

FACE-OFF

AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT THE VERNON LAKERS HOCKEY CLUB



**1991-92 CENTENNIAL CUP
SEMI-FINALISTS**

Last year's edition of the Vernon Lakers surprised many when they won their fourth BCJHL title and went on to their fourth straight Centennial Cup appearance winning a third Western Canadian Championship along the way.

NEW LEADERSHIP

General Manager AJ Paterson and owner Duncan Wray flank new head coach Rob Bremner.



**1991-92 CENTENNIAL CUP SEMI-FINALISTS
1990-91 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1989-90 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1988-89 CENTENNIAL CUP PARTICIPANTS**

FOLLOW THE LAKERS' QUEST FOR THE CUP IN THE VERNON DAILY NEWS



PROFILE

NAME Chris Godard
POSITION Goal Keeper
HOMETOWN Vernon **AGE** 18
HEIGHT 6'2" **WEIGHT** 190
FAVORITE FOOD Lasagna
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Philadelphia Flyers

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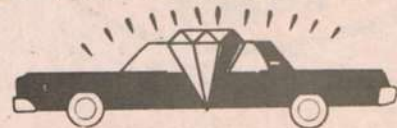
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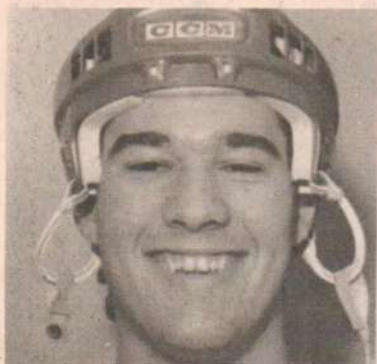
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PROFILE

NAME Serge Beauchesne
POSITION Defence
HOMETOWN Albertville **AGE** 18
HEIGHT 5'10" **WEIGHT** 185
FAVORITE FOOD T-Bone Steak
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Montreal Canadiens

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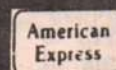
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As they head into the 1992-93 B.C. Junior Hockey League season the current edition of the Vernon Lakers will carry a torch passed to them from the hands of former teammate on many earlier, successful teams.

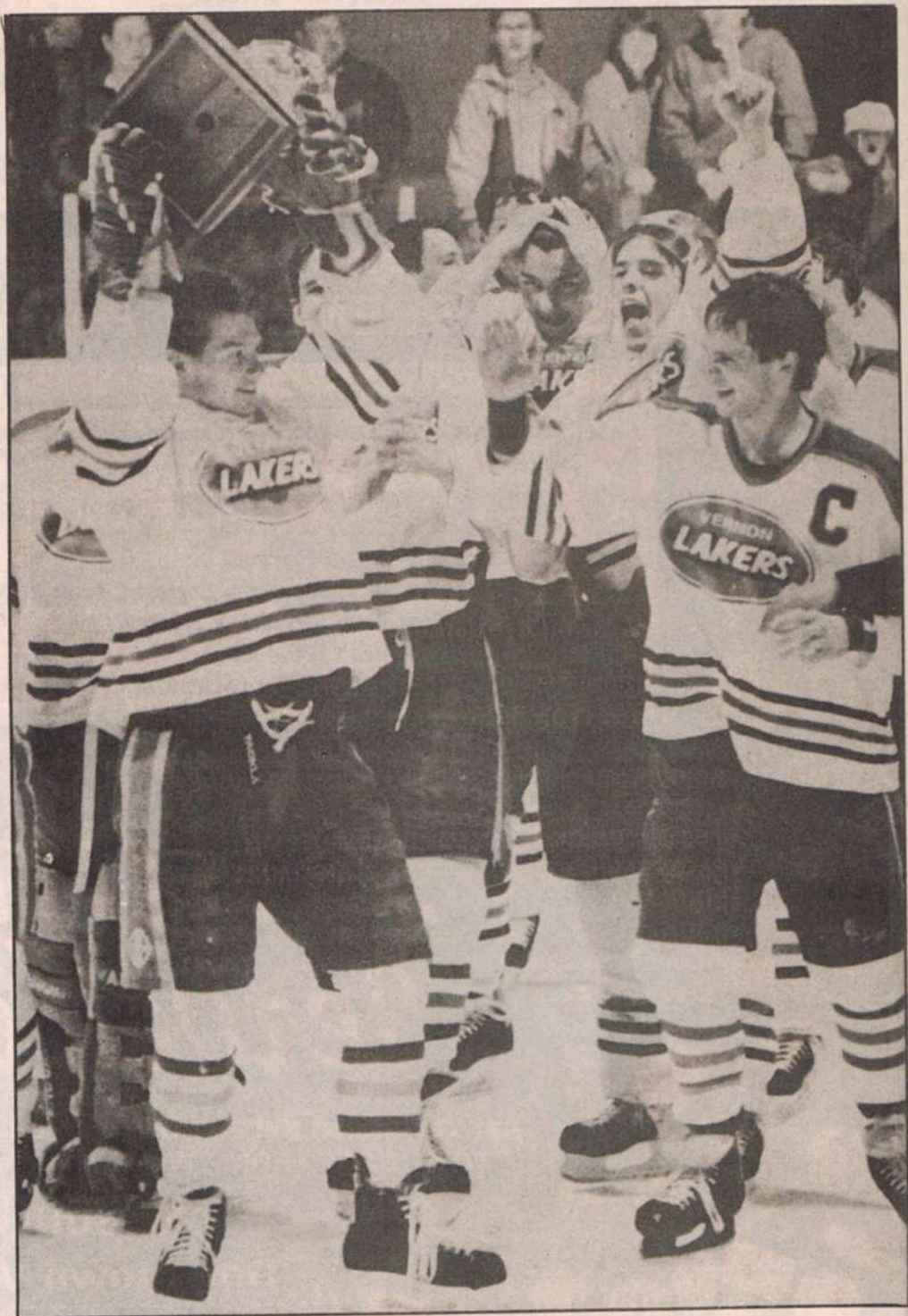
In the history of the BCJHL, which stretches more than 30 years now, no other team has accomplished so much nor carried the name of the league so far, so often. It's a winning tradition — a legacy, if you will — that is now officially passed into the hands of the current club.

The Lakers enter this campaign with an unprecedented 10 consecutive winning seasons under their belts and that's a junior hockey record any team can be proud of.

However, it doesn't end there. During those same years the Lakers also collected more hardware than any other junior "A" hockey club under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. Chief among this silverware are two Centennial Cup Trophies — emblematic of Canadian junior "A" hockey supremacy! The Lakers earned these titles back-to-back in May of 1990 and 1991.

In addition, the local junior squad has hoisted the Abbott Cup Western Canadian trophy three times while the Nat Bailey Cup, Mowat Cup and Doyle Cup have had the club's name inscribed on them four times each.

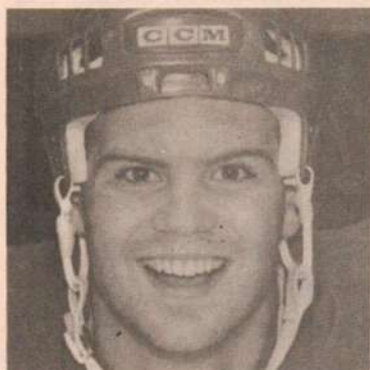
In the meantime, the Vernon Civic Arena has become an environment almost as forboding as the Montreal Forum with the numerous pennants dangling from its rafters to warn visiting teams of what they can expect.



DAILY NEWS photo

The Vernon Lakers have hoisted more than their share of junior "A" hockey hardware during the course of the past 10 seasons including their third Doyle

Cup, above, won last spring after they defeated the Alberta champion Olds Grizzlys in a gruelling seven-game battle.



PROFILE

NAME Christian Twomey

POSITION Defence

HOMETOWN Calgary

AGE 18

HEIGHT 6'

WEIGHT 195

FAVORITE FOOD Rice

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Edmonton Oilers



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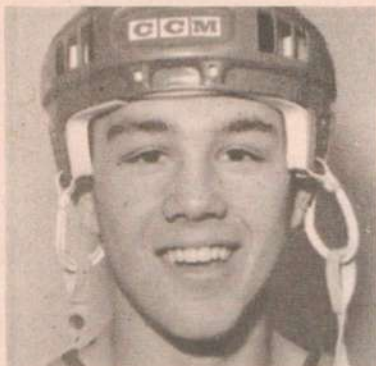
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PROFILE

NAME Peter Zurba
POSITION Centre
HOMETOWN Revelstoke **AGE** 17
HEIGHT 5' 11" **WEIGHT** 170
FAVORITE FOOD Clam Chowder
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Edmonton Oilers

Local minor hockey pair looking forward to career

By **DAN ODENBACH**
Daily News Staff

Making the Vernon Lakers' lineup is a dream come true for two Vernon minor hockey products.

Mike Ford and Chris Godard moved into the junior 'A' hockey ranks this season and have noticed how playing with the Lakers has changed their lifestyles.

Ford, a 15-year-old grade 10 Seaton student says this year will be a challenge for him in the classroom and on the ice.

"The first thing my parents said about making the team is that I have to keep up my 3.25 grade point average (B-plus) if I want to stay on the team. I'll really have to concentrate to keep up my studies while on the road."

"This will probably be hard to do," explained

Ford. "Almost everyone else will be out doing other things while I'll have to hit the books."

Both players got their first taste of life on the road when they travelled to the Lower Mainland for their second game of the regular season. Godard says sleeping on the bus takes some getting used to.

"Last year our major bus trip was to Williams Lake for a weekend tournament but it was nothing like driving down to Chilliwack for a game and then getting back here at 4:30 in the morning."

"Sleeping on the bus is harder to do than you think because you're still keyed up on the game," added the Lakers' backup netminder.

Godard got his first taste of hockey at this level when he was sent into the third period of the Lakers' preseason 10-4

win in Kelowna. He says the intensity between playing for the Lakers and AAA Midget Rep is like night and day.

"The pace of the game is almost twice as fast and the players are quicker, harder to read, and have way more moves than in midgets. Your instincts have to be just that much sharper to make the stops."

Ford agrees with Godard on the added tempo at the junior level. He says it's much more physical than playing for Kasper Denture Clinic's AAA Bantams.

"It's a lot more rougher out there. Players follow through on their hits more which keeps you on your toes. There is also more gloves in the face and things of this nature that I'm just getting used to."

Both players have had little problems fitting into

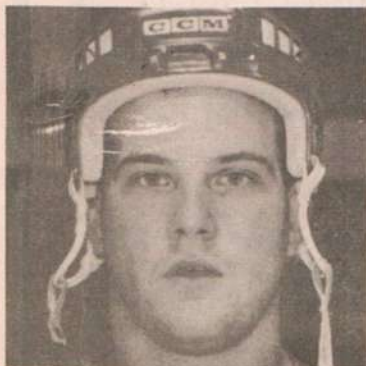
the social structure of the team as the practical jokes have surfaced. Ford tells of how he was conned.

"Terry (Ryan) calls me up and disguises his voice. He says he's a scout for Tacoma and asks me if my rights had been traded. He really had me going for awhile."

"I got back at him but it wasn't near as good as his prank," explained Ford. "I told him to meet me at Wendys and then never showed up. I'll have to get him back with something better."

Ford and Godard feel fortunate to make their BCJHL debuts with their hometown Lakers. Ford says he has his old coach to thank for making the Lakers' lineup.

"I doubt I would be with the Lakers if it weren't for the strong coaching of Bill Higgins (Kasper)."



PROFILE

NAME Chad Buckle
POSITION Left wing/defence
HOMETOWN Mission, B.C. **AGE** 19
HEIGHT 5' 11" **WEIGHT** 195
FAVORITE FOOD Cabbage rolls
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Boston /Vancouver Canucks



PROFILE

NAME Mike Ford
POSITION Right Wing
HOMETOWN Vernon **AGE** 15
HEIGHT 6' **WEIGHT** 170
FAVORITE FOOD Pasta
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Chicago Blackhawks

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PROFILE

NAME Cornelius Kruchkowski

POSITION Left Wing

HOMETOWN Calgary

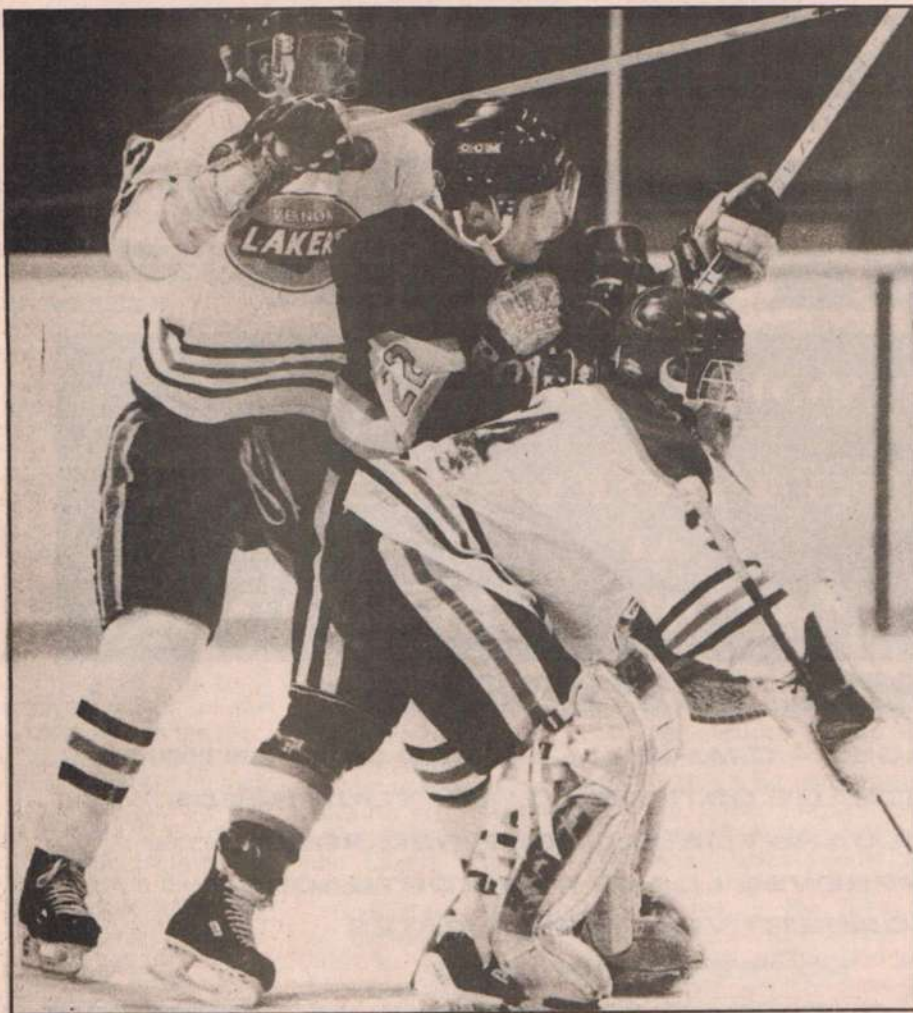
AGE 19

HEIGHT 6'5"

WEIGHT 217

FAVORITE FOOD Cajun

FAVORITE NHL TEAM New York Rangers

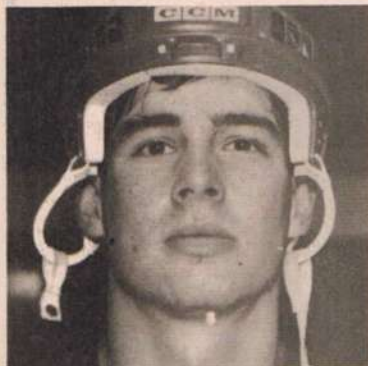


A classic

The New Westminster Royals and the Vernon Lakers enjoyed several years of intense rivalry in the B.C. Junior Hockey League culminating with the two clubs facing off in the championship final of the 1990 Centennial Cup Tournament.

The Royals, who broke the Lakers' string of league titles when they won the Nat Baily Cup, Mowat Cup and Abbott Cup that spring, were 6-5 losers to the Lakers in what turned out to be one of the true classic matchups in the history of the national event.

Trailing 5-2 going into the third period and facing a well-coached, talent-laden club, the Lakers somehow found the strength and character to overcome what seemed like an insurmountable lead. In overtime that night, almost four hours after it had begun, the game ended when Lakers' centre Cam Sylven scored the game-winner.



PROFILE

NAME Dusty McLellan

POSITION Center

HOMETOWN Ashcroft

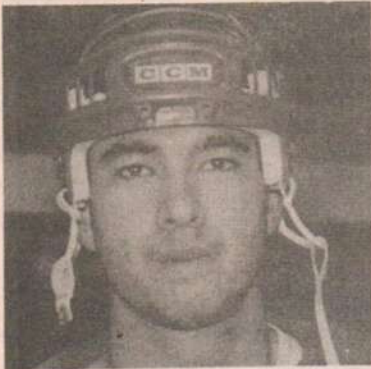
AGE 20

HEIGHT 6'2"

WEIGHT 190

FAVORITE FOOD Steak

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Montreal Canadiens



PROFILE

NAME John Morcabito
POSITION Left Wing
HOMETOWN Revelstoke **AGE** 19
HEIGHT 6'1" **WEIGHT** 190
FAVORITE FOOD Pasta
FAVORITE NHL TEAM New York Rangers



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Lakers learn responsibility

By **DAN ODENBACH**
Daily News Sports

The Vernon Lakers began their season on a responsible note.

General Manager Al Paterson recently brought in ICBC regional Youth Traffic and Safety Programs coordinator Chris Gibson from Kelowna to lecture the local juniors on the potential hazards of drinking and driving.

Paterson believes this type of program should be held at the beginning of each hockey season.

"I've always felt strongly about the issue and now I have a chance to do something about it," said Paterson who took over as club GM last spring. "It's important that our guys are made aware of all the

dangers involved."

Gibson says the Lakers fit perfectly into his target audience.

"I usually speak to entire schools in an auditorium but I jumped at the chance to talk to a junior hockey team for two reasons," he explained. "The first being they fit into our target group (men 16-24 years) and they also have such a high profile in the community."

The ICBC presentation began by focusing on the emotional, financial, and legal aspects of the crime.

"When someone thinks of what would happen if they were involved in a drinking and driving situation they usually only think of the possible damage to themselves or their vehicle," he explained. "I want to make them aware of the

whole picture and how it would effect them over the long term."

Gibson explained to the Vernon players that a liability claim could wipe them out financially while the criminal aspect itself is also a deterrent.

"Being convicted of driving while impaired could have serious effects on a young hockey player's career," he said. "A criminal record could potentially keep you out of certain countries and these players do not want to have their options limited by a conviction."

Gibson also showed the Vernon players a brief but graphic slide presentation detailing accidents involving driving while intoxicated.

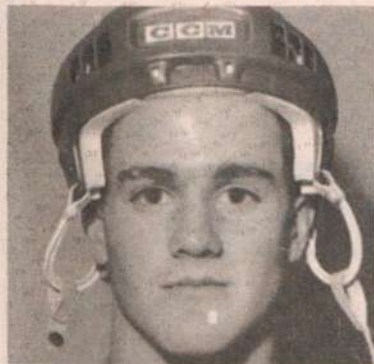
While some people believe this graphic

approach is little more than shock therapy Gibson is quick to defend the approach.

"It's shocking but it's also reality," he said. "Most young people don't see this type of accident or believe they could ever be involved but it happens and if showing these slides shocks someone into being responsible than I say it's worth it."

Gibson hopes his presentation will help the Lakers and the community as a whole.

"These players have such a high profile in the community that just by setting a good example they could really make a difference because their peers respect them and they are looked up to by those younger than them."



PROFILE

NAME Todd Kelman

POSITION Defence

HOMETOWN Calgary

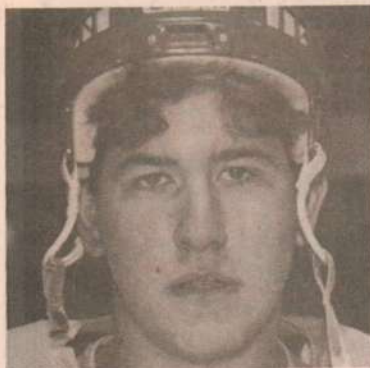
AGE 17

HEIGHT 6'1"

WEIGHT 190

FAVORITE FOOD Kraft Macaroni & Cheese

FAVORITE NHL TEAM New Jersey Devils



PROFILE

NAME Terry Ryan
POSITION Centre
HOMETOWN Mt. Pearl, NFLD **AGE** 15
HEIGHT 5'10" **WEIGHT** 205
FAVORITE FOOD McDonald's
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Montreal Canadiens



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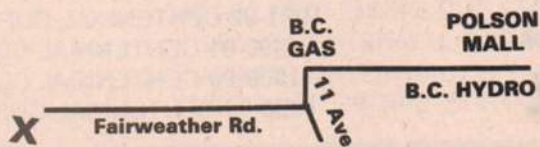
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VERNON LAKERS HOCKEY CLUB

VERNON LAKERS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- DALLAS DRAKE:** Northern Michigan University, WCHL Player of the Year in 1991-92.
- SANDY MOGER:** Lake Superior State, NCAA Div. I champions, 1991-92, Vancouver Canucks draft choice.
- DWAYNE DENNIS:** Johnstown Chiefs, East Coast Hockey League.
- DAVE OLIVER:** Michigan State University, Edmonton Oilers draft choice.
- TROY EWANCHYNA:** Princeton University.
- JASON MARSHALL:** Preoria Rivermen, International Hockey League, St. Louis Blues first round draft choice.
- COREY CARLSON:** Denver University.
- JASON ELDERS:** Denver University.
- MARCEL AUBIN:** University Alaska/Fairbanks.
- ROB SHYPITKA:** Colorado College.
- SCOTT KING:** Adirondack Red Wings, American Hockey League, Detroit Red Wings draft choice.
- DENNIS HOLLAND:** Cincinnati Cyclones, International Hockey League, Detroit Red Wings draft choice.
- DEAN ZAYONCE:** Halifax Citadels, American Hockey League.
- KEVIN SCOTT:** Adirondack Red Wings, American Hockey League, Detroit Red Wings draft choice.
- TROY NEUMEIR:** Milwaukee Admirals, International Hockey League.
- JAMIE STEER:** Michigan Tech University.
- BILLY LINDSAY:** Quebec Nordiques, National Hockey League.
- ROB ATKINSON:** Merrimack College.
- MIKE DENNIS:** University of Chicago/Illinois.
- TONY SZABO:** Northern Michigan University.
- DANE JACKSON:** University of North Dakota, Vancouver Canucks draft choice.
- LORNE KANIGAN:** University of Alaska/Fairbanks.
- TREVOR FORSYTHE:** Johnstown Chiefs, East Coast Hockey League.
- COREY SPRING:** University of Alaska/Fairbanks
- PHIL ESPOSITO:** Johnstown Chiefs, East Coast Hockey League.
- DEAN KUNTZ:** Golf professional in Calgary.
- MIRKO PELLIZZARI:** Mercyhurst College.
- DAVID VECCHIO:** McGill University.
- MURRAY CATON:** Knoxville Cherokees, East Coast Hockey League.

MEMBER OF
BC/AL

1991-92 CENTENNIAL CUP SEMI-FINALISTS
1990-91 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1989-90 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1988-89 CENTENNIAL CUP PARTICIPANTS



VERNON LAKERS HOCKEY CLUB

THE VERNON LAKERS are fully committed to winning. Winning on the ice, however, isn't our only concern. We also care about our players winning in the classroom.

If you look at the page on the left, you will notice a large number of former Lakers who have obtained a college education through hockey. That is a tradition the new Laker management team intends to continue.

The list on the left is not complete because invariably a few names get left off any such list. It is aimed at making a point: that excellence in scholastics AND excellence in hockey can go hand-in-hand.

This season a total of 14 of our players are enrolled at Okanagan University College. OUC has bent over backwards, especially Joan Smeyers, in an effort to accommodate our players scholastically.

We believe that a person's hockey career can end at any time. At best, a player can play until he's 40-years old. That is still a young man.

A university education, on the other hand, lasts a lifetime. Many of the players on this year's roster are here because their goal is to pursue a college education.

Take a guy like Greg Buchanan; the scouts are drooling over him already. At 6'3" and 220 lbs. Bucky reported to camp in tremendous shape and is making his presence felt all over the league. Ivy League teams are impressed with his marks, too. Last year Buchanan was a 90 per cent plus student.

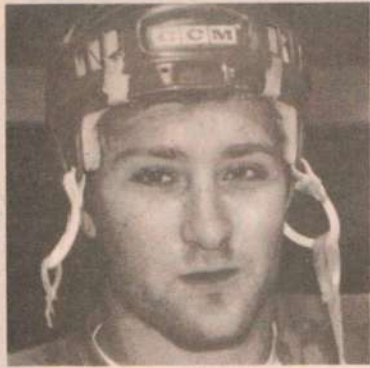
Danny Shermerhorn is another player the scouts are closely watching. His leadership abilities are evident on the ice and in the dressing room but his classroom prowess is also outstanding.

Hopefully, we can have between eight and 10 of our players granted scholarships this season. It would be good for the team as well as the boys because the more scholarships you turn out the more the good players will want to come here.

Vernon already has an excellent reputation across North America for hockey excellence. Classroom excellence can only enhance that reputation.

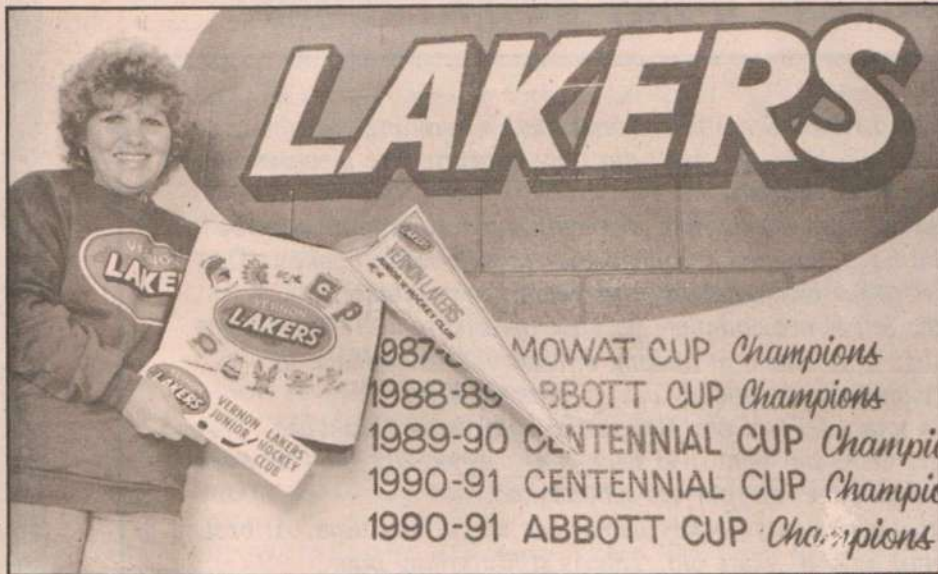
MEMBER OF
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1991-92 CENTENNIAL CUP SEMI-FINALISTS
1990-91 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1989-90 CENTENNIAL CUP CHAMPIONS
1988-89 CENTENNIAL CUP PARTICIPANTS



PROFILE

NAME Ryan Loxam
POSITION Defence
HOMETOWN Vernon **AGE** 20
HEIGHT 5'10" **WEIGHT** 205
FAVORITE FOOD Chicken Parmesan
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Montreal Canadiens



DAILY NEWS photo

Booster Club has plenty of souvenirs

Vernon Lakers' Booster Club co-organizer Bonnie Houston shows off new additions to this season's souvenir lineup. New for this season is a redesigned pennant which allows for your favorite Lakers' autograph, a new bumper sticker, and a Lakers' seat cushion to make your stay in the Civic Arena a softer one. The cushion has all the team's logos from around the BCJHL and will sell for \$20. Also available will be a seat made of solid maple which hooks onto the Civic's wooden bleachers.

Scoring title up for grabs

With the regular season campaign underway, the scoring race is officially on once again in the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

Lakers' fans are wondering if someone in the current lineup will end up with the league scoring title, thereby following in the

footsteps of Scott Longstaff.

Longstaff was the seventh member of a Vernon junior hockey club to win the BCJHL scoring title and the third since the team adopted the Lakers name in 1981.

The slick Longstaff has the dubious honor of col-

lecting the most points in team history however with 54 goals and 106 assists for 160 points during the 1991-92 season.

In spite of his best efforts, Longstaff didn't equal the single season assist mark held by Bob Ginetti of the 1984-85 Bur-

naby Bluehawks. He was also 28 points shy of the league scoring record of 188 points held by current NHL superstar Brett Hull.

Hull achieved his total, including a record 105 goals, during the 1983-84 campaign while with the Penticton Knights.



PROFILE

NAME Jason Chipman
POSITION Goal Keeper
HOMETOWN Toronto **AGE** 20
HEIGHT 6'1" **WEIGHT** 205
FAVORITE FOOD Pasta
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Montreal Canadiens



PROFILE

NAME Shawn Bourgeois

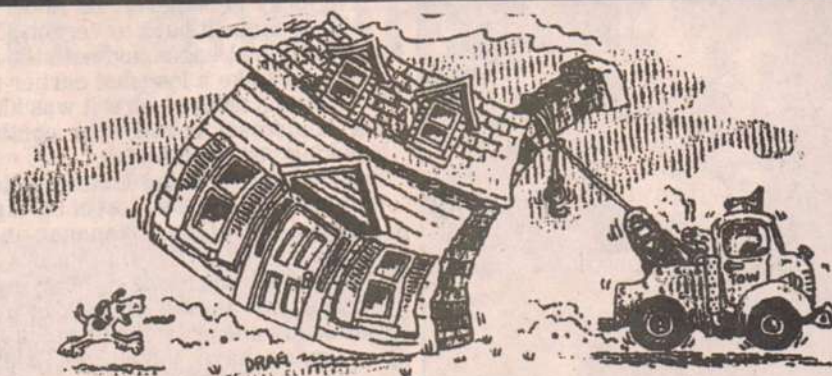
POSITION Left Wing

HOMETOWN Fort St. John **AGE** 19

HEIGHT 5'11" **WEIGHT** 180

FAVORITE FOOD Ketchup Chips

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Boston Bruins



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Loxam home to end career



DAILY NEWS photo by DARREN HANDSCHUH

Ryan Loxam, a three-year BCJHL veteran and a Vernon minor hockey graduate, is home for his final year of junior hockey eligibility.



By **DAN ODENBACH**
Daily News Sports

Coming home is something we all take for granted. Not Ryan Loxam. The Vernon minor hockey graduate, who began his junior hockey career with the Lakers but who spent the last two seasons with the Nanaimo Clippers, is finally getting that chance.

Loxam feels fortunate to be making it back into the Lakers' lineup.

"It feels good to be back playing for the Lakers and I'm lucky to be here," he said. "I wasn't sure I'd be able to make it back to Vernon since this was my last year in the League and with the new 20-year-old rule it looked like a longshot earlier this summer.

"I got a taste of what it was like playing in front of a hometown crowd," he continued. "It's a good feeling you don't forget."

The biggest thing Loxam noticed about returning to Vernon was how most of his high school peers have moved out of the Okanagan in search of employment.

"Almost everyone I hung around with in high school has moved on to Vancouver or somewhere and only one or two have stuck around."

Loxam says Vancouver Island's climate takes some getting used to.

"Aside from it raining all the time in the winter, it wasn't that bad," he said. "However, the warm weather makes the ice surface a lot softer than it is here which makes you work harder to get the same results."

A softer ice surface was not the only difference Loxam noticed between playing for the Lakers and the Clippers.

"The practices flow a lot smoother here. The drills blend together whereas in Nanaimo one ended another started. Drills here also get the offence and defence working against each other instead of them working by themselves."

Loxam says the overall atmosphere in the dressing room gives the Lakers a desire to win.

"I'm not knocking the Nanaimo organization but the Lakers have a more aggressive attitude when it comes to winning," he said. "Here you're expected to win but in Nanaimo they don't have the winning tradition and less emphasis is placed on it."

"If our team comes together like we have the potential to do, there's no reason why we shouldn't make it all the way to the Centennial Cup."

PROFILE

NAME Al Paterson

POSITION General Manager

HOMETOWN Ottawa

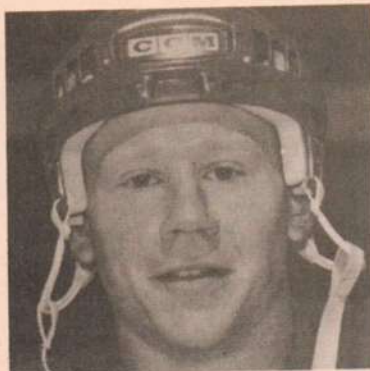
AGE over 40

HEIGHT 5'6"

WEIGHT 105

FAVORITE FOOD My Wife's

FAVORITE NHL TEAM The Winner



PROFILE

NAME Eon MacFarlane
POSITION Defence
HOMETOWN Orangeville, Ont. **AGE** 19
HEIGHT 5'9" **WEIGHT** 169
FAVORITE FOOD Haggis
FAVORITE NHL TEAM New York Rangers

BCJHL dominates West

Although the B.C. Junior Hockey League has been in operation for more than 30 years it's only been during the past decade that it has

come to the forefront in Western Canada.

In fact, the Pacific Coast junior loop has dominated the Abbott Cup playoff in

the past 10 years, winning the coveted piece of hardware on eight occasions during that time. With the trophy comes bragging rights among the six junior "A" leagues that make up the Western portion of the country.

It was the Abbotsford Flyers who first broke the shutout when they defeated the Dauphin Kings for the 1983 Abbott Cup Championship.

Then, the Penticton Knights won back-to-back Abbott Cup titles in 1985 and again in 1986, giving the BCJHL its first-ever Centennial Cup title the second time around.

Richmond Sockeyes won the Abbott Cup in 1987, taking the Centennial Cup national title the same year as well.

The Vernon Lakers have won the Western Canadian Championship for three of the past four seasons, surmounting the title to the New Westminster Royals in 1990 though they made up for their downfall with

the Centennial Cup that year.

The Lakers captured their first Abbott Cup during the 1988-89 campaign thanks to the clutch goal-scoring of Tony Szabo along with the defensive work of players like Jason Marshall (now with St. Louis Blues), Dean Zayonce, and Sean Hamilton.

The local club picked up their second Western Canadian title in May of 1991 when they defeated the Yorkton Terriers during a one-game event at the Centennial Cup Tournament held in Sudbury, Ont.

The Lakers earned their third honor last spring during the national junior tournament in Winnipeg when they beat the Winkler Flyers during round robin play.

The Flyers had their revenge as well however, beating the Lakers in the semi-final playoff round to advance to the Centennial Cup final against Thunder Bay, Ont.



DAILY NEWS photo by JANA SEALE

WINNING SHOT? Shirley Lindley takes a shot at winning Lakers homegame tickets during a club publicity campaign earlier this season at the Village Green Mall. The Lakers set up a goal challenge, pitting themselves against all comers. Tickets were won by scoring higher than the player you were shooting against.



PROFILE

NAME Rob Bremner
POSITION Coach
HOMETOWN Orangeville, ONT **AGE** 32
HEIGHT 6'1" **WEIGHT** 195
FAVORITE FOOD Enchiladas
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Chicago Blackhawks

Goaltending key concern

By **JIM JUDD**
Daily News Sports Editor

Goaltending hangs like a giant question mark above each of the five teams in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division as the 1992-93 campaign approaches.

The team with the best goal-tender could easily find itself atop the standings when the dust clears next spring. Of the five clubs only Penticton Panthers boast a starting goaltender that was in their lineup last season in all-star Dave Kilduff.

Unfortunately, the Panthers have been stripped completely bare down the middle of the ice and most conspicuous by his absence is superstar Paul Kariya. The slick centre was the only junior "A" player to crack the Team Canada lineup last year at the World Junior Hockey Championships and it might have cost him the league scoring title.

Nevertheless, with Kariya's absence, and in spite of a solid defensive nucleus, the Panthers will be forced to go with three rookie pivots up front.

Another factor in the equation is coaching. Only two of the five clubs have the same coach returning to the lineup while in Chilliwack and Merritt the bench bosses will be 22 and 23 years of age, respectively. Even the defending division playoff champion

Vernon Lakers will have a new mentor filling the shoes left vacant by the departure of former NHL all-star Eddie Johnstone.

Following is a forecast of how the Interior Division could stack up this season beginning with the team most likely to succeed. Their records last season, as well as their respective positions in the division, appears in parenthesis:

KELOWNA SPARTANS (41-18-1 first place): Blessed with four returning members of their blue-



line corps, including all-star Pavel Suchanek, the Spartans could easily improve on what was the best defensive record in the league last season.

Dan Blascoe, Graham Harder and Glen Pullishy round out the list of returning rearguards while Spartans' coach and General Manager John Oliver has added Burt Henderson, who toiled for Bellingham last season, Marty Craig-delle, a Victoria native who came to the Spartans via the Notre Dame

Hounds of the Saskatchewan Junior league, and Brendan Kenny, an all-star in the Alberta junior "A" loop last season.

As a result, Oliver is confident heading into the new campaign even though the club is still auditioning goaltenders at this point.

"We have good depth everywhere but especially on defence," said the colorful and sometimes controversial Kelowna GM.

Up front Oliver thinks Steve Roberts has 50-goal potential as does Steffon

Panthers will have a familiar face behind the bench in Garry Davidson who is entering his third year as chief mentor and GM of the Penticton club.

Davidson has a trio of 17-year-olds that will serve as centre icemen including David Whitworth, Brendan Morrison and Mike Dairon, all of which are products of the Delta Minor Hockey Association.

The only centre with junior experience will be 19-year-old Rob Pennoyer who was an MVP with Grand Forks Border Kings of the Kootenay International Junior "B" Hockey League last season.

"To think that one of these guys will fill in for Paul Kariya is crazy but I think we'll be alright," said an optimistic Davidson.

Fortunately, the Panthers have a good support cast up front, especially on the right side where veteran Rob Trumpah, acquired from the Merritt Centennials, should give them solid scoring potential on that wing. In addition, Mike Newman, Brian Barnes and Jason Given were all right-wingers with the club last season.

On the left side, Marcel Sakac and Tyler Boucher, both all-stars last season, will give opposing goaltenders something to think about.

Defensively, the Panthers are solid as well with offensive specialist Jeff Tory (87 points last year)



PROFILE

NAME Danny Shermerhorn

POSITION Center

HOMETOWN Calgary

AGE 19

HEIGHT 5'11"

WEIGHT 185

FAVORITE FOOD Escargot

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Calgary Flames

in tough interior Division

returning to anchor an experienced defensive unit that also features tough guy Mick McGuire, picked up from the Nanaimo Clippers.

The club has also added Bill Moodie, a 19-year-old Manitoba Junior Hockey League all-star with the Dauphin Kings last year.

Still, the loss of Kariya means Davidson will have to make some adjustments to his plans this season.

"We'll have to take more of a team approach and in a lot of ways it may be a more positive thing," he said.

VERNON LAKERS (32-23-3 fourth place): There's very little about the Vernon Lakers that in any way resembles the team that steamrolled its way to the Western Canadian Championship title and their fourth Centennial Cup appearance in as many years last spring.

A new coach, Rob Bremmer, and a new general manager — Al Paterson, means there will be a different flavor to the club both on and off the ice.

Nevertheless, with returnees like all-star defenceman Sheldon Wolitski (13-34-47 points in 50 games), along with forwards Dusty McLellan (32-50-82 points), Peter Zurba and John Morabito, the club will be as competitive as ever.

Paterson has added high-scoring centre Danny Shermerhorn who played

for the Calgary Canucks of the AJHL last season, along with stay-at-home defenceman Kevin Epp, who toiled for the Cranbrook Colts of the Rocky Mountain Junior Hockey League a year ago.

As an added bonus, the club hopes to get 20-year old Roland Ramoser (58-48-106) back when he finished a pro tryout with the San Jose Sharks of the National Hockey League.

A handful of other returning players means the Lakers will have enough

Aaron Thornton have returned to give Menard confidence on the blue-line but goaltending is proving to be a problem in camp.

"We've got some good kids and I'm optimistic but still a little uneasy," said Menard who spent four seasons between Merritt and New Westminster as a player.

Up front Clint Black will shoulder much of the scoring responsibility while the irrepressible Jag Bal will give them toughness and tenacity if the need arises.

ley City and it began with an emergency meeting last spring that saved the club from a one-year leave of absence.

Still, the Cents will have 22 year old Scott Farrell behind the bench and it's a tough division in which a young man fresh out of the junior ranks must prove himself.

Nevertheless, General Manager Brian Barrett exudes confidence in his young coach.

"Anybody I talked to speaks highly of him (Farrell) and he did a very good job in Fernie last year," said the Merritt GM. "He demands a lot and gives a lot back and I'm happy with what I've seen so far."

On defence the Cents have three veterans back including Doug Stuart, Derrick Harper and Aaron Hoffman. Up front, Guy Prince (28-42-71) and Brian Zackle will spearhead an offensive unit that also includes newcomer Tom Mix when Farrell brought with him from Fernie. Mix collected 90 points and was an all-star selection with the RMJHL club last season.

A moot point but an improvement nevertheless, is the fact that the Merritt arena, notorious for its bad lighting, has been upgraded in that regard which means the home team will be even tougher in one of the hardest building in the league in which to play.

BC JHL

holdovers to retain their winning style and attitude although, as ever, goaltending remains an ingredient that is yet to be proven in the Lakers' formula.

CHILLIWACK CHIEFS (38-19-3 second place): While their defensive corps is solid, backed by four returning players, 23-year old coach Doneau Menard is left with a lot of holes to fill.

Denis Archibald, Bob Quesnel, Paul Nichols, and

Menard feels his club had a good training camp and even though he'll have a lot of fresh faces in the lineup the youthful mentor feels his team will be very competitive.

"I'm quite confident and we've got some good young players here so that will certainly help," he said.

MERRITT CENTENNIALS (19-36-5 fifth place): The hockey atmosphere has had a resurgence in the Nicola Val-



PROFILE

NAME Kevan Rilcof
 POSITION Defence
 HOMETOWN Castlegar AGE 19
 HEIGHT 6' 2" WEIGHT
 FAVORITE FOOD Pasta
 FAVORITE NHL TEAM Vancouver Canucks

Coastal Division could be

By **AL CAMERON**
Nanaimo Free Press
Sports Editor

NANAIMO (Special) — Bench jockeys may hold the key to what should shape up as a three-horse race in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Coastal Division.

Powell River Paper Kings, Nanaimo Clippers and Victoria Warriors will all be capable of contending for top spot in the five-team division. Down the stretch run, whichever coach can exact the most from his players should emerge on top.

A look at the teams (in the order they finished last season with their record): **Bellingham Ice Hawks (30-26-4)**

: A pre-season of turmoil has raised plenty of questions about the Ice Hawks.

In the wake of Tim Racine's dismissal, assistants Harold Burns and Darren Kalanj will serve as interim co-coaches.

They face a major challenge to replace talents like Jeff Herman, Rob Hutson and Kevin Fitzpatrick, three of the division's top offensive talents a year ago.

"We're a pretty young team," said Burns, who coached midget AAA in Penticton last year. "We have some quality kids, but only three 20-year-olds so we're looking for three more."

Only four players are

back from last year: goaltender Wes Rudy, Tom Wittenberg (42-38-80), Dave Kirkpatrick and Don Barr.

The Ice Hawks lost sniper Ryan Esselmont and bruising defenceman Burt Henderson, who decided to play with Kelowna, but the Hawks should get a significant package in return.

Among the promising newcomers are six-foot-four, 200lb defenceman Todd Kidd of Denver, Colo, 16-year-old forwards Randy Swain of Victoria, Chris Jensen of Calgary

"We won't be pushed around this year," said Hardy, who recruited players with plenty of size and muscle during the off-season. "We'll play an aggressive style — but we'll also be able to run and gun."

A sizable infusion of young talent makes the Clippers a team to watch after Christmas — once those rookies have made necessary adjustments.

While the offence loses Andy Faulkner and Jim Lessard (combined 211 points); there are a host of talented returnees ready

to fill the void. Casey Hungle (35-43-78), team captain Jason Disewich (31-32-63) and Chris Jones (10-37-47) all have scoring potential.

speedy Shawn York (10-11-21) and Jade Kersey (10 goals in 36 games) could enjoy breakthrough seasons while irascible forward Glenn Calder (10-15-25, 263 penalty minutes) will also be expected to increase his offensive total.

Nanaimo could receive

an added boost from Jason Northard (21 goals in 50 games) if he returns from Tri-City Americans of the Western Hockey League. On defence, the Clippers have added size in hulking Phil Valk (six-foot-four, 205lbs) and skill in slick Brian Veale (8-24-32). Both were obtained from the Penticton Panthers in exchange for Mickey McGuire.

Wade Dayley (8-17-25), will see plenty of blueline ice time, while Brian Preston (injured much of last season) has enjoyed a solid training camp.

Powell River Paper Kings (26-32-2)

: Lewis enjoyed a banner recruiting year filling roster holes with some of the province's top prospects. Victoria product Tony Hrycuik and Surrey's Robbie Gordon will help make up for the loss of offensive standouts. Jay McNeill (Colorado College) and Chris Lipsett (Clarkson). Albertan Mike Warriner and Vancouver's Carey Lemanski are the other prominent newcomers.

Key returnees include defensive quarterback Brad Klyn (12-62-74), center Andrew MacIntosh (12-31-43) and wingers Matt Sharrers (10-25-35) and Jason Zaichowsky (11-16-27).

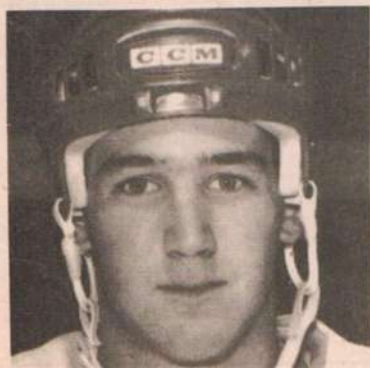
"Where we were weak last year — we won't be this year," said Lewis. "I never make predictions, but we'll be very competitive this time around."

BCJHL

and Dean Stark of Penticton along with defenceman Tim Bell and forward Wes Reusse of Kamloops, both members of the last year's Canadian midget champs.

The pressing need is for scoring and a back-up goalie for Rudy. The Hawks went through 31 goalies in training camp without finding a suitable back-up. **Nanaimo Clippers (27-30-3)**

: Hardy has fashioned a team suited for their tiny home rink.



PROFILE

NAME Spencer Ward

POSITION Left Wing/Centre

HOMETOWN Richmond

AGE 17

HEIGHT 6'

WEIGHT 105

FAVORITE FOOD Lasagna

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Edmonton Oilers

a three-team race to wire

The key for the Paper Kings will be the goaltending of Vizzutti (23-16-0, 4.41 goals against average).

"We've got the best goaltending tandem in the league," said Lewis.

Victoria Warriors (25-34-1): Warriors general manager bob Lynn says he is confidently optimistic about his team's chances.

"Every year I get all excited and come out predicting top spot," joked Lynn. "Then I have to change my mind midway through the season."

In Delvin (49-60-109) Victoria has one of the top talents in the league while John Murgatroyd (32-54-86 in 47 games) should easily top 100 points.

Throw in Matt Recchi, expected to return from a tryout with Louisville of the East coast Hockey League, and the Warriors have an offence to give opposing goaltenders nightmares.

Todd McKave (11-40-51) returns to anchor the defence along with tough guy Scott Garvfin.

Top prospects behind the blue line include Terrance Oliver from Fort McMurray, Alta., Czech Roman Kobrc and Duncan product Brad Hodgins — brother of Warrior all-time great Pat Hodgins, who may join the team as an assistant coach.

Up front, young Cowichan Valley products Jason Mann and Randy Barker have been impress-

ive, as have Victoria's Scott Hall and Chris Gailoux.

Derek Topping (6-13, 6.85) returns as the number one goalkeeper. The Warriors are in the market for a backup.

Surrey Eagles (22-37-1): Another year, another rebuilding job for Surrey Eagles' coach Pat Smith.

The Eagles, a farm team for Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League, lost much of their young talent to either the T-Birds or the U.S. college ranks.

Still, the agreement with Seattle has its advantages, as seen by the talent recruited for the Eagles.

Leading the way could be 15-year-old defenceman Geoff White of Quesnel, a strapping 6'1", 180lb rear-guard who figures high in the Thunderbirds' plans.

"He has size, strength, smarts and he's eager," said Smith of his young prospect. "He can already compete at this level at a young age and he'll move up very quickly."

Among the 10 returnees from last year's squad are scoring threats Ryan Donovan (21-34-55) and Kevin Robertson (22-28-50, 43 games), while 16-year-old Scott Boucher also figures to contribute after a Rookie of the Year campaign with White Rock in the West Coast Junior League.

Another newcomer is 20-year-old Alan Kinisky, a three-year WHL veteran

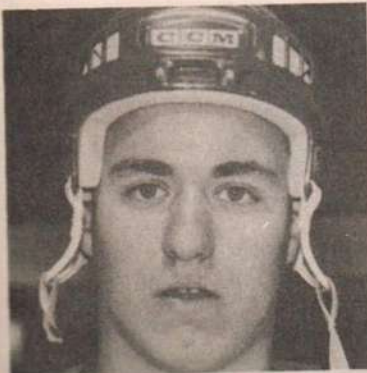
with Seattle. His 6'4" frame will patrol left wing at the South Surrey Arena.

In goal Jason Howse (6-8, 5.38) is the incumbent.



DAILY NEWS photo

NO MAN'S LAND! Rugged determination in their own end has been a characteristic of the Vernon Lakers over the years, especially during the playoff portion of each season. The ability to tighten up defensively is the mark of every winning team and the Lakers are no exception to the rule.



PROFILE

NAME Mark Davies
POSITION Left Wing
HOMETOWN Port Coquitlam **AGE** 16
HEIGHT 6'3" **WEIGHT** 195
FAVORITE FOOD Pizza
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Detroit Red Wings

Local club stocks pros

Over the years a number of players have graduated the ranks of the B.C. Junior Hockey League and have gone on to play professional hockey in the NHL.

The Vernon Lakers have contributed to this number over the years.

Although there are no current NHL superstars who once donned a Vernon Lakers' jersey, there are a number of solid journeyman types.

Todd Ewen, chief enforcer for the Montreal Canadiens, spent his first season as a junior with the Lakers during the 1982-83 campaign as did Vernon minor hockey graduate Rudy Poeschek who currently plays a similar role for the Winnipeg Jets.

Defenceman Murray Baron, now with St. Louis Blues, played with the 1984-85 edition of the Lakers while teammate and fellow rearguard Jason Marshall suited up with the club during their first run at the Centennial Cup in the 1988-89 season.

TOUGH GUYS! Opponents, such as this member of the Kelowna Spartans, can expect a tough physical game from the Vernon Lakers on any given night as Shane Fisher (7) and Peter Zurba (17) of this year's club, proved in an exhibition matchup earlier this season



DAILY NEWS photo



PROFILE

NAME Jason Switzer

POSITION Right Wing

HOMETOWN Barrhead, Alta. **AGE** 19

HEIGHT 6'1" **WEIGHT** 195

FAVORITE FOOD Chips Ahoy Cookies

FAVORITE NHL TEAM Detroit Red Wings

GM position proves interesting

By **AL PATERSON**
General Manager

Sometimes you get all you bargained for.

Such is the case when I took over as General Manager of the Vernon Lakers. I expected to be busy but this is wild.

The first couple of weeks on the new job weren't too bad. They were the proverbial calm before the storm. After Rob Bremner was hired as our Head Coach things really took off. The battle for quality players was on and we were embroiled in the thick of it.

We think we did all right in getting quality players like Danny Shermerhorn, Todd Kelman, Jason Chipman, and Terry Ryan. As a GM my job means con-

vincing players their best interests would be served by playing in Vernon. Selling the Okanagan is much like selling ice cream at Kal Beach in the middle of July; not too tough.

Lest I get too much credit for attracting the talent this year, let's lay the credit where it belongs. Coach Bremner and his assistant, John Cameron, deserve big kudos for a tremendous job of recruiting. Bremner took a close look at 1200 or so players during the spring and summer while working the Lakeland Super Series camps. Cameron has a superb grasp of young talent coming out of Western Canada, especially Alberta.

The last couple of months we haven't bothered too much with the

business end of things because the main focus was on getting players. Our feeling was that if the cake isn't made properly the icing won't matter.

Now, however, we are actively powering ahead in terms of making the Lakers a viable financial entity. That's another primary focus of the GM, making sure the number of dollars coming in at least equals the number of dollars going out.

In that regard, the response from the community has been terrific.

We are closing in on 500 season tickets (470 sold so far) and that is a delightful number, thanks to a lot of hard work by Anne Rogers our box office workaholic. I'm confident we can reach 500 season tickets and that will make us number one

in the league in that department.

One thing I would ask of our fans is that they be patient with us for the first 20 games or so. We have a lot of very good young talent but it will take a while for that talent to mesh and come together. Coach Bremner has a system which is extremely effective but it will take a while for our kids to perfect it.

All in all, things are coming together quite nicely for the Lakers this season. We have tons of work to do but I wouldn't have it any other way. Being a hockey GM is something I've always wanted to be and now that it's a reality I'm loving it. To me, it's perfect getting paid to do something I love.



Michal Sup (21) gave fans plenty to cheer about last season. Sup, a Czechoslovakian import, was one of the major cogs in the machine last year

DAILY NEWS photo



PROFILE

NAME John Cameron
POSITION Assistant Coach
HOMETOWN Regina **AGE** 27
HEIGHT 5'9" **WEIGHT** 165
FAVORITE FOOD Muffins
FAVORITE NHL TEAM Cleveland Barons

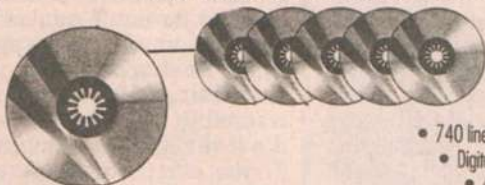


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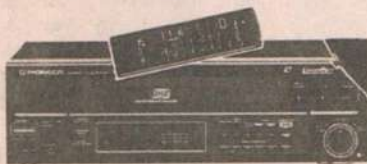
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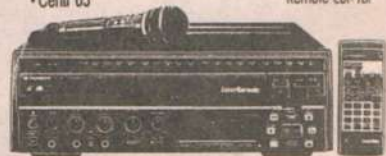
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