

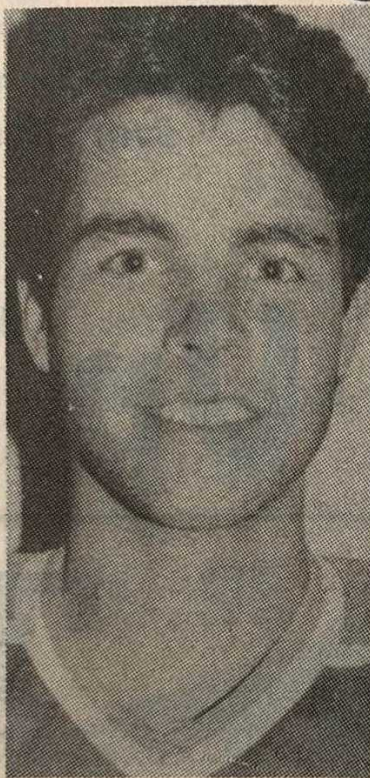
MEET MERRITT TONIGHT

Lakers plan defence to reduce goal deficit

Vernon Lakers have a golden opportunity to fatten their BCJHL Interior Division record and at the same time reduce their goals-against average tonight when they host Merritt Centennials.

Recent BCJHL statistics show that Lakers, while holding down second place in the Interior with six wins and three losses, have allowed 53 goals against in those nine games. Coach Mike Enemark wants to see that figure deflated somewhat over the course of the next few games.

"Part of our game-plan is to get our goals-against down," Enemark said. "We have been working on tight checking and defensive play . . . hopefully it's



DAVE WENSLEY
... scoring leader

going to pay off tonight.

"We plan on checking them (Merritt) quite tight . . . they only have the one strong line so we have to shut them down," added Enemark.

That top line, John Tent, Pat Ryan and Brent Demerais have all inched their way into the Interior Division's top ten scorers in the early season.

Meanwhile, Lakers are currently led in that department by Dave Wensley who is currently leading the team by a slim one point margin over brother Bob Wensley.

Despite a slow start this season, Wensley currently has nine goals and 10 assists for 19 points and third place, overall, in Interior scoring. Wensley

fattened his production with a six-point game in Revelstoke last weekend and would like nothing better than to do the same in tonight's encounter with Merritt.

Merritt have been virtually preyed upon in recent games and have allowed 70 goals against in just eight games.

However, one of Centennial's two wins thus far has been against Vernon Lakers and for that reason Enemark isn't going to allow his team to take the game lightly.

"We're going to come out playing our position, taking the man and skating," he said. "If we can do that we'll be laughing."

Game time tonight, at Civic arena, at 8 p.m.