

Revelstoke may lose junior hockey team

Unless attendance increases sharply in their final eight games, Revelstoke Rangers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, will be looking for a new home next season.

Murray Lawrence, coach, general manager, and part owner of the Rangers, said he and his two partners are not prepared to continue operating the team in Revelstoke under the present circumstances.

"We're only averaging 295 fans per game," Lawrence said, "and that isn't enough to make ends meet."

Lawrence, who coached Vernon Lakers during the 1982-83 season, and his partners purchased the Rangers last summer. Under the terms of sale, they had to operate the team, in Revelstoke, for two years or offer it back to the previous owner, Revelstoke Junior Hockey association. Earlier this week, the team was offered back to the association for \$63,000.

PAID DEBTS

Lawrence said, "We know the association isn't able to come up with that type of money, but that is how much we've put into the team. When we took over the club, we had to pay off more than \$30,000

in debts, we assumed a loan of \$20,000, and the rest has been invested this year to buy new equipment and cover operating expenses."

With no purchaser expected to pay \$63,000 for the Rangers, Lawrence said their only option may be to move the team.

"We want to stay in Revelstoke," he said. "And we will if interest in the team increases substantially between now and the end of the season. If not, we'll have to look elsewhere."

FIRST CHOICE

Lawrence's first choice would be Kelowna, currently home of Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League.

He said, "We've heard rumors that the Wings may not be in Kelowna next year. If that is the case, we'd take a serious look at Kelowna. However, if the Wings stay there, we're not interested."

Oliver-Osoyoos has also been mentioned as a possible home for the Rangers.

"If we can't find a suitable location in the Okanagan, we might look at the Fraser Valley," Lawrence said. "Perhaps Hope, Chilliwack, or Maple Ridge."

Rangers currently oc-



MURRAY LAWRENCE

... poor crowds
cupy the fourth, and final,
playoff berth in the In-

terior Division. They hold a five-point bulge on Salmon Arm Totems, however, Totems have three games-in-hand.

STRONG TEAM

Lawrence said, "I'm confident we'll make the playoffs and have an even stronger team next year. We've got some great kids ... three, 15-year-olds and three, 16-year-olds. Our only on-ice problem is consistency."

Vernon Lakers' General Manager Carl Enemark said he didn't think the Rangers would move out of Revelstoke.

But, obviously they are seriously considering it," Enemark said. "If the Wings move out of Kelowna, it would certainly make sense for a BC-JHL team to go back in there."

Klenk leads Totems to win

Robbie Klenk scored three goals to lead Salmon Arm Totems to a 9-4 win over Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday, in Merritt.

Tim Coghlin, Theo Van Gerwen, Dan Servatius, Mike Robertson, Paul Tony, and Vernon minor hockey graduate Henry Reimer had singles for Totems.

Brent Demerais, Kevin Rabbitt, Kevin Cheveldave, and John King scored for Merritt.

Glen Ferguson and Mark Kulak turned aside 42 shots for Salmon Arm while Norm Schwing, another Vernon minor graduate, and Ray Palmer combined to block 49 shots for Merritt.

Vernon Lakers return to the ice Saturday, in Summerland, when they take on the Buckaroos. Vernon's next home game is Tuesday, against Summerland.

Golfers sink Rosman Bros.