

Rustlers even series

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — Glen Barre scored two goals to lead Red Deer Rustlers to a 5-3 victory over Penticton Knights in a Centennial Cup quarter-final playoff game Friday night.

The best-of-seven series is tied 1-1. Next game is here Sunday.

Red Deer, the Alberta junior champion, led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 3-2 at the end of the second.

Allan Karpysyn, Dean Cowling and Ron Shudra added singles for the winners.

Dave Shields, Greg Guidinger and Rod Ware scored for Penticton, B.C. Junior Hockey League champions.

Glenn Raeburn made 34 saves in goal for Red Deer while Derek Pizzey stopped 25 shots for Penticton.



Naka is sharp

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Wayne Naka's name is one of those that keeps surfacing from time to time and everytime it does, it's mentioned in reference to the sport of hockey . . . good hockey.

Naka, as head coach of Kelowna Buckaroos, was the man responsible for ending a three-year stranglehold on the BCJHL title held by Penticton Knights, when he led his Bucks to the Interior division title back in the 1982-83 season. Except for an immovable obstacle in his path, Abbotsford Flyers, Naka might have taken his rag-tag crew from Kelowna all the way to the Centennial Cup that season.

NO FLUKE

Proving his talent as a coach was no fluke, Naka upset Vernon Lakers' appplecart a year later when his Buckaroos, by then moved south to Summerland, defeated the local club in six games during the Interior Division semi-final before bowing to the Knights in six games. Considering the loss of talent he experienced from one season to the next and the mediocre performance his club exhibited in regular season that year, the strong finish was a reflection of Naka's genius.

The best part about losing to Naka and his teams was that even though you wanted desperately to hate the buy, you found yourself thinking that it couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

Just when it looked as though one of the true nice guys of hockey had disappeared from the sport, Naka, as it turns out, hadn't disappeared at all. He just found better things to do with his time . . . such as allowing the rest of the amateur hockey community to benefit from his expert analysis of talent.

SELECTED BEST

As one of two district evaulators in the Okanagan, and one of 10 in the province, naka, along with Cliff Russell of kamloops, was faced with the unenviable task of selecting the best 19 hockey players from among the 46 hopefuls in the "Best Ever" district camp. The camp, held over the weekend in Vernon, boasted the top first year hopefuls from the Okanagan-Mainline Midget Hockey League.

What Naka and Russell are doing, basically, is laying the groundwork for the Olympic Team of the future. Once these midgets graduate through the ranks, they may become the charges of Dave King who will mold them, hopefully, into a gold-gold-medal winning hockey squad in some future Olympic Games.

FIRST STEP

In the meantime, the Okanagan's "Best Ever" team represents the first in a number of steps leading up to the Olympic program. The best of the "Best-Ever" tournament in B.C. will compete against the best of a similar program in Alberta. In turn, the best of the two provinces will form a single team which will compete against similarly fashioned midget squads from across the country . . . five teams in all. In the end, the best of these teams will form the nucleus of an Olympic team, possibly for the 1992 Winter Olympics.

For now, Naka's job is almost complete. Sometime during the four team practices scheduled between now and the B.C. "Best Ever" tournament, his job with the program will be over and he will once again disappear into his everyday life.

Only to surface again when his knowledge is required.