

The Citizen Sports

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WOMEN'S CURLING

Doris Bueckert record now 2-1

Doris Bueckert of Prince George started well Monday at the Canadian senior women's curling championship, but an evening loss may cause trouble.

Bueckert's B.C. champion rink pounded Prince Edward Island 16-2 in eight ends, but was upset 6-4 by New Brunswick in the evening draw.

The Monday split leaves Bueckert at 2-1 in the week-long tournament at St. John's, Nfld.

Saskatchewan leads with a 3-0 record, after beating Manitoba 14-5.

Manitoba won its other game 10-3 over Nova Scotia, while Alberta beat Newfoundland 6-4 and Nova Scotia 8-4 to remain tied for second at 3-1.

Bueckert is tied for fourth with Quebec and New Brunswick at 2-1, Nova Scotia is 2-2, Ontario and Newfoundland are 1-3, the Northwest Territories are 0-3 and Prince Edward Island has lost all four games.

In other afternoon games Monday, New Brunswick defeated Ontario 12-4 and Quebec beat the Territories 9-7.

In the evening draw Ontario dumped Quebec 9-5 and Newfoundland beat Prince Edward Island 8-7.

There are two draws today.

Seventh for Hucul in Phoenix race

Cliff Hucul is off to a great start on the United States Auto Club's 1978 racing circuit.

Hucul, 29, in his second season on the USAC championship trail, finished seventh at the Bobby Ball 150 in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday.

It was his best finish in six attempts, since joining the circuit last year.

Hucul's previous best finish was 12th, in his first race last March at Ontario, Calif.

The Phoenix race was won by Gordon Johncock, with Steve Krisloff second and veteran A.J. Foyt third.

Hucul qualified 16th and feels the car — a two-year-old McLaren — can still run better.

This weekend Hucul is back at the scene of his best finish last year — the Ontario Motor Speedway in California, east of Los Angeles.

The Datsun 200 was rained

out there March 5 and re-scheduled for this weekend.

Hucul became just the third



HUCUL

Canadian ever to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 last year — qualified 27th and finished 22nd.

He plans to run Indy again last Sunday in May.

Visiting players win in badminton

Visiting players dominated the annual north-central badminton tournament at the College of New Caledonia during the weekend.

Prince George players could manage just one championship in the three-flight tournament.

The win came when Lydia Vogler teamed with Gaylene Robillard of Mackenzie to win the C flight women's doubles over Vancouver's Rosemary Brown and Fort St. John's Brenda Boyd.

Victor Conley of Vancouver defeated Calvin Holboff of Vancouver 15-2, 15-8 in the men's A flight singles.

Quesnel's Liz-Ann Ogden beat Janet Reynolds of Vancouver 12-9, 12-0 for the women's singles title.

Holboff and Gord McConnell of Vancouver beat the Victoria pair of Warren Sweeney and Murray Foubister 15-6, 11-15, 15-12 in the men's doubles.

Ogden and Lynn Polson of Victoria beat Reynolds and Joyce Robertson 15-9, 8-15, 15-9 in the women's doubles.

Conley and Joyce Kalweit beat McConnell and Robertson 5-15, 15-11, 15-6 in the mixed doubles final.

In the B event finals, Mike Wilkins of Kamloops stopped Ted Wey of Kelowna for the men's singles championship.

and Bev Lockerby of Nelson beat Vogler for the women's singles title.

Don Pool of Nelson and Grant Hazelwood of Victoria topped Wayne Schoenenberger and Terry Bedford of Fort St. John in the men's doubles, while Victoria's Renee Palmgren and Joan Marykusa defeated Kalweit and Lockerby for the women's doubles crown.

Bill Dalin and Barb Jeffery of Kamloops beat Pool and Lockerby for the mixed doubles championship.

Victor Mark of Fort St. John beat Doug Courtice of Prince George in the men's C flight singles final, and Swan Dilabough of Grande Prairie beat Kitimat's Dorothy Cheyne in the women's singles final.

Ken Hutchin and Erlin Sander of Kitimat beat the Prince George duo of Paul Ingram and Clint Barr in the men's doubles.

Dave Pearce and Pat Estabrooks of Terrace beat Sander and Virginia Nicholson of Prince George in the mixed doubles final.

Schoenenberger won the new four-foot trophy as the player displaying the best combination of sportsmanship and knowledge of the game.

The next event for city players is April 15 and 16 in Terrace.

A'S TO DENVER?

Finley says no

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Oakland A's owner Charles O. Finley said Monday that American League president Lee MacPhail told him he would have to come up with \$2 million to free the team from its Oakland Coliseum lease and that he told MacPhail "the answer is no."

Finley, in Chicago, said: "MacPhail sent me a telegram saying I had 72 hours to come up with the money if I wanted to sell the club. It said if I paid \$2 million, baseball would come up with the other million to pay off the Coliseum lease."

"I sent my answer back immediately. I said, 'The answer is no today and it will be the same Thursday. I've offered to pay a million dollars, and not a cent more. I don't care where they come up with another million. But if it means me coming up with it, you can count on me playing in Oakland.'"

Finley has been trying to get out of his Coliseum lease so he can sell the A's to Denver oilman Marvin Davis.

LAFLEUR, SHUTT GET MILESTONES

Canadiens handle Canucks easily



Guy Lafleur was thwarted by Cesare Maniago on this play, but the high-scoring winger later got a goal and assist.

VANCOUVER (CP) — Montreal sharpshooters Guy Lafleur and Steve Shutt fired milestone markers as the fast-skating Canadiens gunned down the overmatched Vancouver Canucks 5-1 Monday night in a National Hockey League game.

Lafleur scored his 57th goal of the season and 300th of his NHL career, while Shutt scored twice to reach the 200-goal plateau.

Pierre Larouche and Yvon Lambert also scored for the Canadiens who now have 115 points in 71 games for the best record in the 18-team league.

The loss was the third straight for the Canucks, whose only goal was scored by veteran Mike Walton. Vancouver has a slim three-point lead over third-place Colorado Rockies in the struggle for the second playoff berth in the Smythe Division.

Lafleur, a 26-year-old right winger, is in his seventh NHL season and scored 56 goals in each of the last two years. He leads the league this season in goal-scoring and points.

Shutt, 25, has played one less season than Lafleur. The left winger led the NHL in goals last season with 60 and has 42 this year.

Goaltender Ken Dryden faced just 15 shots as Montreal won its seventh straight game. Cesare Maniago of the Canucks stopped 25 shots as Shutt had five shots on goal and Lafleur had three.

The standing-room crowd of about 16,500 cheered Lafleur every shift in his determined effort. Shutt and Lafleur both had good scoring chances early in the game. Maniago made a skate save on Shutt's blast from 45 feet and Lafleur twice shot wide after defensive errors by Jack McIlhargey of the Canucks.

Shutt scored his goals 26 seconds apart. His first came after Maniago blocked a shot from the point by Nyrop, and the second after a hard drive by Jacques Lemaire.

Lafleur was used every second shift in the middle period by Montreal coach Scotty Bowman. He hit the post early in the period from 50 feet out, and minutes later Maniago beat Lafleur to a loose puck just inside the Vancouver blueline.

Larouche put the Canadiens ahead 3-0 after a poor clearing pass by Brad Gassoff of the Canucks. Larouche stick-handled around defenseman Harold Snepsts of the Canucks before pulling Maniago out of position for his 23rd goal of the season.

Lafleur finally got his 300th goal after Pierre Mondou dug the puck out of the corner late in the period. Lafleur had plenty of time to pick the top corner from 20 feet out.

Maniago stopped Lafleur on two more good scoring opportunities in the final period. The Canucks were totally disorganized and frustrated as they failed for the 19th time in eight seasons to beat Montreal at the Pacific Coliseum.

Walton scored his 27th goal of the season early in the final period on a goal-mouth pass from Ron Sedlbauer. Lambert got a power-play marker with less than five minutes to play to complete the scoring.

The Canucks played without defenseman Claire Alexander, who has a hand injury. Alexander had 23 points in 24 games for the Canucks.

TO ISLANDERS

Flyers move within four

The Canadian Press

New York Islanders' drive for the National Hockey League Patrick Division title came to at least a temporary halt Monday night when Philadelphia Flyers gave a tug on the reins.

"It was a big game for us but not as big as it would have been for them," said Flyers coach Fred Shero after his team's 4-2 win reduced the Islanders' division lead to just four points over Philadelphia.

"They could have killed us.

At least we're still in the race now."

In the only other NHL game Monday, Guy Lafleur and Steve Shutt both reached scoring milestones while helping Montreal Canadiens beat Vancouver Canucks 5-1.

"They were the better team tonight," Islanders coach Al Arbour said of the Flyers. "We missed too many chances. We have to get hungrier ... not play as much as individuals."

A rare penalty shot by Rick MacLeish started the Flyers off in the first period.

The penalty shot was awarded when Islanders forward Jude Drouin fell on the puck in the goal crease. MacLeish skated in on goalie Billie Smith and fired a 15-foot shot over the netminder's mitt at the 6:20 mark.

Mel Bridgman made it 2-0 at 16:32 of the first period when he fired a 25-footer past Smith and Bill Barber increased the Flyers' margin to 3-0 on a 30-footer at 11:40 of the second period.

Before Bridgman's goal, the Flyers shot the puck from their zone into the Islanders' zone, but no icing was called. The puck bounced off the back board and Smith allowed it to pass through the New York crease on to Barber's stick.

Smith blocked Barber's shot but Barry Dean set up Bridgman, prompting Islanders' general manager Bill Torrey to complain that icing should have been called.

"But that doesn't excuse Smith," said Torrey. "You just don't take chances in those situations. Smith just stood there waiting for the whistle to blow."

Honored Kings play midgets in exhibition

Five Prince George Spruce Kings were honored at the annual club banquet Saturday.

Captain Keith Hodgson received two awards, most valuable player and top defenceman.

Ken McIntyre, a 22 goal scorer, was named rookie of the year; Dick Andre received the team's dedication award; Andy Magee was selected most sportsmanlike and Rod Pennington won the top scorer award.

Pennington scored 27 goals and added 26 assists.

The Kings, fifth place finishers in the Peace Cariboo Junior Hockey League for the second consecutive year, play an exhibition Wednesday against the Northern Toyota Midget Kings Wednesday at 8 p.m., at the Coliseum.

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Goaltenders wonder where shutouts gone

MONTREAL (CP) — National Hockey League goaltenders found themselves wondering after weekend play just how long the longest shutout drought in league history would continue.

Going into two games Monday night, there had not been a shutout since Gord McRae of Toronto Maple Leafs blanked Washington Capitals 4-0 at Toronto on Feb. 25. Ninety-seven games were played between then and Sunday with 710 goals scored, an average of 7.32 per game.

The league office said Monday that the previous longest no-shutout streak was 56 games March 5-25, 1972. In that stretch, 390 goals were scored, an average of 6.96 per game.

Through Sunday, there were 59 shutouts in 630 games this season, compared with 71 in the same period last season. There was an average of 6.57 goals in the first 630 NHL games this year.

Philadelphia Flyers, led by Bernie Parent's six, were the

club producing more shutouts than any other, a total of nine before Philadelphia's meeting with New York Islanders on Monday night.

The Islanders and Chicago Black Hawks had six shutouts each, while Boston Bruins, Buffalo Sabres, Toronto, New York Rangers and Montreal Canadiens, who played Vancouver Canucks on Monday night, had five each.

The only teams without a shutout this season are Detroit Red Wings and Pittsburgh Penguins.

Only one shutout had been shared by two goaltenders. That came Nov. 1 when Goran Hogosta relieved Bill Smith for the final nine minutes of a 9-0 conquest of Atlanta Flames by the Islanders. In such a case, neither goalie is credited with a shutout, but the team is.

Meanwhile, in the scoring race, two-time defending champion Guy Lafleur of Montreal led the parade with 56 goals and 61 assists for 120 points.

WHA time running out

HARTFORD, Conn. (CP) — Time is running out for both Marc Tardif and those chasing him for the World Hockey Association scoring title.

For Tardif, the veteran Quebec Nordiques winger, time is of the essence in his bid to match the WHA scoring record 148 points he set two seasons ago.

He has 132 points and just nine games remaining to make up the difference.

Time is important, too, for Ulf Nilsson, Real Cloutier, Anders Hedberg and Bobby Hull.

Nilsson, who centres Hedberg and Hull on Winnipeg Jets power line, is in second place 13 points behind Tardif. Nilsson, however, has not been able to make much headway against Tardif in recent weeks.

Cloutier, also of the Nordiques, is well off the pace in third place on 112 points, two more than Hedberg and Hull.

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