

# Affiliated teams feud

A conflict is brewing over the use of affiliated players in the Vernon hockey system.

Carl Enemark, president of Vernon Lakers, and Al Noakes, coach of Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps, are upset after Vernon Midget Rep Coach Dan Galbraith refused them the use of affiliated players last Saturday night.

Enemark said he is very disappointed that Galbraith wouldn't permit his club to take any players to Merritt, for a league game, which his club lost 5-3.

"We had five players out with the flu so we only had 12 skaters in Merritt," Enemark said. "I believe there were some parents disappointed that their sons couldn't be brought up for the game. We could have used them . . . they would have received plenty of ice time."

The Lakers' president expressed concern about calling up players in the future. "We want to give local players an opportunity to play junior hockey, but I guess the writing is on the wall," Enemark said. "If they (midgets) won't give us players in an emergency situation, we won't be able to use them at all this season."

Due to injuries and a suspension, Noakes was in a similar predicament Saturday night.

"I asked to use (Troy) Mick and (Dennis) Holland, but was told I couldn't have them, or anyone else," Noakes said. "Finally after some begging, he gave me (Derek) Webb and (Doug) McIntyre. But, I had to agree to several conditions, set by Galbraith, before he'd let me use them."

One of those conditions was that if the game got rough, Webb and McIntyre would remain on the bench.

"We really needed help Saturday, but I won't be begging again," Noakes said.

Galbraith defended his actions by saying his first responsibility to minor hockey is the midget rep team.

"I have my players and they (juniors and juveniles) have theirs," Galbraith said. "I have a schedule to meet and I am not going to jeopardize the future of the midget team. We aren't going to hold the kids back, but at the same time, the midget team has commitments to meet and we had games on the weekend."

The midgets practiced Saturday night and hammered Penticton 13-1, Sunday, in Penticton.

"The travel time to Merritt concerned me," Galbraith said. "Lakers didn't get home until 3 or 4 a.m. and our boys had to get up Sunday morning to go to Penticton. We're fighting for first place and you can never predict what is going to happen in midget hockey. Penticton has given us trouble this season and we wanted to be ready for them. We worked on some special breakout patterns in practice, Saturday, and it obviously helped us."

Galbraith said he will permit his players to be called up by the Lakers and juveniles, "but, it will be when I feel the time is right."

## Juveniles struggling

Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps split a pair of Okanagan-Mainline Hockey League games last weekend.

After blasting Salmon Arm 7-1, Saturday, the local squad dropped a 6-3 decision, Sunday, in Kelowna.

Vernon needs only one point, in its final three games, to clinch first place in the loop. The Coke crew has 25 points, three more than Kelowna, with one game-in-hand. Despite its lofty perch on top of the league, Vernon Coach Al Noakes is concerned about his club's play in recent weeks.

"We've been inconsistent since Christmas," Noakes said. "I don't know what the problem is."

In Salmon Arm, Ben Sudol and Bryan Burns scored twice for Vernon while Dale Danallanko,

Todd Wold and Doug McIntyre, who was called up from the Vernon Midget Reps, added singles. Another midget player, Derek Webb, collected two assists.

No details of the Kelowna game were available.

Noakes said, "We played well in Salmon Arm, then we go to Kelowna and nothing worked. The first period wasn't too bad, but the last two periods were very frustrating for us."

Vernon was without Geoff Porter, who has torn ankle ligaments; defenceman Mark Duggan, who is recovering from a severe charleyhorse; and Al Young, who is sitting out a three-game suspension.

The local squad can clinch first place Friday, at 7:30 p.m., when it hosts Salmon Arm.