

ASSISTANT COACH NAMED

Lakers want a victory

Len Sloan has been named as an assistant coach with Vernon Lakers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

Sloan will work with Head Coach Mike Enemark and existing assistant coach Ron Morneau.

Sloan, 22, recently moved to Vernon from Quesnel. He has played hockey for 11 years, including three seasons with Quesnel Millionaires, of the Peace Cariboo Junior A League.

In 1981-82, he set a league scoring record with 98 points, in 35 games.

Lakers host Salmon Arm Totems in their final BCJHL pre-season game, tonight at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Vernon General Manager Carl Enemark makes no bones about it ... his club will be out to win for the first time in the exhibition season.

"We're going to play to win tonight," said Enemark, with a note of confidence. "We've spent most of our time looking



LEN SLOAN
... assistant coach

at players during the last four games but we want that win tonight."

Lakers may get a little aid from the action of signing some of their camp hopefuls to junior cards which may inspire enough confidence in the

youngsters to perform up to their capabilities.

One such individual is 15-year-old Dennis Holland, who Lakers signed to a playing card Monday night, following practice. Although the local youngster is eligible for his first year of midget hockey duty, he will suit up as a regular in Lakers' lineup and because of his wealth of playing skills will no doubt see his share of ice time.

Holland, who performed feats of wizardry in bantam hockey last season, appears to have had no difficulty in making the transition to junior hockey and in exhibition games to date has injected as much or more excitement and skill into Lakers' line-up than any other player in camp.

Another youngster signed Monday is goaltender Glen Mitchell who, like Holland, is still of midget age. Mitchell also seemed to return from the grave since coach Mike Enemark said the youngster was cut from the squad last week.

However, Carl Enemark insists the little goalie was just kept in the wings for a few days while the other goaltending prospects were looked at.

Enemark feels his decision to keep Mitchell was a proper one.

"We know that the kid is young, but he's gung ho and his only weakness is his physical strength which he's working on," Enemark explained. "We thought we'd really be amiss if we didn't bring him along instead of another goalie of equal ability."

Mitchell showed great style in an exhibition game against Revelstoke last week.

Meanwhile, a pair of local veteran players remain undecided about their future. Nick Kapicki, back from Texas where he has been working for the summer, hasn't yet made up his mind about playing his final year of eligibility.

However, the acquisition of Kapicki would provide great speed and strength up the middle for the local club as well as adding a great deal of scoring muscle to their lineup. In addition, the three year veteran Kapicki has a leathery toughness that demands respect from other teams.

Another player, Bruce Major, also remains indecisive about his playing future with Vernon although he has indicated now that there is a possibility of his returning to Lakers' line-up.

"We have a couple of

deals tentative, but now he thinks he may change his mind and play here," said Enemark of the lanky forward. "He has to be happy hockey player though or there's no point in having him."

Following practice Monday, coach Enemark made two more player cuts. These included Sam Margone and Brad Clark. However, a new player, 15-year-old right handed defenceman Dave Confortin, of Victoria, is expected to check into camp for the game tonight.

Lakers' roster remains at 27 players.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Pee wees keep playing



Back in 1980 when Vernon Pee Wee Reps captured the provincial championship, Coach Hubert Petersen called his players an exceptional group of athletes.

Their performance during the 1979-80 season put them in an elite group. Only one other local team, Vernon Juvenile Reps in 1980, has managed to win a B.C. hockey title in the past decade. It is the accomplishments of those pee wee players in the past five years that has made Petersen prophetic.

Thirteen of the 15 players on that squad are still playing hockey ... seven of them in the junior A ranks.

QUIT GAME

One of the biggest problems facing minor hockey across Canada is keeping players involved after the midget division. Depending on the region, 60-70 per cent of all hockey players quit the game between the ages of 15 and 17.

The 13 players from that pee wee team remaining in hockey comprised 86 per cent of that club.

Winger Brent Gilchrist and defenceman Jeff Finley are now playing in the tier one Western Hockey League. Gilchrist is going into his second season with Kelowna Wings while Finley has earned a job with Portland Winter Hawks. The 6'2" rearguard spent the 1983-84 campaign with Summerland Buckaroos, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

IN REVELSTOKE

Winger Derek Webb and defenceman Jay Stark, who still have one year of midget eligibility, have signed with Revelstoke Rangers, of the BCJHL. Both got a good look with Kelowna Wings before be-

ing dispatched to Revelstoke.

A pair of defencemen are given a good chance of sticking with the hometown Vernon Lakers. Keith Chase is back after an unsuccessful tryout with Kamloops, of the WHL, and Tony Toth has been impressive in Vernon's exhibition outings.

Centre Bruce Major, who started his junior career with Vernon last season, is undecided about where he'll play this year. After a brief stint with Penticton Knights, there is a possibility he'll return to Lakers.

Toosh McBride, whose family moved to the prairies, now plays in the Saskatchewan Junior A League.

Goalies Arne Flaten and Ron Hodgson, and forwards Les Olsen and Curt Petersen will be trying out with the Vernon Juvenile Reps. Another forward, Paul Lemaire, was cut by Summerland and is expected to play juvenile in either Vernon or Enderby.

Other Sports

The only two who aren't still playing have sacrificed hockey for other sports. David Pitcher is a top junior racquetball player and Danny Nolan plans to move to Seattle to pursue a baseball career.

A late cut from the 1980 pee wee team, Wes Elliott, will join Webb and Stark in Revelstoke this season. Henry Reimer who played for Fort St. John against the local pee wees, before moving to Vernon that summer, is now with Richmond Sockeyes, of the BCJHL.

Although it is too early to judge the final success of those players, who are now 16 and 17 years old, we do know they were an exceptional group.

Ducks Unlimited may reach goals

Tickets are selling well for the second annual Ducks Unlimited banquet and fund-raising auction, Thursday, in the Vernon Lodge Hotel.

Dr. Terry Quesnel, chairman of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, said he is optimistic both attendance and financial goals will be reached.

"We need to sell about 25 more tickets ... we'd like to have about 125 at the auction," Quesnel said. "We raised \$7,000 last year and we've set this year's target at \$8,000."

Ducks Unlimited is an international organization which promotes the preservation of waterfowl and habitat redevelopment.

On Thursday, following dinner, there will be about 20 items auctioned including several original paintings and a Browning 12-gauge shotgun. There will also be about 20 items given away in a raffle and a limited edition print handed out as a door prize.

There are two Ducks Unlimited projects in the North Okanagan. The organization contributes towards the ongoing geese and duck habitat development at the north end of Swan lake and is also planning a habitat development project in a swamp area at Paxton Valley, north of Falkland.

Quesnel said there are several other Ducks Unlimited projects in the B.C. Interior, including major undertakings in the Cariboo.

Tickets for the dinner and auction are \$35 each and are available at Fisher's hardware, Priest Valley Veterinary Clinic, and Biegelow's Hardware in Lumby.