

Penticton Vees are alive again

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — Owners of the Penticton entry in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League have renamed the club after a popular team which won the World Ice Hockey Cup in 1955—the Vees.

“Penticton has always been associated with the Vees and we’re looking for more local fan support,” Jan Creighton, one of 10 owners, said in an interview Monday after it was announced the name Broncos would be dropped.

“It’s a nostalgia thing.”

The Broncos finished second in the league’s interior division last year with a 35-29-2 record, but fan support “was not very good some nights during the middle of the winter,” said Creighton.

The 1955 Vees, called the “gas House Gang from the Okanagan,” won the world championship by defeating a Red Army squad 5-0 in the final game for an 8-0 record in the tournament.

The team was greeted by about 20,000 well-wishers when it returned home. The Okanagan community’s population was then only 14,000.

PLAY ROUGH

The team was known for its rough play, the amateur status of its folksy players and the Warwick brothers, player-coach Grant, Billy and Dick.

After 1955, the team was only able to stay in the Okanagan Senior Hockey League for 1½ seasons and was replaced by the Broncos in the BCJHL.

Creighton said that because the current group of owners only took over last September, the club’s financial situation and local support couldn’t be improved last season.

He said Nick Ianonne will stay on as coach and has been appointed general manager.

The club, at the time of the 1955 championship, was called the V’s in newspaper reports, but Creighton said the Penticton BCJHL team will be

called the Vees, its proper—and first—name.

The original name, devised in 1951 when the club entered the senior league, stands for the three varieties of peaches grown in the Okanagan—Vall, Vedette and Veteran.

Tasker leads scoring race

MONTREAL (CP) — Rookie Brian Tasker of Maryland Arrows holds a two-point lead in the National Lacrosse League scoring race.

Tasker, a 22-year-old native of Vancouver, has 31 goals and 59 assists for 90 points, two ahead of team-mate Paul Suggate, last year’s scoring champion, who has 39 goals and 49 assists.

John Davis of Montreal Quebecois is third with 28 goals and 52 assists followed by John Grant of Philadelphia with 22 goals and 49 assists for 71 points.

Montreal has the best goals-against average with a 12.8 mark.

Dave Evans of the Quebecois has a 12.8 mark, with 104 goals against in 487 minutes played. Ernie Mitchell has allowed 93 goals in 435 minutes for a 12.9 average.

SCORING LEADERS

(Monday’s games not included)

	G	A	Pts	Pim
Tasker, Md	31	59	90	19
Suggate, Md	39	49	88	25
J. Davis, Mtl	28	52	80	6
Grant, Ph	22	49	71	28
T. Davis, Md	30	37	67	6
Campbell, Md	42	30	62	50
T. Lloyd, Ph	42	19	61	34
L. Lloyd, Ph	29	32	61	24
Durante, Ph	30	29	59	4
Hayes, Long I	24	32	56	4

SIGNS WITH BRAVES

BUFFALO (AP) — Buffalo Braves announced the signing Monday of Tom McMillen, their No. 1 choice in the National Basketball Association draft a year ago, to a multi-year contract.