

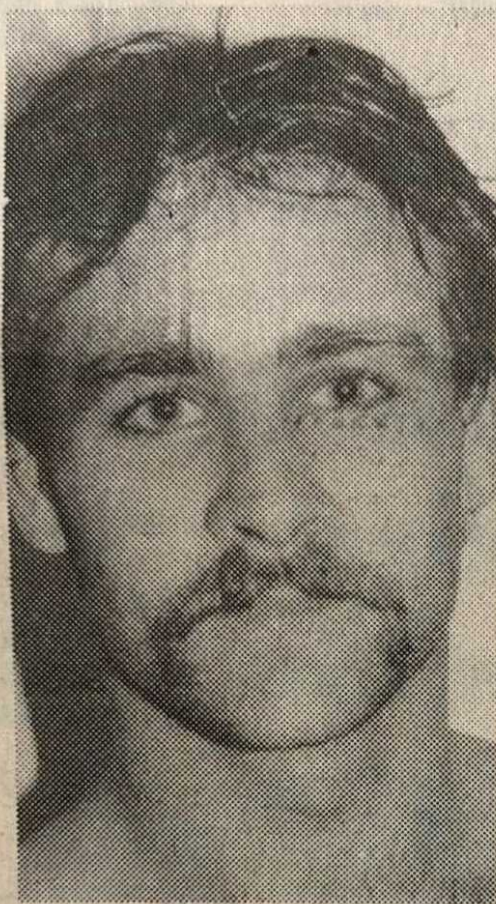
Wensley facing stiff suspension

Vernon Lakers lost a hockey game and perhaps their most valuable player, Tuesday, in Penticton.

Lakers' captain Bob Wensley was assessed a match penalty late in the third period during a brawl involving all 10 skaters on the ice. Penticton Knights edged Vernon 4-3 to move to within two points of first place Lakers.

Wensley was given the match after throwing a linesman to the ice while attempting to get back into the melee. He faces a minimum six-game suspension and could be sidelined for up to a year.

"All we can do is sit and wait," said Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. "We're not denying that Bob threw down the linesman, but the referee's report states that he struck the official three times and that just isn't true. With



BOB WENSLEY
... match penalty

that type of report, he probably faces a pretty stiff suspension."

Wensley ranks fifth in the BCJHL scoring race with 56 points, including 33 goals, in 28 games.

Enemark said, "Bob got excited and wanted to get back into the fight to help his teammates. With the linesman holding him, it was five Penticton players against four of our guys and somebody could have got hurt.

"The stupid thing is that once the decision is made, we have no appeal until the (B.C. Amateur Hockey Association) annual meeting next September ... and that won't help us this season."

The BCAHA reviews the case and usually issues its findings within one week. No other players face suspensions as the result of the brawl.

Meanwhile, Lakers entertain Shuswap Totems, Friday, in the Civic Arena. Any youngsters, 12 and under, who bring a can of food to the game will be admitted free. The food will go to the Salvation Army.