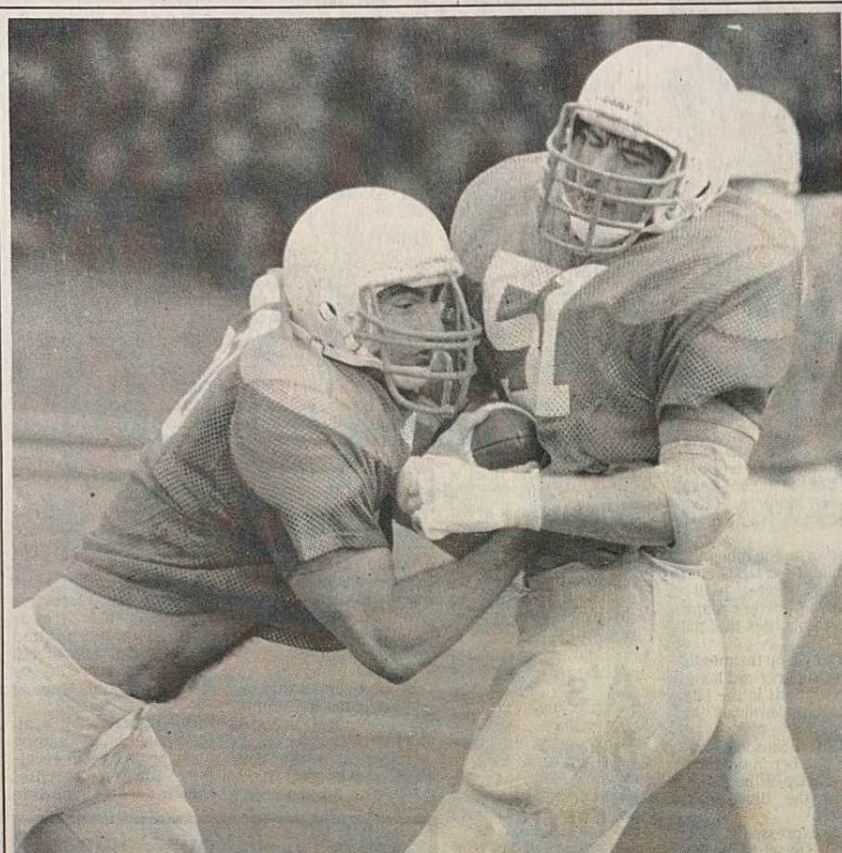


Wensley gets scholarship



By JIM JUDD

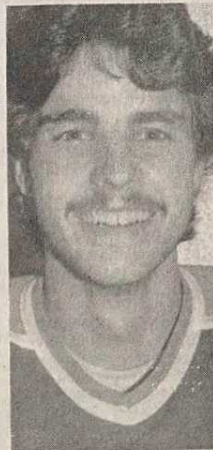
Daily News Sports

David Wensley, high-scoring centreman with Vernon Lakers Junior Hockey Team last season, has signed a four-year scholarship program with University of Maine Blackbears.

Wensley, who signed the deal earlier this month, becomes the second member of Lakers to earn a scholarship with a major American university, following on the heels of defenceman Ken MacKenzie, who recently signed a deal with University of Wisconsin.

The Vancouver native, a former resident of Vernon and who is presently working here for the summer, was on the verge of signing a similar deal with University of Alaska. However, Wensley was relieved when University of Maine bailed him out of that one.

"They (Maine) offered me a better deal than Alaska and that's really all I was looking for," said the 19-year-old brother of Lakers' captain Bob Wensley. "Alaska knew I didn't have any other offers so they were offering me only what they had to ... they changed their mind and offered a full scholarship when I told them about Maine though."



DAVE WENSLEY

... full scholarship

Wensley, it was through this relationship between Walsh and his father, that the scholarship at Maine was made a reality.

"He (Walsh) said I was his number one forward draft pick," said Wensley who racked up more than 120 points during a regular season campaign last year. "When we were playing in Summerland (during playoffs) he talked to me. Then, when he moved to Maine he found out I only had one offer so he got hold of friends of my dad and asked if I was available."

Though Wensley's high school grades were not among the top percentage in his class, his average was good enough to earn him a scholarship at the Eastern American University of 11,000 students.

Blackbears, a team in the famous NCAA format of American University athletics, are under the leadership of new coach Sean Walsh who was with University of Michigan prior to his new appointment and who turned down an assistant coaching job with a professional club to become head coach of the Blackbears this season.

Walsh is an acquaintance of Wensley's father, Hank, who coached Vernon Vikings Junior Team in 1978. According to

Blackbears, like most university teams, will have a wealth of experienced players back when their training camp opens in September but Wensley knows he will be getting a fair share of time on the ice in his freshman season.

"He (Walsh) says that all his recruits will play," said Wensley. "Sean already said he's looking at me as a power-play man ... he says that I can definitely play in that league."