

MORE CUTS MADE

Lakers sign local as assistant coach

Vernon Lakers announced today, the signing of Dave Popilchak, of Vernon, as assistant coach of the club.

Popilchak, 21, formerly played for Vernon junior Canadians prior to the team changing its name to Lakers.

Despite a complete lack of experience at coaching junior hockey, head coach Mike Enemark feels Popilchak will be a benefit to himself and the team.

"He's learning just like I am," said Enemark in regards to Popilchak's lack of experience. "It should work out really well though, because he's enthusiastic and willing to learn. I think it'll work out well for the club."

Specifically, Popilchak will aid Enemark in a number of duties such as team practices, assisting behind the bench, and picking out mistakes and helping players to iron them out.

The help will be a welcome relief for Enemark who feels he didn't have enough time to devote to the team on his own.

"We really needed an assistant coach," he said.

Meanwhile, Lakers trimmed their roster further as of Wednesday's practice with two players getting the axe by Enemark. One is defenceman Larry Wiberg while the other was centre Randy Padalec. Neither had spent much time with the team.

According to Enemark, the cuts aren't going to stop there, though. He plans to make several more during tonight's practice.

"I expect to drop a couple of goaltenders," said Enemark, who will have five in practice by this evening. In addition to the three he presently is carrying, Shawn Oswald, Kelly Muir and Gyles Ianonne, two others will be in uniform tonight.

One is 18-year old Jim Young who comes this way via Revelstoke while the other is Salmon Arm's Mark Kulak.

Dealing with Revelstoke for Young won't be the last transaction that takes place between these two clubs however. Defenceman Rudy Poescheck, being sent down from Kamloops, has expressed his desire to play in Revelstoke and so Lakers will receive a player or players in return at a later date.

Friday night Lakers take on Merritt Centennials at Civic Arena while Saturday the local club travels to Summerland to take on the Buckaroos. Next Tuesday Lakers travel to Penticton.

With the heavy schedule coming up, Enemark, for one, is happy to have some familiar faces back in the lineup. Defencemen Gavin Shuya and Tony Christie have returned from their injuries as has forward Greg Kowal.

Enemark is optimistic about the club's future with the new additions.

"Everyone is happy these days and it won't be long before we're on a winning streak," said Enemark. "Once the players get into a stabilized environment it will really make a difference."

In BCJHL action Wednesday night, one game on the coast saw Nanaimo Clipper score three goals in 32 seconds in the final minutes of the first period to demolish Cowichan Valley Capitals 13-4.

The game was tied before Nanaimo's first-period scoring push but it ended with the Clippers ahead 5-2. After 40 minutes, Nanaimo increased the advantage to 7-3.

Rick Hunt, Carey Coroy and Nick Foglietta each notched two goals for Nanaimo while Stan Czenczek, Joe Stanley, Al Johnston, Brian Deleuw, Kent Lewis, Ken Clement and Brian Silverson added singles.