

Penticton gets WHL franchise

KELOWNA, B.C. (CP) — Kelowna Sports Enterprises Ltd., seeking a Western Hockey League expansion franchise for this Okanagan city, has named its coach and general manager for the 1982-83 major junior season.

Marc Pezzin of Penticton, B.C., was named coach at a news conference Thursday night along with general manager Joe Arling of Kamloops, B.C.

Pezzin led Penticton Knights to the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship this past season, while Arling worked with Kamloops Junior Oilers of the WHL.

Chris Parker of Penticton, president of Kelowna Sports Enterprises, said he will meet with WHL officials Monday in Calgary to complete plans for bringing a major junior team to Kelowna next season.

Parker said there is a "95 per cent chance" of an expansion franchise being awarded to his group, which formerly operated the Penticton franchise in the BCJHL.

The BCJHL has suspended the Penticton operation and told Parker to find a new owner for the team by the end of this month.