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Editor—DON KENDALL

Junior league grades officials

The B.C. Junior Hockey League has introduced an evaluation program designed to improve the level of officiating in the tier two loop.

BCJHL President John Johnson said officials will be evaluated on a regular basis. Johnson, of Kelowna, doubles as the Interior Division's allocator of officials while Ron Renneberg, also of Kelowna, serves as evaluator.



JOHN JOHNSON

"Ron will be attending two, three, and sometimes four games per week to watch our officials," Johnson said. "After they are evaluated, Ron will meet with them to tell them what they did right, and what they did wrong."

Renneberg and Johnson met with five Vernon minor hockey referees, who are prospective BCJHL officials, last Saturday. "You will get your chance," Johnson told the referees. "We will be watching you."

But, young referees aren't the only officials under Renneberg's watchful eye. At last Saturday's BCJHL game in Vernon, referee Doug Buchanan and linesman Dale Castle, both of Kamloops, were evaluated. Buchanan recently returned from a National Hockey League rookie officials camp and Castle has lined in the BCJHL for 26 years.

Johnson said, "Our goal is consistency. The rules are there to be called. If an official isn't going to call high sticking, boarding and slashing, then he won't be working in the BCJHL."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cidel Moving dumps Pumpers

Cidel Moving doubled Pumpers 8-4 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action, Tuesday night. Brian Hunt, Rex Slizak, and Rick Fysz scored two goals each for Cidel while Gord Kashuba and Blair Compton added singles. Clarence Klim, with two goals, Fred Johnston, and Curt Steinke replied for Pumpers. In another game, Big Momma's Pizza tripled Toros Canadians 9-3. George Fargher, Doug Wiffen, Les Salo, and Graydon Brown tallied twice while John Kuly added a solo for the Pizza Eaters. Pat Balfour, Darren Zupp, and Dale Hildebrand countered for Canadians.

Players needed

The Reds gave Perez, 44, a choice

Vernon goalie wears custom pair of leg pads

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

Bob Adams watches Hockey Night In Canada a little differently than the average fan — he cheers for the goalie pads.

Adams cheers most vigorously when Boston, Edmonton or Quebec is playing. That's because goalies on those teams are wearing pads that Adams custom designed for them.



PETE REPOLE, a 16-year-old goaltender with the Vernon Lakers, has something in common with NHL goalies Grant Fuhr, Bill Ranford and Clint Malarchuk — they are all wearing custom-deisgned and constructed pads. The maker of the pads, Bob Adams of Kelowna, is seen here helping Repole adjust the all-white pads he personally presented to Repole prior to the last Laker game. (Daily News Photo)

It all started last year when the 28-year-old Prince Rupert native, now living in Kelowna, sauntered into the Northlands Coliseum, a pair of goalie pads tucked under his arm. He caught Grant Fuhr's attention as he was coming off the ice after practice and asked if the Oiler netminder would wear a pair of pads if Adams made them especially for him. Fuhr said yes, Adams went to work and a labor of love was begun.

Clint Malarchuk of Quebec Nordiques ordered a pair of Adams pads and liked them. Feeling encouraged, Adams went to the Pacific Coliseum where he ran into the irrepressible Ernie 'Punch' McLean in the Vancouver Canucks press box. McLean invited Adams to Queens Park the next day where he introduced Adams to Boston Bruins prospect, Bill Ranford. Ranford liked what he saw, asked Adams if he would design a pair of pads for him and agreed to wear them.

"It's funny, I called Billy this past summer and asked him if he was wearing the pads I made for him," said Adams. "I meant in a game but he said yeah, he was wearing the pads in his living room right now."

Ranford recently chalked up the first ever NHL shutout wearing Adams pads and Adams looked like a proud poppa in telling the story.

Vernon goaltender Pete Repole got a real surprise recently when Adams came to Vernon to present him with a custom-made set of pads. There never was a formal request from Repole for the pads, Adams just went ahead and made them. Fans won't have any trouble recognizing Repole now. He'll likely be the only goalie in the BCJHL with white goalie pads.

The pads are made of 100 per cent deer hair and leather. They are top-of-the-line pads, the same design as those worn by Fuhr and Ranford. What sets Adams pads apart from the rest is the design. They are designed to bend in the middle which tends to close up the five-hole, the area right between the goalie's pads where many pucks tend to slip through. The pads are also extremely soft and light.

"I watched goalies and one thing I noticed," said Adams; "was the first thing they did when they got a new set of pads was try to soften them up. I thought, why not make them soft in the first place? So I did. I also wanted them to be as light as possible so the goalie would have more mobility and quickness. I designed the pads with special emphasis on reinforcement. You'll never feel the shot because of the reinforcement in the pads. They're 11 inches wide with no pain."

Repole tried them on. "Boy, are they ever light," was his first reaction. "The two of these pads weigh about as much as one of the pads I'm wearing now." Repole's new pads weigh about seven pounds each.

Repole used the pads last Thursday night at practice and immediately made up his mind to buy them.

"They're so light compared to my other pads," he said. "I really like them. I'm going to take them."

The pads, because of the way they are designed to bend, are also easier on knee ligaments. They are also designed to assist in goalies' regaining their feet after doing the butterfly to stop a shot.

"It took me seven and a half months and six pairs before I had the right formula," said Adams, admitting he's come a long ways since he first started making pads last February. "What makes the pads special is the way I've shaped and stuffed the leather. It bends with you. The pad bends right into the centre, into the five-hole. The slack goes with the flow of the leg. It's especially good for guys who like to flop, like a butterfly goalie."

The pair of pads Adams made for Repole, is unique. "There isn't another pair exactly like them anywhere in the world," Adams says.