

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Intense rivalry resumes tonight

The most intense rivalry in the BCJHL carries on tonight when Vernon Lakers, hoping to move into a share of first place in the Interior Division, travel to Penticton to take on the Knights.

Statistics released today show Lakers trail Knights by two points. Penticton sports a record of 30 wins and nine losses while Lakers have the same nine losses, but with 29 wins.

However, five of Vernon's nine losses have been at the hands of their South Okanagan rivals.

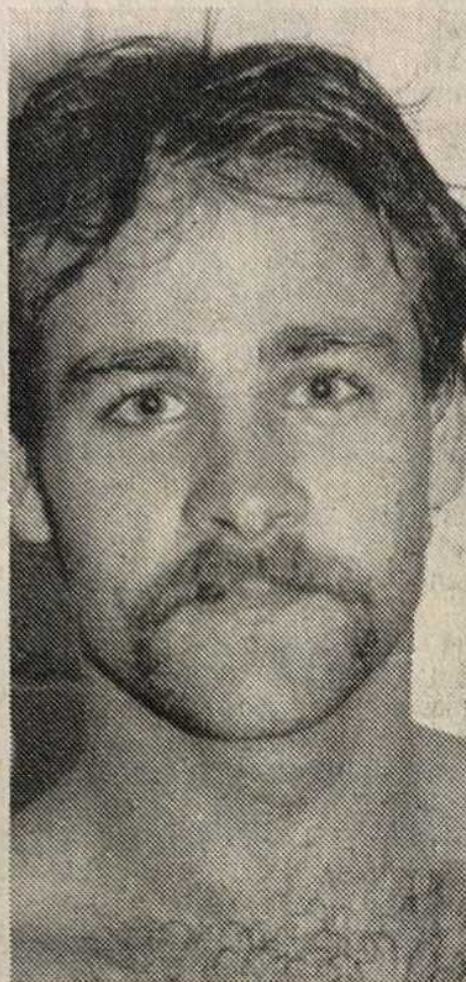
Doubly important to the local squad is that they win on Penticton's home ice . . . a feat that has so far this season eluded the Lakers.

Once again, Lakers will be forced to perform without the services of team leader and captain Bob Wensley, currently sitting out the tail end of a suspension. Wensley will sit out this game as well as Thursday's game in Merritt and Friday's home-ice encounter with Summerland Buckaroos.

Despite the fact that Wensley will have missed 10 games by the time he takes to the ice again, the 20-year-old forward counts his blessings that he's been allowed the opportunity to play with his team at all.

"It was a tough month for me," said Wensley with a heavy sigh of relief. "I know now that if I'm in the same situation I'll do things differently."

Wensley was fingered



BOB WENSLEY
... returns soon

for the hefty suspension following an altercation with a linesman during a game in Penticton, Dec. 13. While going to the aid of his teammates during a brawl, Wensley went to great lengths to free himself from the official who had hold of him.

"At the time I didn't think it (suspension) was justified," Wensley offered. "After getting a few

other opinions though I guess I realized I had it coming.

"However, I didn't appreciate that they let me sweat for 25 days before they let me know."

Although the Lakers' captain has never before served a suspension during his lengthy junior hockey career, he has never been known to back down from any altercation on the ice. Wensley has indicated he won't change that style towards the game, but he does plan to alter his strategy once he gets back into gear.

"Sitting out this long has allowed me to analyze our game and it's given me a new perspective on the team's play and on my own capabilities," Wensley said. "In another way, sitting out that long really made me feel segregated from the team . . . it made me feel really helpless.

"I don't hold a grudge against anyone. All I want to do now is get us a championship."

At the same time Wensley has to be aware that his every move is going to draw attention from league officials.

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sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

BCJHL

VANCOUVER (CP) — Statistics released Monday by the British Columbia Junior hockey league:

'STANDINS

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pts
Langley	26	5	1	53

Richmond	21	12	1	43
Nanaimo	20	9	0	40
Abbotsford	11	21	1	23
Burnaby	d	21	0	16
Cowichan	6	24	1	13

Interior Division

Penticton	30	9	0	60
Verno	29	9	0	58
Summerland	19	17	0	38
Revelstoke	18	23	0	36
Shuswap	14	24	0	28
Merritt	4	32	0	8

SCORING Coastal

West, Lan	25	53	78
Reimer, Lan	37	34	71
Douville, Abb	35	36	71
Coroy, Nan	26	36	61
Odenvald, rich	25	32	57
McFaul, Abb	22	30	52
Dietrich, Bby	27	23	50
Sloan, Rich	22	28	50
Ware, Lan	20	30	50
Tuttle, Rich	28	21	49

Interior

Hull, Pen	53	41	94
D. Wensley, Ver	31	46	77
Poindexter, Pen	23	54	77
Demerais, Mer	44	31	74
Tory, hu	19	54	73
Klenk, Shu	39	31	70
Bonora, Rev	32	38	70
MacKenzie, Ver	12	47	59
Kossan, Ver	23	35	58
B. Wensley, Ver	33	24	57
Savarin, Pen	11	46	57

GOALTENDING Coastal

	Min	GA	Ave
Bradley, Lan	764	49	3.85
Trousdell, Nan	834	59	4.24
Nickel, Nan	669	49	4.39
Beres, Rich	989	83	5.04
Romano, Abb	1451	125	5.17

Interior

Young, Ver	904	55	3.65
Clark, Pen	844	57	4.05
Jeffrey, Pen	1445	103	4.28
Garnett, Sum	787	57	4.35
Taylor, Sum	1327	104	4.70

Totems face financial woes

Shuswap Totems, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, are for sale.

The team has been plagued this season by an inconsistent performance on the ice and poor crowds in the stands.

Totems' Director Bill Stewart told the Daily News, owner Dave Loudoun isn't prepared to invest any more money in the team. "He (Loudoun) has told us he is finished with the Totems," Stewart said.

However, the club is expected to continue operating.

"I don't expect the team to fold," Stewart said. "We've got the papers drawn up for the formation of a society . . . and the society will purchase the club."

At a preliminary meeting Monday, Stewart said response from potential investors was encouraging.

"We received positive comments and pledges of support at the meeting," Stewart said.

A meeting to finalize the public takeover is scheduled Jan. 17.

Stewart said, "When the team was formed, the idea was to eventually make it publicly owned. We're confident that we can turn things around in Salmon Arm. We've had some bad crowds, but we've had some good ones too. The other night for (last place) Merritt, we had more than 500 people in the stands."

Totems currently rank fifth in the six-team Interior Division, eight points behind Revelstoke Rangers who occupy the fourth, and final, playoff berth.