

Wings impressed by local player

KELOWNA (Special) — A young Vernon forward has an excellent opportunity of sticking with Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League.

Brent Gilchrist, 16, is among 24 players still with the Wings. The Kelowna club will reduce its roster to 20 within a week.

Wings' General

manager Joe Arling said Gilchrist has been very impressive in training camp. "He has a great attitude," Arling said. "His attitude, combined with a high level of intensity, make Brent an outstanding athlete."

Gilchrist played left wing and centre last season with the Vernon Midget Reps. Wings plan to use him as a centre.

Arling said, "If Brent continues his present style, he'll probably be staying with us."

The only other 16-year-olds on the Kelowna roster are Jeff Sharples, of Terrace, and Todd Voshell, of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.

Two other Vernon players who attended Wings' summer camp received praise from Arling. Forward Derek Webb and defenceman Jay Stark were at a camp, for 15-year-olds, in Osoyoos.

"Webb and Stark both looked good," Arling said. "They are both big boys... with lots of talent. We'll be keeping a close eye on their progress."

They are expected to play with the Vernon Midget Reps this season.

Drop-in sessions planned

North Zone Athletic Association met Tuesday to complete plans for five junior high school leagues.

Junior boys' and girls' volleyball leagues will get under way Sept. 22. The five-team loops will include W. L. Seaton, Clarence Fulton, VSSS, Kalamalka, and Armstrong.

Four schools have confirmed their entries in the girls' field hockey league. Seaton, Fulton, Kal and Lumby will play their first games Sept. 26.

Fulton will host the first cross-country race of the season Sept. 28. Other schools competing in cross-country are VSSS, Seaton, Lumby, Salmon Arm, Jackson (Salmon Arm), and Shuswap (Salmon Arm).

The four-team boys' soccer loop starts Sept. 27. Seaton, Fulton, VSSS, and Lumby will battle for the soccer title.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

SEPTEMBER, 1978

Two defending provincial champions have confirmed their entries in the 1978 Vernon Carling O'Keefe Car Spiel. Bernie Sparkes of Vancouver and Rick Folk of Saskatoon will be in Vernon from Oct. 27 to 30 for the fifth annual event.

SEPTEMBER, 1978

Spectators at last weekend's Canadian Senior 'B' Lacrosse Championships saw something they had never seen before — a female referee. Wendy Paustian, 25, of Edmonton, was one of nine officials assigned to the tournament.

These drop-ins, available to either males or females 16 years and older, will take place at Priest Valley Gymnasium.

Cost is \$1.50 per player, per drop-in.

Lakers release two ... more cuts coming

The axe fell on two more players following Vernon Lakers' practice session, Tuesday night, at Priest Valley Arena.

Head coach Chuck Tapp is slimming his roster in preparation for the BCJHL regular season schedule which opens, for Lakers, Sept. 20 at home.

Gone are a pair of youngsters from North Okanagan communities.

One player, Dave Cheveldave, will get some seasoning in Castlegar playing in Kootenay International Junior League while Brad VanGoor, though given the same opportunity, is apparently pondering a decision on whether to accept the offer.

Cheveldave hails out of Enderby while VanGoor is a native of Sicamous.

The pair of cuts didn't really change the numbers game much where Lakers' camp is concerned since a pair of veterans moved in to fill the space left by the recent cuts.

Both Rob Kossan and Ron Berezowski are presently back skating with the local club though both are hampered by slight handicaps.

"Kossan came out last night but he'll need some skating to get back into shape," said Tapp. "Berezowski is back and he looks alright but his knee is still banged up so we'll have to keep our eye

on that."

With the presence of Kossan and Berezowski, Lakers are still maintaining a strength of 30 players. There will be several cuts made prior to a home-and-home exhibition series with Merritt Centennials this weekend.

Before that occasion, however, Tapp and the Lakers' management will take time out to scout the opposition during an exhibition game between Revelstoke Rangers and Shuswap Totems, tonight, in Sicamous.

"We're looking forward to scouting the teams and getting some indication of who's got what," said Tapp.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Interior Division should be strong



By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

They say a chain is only as strong as its weakest link and if this is true, then the chain of teams which make up the BCJHL Interior Division could be the strong.

A few short years ago, the Interior Division was more like a length of chain with a lot of weak links and only one or two strong ones holding the whole thing together.

Not being around at the outset of last season it wouldn't take any special powers to imagine the groans when it was decided the Interior Division would have a new face, namely Shuswap Totems.

Anyway, to make a long story even longer, with the Interior Division generally a two-way battle between Penticton and Kelowna, the last thing people wanted was yet another weak sister team in the household.

WON 10

After all, Vernon Lakers were fresh off a stinko season that saw them win just 10 games while Merritt Centennials and Revelstoke Rockets, other than holding their own in a brawl, couldn't skate in the same arena with most other teams.

It had to be some measure of delight when Totems quickly established that they weren't going to be the new kid on the block everyone bullied. Then, to everyone's surprise, Lakers

walked away from a back-to-back series in Penticton with a pair of wins early in the season.

Suddenly, the fight for the Interior Division title, formerly a cut and dried affair, became a four-way battle.

Heading into 1983-84 season, it appears the chain links have been tempered once again... in fact it could be the tightest season ever in the Interior Division.

A number of coaching and management changes in a few of the traditionally weaker centres could easily pay dividends this year in the standings and in the gate receipts.

NEW COACH

To begin with, Merritt Centennials like Vernon and Revelstoke, will commence this season with a new look. Cents have hired Enio Sacilotto (Sach-i-lo-sho) as their new head coach.

Sacilotto has no Junior A experience but was chosen coach of the year in the West Coast Junior Hockey League last season. During that campaign, Sacilotto upped Grandview Steelers' win-loss record to 21-18-1 from a dismal 10-26 the previous year. The difference was good enough for a third place finish, overall, in the junior B league.

With the coaching change came a subsequent change in Merritt's training camp. More than 60 prospects showed up... more than any other camp in the club's history according to Sacilotto.

Cents will also sport the new look of junior teams around the

country in that they be geared-up in the one-piece, pant-type (Cooper-all) outfits complete with new home and away jerseys, matching gloves and helmets.

Perhaps the new look won't win any more games but the enthusiasm it has apparently injected into the Interior's weakest link could make a difference.

Revelstoke Rangers will also sport a new look... new coach (Murray Lawrence), new name, and new image.

BUILT LAKERS

Lawrence, who left Lakers on a controversial note, was the man responsible for bringing Vernon's junior squad from the depths of depravity to the upper echelons of contention in one season.

Chances are Lawrence can do a similar number on Revelstoke. At the very least, Rangers will adopt Lawrence's hard-hitting, close-checking style with absence of fisticuffs... something which will no doubt go over big with hometown fans and those in other centres.

Early indications are also that Penticton Knights will regain some of their lost form while Summerland (formerly Kelowna) Buckaroos, have changed their hometown but with coach Wayne Naka will continue to be Interior Division champions until someone proves otherwise.

If it all sounds like an exciting new season in the BCJHL, you can bet that's just what it's a gonna be partner.

Don't get left out.