

denis

Kamloops has two franchise bids in the proposed British Columbia Junior Hockey League and an interesting fight is building up as to who will get it and what they will do about it once they do.

Apparently, when the Kamloops Minor Hockey Association wanted to get out from under the burden they jointly shared with the Kraft people in that city, two offers were received for the club. The first came from Frank Currie, a Calgary sportsman with roots deeply buried in hockey success, and the second from a Kamloops businessman. Well, Kamloops felt they could go further on the reputation of Currie and handed over the club to him.

Getting full endorsement from the Kamloops Minor Hockey Association, Currie applied for his franchise, and promptly stated that the team would be called the Maple Leafs if his group was given the go-ahead.

In the meantime, however, the Kamloops businessman and associates drummed up the support of the North Kamloops Minor Hockey Association, who had been promised a franchise in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League for the 1967-68 season, and applied for entry into the new circuit anyway.

The new super junior league is expected to involve seven teams, all of which will be announced in mid-June. Latest speculation has it that the circuit will include one team from the Kootenays; the New Westminster Royals; a club from Victoria, should the Western Hockey League Maple Leafs decide not to play next season; and the four existing OJHL teams, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and Kamloops.

Popular belief at Kamloops is that Currie holds the inside track with his Maple Leafs for the franchise fight in that city. Anyway, it will be a good one.