

THREE-LEAGUE OPERATION PLANNED

Junior club buys Spokane Jets

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The senior amateur Spokane Jets hockey team was purchased Friday by a local rival, the Spokane Rockets Hockey Club and the new owners said they might operate in three leagues this fall.

No purchase price was disclosed by the Rockets, headed by contractor Ralph Redding and coach-general manager Bing Juckes.

The two said they are primarily interested in building a British Columbia Junior League hockey club. However, they said, they will maintain a junior B team in the Kootenay International League, and are negotiating to continue the Jets in the Western International Hockey League.

The organizations had come into conflict in recent weeks

because of a move by the Rockets to secure playing dates in the Spokane Coliseum, a move regarded by the Jets as one that could financially kill both clubs.

Dr. George Witter, immediate past president of the Jets, board of directors, said the Rockets would administer the program, while the Jets' board "will continue in complete support."

"The directors were completely overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and organization of Bing Juckes," he said.

Juckes said the new program will be education oriented, with emphasis on attendance of youngsters 18 to 20 years old at either Spokane community college.

"We'll have a mixture of American and Canadian boys

who want an education and an opportunity to advance to professional hockey," he said. "It is our hope that every boy that comes here will be a candidate for the National Hockey League or the World Hockey Association when he com-

pletes his education."

He said the program would be run in conjunction with that of the University of Denver, with youngsters capable of advancing from the B.C. league to major college hockey competition.

Just a formality in Winnipeg sale

WINNIPEG (CP) — Only the formal paper signing remains to complete the sale of Winnipeg Jets of the World Hockey Association to a group of Winnipeg businessmen.

The sale moved closer to reality Friday when a three-week public fund-raising campaign surpassed its \$600,000 goal. At last report

Hatskin and the Simkin family agreed to sell the franchise to the group for \$2.3 million, with a \$500,000 down payment, to ensure the club remains in Winnipeg.

The purchase originally appeared set more than a month ago until the provincial government decided it would