

Daily News

LONG LIST OF PROBLEMS

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Long list of problems



Two months ago when Hank Aarsen announced he was heading a group that was going to bring junior 'A' hockey back to Vernon, he admitted it wouldn't be an easy task.

Numerous groups have tried, and failed, to make Vernon's junior team a viable operation. Annual losses were as high as \$70,000.

Aarsen, named as general manager, took the bull by the horns and did a lot of the leg work. As a result, Vernon Lakers joined the B.C. Junior Hockey League and will play its first league game Friday night in Penticton.

With what he has been through in the past several weeks, it is doubtful Aarsen would take on the task again.

First in a long list of problems occurred Sept. 6 at an exhibition game in Osoyoos, against Penticton Knights. Aarsen instructed Coach Russ Newton to pull the team off the ice to protest Penticton's alleged rough play.

SUSPENSIONS

As a result of that incident, Aarsen has been suspended until Nov. 15. Newton has been suspended for two games, and the team has been fined \$100.

Some of the other things that have plagued the club include:

Forward Kevin Potrier and defenceman Joe Leuschik attended Lethbridge Broncos' training camp earlier this month, then returned to Vernon. They would both help the Lakers. Last Sunday, they left town, again - this time to attend Seattle Breakers' training camp.

Forward Dean Hasari, of Nakusp, was counted on to be one of the team leaders. However, he obtained a good job in Nakusp and decided not to play junior hockey. If he changes his mind, he may want to re-evaluate Rockets because his employer can transfer him there.

Forward John Needl, probably a good bet to win the BCHL scoring title, left the team today to join New Westminster Bruins. Needl played with Seattle Breakers last season and was traded by Seattle to the Bruins, on Monday. Needl had 19 points in exhibition play for the Lakers. Because he is not Vernon's property, neither Bruins nor Breakers are obligated to provide any player help to the Lakers.

DAMAGED BUS

At last Sunday's exhibition game in Revelstoke, vandals got into the team bus and drove it into a telephone pole. The result is a \$2,000 bill for damages.

There were less than 400 fans at last Saturday's exhibition game in Vernon, against Kelowna Buckaroos. Aarsen admits he was disappointed with the crowd on hand to watch 18 local players in action. Two years ago when the team (then called Canadians) had nine local boys, they were always byed crowds all season long.

JOBS NEEDED

Lakers may lose some of their local players unless they can find six jobs almost immediately, Newton said. "Teams like Revelstoke and Merritt have offered our players jobs and they'll have to go if they can't find work here. They'll do anything." Anyone interested in hiring a player is asked to phone Newton at 542-5902 or Aarsen at 542-2222.

The City of Vernon made Aarsen and the other owners sign a personal guarantee that arena rental bills will be paid. The previous owners, after paying most of the bills, did not clear their debt with the city.

Lakers open their season with back-to-back games this weekend against Penticton, considered the powerhouse of the BCHL. Hardly an encouraging way to start a year.

BECKWORTH'S SPORTS IRMA... COLANATTO... advertisement for sports equipment and services.

FOR TERRY FOX FUND Falkland hosts benefit rodeo

Falkland will host the Terry Fox Rodeo of Champions Sept. 28, at 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Terry Fox Cancer Fund.

to injuries and prior commitments, but according to Churchill, everyone is anxious to compete. He said, "The Calgary rodeo office already has several commitments and we've got some great replacements lined up for those who can't compete."

number one in Canada, is among the contestants. STEER RIDERS Top six boys' steer riders and five teams of ropers will add to the competition. Churchill said, "The response has been just fantastic. By next Monday, we'll have a full list of entries."



MERV CHURCHILL ... his idea



KENNY McLEAN ... invited



VERNON LAKERS' Assistant Coach Ken Brown-John, right, talks over defensive strategy with Earl Smith at the club's practice Monday night in the Civic Arena.



be in the line-up tonight when Lakers host Revelstoke Rockets. (Daily News Photo)

NOHL champion without a coach

Defending North Okanagan Hockey League champion Vernon Cougars do not have a coach.

Swanson said, "We'll have two powerful lines and judging from the guys trying out, we should have an adequate third line."

Gary Swanson stepped up to the club's general manager post this season and does not intend to spend a third consecutive year behind the bench. However, he may have no alternative.

Swanson said, "We'll have two powerful lines and judging from the guys trying out, we should have an adequate third line."

Swanson said, "We've scoured the North Okanagan, and we can't find anyone qualified who will coach the club. It has become extremely frustrating. For the time being, (team captain) Gary Gilchrist will run the practices and I'll run the bench during games."

Among the leading prospects for use third line are Fred Peropoli and Neil Herzog. Or, Swanson may elect to move Walmaley and Anderson up front if the club has a surplus of rearguards.

Clinic scheduled at Fulton

There will be a women's volleyball clinic Wednesday, from 7 to 10:30 p.m., at Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary School.

Cougars play their first exhibition game Saturday night when they host Grindrod Elks.

Cost is \$2 per person. Players of any calibre, aged 18 and over, are eligible to attend.

Spallumcheen ladies draw

Griffin, Faye De Wilde, 8:15 a.m. Shirley Emmaus, Jean Thomas, Grace Galambos, 9:15 a.m. Shirley White, Elnet Thompson, Marg Hamilton, 9:15 a.m. Ella Guidic, June Sulphurd, Grace Gault, 9:24 a.m. Ella Krawec, Pule Kautbach, Mary Brooks. TEAM TOURNAMENT Registration MUST be completed before 9 a.m. COACH YOUR PUTTS.

Instructors will be Denis Murdoch, Cyril Foster, Chris and Vicki Nelson.

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EXPERT GUN REPAIRS - ALL MAKES OPEN 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday

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MINOR HOCKEY REGISTRATION

Wednesday, September 17 - 7-9 p.m. at Recreation Centre

Advance and late registration at: Sun Valley Sports - 542-2852

MOTHER'S AUXILIARY - SWAP & SHOP Please bring birth certificate and medical numbers.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARENTS There are no scheduled ice times for Sundays... also no 6 a.m. Saturday morning ice times.

FREE DRAW for all registrations received up to September 17 for season passes to all Vernon Lakers Junior 'A' games.

LAKERS season passes on sale at registration at \$10.00 discount.

GM suspended and Needl traded

Monday, Sept. 15 is a day that will be remembered in the history of the Vernon Lakers.

The B.C. Junior Hockey League team was notified Monday it will be without its general manager, coach, and leading scorer for various periods of time.

General Manager Hank Aarsen was told late in the afternoon that centre John Needl had been traded by Seattle Breakers to New Westminster Bruins, of the Western Hockey League.

Needl, as captain of the Lakers, had 19 points in five pre-season games. Seattle received one player and cash for the 20-year-old forward.

Scoring was the Breakers' property. Bruins are not obligated to provide Lakers with any compensation.

Just one hour after hearing that news, Aarsen was told he has been suspended for two months by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association, for his part in an exhibition game Sept. 6, in Osoyoos, against Penticton Knights.

Aarsen instructed Newton to pull the Lakers off the ice to protest Penticton's alleged rough play.

Needl has indicated if he isn't happy with the Bruins, he will return to Vernon.

On a positive note, Vernon native Earl Smith signed with the Lakers at Monday's practice. Smith starred with Merritt Centennials, of the BCHL, for two years.

Game time tonight, at the Civic Arena, is 7:30 p.m. Last Sunday, Rockets edged Lakers 10-8, in Revelstoke.



JOHN NEEDL ... to Bruins HANK AARSEN ... suspended

Advertisement for REAL BLOW roofing service, North Okanagan Roofing Contractors.

On the move with Roy Nat.

John B. Brink, President, Brink Forest Products Ltd., Prince George, B.C.



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Advertisement for Roy Nat Kamloops - 374-7303, financing for land and buildings.

Advertisement for Brian F. J. Trowbridge and John D. Barker, lawyers.