament Feb. 6 and 7. Registration takes place at the Winter Carnival Office. For further information call 542-4861.

Finalists named

VANCOUVER (CP) — Alpine skier Rob Boyd, golfer Jennifer Wyatt and figure skater Tracy Wilson were selected finalists Tuesday in the voting for the top senior amateur athletes in British Columbia in 1987.

Boyd was the 1986 winner as the province's top overall amateur athlete, while Wilson was a finalist last year in the senior category also won by Boyd.

The voting by a panel of sports reporters was supervised by Sport B.C., the administrative arm of amateur sport in the province.

The annual amateur athlete of the year awards banquet is Jan. 30 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver to honor all individual winners and the finalists in several categories.

Top player named

MONTREAL (CP) — Centre Steve Yzerman of the Detroit Red Wings, who fired 12 goals and added a league-high 20 assists last month, was named the National Hockey League's top player for December on Tuesday. Yzerman, 22, notched at least one point in each of the 15 games the Red Wings played last month, extending his current consecutive point-scoring string to a league-high 19 games.

Chilly weather

OTTAWA (CP) — A minus 17-degree temperature and 25-kilometre winds failed to dampen the spirits of 2,000 skiing enthusiasts who watched Canada's cross-country team perform Tuesday night.

Angela Schmidt-Foster of Midland, Ont. posted her third consecutive victory and fifth of the Vachon Canada Cup series in the weather-shortened, four-kilometre, free-technique sprint. Her time was 12 minutes 22 seconds on a rolling course.

Pierre Harvey of St-Lambert-de-Levis, Que., won his third consecutive race in 20:45.0 over an eight-kilometre course. Al Pilcher of Orangeville, Ont., trailed by only nine seconds at the halfway point before losing ground and finishing in 21:35.4.

VERNON 4, SALMON ARM 3

Lakers win in overtime

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

If the Vernon Lakers were looking for a positive sign to kick off the new year in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, it was a long time coming Tuesday night.

First, they allowed the first goal of 1988 to be scored against them. Then they played more than half a game before they got on the scoreboard. Finally, they needed more than five minutes of overtime to squeeze out a 4-3 victory against the never-say-die Salmon Arm Tigers.

Nevertheless, the victory improved the club's record to 27-8 and increases their whopping lead in the BCJHL Interior Division to 18 points over the second place Kelowna Packers. The Tigers remain in fifth spot in the Interior with 25 points.

It wasn't for lack of trying that the Lakers were so close to their division rivals all night. They outshot the Tigers by a 61-31 margin. However, bad luck around the opposition's net, coupled with some outstanding goaltending by Tigers' Garvin Weber, kept Salmon Arm in the game until the final moment.

"That was good for us having a game like that," insisted Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We're a little rusty around the net but we outplayed them for the mostpart."

They may have outplayed the Tigers during the night, but in the first half of the game the visitors enjoyed as many good scoring chances as the Lakers did and took the lead in the first period on a power-play goal by Wayne Kirbyson.

It was 11:34 of the second frame before Mike Barkley, with his first of two goals for the night, put the two clubs on even ground with his goal from Elliott and Dallas Drake.

Things opened up briefly during a short span in the third frame. Jamie Steer, who also had two goals including the overtime winner, put Vernon ahead 2-1 with a power-play goal at 8:23. Brad Neumier knotted the score once again just 10 seconds later when his weak backhand trickled through Glen Fry's pads.

At the 9:16 mark, Barkley put the Lakers ahead once again with his second tally. Drake drew the assist once again.

Tigers' heart and soul and leading scorer, Terrance Head, capitalized on his drive to the net late in the frame, scoring the equalizer at 15:50. Head had a strong game for the Tigers, throwing his weight around all night and causing an uncommon amount of grief for the Lakers. In overtime his high stick, unnoticed by the referee or either linesmen, cut open Phil Soukoroff for five stitches on his upper lip. He didn't draw any penalty for his action and in spite of the circumstances and the fact that it was an accident, the Vernon coaching staff was outraged.

"The way the rule reads now it's automatic penalty," suggested assistant coach Eddie Johnstone of the incident. "A player has to be in control of his stick at all times."

In overtime, Vernon dominated the play for the entire duration, outshooting the tired Tigers 10-1 before Steer won it with his quick snapshot from full flight.

"I was thinking shoot all the way," explained the Lakers' top scorer and most consistent goal-getter. "I wasn't thinking pass at all because I had so many early chances that I figured one had to go in."

After a two-week layoff, Gare figured to play his team back into shape with four games in five nights this week. However, if all the games are as tough as Tuesday's the idea may backfire.

"The wins are going to be a lot tougher from here on in that's for sure," suggested Gare.

In other BCJHL action Tuesday night, the Nanaimo Clippers did the Lakers a big favor as they upset the Coastal Division leading Delta Flyers 9-3 while Penticton Knights trounced the Summerland Buckaroos 8-2.

The loss by Delta moves Vernon to within three points of first place overall in the league, with two games in hand, over the Flyers.

Pat Hodgins scored once and had three assists for the Clippers while Peter Holmes scored a pair in a losing cause for Delta.

Brad Smiley scored three goals and Ivan Moore added a pair for the Knights as they moved into a tie for third place in the Interior with Merritt.



GEORGE FARGHER, assistant coach of the Vernon Lakers, offers some intimate instruction to defenceman Adrian Markin during second period action Tuesday night at the Civic Arena. The Lakers scored at 5:49 of overtime to defeat the visiting Salmon Arm Tigers 4-3 in the first game of 1988 for the local hockey team. (Daily News Photo)