

'HOCKEY FUTURE LOOKS GREAT'

'Mr. Junior hockey' has his day Sunday

Ernie Davies has been Mr. Junior Hockey in Kamloops for more than a decade and in that time approximately 200 young men have played hockey for him.

Ernie's white crew-cut is a familiar sight around both the Sports Centre and Memorial Arena and his former players think of him as more than just an operator of a hockey club.

At times he was a father confessor, at times advisor, at times a stern disciplinarian and at other times a friendly banker.

Ernie became involved in Kamloops Junior Hockey in 1959 when there wasn't even a league.

He was approached by Don Brown, back in 1959, and asked if he would sponsor a junior team.

Ernie readily agreed and never regretted the decision.

That was the beginning of a decade of entertaining junior hockey for Kamloops and also the beginning of a trio of men who devoted hours and hours of their time to make junior hockey go.

There was Ernie as sponsor, Don Brown as manager and Kenny Stewart as coach.

CREDIT DUE

Ernie is reluctant to take credit for junior hockey's

success in Kamloops and says that if it wasn't for Don Brown and Kenny Stewart the increase in junior hockey's popularity just wouldn't have happened.

In the team's second year of operation, 1960-61, the Kamloops Rockets won the B.C. Junior League and were defeated in western Canada Memorial Cup playdowns by Edmonton—the finest showing by a local junior hockey team.

With the exception of one year when the junior franchise reverted back to the Kamloops Minor Hockey Association, Ernie remained the guiding hand of the junior club.

Ernie has seen many junior players come and go over the years but his all-time favorite is Terry Shishido.

Terry was a slightly built defenceman who amazed fans and visiting players alike with

his deft poke check and smooth defensive play.

PICK WINNERS

Ernie is hard pressed to pick an all-time all-star team from the many players he has been involved with but with a little urging he came up with this line-up.

For goal he chose Jim Letcher.

For his all-star defence he chose Terry Shishido and Buck Crawford.

His forward line is made up of either Glen Madsen or Eric Shishido at centre with Murray Owens and Randy Rota patrolling the wings.

Honorable mentions went to Jimmy Harrison, now toiling with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Bill Steinke, Larry Bedard, Ken Rinaldi, Larry Roberge, Rick Beauchamp, Bobby Nishimura and Cowboy Richards.

Ernie calls Kamloops the greatest hockey town in Canada and adds that the fans are the best anywhere.

FUTURE 'GREAT'

A youngster's future in hockey today is great according to Ernie.

"If a boy is so inclined to make hockey a career I would give him all the support I could. There is a good future in hockey especially now with the NHL expansions."

The Davies name is still carried on in B.C. Junior Hockey circles as Ernie's great-nephew Larry Davies plays for Chilliwack Bruins, the Rockets' opposition Sunday.

Larry will take the face-off with Rockets captain Ollie Steward to start Sunday's game and Ernie will drop the puck.

Sunday is Ernie Davies day at the Sports Centre.

Go there and thank him for his tireless contribution to junior hockey in Kamloops.



ERNIE DAVIES
... honored Sunday

SPORTS

LOU DEMÉRAIS — Sports Editor

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League leaders win in BCJHL last night