

Junior clubs feeling pinch



While not everything is rosy these days with the Vernon Vikings, they certainly don't have a monopoly on financial problems.

Two teams, both 70 miles from Vernon, but in different directions, have been counting up their pennies lately.

Kamloops Chiefs, of the Western Canada Hockey League, dropped a bundle of loot last season and rumor has it, one more season like that and the club will be moving back to Vancouver.

Another rumor circulating has Vernon Vikings' Director Vern Dye becoming involved with the Chiefs.

However, Dye assures us that the Chiefs are out of his league and he is content in Vernon.

Kamloops recently got rid of General Manager Jack Tennant and gave Coach Harvey Roy the dual role of general manager-coach.

Main purpose behind that move was to cut costs.

Meanwhile, down south in Penticton, new club owners are picking up the pieces of what is left from last year. One report says that one of the things remaining is a debt of about \$30,000.

Right about now, some of the junior hockey owners in the Interior must be wondering why there isn't a Junior A League in the area with teams in Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, Merritt, and perhaps Revelstoke.

It might be a little easier on the pocketbook!

ON THE MOVE

Tom Serviss, of Vernon, must be one of the most travelled players in pro hockey during the past two seasons. And the remarkable thing is, he hasn't been traded.

Serviss played the 1973-74 season with Los Angeles Sharks, of the World Hockey Association.

When the Sharks moved to Michigan and became the Stags, Serviss travelled with them. He spent a brief time with the Stags farm club last season, before being recalled.

The Stags then became the Baltimore Blades, and along went Tom. The Blades are no more and Thursday Serviss' contract was purchased by the Quebec Nordiques.

Tom says all he knows these days is what he reads in the paper. Now if the Nordiques were to move to . . .

NEXT YEAR

Vernon's Recreation Director John Mahler has initiated several new programs since arriving in Vernon about one month ago, and he has many new plans for the future.

But, one sport he plans on getting off the ground again is minor lacrosse.

Mahler says he plans on starting minor lacrosse next summer, under the auspices of the recreation department.

He feels minor lacrosse is needed in Vernon not only because the arena sits idle so much in the summer months, but also because it is a good game.

With minor lacrosse booming in Kelowna, the old opinion of, no one wants to play summer sports in the Okanagan has become a fairy tale.

GAME HERE TONIGHT

Tigers hammer 'Rocks

First-place Vernon Lodge Tigers dumped Armstrong Shamrocks 14-7 Friday night in Interior Lacrosse League action in Armstrong.

Tonight, Tigers host Prince George Canada Hotel, currently in first-place in the Cariboo Lacrosse League. Game time is 8:30 p.m. at the Civic Arena.

Due to injuries, work commitments and holidays, Vernon was missing seven regulars Friday, but the players that were on hand played probably their best game of the season.

THREE EACH

Gary Gilchrist, Rick Horsley, and Bruce Townsend scored three goals each for the Tigers while Brian Blanchard added two. Marty Bellwood, John Kuly, and Rich Davies added singles.

Bird Henderson, Adrian Lemaire, Doug Morrison, Grant Dockstader, Jack Prokopetz, Tony Wolcott, and Jim Maundrell scored one each for Armstrong.

But, the individual star of the game had to be Tigers' netminder Larry Lochhead.



GARY GILCHRIST

... scored three

The lanky goalie was brilliant, particularly in the third period when he held the 'Rocks to one goal.

GAME CALLED

The game was called with 2:47 remaining in the third period when the near-capacity

crowd continually littered the floor with pop cans to protest referees' calls.

Tigers were missing Ross McDougall, Jeff Shirley, and Marty Stein due to injuries; Jamie McKenzie, Terry Garrett, and Dale Rintoul because of work commitments; and Jock Worth is on holidays.

Vernon led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 7-6 after the second.

CLEAN GAME

The game was a cleanly played affair with only one fight, in the third period, when Vernon's Terry Lowe, the smallest player in the league, won a clear-cut decision over Rick Morrison.

Armstrong's Grant Dockstader picked up a game misconduct late in the third period for arguing an official's call.

Tonight, Tigers will again be short-handed. Bellwood

was able to play only on the power play Friday, because of a badly bruised arm, and will not dress tonight.

Canada Hotel leads the defending Canadian champion Old Stylers by four points in the Cariboo League.



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