Player help arrives in time for opener

Vernon Vikings got a pleasant surprise over the weekend when big Jack Lefley rolled into town.

Lefley, 20, attended Vancouver Canucks' training camp and was cut Thursday. The 195-pound winger was an all-star in the B.C. Junior Hockey League last season.

Besides being one of the most feared fighters in the league, Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye said he is counting on Lefley for leadership.

Dye said, "I'm sure Jack will be a steadying influence on our younger players. We're certainly glad to have him."

Dye and Coach Gerry Wenman were impressed with another prospect who arrived Saturday. Right winger Kevin White, who started last season with Maple Ridge, may see action in Vikings' season opener Wednesday against Penticton Vees.

FIVE SIGNED

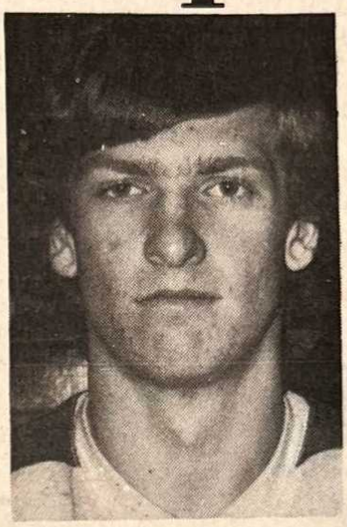
Vernon has signed five local players to date. They are defenceman Jim Misener and Gary Criss, wingers Neil Herzog and Bruce Green, and centre Jim Sparrow.

Meanwhile, Medicine Hat Tigers cut three ex-Vikings. Released were Drew Tumbach, Darcy Wilkinson and Steve Danshin.

Danshin and Tumbach are planning to return to school, while Wilkinson may end up back in Vernon. The classy centre is attempting to get a tryout with another tier one club, but if unsuccessful, he will return here.



JACK LEFLEY
. . . will help



DARCY WILKINSON
. . . might return

Meanwhile, Kamloops Braves edged Nanaimo Clippers 4-3 in overtime in a brawling BCJHL game Sunday, and Clippers are protesting the game.

In other weekend games, Bellingham Blazers hammered Merritt Centennials 10-5, Langley Lords nipped Maple Ridge Bruins 6-5 and Nanaimo took Kelowna Buckaroos 4-3.

The Nanaimo club said after the loss the protest would be on three counts.

Earlier, the league pulled out of the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association, and now plays under Western Canada Hockey League rules.

In the WCHL, there is no overtime for regular season games. In addition, a Nanaimo player received a two-minute minor for knocking down a puck with a high stick, and another Clipper had an automatic two-minute minor added to a 10-minute misconduct. The club says these are not infractions under WCHL rules.

Lawrence Angus scored at 1:46 in the 10-minute sudden-death period before about 400 fans in Kamloops.

The teams were tied 1-1 after the first period and Kamloops led 2-1 after the second. Kamloops was leading 3-2 when Jeff Wylie for Nanaimo scored with seven seconds remaining in regulation time with the Braves a man short and the Clippers using six attackers.

GOAL SCORERS

Mike Urquhart, Steve Zanata and Curtis Billey scored the other Kamllops goals. Brad Girling and Cam Douglas scored for Nanaimo.

Nanaimo had 14 of 27 minor penalties, six of 13 majors and two 10-minute misconducts. Each team had two game misconducts. The Clippers had six of the 11 majors called for the five fights during the game—four of fights during a 47-second span in the third period.

In Bellingham, before 1,241 fans Sunday, Finnish players paced the Blazers as Jari Lindgren, Martti Nenone and Pekka Mekela each scored twice. Ron Vincent, Tom Chisholm, Randy Hall and Erkki Lehtonen added singles.

Blake Stephen scored twice for Maple Ridge. Dale Ames, Bob Deschamps and Gary Sirkia scored the others.

The teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the first period. Bellingham took charge in the second, leading 7-2 at the end of the period.

Bellingham outshot Merritt 47-35, and had nine of 19 minor penalties and two of three game misconducts for fighting. Each team had three fighting majors.

Barry Crawford's goal at 18:47 of the third period gave Langley a 6-5 win over Maple Ridge before 400 fans in Maple Ridge Sunday. It was his second goal of the game.

Langley led 1-0 at the end of the first period, but the teams were tied 4-4 at the end of the second.

LANGLEY SCORERS

Other Langley scorers were Bob Taylor, Lane Lavik, George Walter and Greg Reyson.

Randy Irving scored three for the losers. John Ogrodnick and Gerald Mykituk added singles.

Local team wins volleyball tourney

By DALE MAJOR
Daily News
Correspondent

Vernon Blue Jays defeated Mission 20-18, 7-15, and 15-5 to capture first place in the annual Vernon Invitational Volleyball Tournament over the weekend at VSSS.

Blue Jays placed third in round-robin play, but came on strong in playoffs. In the semi-finals, Blue Jays dumped second-place Vernon Robins 11-15, 15-8, and 15-4.

Mission reached the finals by edging Prince George 15-12 and 16-14.

ROBINS THIRD

Robins were awarded third place when Prince George elected not to play the consolation final.

Vernon Coach Barry Reid was ecstatic about his teams' effort.

Reid said, "I wasn't overly impressed with our play in round-robin action, but both teams came on strong in playoffs. It is a good sign for so early in the season."

The Vernon coach told the Daily News hitting was superb from both his teams. He singled out Dave Turner, Dan Watts, and Kirk Chrisman for leading Blue Jays.

Reid said, "Only a few mental errors kept Robins out of the final. Some of their players, particularly Mike Kormos, Jim Tilden, and Clint Kanester, did super jobs."

MISSION FIRST

On the girls' side, Mission took top honors by beating Nelson 16-14 and 15-6 in the finals.

Mission ended up in a tie for first-place after round-robin play with Vernon and Nelson. In semi-final action, Mission dumped Prince George 18-16 and 15-9, while Nelson edged

BCAHA BOSS UPSET

CRANBROOK, B.C. (CP) — The president of the British Columbia Amateur hockey association said Saturday he's extremely disappointed in the decision by the B.C. Junior Hockey league to withdraw from the association.

Frank Spring said the move makes BCJHL teams ineligible to compete for the centennial cup. He says the league has also lost its right for Junior A status, all rights to its players, and all affiliations.

Spring said he has formed a committee to meet with the junior league to review the situation.