Chiefs planning move back to Lower Mainland

An unconfirmed report from Vancouver says Kamloops Chiefs of the Western Canada Hockey League will make formal application for dates at the Pacific Coliseum within the next week.

Chiefs' General Manager Harvey Roy and the team's owners, Ernie Remmpel and Andy Berna, apparently have already had some correspondence with the Pacific National Exhibition Board of Directors.

If an agreement can be reached, the Chiefs will move to the Coliseum for the 1976-77 WCHL season.

NO NEW RINK

Chiefs, who are unable to get the City of Kamloops to finance a larger arena, have been suffering at the gate since the team moved there, from Vancouver, in 1973.

Kamloops Memorial Arena seats only about 2,500 spectators and for Chiefs to break even, a near-capacity crowd is needed every game. They have not been getting that kind of support.

Chiefs, formerly the Vancouver Nats, is the only team able to move into the Vancouver area. When the club left Vancouver, the WCHL gave it an option to move back. Any other club hoping to move into the area would have to get permission from New Westminster Bruins because they have 50-mile territorial rights.

BAD NIGHTS

Bruins' General Manager Bill Shinske is pessimistic about the Chiefs chances in Vancouver.

Shinske said, "I don't know how they are going to do it on the dates they'll be able to get. We've got Friday and Sunday and Victoria has Saturday.

"With the Canucks having that television deal pending for their home and away games to be televised on Wednesdays, it only leaves Monday and Thursday. If they can make it on those dates, God bless them."

Kamloops officials would not confirm the move, but one report states that the club has already sold more than 700 season tickets for next year in the Interior city.

TO PORTLAND

Another unconfirmed report has Edmonton Oil Kings moving to Portland. And, Calgary Centennials, apparently feeling the pinch of Calgary Cowboys being in their town, are considering a move to Spokane.

Allan Cup champion Spokane Flyers dropped out of the Western International Hockey League last week for several reasons, possibly making way for a junior A team.