

# THE FREE PRESS SPORTS

SECTION **B**

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## The Thursday PLAYBOOK

# What's next?

### ► Kings look to playoffs

Having ended their regular-season home schedule Tuesday against the Quesnel Millionaires, the Prince George Spruce Kings hit the road for a three-day road trip.

The Kings visit Trail, Merritt and Vernon this weekend, trying to finish second in the Interior Division of the B.C. Hockey League. The Kings ran their home winning streak to 12 games by smoking last-place Trail 10-0 and 10-4 during the weekend. That moved them into a third-place with Merritt, although the Kings had three games in hand.

### ► Benson near the top

Jacqui Benson of Prince George overcame bizarre weather conditions to finish second among junior girls at the Canadian cross-country ski championships. With the weather in Thunder Bay swinging from -20 to 10 and rain by the end of the week-long event, Benson earned two silver medals and two bronze, ending with a fifth-place showing in the 7.5-kilometre classic-style race to conclude the competition.

Caledonia Nordics Ski Club teammate Tannis McCubbin maintained her middle-of-the-pack placing among juvenile girls throughout the week. She ended her week by cracking the top 20 with a 16th-place finish.

### ► Hornak top grappler

Shannon Hornak's fifth-place showing was the best among Prince George wrestlers at the B.C. high school championships in Surrey. The College Heights student competed in the 75-kilogram girls' class. Marshall Heggelund of Kelly Road was sixth in the 66-kg boys' division and Teairia Young of Prince George Secondary School finished sixth among 60-kg girls.

### ► Badminton players flock in

Almost three dozen players in the second annual Prince George badminton tournament this weekend will be from out of town. Players from Quesnel, Terrace, Kispixox and Dawson Creek will compete at College Heights Secondary School, says organizer Lisa Davison. Play begins Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m.

*After a successful Scott Tournament of Hearts, what does the city do for an encore?*

By **FRANK PEEBLES**

Free Press staff writer

The Scott Tournament of Hearts, still in its afterglow, is being touted an unprecedented success. Attendance was high, corporate sponsorship was solid, the volunteer base was large and efficient, the economic spin-off was powerful. A lot of nay-sayers were saying yay by the end of the event.

This event was the first and highest-profile of the large national events coming to Prince George in the near future. The Canadian Ringette Championships are coming up, PG has been granted the 2001 Special Olympics and the 2002 Senior Games. The Canadian Midget Hockey Tournament is also on its way this winter. But the Scott gave the city a taste of its own national potential, and the questions are already starting to circulate.

"Most importantly, this community saw what this community can do," says city councillor Don Bassermann, who also sat as vice president-team services for the local Scott organizing committee. "The chit-chat has already begun about maybe hosting the World Curling Championships. We are easily capable of that. The big trick is going to the corporate community for support. How often can you do that? For which events?"

To be successful at hosting a steady stream of high profile events, the volunteer pool and corporate sponsorship pool has to be diversified, so it isn't the same people being asked all the time for their resources. Too many sports events will cut into that resource base too much, but having a B.C. Festival of the Arts, then a Scott Tournament of Hearts, then a Special Olympics, then a Seniors Games



**B.C. skip Kelley Law and third Julie Skinner drew off the energy of the home-province crowd to capture the Scott.** JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

name recognition. Some star power. Councillor Bassermann says that can be accomplished through attracting off-beat

sponsors. To keep a community interested, though, the city does need to attract some

sponsors. To keep a community interested, though, the city does need to attract some

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