

VERNON BUYS WINGER

Goaltender joins Lakers

Players continue to trickle into Vernon for tryouts with Vernon Lakers.

The latest newcomer is goalie Jeff Lord, released last week by Victoria Cougars, of the Western Hockey League.

Lord may find a spot with Lakers, who are currently looking for a third goalie.

The present tandem is comprised of veteran Jim Young who leads the Interior division with his slim goals-against margin of 2.77, and youngster Glenn Mitchell, who has shown flashes of brilliance.

However, as Team President Carl Enemark points out, Lakers would like to have some experience at back-up should Young go down to an injury.

"Jim has played well and so has young Mitchell but we don't want any pressure so we want that third goaltender," said Enemark. "We also need some more experience at that position."

"He (Lord) comes pretty well recommended." Lakers are expecting right winger Dave Millan, who netted 73 points with Cowichan Capitals, of the Coastal Division, last season, to join the club today.

Enemark picked up Millan from Capitals last week in a cash deal. Millan was Capitals' representative in the BCJHL all-star game last year.

Lakers have been idle since their exhibition match with St. Paul

Vulcans, Saturday, but travel to Revelstoke, Thursday, to take on Murray Lawrence and his Rangers. Rangers, who have dropped three of their first four contests this season will be looking to improve that mark at Vernon's expense and Enemark is expecting the going to be tougher than it was when Lakers' trimmed Rangers 8-3 in their season opener.

"I think they (Rangers) have got the potential to be a good team so we've got to be prepared to play our best," he said. Lakers have improved since they defeated Revelstoke last time with the appearance of veteran centreman Nick Kapicki, who accounted for two goals and four points in his first outing last week against visiting Sidney, impressed Enemark with his desire to play.

"I'm surprised at the shape Kapicki came back

in," Enemark offered. "He played a hell of a game last weekend and we sorely needed him on the club."

Lakers will find they'll need the services of all their experienced players during the month of October ... one of the busiest and most widely travelled months Lakers will have this season. Unfortunately, local hockey fans won't be seeing much of the Vernon squad as nine of their 12 October

matchups will be on the road ... including four games, in four nights, on a swing through the Coastal Division.

In BCJHL action Tuesday night Vernon native Henry Reimer, who leads all Coastal division scorers, scored four times and set up another as Richmond Sockeyes defeated Burnaby Bluehaws 10-5. In other action, Langley Eagles beat Abbotsford Flyers 9-4.

LUMBY RACEWAYS announcer George Beufus presents Joan McCluskey with a trophy for winning the Powder Puff race held during the last day of stock car racing. Jim White, of Kamloops, won hobby stock trophy dash. (Daily News Photo)

Club 2929 wins opener

Club 2929 opened the Winfield Men's Commercial Hockey League season with a 6-4 win over Oyama Lakers, Tuesday, at the Winfield Recreation Centre.

Jeff Vest led the Club 2929 attack with a goal and four assists while Kevin Balfour scored twice and set up one goal. Willie Madden also collected two goals for the winners and Gord Olsen added a single.

Rick Bigler provided most of the offence for Lakers with three goals while Alvin Tirk added a solo. Jay Lidster had three assists in a losing cause.

Club 2929 held period leads of 1-0 and 4-1.

Next game for the Vernon squad is Thursday against Kelowna Sports page.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

OCTOBER, 1979

Vernon Senior Secondary School tied for first place with North Kamloops in the

Penticton Invitational Girls' Field Hockey Tournament on Saturday.



RIVER BANK CLEAN-UP

Members of the Vernon Whitewater Club, in recognition of B.C. Rivers Day, cleaned up the banks of the Shuswap River, east of

Enderby, last weekend. The work crew which included from left: Chris Burnham, Gesa von Keyserling, Grey Cameron, and John MacKen-

zie, picked up a truck load of garbage including a car fender.

(Jeff Brandt Photo)

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Vulcans teach Lakers a lesson

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

At one time or another, all of us suffer from what's known as illusions of grandeur — chasing the elusive dream that is always either beyond our grasp or never really even in sight.

Kevin Hartzell, coach of St. Paul Vulcans, feels most youngsters in Canada suffer delusions when they take up the sport of hockey. He feels it's those aspirations of becoming professional hockey players which constitutes the major difference between minor hockey philosophies in the United States and in Canada, and I tend to agree.

The Vulcans, of the United States Hockey League, equivalent, supposedly to Canadian Junior A, recently passed through Vernon and treated local hockey fans to outstanding play. In the process, Vulcans made short work of Vernon Lakers by earning a 9-2 decision over the local club. The previous night, St. Paul blanked Revelstoke Rangers 7-0 and in exhibition contests with junior A clubs in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have yet to lose.

BETTER CLUB

Of course, Vulcans, according to Hartzell, are one of the better hockey clubs in the United States Hockey League. But, owing to the major differences in philosophies, especially at the coaching level, the American juniors earn their victories with a different goal in mind.

"The Canadian kids, and I think wrongfully so, look toward the NHL," explained Hartzell. "I think it's such an unrealistic goal and that the emphasis is in the wrong direction ... the chances of playing professional hockey are so slim."

"Learning to better yourself and learning other goals are more important to our teams. We don't stress winning as much as personal discipline. For instance, if one of our players breaks curfew he sits the next game no matter how important it may be to us."

DISCIPLINE

Obviously, if you were one of the fans in the Civic arena, last Saturday, you noticed Vulcans displayed a great deal of personal discipline and dedication to their team, and the game. Their second efforts produced a number of goals while their superb passing plays eventually had Lakers running in circles trying to catch up with the play.

However, it was mostly the intensity with which Vulcans attacked the game that set them apart from the local club. That intensity is the result of their high level of discipline, something which will carry them to their ultimate personal goal.

"Most of our kids look for scholarships," said Hartzell, in explaining the major motivating factor behind his club's dedication.

Although the motivation behind a lot more junior clubs in this country is to help put players into scholarship programs, the sole purpose behind leagues such as the Western Hockey League, Ontario Hockey Association and the Quebec Hockey League, is to fill rosters on NHL clubs. In recent years, however, more and more of those vacancies have been getting filled by graduates of American colleges and the American high school programs.

This gives rise to a new conjecture that the Americans are producing NHL calibre players in spite of the fact that very few of their instituted programs are geared toward producing professionals. It seems that the philosophy of the American programs is accidentally providing suitable training and experience for its young men to make the jump to the professional ranks.

U.S. MAJORITY

If present trends continue we could see the ratio of American to Canadian players in both college and professional ranks sw-

ing toward American majority. It is presently growing at an alarming rate as a look at last June's amateur draft, reveals that 78 players came out of either American colleges or high schools while one player, Mark Lanigan, was with Waterloo of the U.S. Hockey League last season.

So often we hear coaches talk of getting their players "up" for a game or getting the players "motivated". We hear it most often at the professional level while it eventually filters down through the ranks until we hear minor league coaches talking of the same thing.

Hartzell's comments summed up the situation quite nicely and supports the idea that American coaching and hockey programming is rapidly proving to be superior to the old Canadian methods.

INTENSITY

"I don't think any of the Canadian teams we've played so far have had the intensity that we have," explained Hartzell. "Our kids go to work every night ... hey, it's only 60 minutes and you give 100 per cent ... if you give 100 per cent it doesn't matter if you win or lose."

Funny thing about teams that play with that kind of dedication in mind, though, they always seem to win.

Considering the number of players with the Vernon club and in the BCJHL that are garnering thoughts of getting college hockey scholarships, let's hope the lessons learned from playing the Vulcans are absorbed.

But an even better piece of advice would be to follow the example of the American club and put hockey careers into the proper perspective.

If, by doing that, the average team turned out to be as good as St. Paul Vulcans then junior hockey in this country would flourish, and hockey fans in every league would benefit.

