



LAKERS' DAVE MUNK, above left, backhands a shot at the Revelstoke net during first period action in the exhibition contest between the two clubs Tuesday night, in Revelstoke. At right, Lakers' defenceman Tony Toth (6) took exception to Rangers' Craig Frankford in front of

the Vernon net in the second period and was ejected, along with Frankford, after posting a clean decision over the Revelstoke forward in an altercation. Despite their spirited and stylistic play, Lakers dropped a 6-5 decision to Rangers and face Penticton Knights Friday night, in



the Peach City, in their third exhibition contest. The local club is still looking for its first win in exhibition season (Daily News Photos)

Lakers show spunk in pre-season game

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
A young but spunky Vernon Lakers team, showing a heaping helping of guts and desire, displayed all the symptoms of earning their first victory on the road, Tuesday night, in Revelstoke.

Unfortunately, inexperience took its toll late in the game and three consecutive goals by Revelstoke Rangers enabled them to hammer out a 6-5 win over visiting Vernon in exhibition action.

With just four returning veteran players, and three of them watching from the sidelines, Lakers' Coach Mike

Enemark went with a squad of youngsters, basically with no junior hockey experience. Some, like Vernon's Dennis Holland, are out of bantam rep hockey.

But, the determined group showed as much style as anything else they exhibited and Holland, with shades of a young Wayne Gretzky, looked like a seasoned veteran with a late third period tally that lifted Lakers to within a goal of a tie. The final three minutes should have produced the tying marker as Lakers tied up and confused Rangers in their own zone, but couldn't put the puck in the net.

Rangers' third period rally included a pair of tallies, and the winner, from Vernon's Derek Webb. Webb is toiling for the Revelstoke club this season. Todd Torren also beat inexperienced Vernon netminder Blu Smith in the third period.

Smith came in at the midway mark of the game to replace former Vernon midget goaltender Glen Mitchell. Mitchell turned in a sterling performance during his turn between the pipes while Smith was the victim of confusion in the ranks of Vernon's defensive corps later in the game.

Lakers hit the score-

board first in the opening stanza with feisty Lorenzo Romei slamming in a rebound from the slot. Greg Guest had a pair of markers for Vernon over the first two periods and will likely score many more during the course of the season.

Dave King also tallied once for Vernon while Webb, with two, Kerry Fisher, Todd Toerren, and veterans Bryant Perrier and Randy MacFarlane replied for Rangers.

Enemark was disappointed at the loss, but satisfied with the performance of his young crew.

"I was pleased with the effort," said Enemark. "Especially since we had a forward on defence."

"We had all our rookies and they had a lot of vets," Enemark explained. "How many times would you see this team blow a 4-3 lead in the third period last year... with inexperience that's what happens."

Meanwhile, Rangers' mentor Murray Lawrence wasn't overly joyed with his team's performance, but praised the efforts of Lakers.

"You can't take anything away from Vernon," he said. "They played well considering their inexperience."

Lawrence even singled out a few Vernon players who were standouts including defenceman Tony Christie, who has blossomed since his rookie season a year ago. Another was Holland, whom Lawrence had the most praise for.

"He (Holland) shows a lot of poise for his age," said Lawrence.

Nixon named to ski team

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports
Editor

Vernon's Brent Nixon has been named to the Canadian Development Group Ski Team.

A total of 10 men and seven women were selected for the squad after a series of training camps this summer. Training started with a six-day bicycle camp in Kelowna followed by two and one-half weeks at Mt. Bachelor, in Oregon, and three weeks of racing in Argentina.

Other skiers named to the team by Head Coach Glenn Wurtele, of Vernon, included Danny Moar and Kendra Kobelka, of Revelstoke; and Rob Boyd, of Whistler Mountain, who grew up in Vernon.

Nixon said he was slightly surprised that he qualified for the unit, which is one step below the national team.

"I felt I was borderline," Nixon said. "I didn't have a very good camp in giant slalom (GS). And I'm not a particularly strong downhill racer."

Nixon is ranked third on the squad in slalom, sixth in giant



BRENT NIXON
... busy schedule

slalom, and seventh or eighth in downhill.

The development group has a busy winter ahead. It leaves Sept. 28 for a training camp in Austria, then returns to North America for a camp in Colorado. The Nor-Am Race Series gets under way in December, with most events in Quebec and Vermont.

"There is also a possibility I might get to race in a couple

Europa Cup races," Nixon said.

Nixon, 18, is a beneficiary of a change in Canadian Ski Association philosophy. After more than a decade of placing most of its emphasis and funding on its downhill program, the CSA now plans to concentrate equally on giant slalom, slalom, and downhill. Because Nixon is not a particularly talented downhill racer, the change is good for him.

"The downhill team isn't dominant like it used to be so it is a good time for the CSA to start placing more emphasis on slalom and GS," he said.

In between hops from continent to continent, Nixon hopes to finish grade 12 at VSS.

He said, "I've only got to pick up two courses so I should be able to do it. I usually have about three months in the spring, after skiing, when I've got time to concentrate on school."

Wurtele, who was named head coach of the national team earlier this year, recently moved to Ottawa, site of CSA headquarters.

Silver Star offers discounts

Silver Star Mountain has an exciting offer for Okanagan skiers!

Silver Star is offering discounts and bonus packages for early purchasers of season tickets. The mountain has upgraded its facilities this year and at the same time, managed to keep skiing affordable.

Discounts up to 30 per cent are being offered on season tickets purchased before Sept. 30. A second discount period, between Sept. 30 and Oct. 28, will offer reductions up to 20 per cent.

Mike Duggan, marketing director for Silver Star, said mountain management is pleased to be able to hold the line on prices while offering skiers new and improved facilities.

"We've made a lot of changes on the mountain this year, many of which are specifically for the day, or local, skiers," he said.

The second phase of Silver Star's village core including a 200 seat saloon, new day lodge, administration building, and aquatic centre, will be

completed by November. Parking facilities have been expanded to accommodate 1600 cars, a bar has been moved to the village area to provide easier access to other lifts, and the old day lodge has been turned into a bed and breakfast hotel called the Bunkhouse Inn.

Duggan said, "With the new buildings, skiers will have their choice of six places on the mountain where they can enjoy a meal, snack, or refreshments."

All season pass holders will enjoy free night skiing and receive the bonus book. The book includes: a complimentary group lesson, a free Starduster session for children aged 3-8, a free admission to Cedar Springs Hot tubs, two runs on the Labatts Ski Machine, three admissions to the new aquatic centre, and a cheese plate at Okanagan Valley Cellars in Putnam Station Inn.

The bonus book also features discounts on ski tuning, Putnam Station rooms, and Cedar Springs season passes.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Czech junior star played in Vernon

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

I'm not about to suggest, with regular season weeks away and the exhibition tour barely under way, that Vernon Lakers won't duplicate what they accomplished last season.

But, in light of the truth, it doesn't take anyone with too much hockey sense to see that the current edition is lacking the talent and experience, enabled the local squad to post 45 wins and 15 losses in the regular season last year.

Not that coach Mike Enemark didn't make the right cuts at this year's camp... he's done the best he can with what he had to work with. However, there's no substitutes for missing players like Bob and Dave Wensley, Rob Kossan, Gavin Shuya, Scott Young, Glen Kirk or Ken MacKenzie.

Naturally, good quality junior players, if they aren't available on a local basis, have to be persuaded to come to your camp. The trouble is that unless the team is a high-profile outfit, the chances of attracting top calibre hopefuls is slim unless there's a bit of money changing hands under the table.

HIGH PROFILE

Now there are ways of making yourself a high-profile organization and naturally the foremost, and perhaps the toughest of all, is to establish yourself as the front-runner among junior hockey teams in this country. That means winning the Centennial Cup at least once, possibly a successive string of occasions such as when Prince Albert accomplished prior to joining the major junior Western Hockey League.

The paradox here is that it's difficult to capture the Canadian, or provincial championship without the quality players and you want a title to attract them in the first place.

Lakers might have missed an opportunity last winter to place themselves in a high-profile position, even without advancing beyond the Interior Division of the BCJHL. And the BCJHL, incidentally, is regressing further and further down the list of high-profile leagues in the country as the dry years continue.

Last January, under a minimum of security, the Czechoslovakian National Junior Team came to

town to face Lakers in an exhibition contest.

In retrospect, Lakers' management might have considered the route Montreal Canadiens took in the June amateur hockey draft. The Habs made Czech junior defenceman Petr Svoboda their number one draft choice... the fifth overall. Svoboda's decision to allow himself to be drafted came after a cloak and dagger series of events which included his defection from the Czech junior squad in April just three months after making his appearance at Vernon Civic Arena.

The incident put the Habs in the spotlight at the June draft and enabled the floundering Canadian hockey club to garner some media attention it hasn't been able to attract in some years... if you disregard the negative aspect that is.

VALUABLE ASSET

The attention could have been focused on the Vernon Lakers if someone had had the insight to acquire Svoboda if he wished to defect while the club was in Vernon. That way, Lakers may have gained a valuable asset for their defensive corps and at the same time would have been the focus of attention for most of the major league teams when the amateur draft rolled around. The fact that the premier Czech junior prospect would have been bidding his time in the BCJHL, waiting for bigger and better things to come into his life, would have had them breaking down the door to get to him. The Habs had to hide him in a hotel room for five days.

For that matter, Lakers could have put out a general invitation to just about any one of the young Czech players since a whole fistful were taken by NHL clubs. Canadiens, though, were the only ones assured of delivery. Of course, it saved the Habs a bundle in junior development fees that won't be paid to the Czech junior team, but which would have been sufficient to cover Lakers' deficit last season at the very least.

As they say, easy come, easy go.

Lakers' fans, by the way, will have an opportunity to do some reckoning as to the team's worth this weekend when they entertain the highly-touted Penticton Knights at the Civic Arena. A good showing by the local club will mean they have a chance at contention in the Interior this season, even without a Czech or two.

EDMONTON (CP) —

Try as he might, even Alan Eagleson, the kingpin of international hockey tournaments, couldn't save Canada from a sudden-death hockey showdown with the Soviet Union.

The Canada Cup rules keep getting changed to favor Canada. After an 8-1 loss to the Soviet Union in the one-game final in 1981, Eagleson, who organizes the tournament, changed the final to a best-of-three.

"It's ironic isn't it?" Wayne Gretzky said Tuesday. "They change the tournament so we don't have to play them in a one-game situation and here it is, one game."

The Canadians are playing the unbeaten and untied Soviets in one semifinal because a 6-3 loss Monday to the Soviets dropped Canada into fourth place. They will meet Thursday in Calgary.

"And I don't care who started hockey, we're definitely the underdogs," said Gretzky.

While Canada has another day to ponder its precarious position, Sweden and the United States tangle in the other semifinal here tonight.

The semifinal winners meet in the best-of-three final beginning Sunday.

CITES PRESSURE

"This is kind of wild," Canadian forward Mark Messier, a member of the Stanley Cup champion Edmonton Oilers, said Tuesday of the situation and its accompanying pressure. "During the season you play for your team and your city, maybe 500,000 people."

"Suddenly you're in the same situation except you're playing for all of Canada. That gets you thinking.... Hopefully we

can all face up to that challenge."

The Canadians, 1976 Cup winners, are aware of the challenge and the pressure but insist they know how to handle the Soviets.

"We have to play a solid defensive game," said defenceman Kevin Lowe. "Not just the defencemen but the forwards. That third forechecker has to be in a position to come back when they break out."

"We can give them no opportunities whatsoever. We have to play a flawless game.... It is possible."

Combined with a good effort defensively, Canada will have to pressure the Soviets in their own end.

"We have to put pressure on their defencemen quickly," said Messier. "Don't let them have time to handle the puck and set up their fast breaks."

At the same time the Canadians will have to muster more offence and

capitalize on their chances. That, however, may not be so easy.

Even Gretzky, the best offensive player in North America, has been struggling against the free-flowing Soviets.

"They're constantly moving and it's like they're roped together, they all move together," said Gretzky. "They don't give you much opportunity to get open. There's no opportunities for one-on-one because as soon as you beat one guy, there's another one there."

That likely means Canada will have to rely strongly on its defence to hold the Soviets in check until the offence can score some goals.

But they can't, cautioned defenceman Larry Robinson, play too much defence.

"When you lay back you're saying to them, 'Come on in,'" said Robinson. "We have enough scorers to play our game. If we sit back we're playing into their game."

Hockey league holds meeting

White Valley Hockey League will hold a general meeting Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., in the National Hotel.

All players and coaches are urged to attend. League spokesman Dave Fish said it is important that everyone involved with the WVHL is on hand Thursday night. "We're going to explain the rules and we want everyone to know what they are," Fish said. "If someone gets a six game suspension, we want them to know why."

At least four of the league's six teams will be back this season. National Hotel Raiders, Labatts Sabres, Lumby Flying Frenchmen, and Warriors (formerly Mustangs) have confirmed their participation.

Westside Totems are still undecided about their future and Armstrong will not be in the WVHL this season.

Fish said, "We've got an opening for at least one team, maybe two. Anyone interested should come to Thursday's meeting."

All WVHL games are playing in the Lumby Arena.