

FROM SPOKANE JETS

Washington franchise runs into stiff opposition

Spokane Jets of the Western International Hockey League will hold an emergency meeting tonight to decide how to try blocking a British Columbia Junior Hockey League franchise in Spokane, Wash.

Dr. Fred Viren, president of the Jets, said Wednesday support in the move would be sought from the other four WIHL cities, Kimberley, Cranbrook, Trail, and Nelson.

Viren said the income of all the WIHL senior A clubs would be severely affected if the BCJHL was allowed to expand into Spokane.

Vernon Vikings Director Vern Dye told the Daily News this morning he does not think a junior A team in Spokane would hurt the Jets.

Dye said, "There has been a junior B team operating in Spokane for several years and it has been drawing from 800 to 1,200 fans per game. The owner of that club wants to turn his team into a junior A organization which would mean a total of about 10 more home games during the entire season.

"The only real threat to the Jets would be if the Western Canada Hockey League chose to move to Spokane and I



VERN DYE
... would not hurt

doubt if the arena there would allow that move.

"I think the junior club will draw much younger fans than the senior team, almost a completely different type of crowd."

Dye added that if the franchise was blocked, it is doubtful the new team would re-locate.

Spokane was granted a BCJHL franchise Sunday and was slated to start play in the league's Okanagan division in the 1974-75 season.

Dr. George Whitter, past president of the Jets, hinted Spokane might drop out of the WIHL and try entering the professional Western Hockey League if a BCJHL franchise was established in the Washington city.

Charity race Saturday night

Auto racing resumes Saturday night, weather permitting, at Tillicum Raceway with the Lion's Charity Race.

Two of the four meets scheduled so far this season at Tillicum, have been rained out

two from Penticton expected. Five local cars and three from the Peach City will take part in the mini-stock event.

Boyd said Tillicum has changed most of its early season races from Sunday afternoon to Saturday nights

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

8 VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1974