GENTLES GOES TO LANGLEY

Lakers trade for goaltender



NORTH ZONE CHAMPS

Kalamalka School Grade eight boys won the North Zone Volleyball Championship recently. Team members include, back row, left to right; Brent Ree, Coach, Rob Johnson, Jason Giles, Matthew Windmill, Dean Wolansky, Glen Suderman, Harry Shepherd, Coach. Front row, left to right; Brian Whitwell, Buzz Henczel, Aaron Kiser, Brad Giles, Shane Neufeld, and Mike Gardiner. Also with the team is Cory Bodger.

(Daily News photo)

Vernon Lakers' General Manager Mel Liss announced today that the club has traded third-year veteran forward Wes Gentles, 20, to Langley Eagles for goaltender Jason Palmer.

Palmer, 18, is a second-year goalie with Eagles who recorded an average of 3.88 goals against last season while seeing regular duty with Eagles. Palmer is 5'10" and weighs 170 lbs.



WES GENTLES

"Anytime you can trade a 20-year-old for an 18-year-old you're moving in the right direction," explained Lis who is generally happy with the trade.

Gentles, of Quesnel, B.C., scored just 13 goals during his sophomore season with Lakers in the 1985-86 campaign and was known more for his defensive play up front than his goal-scoring ability even though he possessed one of the best wrist-shots in the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

"He (Gentles) felt he wasn't getting enough ice-time," said Lis. "He was told he'd have to be a checking forward and play on the third line.

"He'll be back with Greg Guest now so he'll be happy," Lis added.

Guest, also of Quesnel, spent two seasons with Lakers before signing with Eagles this season because he is attending post-secondary school in the Lower Mainland.

Meanwhile, Lis is excited at the prospect of obtaining a steady goaltender since he had indicated that he wasn't satisfied with the kind of tending he was getting this year.

"His stoppage percentage last year was about 90 percent so that tells you something," suggested Lis of Palmer. "He was their (Eagles) starter until he got into a squabble over ice-time. . .he likes to play a lot and the way Ernie (Gare) plays it, if you win you stay in there (net)."

Palmer will arrive in Vernon today and begin working out with the local club immediately. He will lill likely get his first start between the pipes with Lakers Sunday night when the club visits Kelowna Packers.

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Oilers lack communication