

New owners to name coach

Vernon Lakers' owners Carl Enemark and Bud Russell, have indicated they will announce the signing of a new coach for their B.C. Junior Hockey League club this week.

"We're contemplating that this week (signing new coach)" said Enemark, Monday. "We've got quite a few applications . . . maybe Thursday or Friday."

Enemark and Russell, who took over the reigns of ownership from Ray Williment last month, found the team without a coach. Williment had fired coach Murray Lawrence following a controversial dispute concerning coaching and management duties, among other things. Lawrence had coached Lakers to a second-place finish in the Interior Division.

Despite Enemark describing the list of hopefuls for the job as lengthy, the co-owner refused to comment on which of those the two have settled on as finalists.

"We have one from the north, and another one from Vancouver . . . and I did have (Wayne) Naka in mind, but now he's

made a commitment to Summerland," said Enemark.

Naka coached Kelowna Buckaroos to a first place finish, one point ahead of Lawrence and the Lakers, and went on to win the BCJHL's Interior Division before losing to Abbotsford Flyers, of the Coastal Division, in six games last season.

Following the 1982-83 season, Buckaroos were sold and moved down the road to Summerland where they will now be stationed. That move came as a result of competition aroused when Penticton entrepreneurs bought a Western Hockey League franchise and placed the tier one junior club in Kelowna.

A possibility for the coaching duties in Vernon is Chuck Tapp, former co-coach in Vernon, who spent part of last season with the tier one Kelowna Wings as assistant coach.

Enemark said he and Russell will be sure Vernon hockey fans are the first to know of their decision later this week.

"When we do make a decision we'll want the news to break first in Vernon."