



VERNON LAKERS' Fearsome Threesome, consisting of Gord Simpson, centre, Greg Kowal, left, and Nick Kapicki, right, were

reunited Monday night when Simpson, who spent the past one and a half seasons with Nanaimo Clippers, signed with the

local club. Now in his fourth season in the BCJHL, Simpson will add muscle, hustle and experience to the local club. (Daily News Photo)

HATCHET BURIED

Simpson rejoins Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

In the midst of a heated dispute between himself and Vernon Lakers' President Carl Enemark, former captain Gord Simpson left the Lakers early last year after more than two seasons with the local club.

Monday night, at Lakers' practice, the two parties finally settled their differences and Simpson, who has toiled for Nanaimo Clippers for the past season and a half, has once again signed a playing card with the Vernon squad.

"We buried the hatchet and said we'd start all over," offered the feisty centre who is now in his fourth season as a junior hockey player after beginning with Lakers in the fall of 1981. "I had a lot of time lately to think about playing here again. I was here looking for work but I thought I'd play if they wanted me."

Despite the controversy of the incident that sent Simpson packing, Enemark was happy to have the experienced playmaker back. And, the feeling, according to Simpson, is mutual.

"It's home here for me," said the Nanaimo native. "It's a good feeling to be back."

Simpson is expected to bolster the team up the middle with the centre ice position being weak one until this point with only veteran Nick Kapicki shining at that spot. The addition of Simpson will definitely take a load off the shoulders of Kapicki and Greg Kowal, who have had to shoulder a generous portion of responsibility with the young club this season.

Among Simpson's list of accomplishments was the most valuable player award he received two years ago during the BCJHL all-star game, in Kelowna, when the Interior Division All-Stars were edged 7-6 by the Coastal Division stars. Simpson's play was head and shoulders above that of any of the other players on the ice including college hockey stars Dwight Mathieson and Ralph Vos; Bill Shibicky; and even starry Cliff Ronning, then of New Westminster Royals.

This season Simpson made the journey to Eastern Europe with the Nanaimo Clippers where he played a major role in their winning a Czechoslovakian tournament before Christmas.

That experience, plus the years he has acquired in the BCJHL, will benefit the Lakers immensely.

"Just watching their style helps your own game," Simpson said of the Czechoslovakian experience. "They're always in motion ... you'll find when we play Nanaimo that some of their players have really picked up the European style."

Meanwhile, Vern Dye, general manager of the club, breathed a sigh of relief for having signed Simpson. It was Dye who brought the young centreman to Lakers' camp four years ago.

"Gordie's very versatile," Dye explained. "He's good on the power-play and penalty-killing. He'll help this club. His past experience will be a big help."

One particular area Simpson may help the club with is its major obstacle, 70 miles south of here in Penticton. The last time Simpson played for the local club they were beating Knights every-other occasion, both at home and on the road.

"They're a good disciplined hockey club but I didn't expect them to be running away with the division," explained Simpson.

"When we (Nanaimo) played them in Penticton we played a terrible game and they only beat us 7-6."

Ironically, Lakers' next home game is against Nanaimo, Friday night, at the Civic Arena.

BCJHL

VANCOUVER (CP) — Statistics released Monday by the British Columbia Junior Hockey League:

STANDINGS

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pts
Burnaby	24	6	1	49
Langley	21	1	10	42
Richmond	18	15	2	38
Nanaimo	15	14	0	30
Abbotsford	14	16	1	29
Sidney	8	23	1	17

Interior Division

Penticton	27	3	0	54
Vernon	18	11	2	38
Summerland	16	16	0	32
Merritt	11	21	0	22
Revelstoke	9	22	0	18
Salmon Arm	4	27	1	9

SCORING

Coastal

	G.	A.	Pts.
Ginnetti, Bby	23	70	93
Poulin, Nan	41	40	81
Ruppel, Lan	27	46	73
Brisco, Nan	25	46	71
Major, Rich	27	36	63
O'Brien, Bby	26	37	63
Street, Rich	29	33	62
Dietrich, Rich	30	31	61
Dusevic, Lan	15	46	61
Coroy, Nan	23	37	60

Interior

Murphy, Pen	34	46	80
Kidd, Pen	25	46	71
Kinley, Rev	27	38	65
Brost, Pen	30	33	63
Mowery, Sum	19	44	63
Winnicki, Pen	18	45	63
Ware, Pen	28	31	59
Beddard, Sum	22	35	57
Ryan, Mer	20	32	52
Pettyjohn, Sum	30	21	51

GOALTENDING

Coastal

	Min	GA	Ave
Maisonneuve, Lan	881	73	4.97
King, Rich	1333	111	5.00
Loring, Abb	1236	106	5.15
Woodley, Bby	1084	105	5.81
Wourms, Nan	853	85	5.98

Interior

McPhail, Pen	848	51	3.61
Pizzey, Pen	928	58	3.75
Young, Ver	1144	90	4.72
Seymour, Rev	429	36	5.04
Garnett, Sum	1083	99	5.48