

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Revelstoke hosts Lakers

Vernon Lakers travel to Revelstoke tonight to battle the Rangers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. Lakers, who are hoping to strengthen their hold on second place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division, will have forward Gord Simpson in the line-up tonight. Simpson, who started the 1984-85 season with Nanaimo Clippers, signed with Lakers this week.

Williamson leads attack

Tom Williamson scored four goals to lead Coldestream Carlings to a 10-2 win over RCMP in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action, Wednesday. Dave Caldow and Bruce Ritchie tallied twice for Carlings while Ralph Litzenberger and Lou Joly added singles. Mike Dionne and Ron Sheffield countered for RCMP.

Lakers hold reunion

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

There's something to be said for those silly class reunions most of us have attended at one time or another. You always feel some positive inner strength by being reunited with old class-mates and old buddies, regardless of how much esteem or regard you held for each other the first time around.

Playing for Vernon Lakers is much like reliving those old class reunion days. The team that was formerly scattered here and there at the conclusion of last season now seems to be refinding members of the fold.

And it's a real positive experience for the team.

Welcome to old home week at Vernon Civic Arena folks. The original cast is assembling and all that's missing is you!

CONTROVERSY

Spurred by controversy, mainly stemming from the coalition of Carl Enemark as general manager and son Mike as head coach, heavy resentment by certain team members became apparent. At the beginning of this season, many of the talented individuals the club carried on its roster last season indicated they wouldn't return this season. Only a few, Vernon natives NICK KAPICKI, GREG KOWAL and CHRIS SAUNDERS chose to remain and take their chances. In Kapicki's case, he was uncertain about returning until he was convinced that the aura of disention that plagued the team last year would be lifted. Apparently it was because the feisty little centre

returned to his rightful position at centre ice.

Defenceman TONY CHRISTIE and goaltender JIM YOUNG were the only other members of the club who returned. Several, such as all-star defenceman GAVIN SHUYA, rangy forward GLEN KIRK, multi-talented BOB WENSLEY, and blueliner KEN MacKENZIE were lost due to graduation from the junior ranks.

DAVE WENSLEY accepted a scholarship with University of Maine and at this point is second in team scoring with the varsity squad.

JUMPED SHIP

A good number of other talented individuals jumped ship, choosing to chance the often icy waters of junior hockey in other pools.

Let it go on record that there were unheeded warnings sent their way by certain members of this media source, which warned that while other teams may have better systems, they could also just be fronts for far worse situations.

Perhaps that was the lesson learned, but whether or not that's the case, those lost sheep began to make their way back home. More ice was broken when MIKE ENEMARK resigned as head coach and father Carl stepped down as General Manager.

While GORDIE SIMPSON, the smooth-skating and always exciting centreman made his personal peace with management and rejoined, others did so independant of his action but for similar reasons.



SHANNON POHL found his way back in October after disappointing, and brief relationships with Salmon Arm and Revelstoke.

ALLAN YOUNG, disappointed by the illusion of more promising things in Summerland, bid the Bucks farewell and signed a juvenile card in order to get back into the ranks of his adopted home club in Vernon.

The return of his younger brother encouraged Al's older brother, SCOTT YOUNG, presently toiling with University of Calgary Dinosaurs, to accept an offer from local management to sign with the club once again.

Their re-emergence with Lakers is a welcome sight but, sadly enough, one member of the flock remains outside now. For the sake of local hockey fans who have never had the opportunity to see BRUCE MAJOR play, it's unfortunate that the outstanding member can't, or rather won't rejoin the club.

SOLID TEAM

The bottom line is that a club which once had only a sprinkling of veteran players in its line-up is now a more solid team that boasts eight returnees from last season's roster.

It means there will be better hockey... much better hockey coming out of this city for the remainder of this season.

Better than this, though, it means that the all-important harmony has been restored to the club.

And a family united, is a family strong.