Mick to Merritt?

Local minor hockey product Troy Mick will pack his bags and head for Merritt this week where he'll take up residence in the lineup of Merritt Warriors of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The move by the talented 16-year old winger was made official today by the coaching staff and management of Vernon Lakers although each indicated that everything in their power had been attempted in order to disuade Mick.

"I know we're going to miss him (Mick) because he's a hell of a hockey player," suggested team General Manager Carl Enemark. "They all figure they're stars at 16 years old and there's not much you can do about that."

"He (Mick) never gave anyone any indication that he was unhappy," Enemark continued. "We thought we were treating him right but all of a sudden we find out that he isn't happy."

Mick had expressed his dismay with not getting sufficient ice time with the local club although according to team Head Coach Don Moores, he had been playing as much as possible under the circumstances.

"There's always been a big problem with getting young guys into the lineup," explained Moores. "Especially this season with all the penalties which means we've had a lot of tight games.

"I tried everything for two days to work something out and I thought everything was square," he continued. "We did everything we could to keep Troy in Vernon . . . I've got 19 other hockey players that I have to justify myself to as well."

Mick, who had been selected to play with the "Best Ever" under 17 team along with local minor hockey product Dennis Holland, had scored twice and added four assists while playing sparingly with Lakers this season.

Although Mick is heading for Merritt with the idea of receiving more ice time, team spokesman Vern Dye feels that he may be chasing an illusion.

"You can't promise something when you don't know what the situation is going to be," said Dye.

Local ski trails near completion

Work is nearing completion on the View Cross-country Trail on Silver Star Mountain.

The trail, which has been in the planning stages for five years, was approved for construction by the Parks Branch in 1984. Work started in September, 1984 and before snow fell, about one-half of necessary clearing had been done. This year, after fine tuning of the route by the Parks Branch, work started again in early-September.

The work has been done entirely on a volunteer basis by the North Okanagan Cross-country Ski Club. The View Trail is about 6 km long. It gives panoramic views of Vernon, surrounding lakes, mountains to the south, and the Monashee Range.

Club President Carl Wylie said members are enthusiastic. "Forty members have volunteered their time and energies this year to the formidable task of clearing the lengthy trail," Wylie said. "Many of them have been on the mountain every weekend as well as midweek."

In 1984, club members spent 600 man hours on the project and this year the total to date is about 700 man hours, including some work on the new biathlon range.

Wylie said, "The clearing is almost complete, to be followed by some machine work to correct sidehill spots to make the trail suitable for grooming throughout its length.

"The new trail will be one of the finest in the country and it will make the Star shine anew for tourist and local cross-country skiers."

Centremen lead scoring

If scoring statistics are any indication, Vernon Lakers are strong up the middle this season since their top three individual scorers are centremen.

Heading the list is first-year centre Doug Spooner, a refugee from the Peace Cariboo Junior Hockey League that has made his way into a Lakers' uniform this season. Spooner leads the team at present with 11 goals and 10 assists for 21 points in the club's first nine games.

In addition, Spooner has taken 22 penalty minutes.

In second place is Vernon native Dennis Holland. The 16-year-old puckster, who has dazzled many a defence and opposition goaltender with his puck wizardry already this year, has scored eight times and set up nine others for 17 points in nine games.

Completing the trilogy is centreman Wes Gentles. Although Gentles, now in his sophomore season with the Vernon club, possesses great speed he so far hasn't proved himself to be a prolific scorer nor playmaker.

However, an abundance of playing time has been useful for Gentles who has utilized that time to score six times and assist on nine other goals for 15 points in nine games along with 23 minutes in penalty time.

Not surprisingly, defenceman/centre Shawn Lofroth is close on the heels of Gentles with 12 points and fifth place. Newcomer Troy Pohl holds down fourth position at present in team scoring with six goals, seven assists and 13 points.

Pohl, who along with identical brother Trevor, joined older sibling Shannon with the club this year, represents one of the more rugged two-way individuals with the club this season and the three brothers have been instrumental in helping Lakers to a record of six wins and three losses so far this year and a share of second place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division.

Lakers next action is this Friday night at Civic Arena when Delta Flyers are in town for this first, and only, time this season.

Following are the individual scoring statistics for team members:

PLAYER	GP	G	A	Pts	Pim
Doug Spooner	9	11	10	21	22
Dennis Holland	9	8	9	17	12
Wes Gentles	9	6	9	15	23
Troy Pohl	8	6	7	13	25
Shawn Lofroth	9	4	8	12	16
Shannon Poh.	9	6	4	10	27
Trevor Pohl	5	3	5	8	45
Rick Rozecki	9	3	4	7	10
Murray Baron	8	2	5	7	47
Greg Guest	7	2	4	6	10
Steve Humphries	8	3	3	6	2
Troy Mick	8	2	4	6	23
Kevin Horn	9	1	4	5	29
Sean Hartnell	6	2	1	3	45
Darryl Weinburger	5	0	3	3	12
Stacy Hartnell	8	1	2	3	30
Al Young	2	1	1	2	2
Al Haytor	6	0	2	2	26
Jim Scott	7	0	1	1	21
Chris Saunders	2	0	0	0	4
Tony Toth	3	0	0	0	17
Blue Smith	3	0	0	0	2
Darryl Dickens	3	0	0	0	0