

Nuts to all-stars



It's true that all-star line-ups don't necessarily represent the best players in the league. Mostly they are simply the players fans wish most to see occupy spots on the all-star rosters.

With this in mind it's still hard to understand the logic behind the current edition of the BC-JHL Interior Division All-star roster.

The first team and second team are chosen strictly on the basis of votes from within the leagues so there's no arguing the choices made.

However, there's no doubt in my mind there were a number of players in the Interior Division who have all-star written all over their faces yet will have to settle for watching the game from the sidelines if at all.

Chief among these is Vernon goaltender Jim Young who currently leads both the Interior Division and the League with his 3.826 average. In fact, Young's average is nearly a full goal per game lower than Ralph Bechtold, of Shuswap Totems, selected to the first all-star team.

Young leads both Bechtold and Mark Taylor, selected to the second team, in blocking average, goal against average and number of shots blocked in total.

Yet it seems Young wasn't even mentioned in the balloting and it seems a shame.

Another prime candidate and one I'm having an awful time believing wasn't chosen to the lineup is Penticton forward Rod Poindexter.

Poindexter, in the top five scoring leaders in the Interior since the outset of the season, is the backbone of the Knights but didn't so much as get mentioned even for the remaining roster members picked to round out the lineup.

Incidentally, it's also a mystery to me how a four-place team like Summerland can put five players on an all-star roster while Knights, who play a see-saw battle with Vernon for first place, have just three.

Perhaps even stranger is the fact that Merritt Centennials, who have managed just three wins in 33 starts and none since October, have put two players on the roster.

There's no denying Brent Demerais belongs on the list but there's no way on God's green earth the stumbling Centennials have the right to have a defenceman in the lineup.

Merritt, having allowed 332 goals against in their season to date, allow an average of more than 10 goals per game. Clearly there's no defenceman worth his salt with that club though Pat Ceeley is just as clearly their top blueliner.

One thing is for sure, at least as far as I'm concerned, and that is that the Interior Division all-stars will be victorious in this outing.

I'm convinced the Interior is slightly tougher in each department this season so I don't feel I'm going out on a limb by predicting a reverse score of 5-3 in the Interior's favor this season.

Hull reaches milestone as Knights bury Totems

Brett Hull became the first player in the BCJHL to score 50 goals this season as the sturdy winger scored four times to help power Penticton Knights to a 13-4 victory over Shuswap Totems.

The four goal flurry gives Hull 51 goals on the season in just 35 games and puts him well on the way to establishing a new BCJHL record for goals in a single season.

Meanwhile the victory puts some breathing space between the Knights and second place Vernon as they now lead by four points.

In the only other game played in the BCJHL Thursday night, David Holmes scored twice to lead Richmond Sockeyes to an 8-5 win over Cowichan Capitals.

In Salmon Arm, Ian Kidd added two goals for Penticton while singles were scored by Murray Winnicki, Mike Barzal, Tony Savarin, Tim Comeau, Ed Christofoli, Aaron Scott and Mike Durant.

Paul Tory was the top scorer for Shuswap with a pair of goals while Jim Klenk and Theo Van Gerwen

rounded out the scoring with single tallies.

Mike Jeffrey made 20 saves for Penticton while Ralph Bechtold stopped 36 shots in the Shuswap goal.

In Richmond, David Phipps, with two goals, Richard Sloan, Steve Tuttle, and Peter Gill also scored for the Sockeyes who trailed 5-4 early in the third period.

Rene Command led the Capitals with two goals while Andy Brown, James McKee and Rick Ellison added the others.