

NEW OWNERS INTERESTED

Lawrence may return

There appears to be an excellent possibility Murray Lawrence will be coaching Vernon Lakers during the 1983-84 B.C. Junior Hockey League season.

The hockey club was sold, this week, by Ray Williment to businessmen Carl Enemark, of Penticton, and Bud Russell, of Vernon. Both of the new owners have extensive junior hockey backgrounds.

Lawrence was fired by Williment, in a controversial decision, last month. At the time, more than a dozen players said they would not return to the team unless

Lawrence was reinstated. Among the most vocal players was defenceman Mike Enemark, son of one of the team's new owners.

The elder Enemark said Wednesday he was impressed with the job Lawrence did behind the Vernon bench.

"I don't know what went on between management and the coach," Enemark said. "I was on the outside looking in. But, on the surface, I thought Murray did a good job with the team."

The Daily News has learned the new owners met with Lawrence, Wednesday. However, both par-

ties said no agreement has been reached.

"We won't be finalizing anything until the sale of the club receives formal approval from the league (about three weeks)," Enemark said. "We will talk seriously with Murray when the time is right."

Lawrence confirmed he would like to stay in Vernon, if the right situation arises. "There is no sense making an agreement until the sale is approved," Lawrence said. "I'm interested in working with the Lakers if things can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction."

The status of General Manager Vern Dye is also in limbo. Enemark said, "If the sale goes through, a lot of the managerial work will be handled by Bud and myself. I'm not saying there won't be some room for Vern in our organization . . . it is too early to tell."

In their first season under Lawrence, Lakers placed second in the BCJHL Interior Division, one point behind first-place Kelowna Buckaroos. Penticton Knights eliminated Lakers in the seventh game of the division semifinals.