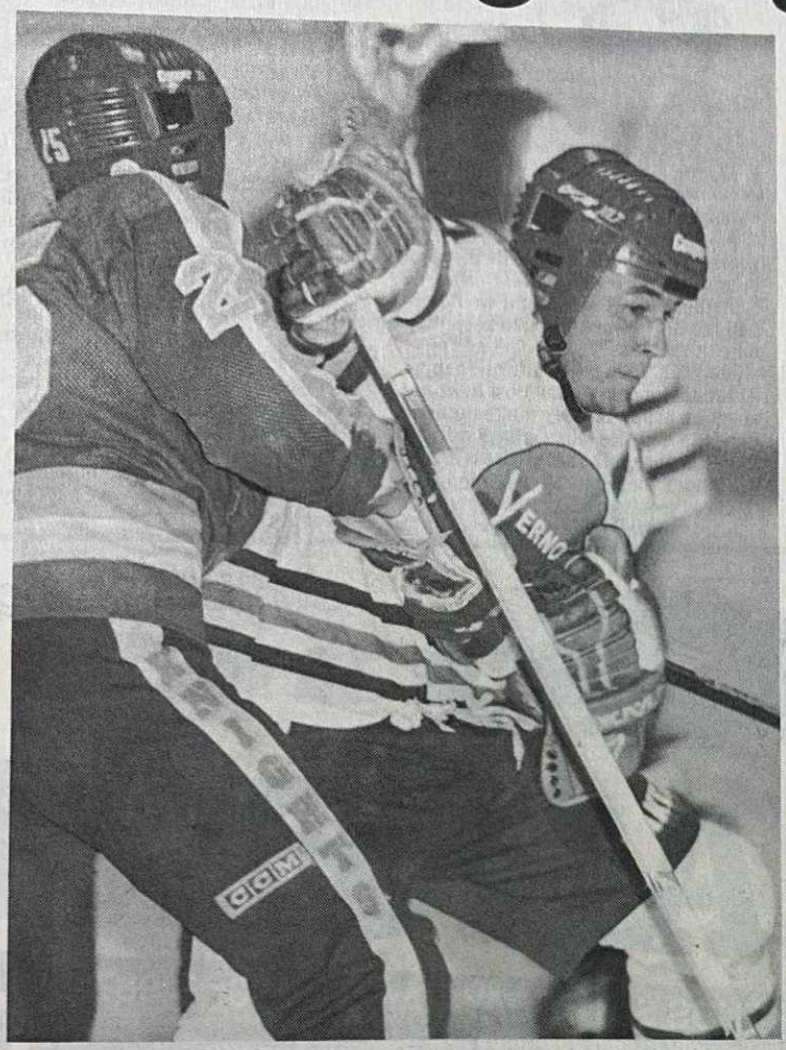
Vernon defenceman nearing league records



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Campbell Blair, right, attracted some special attention from a Penticton defender during a recent B.C. Junior Hockey League game. Blair leads the BCJHL in scoring and is closing in on six league records. (Don Weixl Photo)

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Lakers' defenceman Campbell Blair is in a position to rewrite the B.C. Junior Hockey League record book.

Blair, 20, could break up to six BCJHL single season and career records, for scoring by a defenceman, before the 1986-87 season ends in February.

The veteran rearguard currently leads the BCJHL scoring race with 80 points, including 52 assists, in 34 games. Ironically, the only defenceman who has ever led the tier two league in scoring also starred for Vernon. Tom Serviss, who went on to play with four teams in the now-defunct World Hockey Association, scored 90 points during the 1967-68 season.

Five of the six records within Blair's grasp are either held, or shared, by former Penticton Knights' defender Ian Kidd. Kidd spent three seasons in Penticton before accepting a hockey scholarship from the University of North Dakota, in 1985.

Kidd's career marks include goals, 80; assists, 155; and points, 235. In 1984-85, he set the single season points record with 108, including a record-tying 77 assists. Bruce Harris, who played with Bellingham Blazers in 1978-79, shares the assists record with Kidd.

The single season goal scoring record for defencemen is held by Doug Lidster, who scored 36 times for Kamloops Braves during the 1978-79 season. Lidster is now in his third year with Vancouver Canucks.

Blair, in his fourth BCJHL campaign, currently has 68 goals and 150 assists for 218 points. The career assists mark will probably be the first to fall.

Blair said he had no thought of rewriting the record book when the 1986-87 season started. "My personal goals were to make the all-star team and break our team record for goal scoring by a defenceman," he said. "So far, so good. I made the all-star team and I'm just two off the team goal scoring record (30, set by Mike Enemark in 1983)."

Blair played minor hockey in Prince George before breaking into the BCJHL, with Salmon Arm Totems, in 1983. His first season in junior 'A' hockey provided no hint that someday he would threaten several league records. After a short stint with the lowly Totems, he was traded to Summerland Buckaroos. Then, after less than two months with the Buckaroos, he was released.

He returned to Summerland the following year and spent one and one-half seasons with the Buckaroos before requesting a trade to Vernon in November, 1985.

After collecting 18 points in his abbreviated rookie season, Blair scored 56 and 64 points in the following years.

"The big difference this year is that I'm finishing off my chances," Blair said. "We have a lot of excellent scorers on our club so other teams can't concentrate on stopping me."

Lakers currently rank third in the BCJHL's Interior Division, behind Kelowna Packers and Penticton. However, Vernon is the top scoring team in the entire league and has five of the division's top eight scorers.

With 18 games remaining in the season, Blair admits he will need some big nights to break all six records. He expects the single season assist record, which he is 25 away from, and the career goal scoring record, which he is 12 away from, to be the toughest.

"The record I'd like to break is the one held by Lidster . . . for goals in a season," Blair said. "His record is eight years old . . . and it is held by someone who has gone on to play well in the NHL."

Most scouts consider Blair too slow and too small to play pro hockey. However, his puck handling ability and accurate shot have made him an offensive standout in the BCJHL.

"I hope to keep playing hockey after this season," Blair said. One option is a U.S. scholarship. Ernie Gare (head coach of the Lakers) has been working on a scholarship for me. Or, I might try playing semi-pro hockey in Europe."

Blair will get an opportunity to show off his skills to dozens of college and pro scouts in the annual BCJHL All-star Game, Jan. 22, at Merritt.

In the meantime, he'll continue the pursuit of records Friday night when Lakers host Merritt, and Saturday when Abbotsford Falcons are in town.

COASTAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Richmond Sockeyes	33	25	8	0	50
Langley Eagles	32	19	12	1	39
Delta Flyers	32	19	13	0	38
Nanaimo Clippers	32	16	15	1	33
Juan de Fuca Whalers	35	12	23	0	24
Abbotsford Falcons	34	11	23	0	22

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER, TEAM	G	A	Pts	PIM
Momotani, Delta	38	33	71	14
Clarke, Richmond	37	27	64	124
Tomlinson, Richmond	25	39	64	67
Zulinick, Juan de Fuca	23	40	63	18
Moller, Langley	25	37	62	16
Smiley, Abbotsford	24	37	61	42
Eisenhut, Langley	32	26	58	20
Holmes, Delta	21	31	52	18
Stotts, Nanaimo	17	34	51	90
Nohr, Juan de Fuca	17	29	46	121

TOP GOALTENDERS

PLAYER, TEAM	Min.	GA	Ave.
Pencer, Richmond	832	57	4.11
Stewart, Langley	871	62	4.27
Dickson, Delta	1566	120	4.59
Renton, Juan de Fuca	1037	85	4.91
Fairlie, Nanaimo	740	64	5.18

INTERIOR DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Kelowna Packers	32	26	4	2	54
Penticton Knights	36	22	11	3	47
Vernon Lakers	34	19	13	2	40
Merritt Warriors	33	5	27	1	11
Summerland Buckaroos	33	3	28	2	8

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER, TEAM	G	A	Pts	PIM
Blair, Vernon	28	52	80	113
Taillefer, Kelowna	28	50	78	125
DePourcq, Penticton	37	36	73	8
Bedard, Vernon	34	38	72	77
Mowery, Kelowna	28	44	72	74
Scott, Vernon	23	42	65	42
Tuckwood, Vernon	27	37	64	224
Hartnell, Vernon	27	35	62	69
Russell, Kelowna	24	38	62	53
Mangold, Kelowna	29	32	61	73

TOP GOALTENDERS

PLAYER, TEAM	Min.	GA	Ave.
Imoo, Kelowna	794	43	3.24
Carignan, Kelowna	1031	67	3.89
Loewen, Penticton	1687	112	3.98
Tyszka, Penticton	442	34	4.61
Dickens, Vernon	734	59	4.82

Froese is tough against Penguins

By The Canadian Press

Goaltender Bob Froese is wearing a different uniform these days but he still looks the same to the Pittsburgh Penguins.

It's a scary sight for the Penguins, who have been unable to beat or even tie Froese in his 16 career appearances against them.

Froese, traded to the New York Rangers from the Philadelphia Flyers this month, kept his spotless record intact against the Penguins as the Rangers defeated Pittsburgh 5-3 in National Hockey League action Tuesday night.

Walt Poddubny and Jan Erixon each scored twice as the Penguins' winless streak stretched to eight games, 0-5-3.

The loss dropped Pittsburgh to 15-15-7, the first time this season the Penguins have been .500. They started

his career and moved him past Guy Lafleur and into 10th place on the all-time goal scoring list.

Kings 4 Flyers 1

Defencemen Steve Duchesne and Jay Wells scored first-period goals and goaltender Rollie Melanson made 22 saves as Los Angeles handed visiting Philadelphia its fourth straight loss.

Nordiques 6 Canadiens 3

In Quebec, Michel Goulet scored twice and added an assist and rookie Trevor Stienburg's first NHL goal proved to be the winner as the Nordiques defeated the Montreal Canadiens in a penalty-filled game.

Rookie Jason Lafreniere, Gilbert Delorme and Brent Ashton also scored for Quebec, while Peter Stastny and Alain Cote each had two assists.

Flames 4 Devils 3

John Tonelli scored twice in the final