

Wensley glad to return home

Vernon Lakers' bid for supremacy in the BCJHL Interior Division will get some aid from veteran winger Bob Wensley, who joined the club Tuesday.

Wensley, born and raised in Vernon where he played his minor hockey, has toiled most of this season with the Richmond Sockeyes of the BCJHL Coastal Division.

The five foot 11 inch, 175 pounder picked up 22 points in just 16 games with the Sockeyes. However, due to internal problems within the Sockeye ranks, Wensley found himself looking for employment elsewhere as a junior hockey player.

DICEY SITUATION

"It's been pretty dicey," said the young winger, of his recent dealings around the league. "I didn't know exactly what to do and there was a lot on my mind."

Wensley's practice with the Lakers Wednesday morning was his first time on skates in more than two weeks due to his unconfirmed status.

Originally, the Vernon native was asked to join the Abbotsford Flyers, a team which leads the entire BCJHL with its' 33-3-1 record.

Despite the opportunity of being asked to join the lineup of what would seem to be a sure-fire winner, Wensley's loyalties lay elsewhere.

"I really like being back in Vernon," said the young winger. "I had the choice between here and Abbotsford but I thought I could help this team out more."

With a list of teams he previously played for being half as long as your arm, it must certainly seem this young man has finally taken root.

WITH OILERS

Last season Wensley toiled with the Kamloops Oilers, of the Western Hockey League, and spent some time this season with the same club before he was released to Richmond.

"I was more of a defensive player in Kamloops last year but personally I thought I had a good year," he said.

Prior to his stint with tier one hockey, Wensley spent a year with the Kamloops-Revelstoke Rockets of the BCJHL. The year prior to this he split his time between the Regina Pats, of the WHL, and their junior "A" affiliate, the Pat-Blues.

CAPITALS WIN

In BCJHL action Tuesday night, Brian Burley scored two second-period goals to help Cowichan Capitals to a 4-3 victory over the hometown Richmond. In other league play, Burnaby Blue Hawks doubled Langley Eagles



BOBBY WENSLEY
... raised here

6-3 in a match in Langley.

In Richmond, the Sockeyes led 1-0 after the first period on a goal by Brooke Odenvald but Burley's two markers gave the visitors a 2-1 lead after 40 minutes.

Brent Carlson and Kevin Scobie scored goals for Cowichan in the third period, countering goals by Odenvald and Mike Moree.

In Langley, the Blue Hawks took a 3-1 lead after one period and advanced to a 4-2 advantage after 40 minutes of play.

Bobby Ginetti had three goals for the winners, while Pat Ellardyce, Steve Brnjac and Earl Graham rounded out scoring.

Greg Moberg, Darcy Allison and Rod Ware replied for Langley.

Poor defence proves costly

Vernon Panthers' Coach Jack Yamaoka has repeatedly said he is concerned about his club's intensity on defence. His concern proved warranted Tuesday night when Penticton Lakers edged Panthers 75-73 in their Okanagan-Mainline High School Basketball League season opener, in Penticton.

"Our inside defence was pathetic," Yamaoka said. "That is the only way I can describe it. We lost to a team we should beat because we didn't work hard enough in our end of the court."

Lakers led 42-35 at half-time and twice, built up 13-point leads in the second half before Panthers battled back. Vernon missed three opportunities to tie the game in the final 20 seconds.

Jeff McKay led the Penticton attack with 24 points.

Larry Olson was top sniper for Vernon with 21 points while Dean Sofiak added 16 and Dave Abersek dropped in 13.

Yamaoka said, "We're playing in spurts. We seem to let the opposition build a lead, come back, and then let them take off again."

Vernon's defensive woes were compounded by the flu, which hampered three players. Don Balcombe played only three minutes before having to leave the floor.

Panthers travel to Castlegar, this weekend, for an eight-team tournament. Vernon's first game is Friday night, against Nelson.

League play resumes next Tuesday when Panthers host Kelowna Owls.

Zwarych great in losing cause

Lynn Zwarych has turned in some sparkling performances for Vernon Royals, but none better than Tuesday night, in Penticton.

Zwarych scored 44 points, but it wasn't enough as Penticton Lakettes edged Royals 67-66. Last weekend, when Zwarych did not play, Penticton blasted Vernon 87-40.

"She (Zwarych) was fantastic," said Royals' Coach Andy Gilbert. "She did everything for us ... she scored, rebounded, broke the press ... incredible."

Zwarych's performance did not break the school record, set in 1980. Lynn's older sister, Fay, scored 55 points in a game for Royals.

Penticton led 16-14 after the first-quarter, 32-30 at half-time, and trailed 54-43 after three quarters.

"After getting blown out last Saturday, getting that close to Penticton was almost like a win," Gilbert said.

Wendy Vyvyan sunk eight points for Royals.

Vernon returns to the court Thursday, in North Kamloops.