

Mark Allan



Was there ever any doubt the 1981 B.C. Winter Games would be the best B.C. Games yet?

You better believe it. Crucial labor disputes involving B.C. Tel and non-teaching staff at the College of New Caledonia were huge obstacles for Games' organizers, but weren't the only unexpected hurdles faced by workers.

Although Prince George residents finally responded in time, many scared Games' organizers by waiting until the last minute to alleviate a critical shortage of volunteers. However, many volunteers who signed up earlier did more than their share of the work load, earning the gratitude of beleaguered organizers, who needed the support of the whole city to hold a successful event.

But, that's what happened and at the risk of repeating comments already made, congratulations to those hard workers who made it possible.

The operations manager is an essential part of the Games' organization and Gerry Peckham was busy beyond belief in months leading to the third annual event.

The final two weeks were particularly frenzied and Peckham deserves a rest... he can polish his fast-improving racquetball game and begin tennis any time now.

Games' public relations director Ron Newson has already resumed his normal activities... he was playing squash at the Prince George Golf and Curling Club the day after the Games.

Other key workers who don't get much rest are Games' executive-director Frances Brown and Winter Games' technical-director Maureen Leech.

Brown and Leech are the backbone of the Games' Victoria-based paid employees and are responsible for continuity between Games by offering their extensive experience to local organizers, who often have no experience with an undertaking as huge as the Games.

Which reminds me; I'm still trying to determine how much the organization of these Games was helped by Prince George accommodating more than 5,000 athletes three years ago at the Northern B.C. Winter Games.

I've made this point before, but feel it's worth repeating, because B.C. Games' general-chairman Ron Butlin seemed so surprised the Games last weekend ran so well. Local and visiting media were unable to detect any major problems and I feel the Games were run as well as anything that size can be.

Butlin admitted the Games here were the best yet among the six that have been held throughout B.C., but always appeared reluctant to give Northern B.C. Winter Games' workers credit for their efforts.

I hope he'll reconsider his attitude, because I'm convinced Prince George was able to hold such a successful event this year because of experience gained in 1978.

I'm sure Games' co-ordinators were gratified by the tremendous spectator response at competition sites.

Every venue I visited during competition had a large, appreciative crowd.

Several events I witnessed were professionally run.

An informative commentator educated spectators on his event's fine points at the karate competition and an announcer kept the audience informed at all times during weightlifting competition.

Weightlifting at Vanier Hall disturbed some people, who had visions of ponderous, sweaty behemoths disturbing the pristine atmosphere of Prince George's finest concert hall.

However, the competition was run so well, I don't think anybody can complain.

Central Interior Weightlifting Club coach Tony Smith of Prince George feels vindicated now and would like to thank all the volunteers who helped, as well as Prince George Secondary School principal Lyall Rodger for permission to use the hall.

I would like to thank media centre volunteers for doing such a good job and making mine much easier.

Reporters who were at last year's B.C. Summer Games in Kelowna had numerous problems getting accurate results, but there were no criticisms this time, except for the usual good-natured backbiting of grizzled media veterans bent out of shape by a combination of little sleep and too much central nervous system depressant.

I still support the Games' concept and was glad to see keen fan interest at sports not played much here, since a crucial Games' aim is to encourage development of sports in need of it.

For example, girls' ice hockey is in a formative state here and there's no broomball at all.

Visiting members of the Fort St. James Timber Queens were impressed with the calibre of girls' hockey in the Games and many others were surprised by the standard of play.

Players didn't shoot as well as boys and didn't have as high a level of skill, but were well-coached and knew what they wanted to do.

The level of play was probably close to boys' bantam A hockey.

Meanwhile, broomball surprised spectators who thought it was just hockey with shoes.

The game is certainly similar to hockey, but I'd love to see hockey teams have to pull their goalies for a five-minute overtime period.

There wasn't a Prince George entry in either girls' hockey or broomball, but enough interest might have been created to result in an entry at some future Games.

Prince George teams were formed specifically for men's and women's broomball, a sure sign the Games are succeeding in their desire to spur development.

Congratulations again, Prince George. You've set the standard by which future Games will be judged.

I extend my humblest double-barrelled apology to Prince George skip Jean Legault for (a) spelling her name wrong since I joined The Citizen and (b) shortchanging her.

I claimed last week Diane Dalio beat Legault 8-7 in the conclusion of women's play in Prince George Super Curling, but the only thing I got right was the score.

Quebec assumes first at men's curling final

NANAIMO, B.C. (CP) — Quebec moved into sole possession of first place after eight rounds at the Canadian senior men's curling championships Wednesday night.

The Jim Wilson rink defeated B.C. 12-8 to boost its record to 7-1.

B.C. pulled ahead early with a 4-0 lead after six ends, but Quebec had six shots in the ninth and tenth ends for the win.

Alberta and Saskatchewan share second place at 6-2, followed by Prince Edward Island with five wins and three losses. B.C., Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Ontario have four wins and four losses and Newfoundland is at 3-2.

New Brunswick has a 2-6 record and Northern Ontario and the Territories are both 1-7. Alberta's Ray Tull took an 8-6 decision over Saskatchewan's Art Knutson on the strength of three eighth-end shots. Saskatchewan and Quebec had shared top spot at 6-1 following the seventh round earlier in the day.

In other eight-draw games, P.E.I. defeated the Territories 10-4 and Manitoba's Bruce Hudson went down to Newfoundland 8-4.

Nova Scotia scored an 8-6 extra-end win over Northern Ontario and Ontario's Mac White edged New Brunswick 7-5.

HOCKEY

NHL WALES CONFERENCE Norris Division

WALES CONFERENCE						
Norris Division						
	W	L	T	F	A	P
Montreal	39	19	11	292	196	89
Los Ang	37	22	10	282	247	84
Pitts	27	33	9	264	302	63
Hartford	18	34	17	254	321	53
Detroit	18	32	16	210	267	52

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	Adams Division					
Buffalo	32	16	19	268	206	83
Minn	31	22	16	247	218	78
Boston	31	25	12	271	240	74
Quebec	24	30	14	264	281	62
Toronto	23	34	11	273	314	57

CAMPBELL		CONFERENCE			
Patrick Division					
Islanders	40	17	11	305	230 91
Phila	37	21	10	273	214 84
Calgary	35	22	12	284	245 82
Wash	22	30	16	248	274 60
Rangers	24	34	12	276	293 60

	W	L	T	F	A	P
Smythe Division						
St. Louis	41	13	15	309	231	97
Chicago	27	28	14	263	276	68
Vancouver	24	28	17	245	259	65
Edmonton	22	33	12	270	282	56
Colorado	20	38	10	222	299	50
Winnipeg	8	49	12	212	337	28

Wednesday Results

Boston 4 Toronto 4
St. Louis 5 Quebec 5
Montreal 2 Pittsburgh 1
Colorado 4 NY Rangers 3
Washington 5 Hartford 2
NY Islanders 6 Winnipeg 3

NY Islanders 3 Winnipeg 3
Minnesota 3 Buffalo 1
Chicago 4 Los Angeles 4

Tonight's Games

St. Louis at Montreal
NY Islanders at Edmonton
Minnesota at Calgary
Detroit at Philadelphia

Friday Games
Buffalo at Winnipeg
Chicago at Vancouver
Boston at Washington

	OVERALL					
	NHL					
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Winnipeg	8	49	12	212	337	28
National Hockey League scoring leaders after Wednesday games:						

	G	A	P
Gretzky, Edm	49	82	131
Dionne, LA	51	63	114
Nilsson, Cai	40	73	112
Bossy, NYI	62	45	107
Simmer, LA	56	49	105
Rogers, Hart	38	57	95

Taylor, LA	35	60	95
Middleton, Bos	38	54	92
P. Stastny, Que	30	61	91
Federko, STL	25	66	91
TORONTO (CP)	—		NHL

Wednesday night:

SUMMARY

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First Period

1. Boston, O'Connell 11 (Foster) 1:23

2. Boston, Middleton 38 Bourque, McNab 4:38

3. Toronto, Vaive 26 (Derlago, Palma) 19:13

Second Period

4. Toronto, Sittler 36 (Sal-
ning, Paiement) 8:16

5. Toronto, Martin 15 (Sittler,
Juris) 8:55

6. Toronto, Derlago 29 (Sal-
ning, Maloney) 10:10

ing, Maloney) 10:10
7. Boston, Jonathan 12 (Foster, Milbury) 16:30
Third Period
8. Boston, McNab 31 (Marotte, Milbury) 15:39
Shots on goal by
Boston 9 14 10—33

oston	9	14	10-33
oronto	10	11	8-29
Goal — Baron, Boston; Crha, oronto.			
Attendance — 16,485.			
PITTSBURGH (CP) — NHL			
Wednesday night:			

SUMMARY

First Period

1. Montreal, Lafleur 23 (Savard, Larouche) 0:15

Second Period

2. Pittsburgh, Malone 17 (Lee, Price) 12:17

Third Period

3. Montreal, Langway 10
ngblom, Mondou) 14:08

Shots on goal by

Montreal 14 18 9—41
Edinburgh 9 8 10—27

Goal — Sevigny, Montreal;

1. Chicago, Murray 10 (Sutter,

W	L	T	F	A	P
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Chicago	27	28	14	263	276
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GOLF C	
ANNUA	
Men's	

Men's	
Women's	
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Juniors	
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