



LAKERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Five members of the 1983-84 version of Vernon lakers junior hockey team received individual team awards during the team's

wind-up banquet Saturday night. Left to right; Dave Wensley, team scoring leader, Rob Kossan, most valuable player, Bruce

Major, rookie of the year, Ken MacKenzie, best defenceman, and Nick Kapicki, most popular player. (Daily News Photo)

Summer hockey school set for registration

The highly successful Vernon Summer Hockey School will get underway once again August 7 to 24.

The school, which taught 270 players in its 1983 classes, is open to anyone interested and registration can be for a single week, two or even three weeks running.

The cost of the School has been kept low by the Program Division of the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation District in order to provide a quality hockey school at an affordable price. The facilities are top of the line with a full size arena, two gymnasiums, an indoor pool, a workout room, tennis courts and a park.

The on-ice program consists of two 90-minute sessions per day emphasizing the fundamentals of the game with passing drills, shooting drills, puck control drills, checking and power skating drills. An evaluation of all players is done using the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association testing method.

The on-ice testing is done in five areas including forward, backward and agility skating, puck control and endurance. Goaltenders also participate with a special test on their agility



TOM WILLIAMSON

... director

in the net.

Off-ice training is also geared for the development of the total hockey player. Special games, similar to hockey stimulate participation by all students and by keeping the dryland program interesting and competitive, these activities are rated as excellent by the vast majority of students and parents who come to watch.

One of the highlights of the dryland program is the Canada Fitness testing which includes the flexed arm hang, shuttle run,

speed sit-ups, standing long-jump, 50 metre run and the endurance run. Depending on results each participant receives either an award of excellence, a gold, silver or bronze crest.

Another feature is the swim sessions at the indoor pool. Kids enjoy water basketball and volleyball as well as the slide and diving board. These swim sessions are unstructured and offer students a chance to relax and devise their own activity or competition.

The school wouldn't be a success without the dedication of it's hard-working staff including director Tom Williamson. Williamson monitors and controls the day to day operation of the school, plans changes to enhance the overall quality of the school and also instructs the kids.

Williamson is a level IV instructor for the National Coaching Certification Program and has conducted Hockey Canada Clinics as well.

Williamson has instructed previously in Calgary and also spent five seasons at the UBC hockey school. He also acts as head instructor for the junior development



NICK KAPICKI

... instructor

school held in the evenings of the regular summer sessions.

Other staff members include Dan Galbraith, Kenny Holland, Marty Stein and Nick Kapicki while Off-ice instruction is the job of Bob Shannon, Bryan Krog and Andy Gilbert.

Shannon is the man responsible for devising the dryland training program.

For further information on the Vernon Summer Hockey School contact the GVPRD, to the attention of Paul Quesnel.

semifinal 2-0)

B.C. Junior

Langley 6 Nanaimo 2

(Langley leads best-of-seven semifinal
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JUDD'S JOURNAL

Naka is top coach



It's really amazing what lengths some sports teams will go to to try and put a winning team together. One Italian soccer team even went as far as to put a real live magician on the payroll recently, in hopes that his magic would work wonders for their First Division fumbler (no fooling!).

What the Italians don't seem to realize and what a lot of other sports teams don't realize is that the key to a winning team is a winning coach... one that can work magic with a team without the hokus pokus stuff.

One such coach that comes to my mind, on a local scale at least, is Wayne Naka of the Summerland Buckaroos.

COACH OF YEAR

Naka gets my vote as coach of the year in the BCJHL and there's a good chance a lot of others will see it that way too if Naka continues to guide his Summerland Buckaroos through the Interior Division playoff round and onto the League championship.

Far above what Naka has done for his team, though, and aside from winning the award mentioned above, Naka should unofficially get the humanitarian of the year award from players and coaches other than Penticton. I'm sure Naka has caused Knights' coach Rick Kozuback to pull out what's left of the hair on his head in response to the Bucks ripping off a pair of wins to open the Interior final this week.

And while Vernon fans can afford a smile when they conjure pictures of Kozuback going through his death throes, Vernon Lakers can breathe a heavy sigh of relief inasmuch as Bucks proved their triumph over the Lakers was no fluke.

DOWNHILL

Actually, now that Bucks have side-stepped Vernon Lakers everything else should be downhill from here to the league championship. Lakers not only had the most prolific scoring threat in the BCJHL up front in their forward units but they also had the most mobile, if not stingy, defensive unit in the league as well.

Granted Penticton Knights finished with a marginally better record overall, and posted a lopsided record against Lakers in regular season, but that record was mainly due to the fact that Lakers had a tendency to self-destruct whenever they had to confront Knights.

Granted also Knights had the second stingiest defence in the league but at the cost of losing all that mobility just mentioned. Having blueliners who can rush the puck or feed the breaking forwards is half the game nowadays so having to shut down the offensive ways of an offense and a defence would be naturally tougher than simply shutting down two or three players.

And two or three players is all Penticton Knights are composed of anyway. Take away Brett Hull and fully 50 percent of Knights' scoring attack is taken away at the same time. Ditto for Rod Poindexter and Rod Schluter and there's not really enough left over to make a spit of difference.

CLOSE-CHECKING

Bucks' close-checking game has taken them a long way already and if, like Mike Enemark and the Lakers, Kozuback doesn't realize his mistakes and counter with some new strategy, shelving Knights could be an easier task for Summerland than putting Vernon away was.

Naka carries all the tools of a bonafide junior hockey coach. Combining his coaching talents with the benefits of an excellent support staff has given the Buckaroos an edge in the playoffs that nobody seems able to match at this point.

An example of Naka's support group are his legions of statisticians on hand at each Summerland game. Naka's philosophy obviously was to prepare, in detail, on paper for what he lacked on the ice in player personal.

Not only is Naka's system paying him dividends but I'd have to say the leadership he's shown has inspired enough confidence in his players to achieve just about anything.

There's just no denying the importance of good coaching because it obviously draws the maximum achievement level from the players.

TIMING

One last thing you really have to admire about Naka is his sense of timing, in that saving the best of his tricks for the playoffs has given him an element of surprise that as much as anything else has contributed to the Bucks' success.

It comes as no surprise, then, that Naka is being courted by Western Hockey league clubs to take his coaching abilities to the Tier I level. At last count, according to Summerland assistant coach Joe Beggs, Naka had at least four offers including Seattle, for one, who were willing to give his boss a chance at the reigns of their club.

And if that doesn't work out for Naka there's always this club in Italy who are looking for a magician...