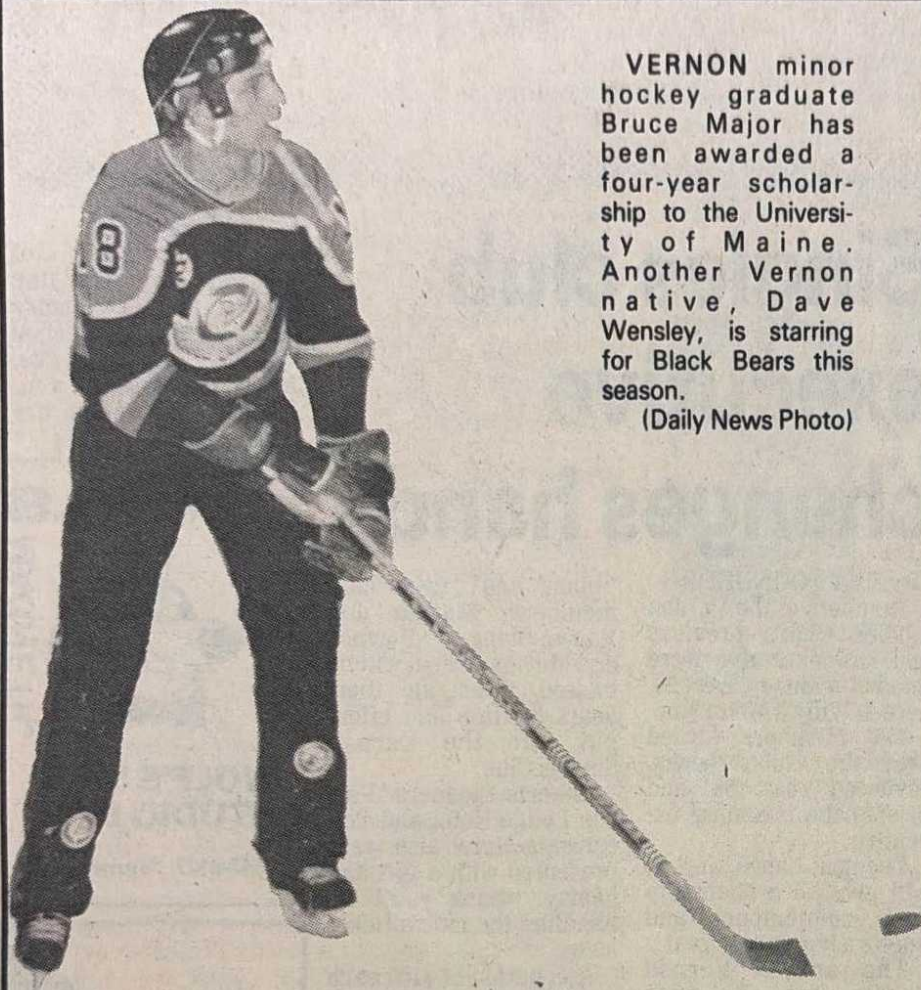




VERNON minor hockey graduate Bruce Major has been awarded a four-year scholarship to the University of Maine. Another Vernon native, Dave Wensley, is starring for Black Bears this season.

(Daily News Photo)

Major accepts U.S. scholarship

Vernon's Bruce Major has accepted a four-year hockey scholarship at the University of Maine.

Major told the Daily News he will attend the school next September.

The rangy centre spent the 1983-84 season with Vernon lakers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League. Last September, he was traded by Lakers to Richmond Sockeyes, also of the BC-JHL. Major currently ranks third in Coastal Division scoring with 65 points, in 31 games.

He said "I talked to a lot of university scouts and Maine sounded like the best school for me."

Major will join another member of the 1983-84 Lakers with the Maine Black Bears. Centre Dave Wensley, who led Lakers in scoring last season, is currently second in scoring for Maine.

"I made up my mind after talking to Dave," Major said. "He told me it is a great place to play hockey . . . and go to school."

Several highly-touted players have agreed to attend University of Maine next season as new coach Shawn Walsh quickly begins to lure quality talent.

Left winger Shawn Anderson of LaSalle, Que., and defenceman Jack Capuano, of Kent School in Connecticut, are among the other recruits.

With a new coaching staff and refurbished program, "The time is right to come to Maine," said Walsh, who is trying to strengthen a program that has won 27 and lost 65 in the last three seasons.

Major will return to Vernon, Jan. 17, to play for the Coastal Division in the annual BCJHL All-star Game.

the end of the third period
Dynamo played with
three skaters against four
Canadians.

The Canadian team got off to a cautious start, firing just seven shots at starting Dynamo goalie Yury Nikitin in the first period and six in the first 6:46 of the second period when he was replaced by Mikhail Vasilenok.

But four of those 13 shots scored while Dynamo scored three times on Trakalo with 23 shots.

Canada then poured 25 shots at Vasilenok as they started forechecking

to make costly mistakes in their own end that resulted in point-blank or breakaway opportunities for the Canadians.

"The guys, most of them, have played three or four games against the Soviets and are beginning to get a little experience," King said.

"We're gaining greater knowledge of what the Soviets do and our players are making individual adjustments. Their reading on the ice is much better and they're making better decisions and better judgments and that's really important.

Lakers host Cents tonight

Vernon Lakers return to the ice tonight after a two-week Christmas vacation.

Lakers host Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

The second place Lakers have 34 points, 16 more than Centennials, who are tied for fourth place with Revelstoke Rangers. However, Vernon always has trouble with Merritt.

"They give us problems," said Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye. "Some of our guys think we can beat Centennials just by showing up for the game, but that isn't the way it works. Merritt has some good hockey players."

Vernon will have burly Brian Burlingame back in the line-up tonight. Burlingame missed several games in December due to a shoulder injury.

Students will be admitted to tonight's contest for a discount price. In other games tonight, Revelstoke visits Summerland Buckaroos, Penticton Knights host Salmon Arm Totems, and Richmond Sockeyes tackle Langley Eagles.

In Thursday's lone BCJHL game, Rod Kujula's four goals combined with hot goaltending by Al Loring helped Abbotsford Flyers snap a nine-game Burnaby winning streak with a 9-5 upset victory over the Bluehawks.

Abbotsford, which held period leads of 3-1 and 7-2 in the only league game of the night, also got two goals from Mike Bulka. Rod Summers, Shawn Harder and Stand Zurowski added singles.

Mike O'Brien, with a pair, Bruce Kenward, Paul Bifano and John Hemmerling scored for the Coastal Division leaders.

Burnaby outshot Abbotsford 53-31, but Bluehawks coach Muzz MacPherson said after the game: "You don't win hockey games with shots on goal."

The Burnaby coach credited the Flyers with strong checking, and said Loring "played very well" in goal. But he added that the Bluehawks "gave the puck away in their own zone on two goals in the third period."

Burnaby's record falls to 23-5-1 while Abbotsford improved to 14-16-1.