B.C. league becomes dominant

The B.C. Junior Hockey League has been the most dominant of the junior "A" leagues in Western Canada during the 1980's and in the past two seasons it has proven itself the most dominant force in tier two junior hockey in the country.

When Richmond Sockeyes captured the Centennial Cup this spring it marked the fourth time in the past five years that the BCJHL representative has won the Abbot Cup, emblematic of Junior hockey supremacy in Western Canada. Sockeyes' victory in Centennial Cup play followed on the hells of Penticton's triumph in 1986.

Knights also won Western Canada in 1985 while Abbotsford Flyers were Western Canadian champs in the 1982-83 season. Between Knights and Flyers, Langley Eagles represented the league in 1983-84.

In 20 previous seasons before Abbotsford won the Abbot Cup, no BCJHL team ever triumphed in Western Canada and prior to Penticton's victory in 1985, no BCJHL team had ever captured the Cenennial Cup.

Meanwhile, Medicine Hat Tigers, who captured the covered Memorial Cup, emblematic of major junior hockey supremacy in North America, had four former BCJHL players on their roster. Among these were Ron Bonora, Guy Phillips and Mark Fitzpatrick all of whom played for Revelstoke Rangers under then coach Murray Lawrence. Lawrence had coached in Vernon the year prior to that season. Mike McWilliams saw action with Langley Eagles.

Fitzpatrick, incidentally, selected the top goaltender of the Memorial Cup tournament, was also the first goaltender since 1974 to record a shutout in Memorial Cup play.

During this past season, The Hockey News, considered the bible among hockey fans in North America, honored three players of the week from National Collegiate Athletic Association, Canadian Interathletic Union, and Major Junior hockey leagues each week. During this season nine former BCJHL players made this prestigious list.

In the NCAA, former Abbotsford Flyer Bill Shibicky and Derek Pizzey, formerly of Penticton Knights, were selected on two occasions. Dave Roach, formerly of New Westminster Royals, Warren Sharples (Penticton), Joe West (Langley Eagles) and Steve Tuttle (Richmond Sockeyes) were also honored.

CIAU players of the week included Acadia's Ward Carlson (Kelowna) and University of Alberta Golden Bears' Stacey Wakabayashi, who played in Vernon.

One former BCJHL player was a WHL player of the week in The Hockey News. Mark Recchi, of Kamloops Blazers, formerly played for Langley Eagles.

There are a number of former BCJHL players now playing or who will soon be playing in Europe. Among these are Bob Wensley, a division two forward in Germany, and Allan Young who will be playing in the German division one this season. Young just completed his fourth seasson with Vernon Lakers. Another former Vernon player, Jim Scott, will likely sign with a German division three club very soon.

There were also 47 former BCJHL players toiling in the National Hockey League this past season. Among these are three members of the Stanley Cup Champion Edmonton Oilers. High scoring Glenn Anderson formerly played for Bellingham Blazers while goaltender Andy Moog was with Penticton and Wayne Van Dorp, who saw limited time with Oilers, was also with Bellingham.

Following are the leading scorers, among current NHL players, who started their junior careers in the BCJHL.

FORMER BCJHL PLAYERS WHO SAW ACTION
IN THE NHL DURING THE 86/REGULAR SEASON

Player	86/87 NHL Pts	NHL Career	BCJHL Team	NHL Team
Mel Bridgeman	43	676	Nanaimo	Red Wings
Glen Anderson	73	617	Bellingham	Oilers
Ron Greschner	40	583	Chilliwack	Rangers
Stan Smyl	43	581	Bellingham	Canucks
John Ogrodnick	67	561	Maple Ridge	Nordiques
Ryan Walter	46	534	Langley	Canadiens
Barry Pederson	76	484	Nanaimo	Canucks
Curt Fraser	50	410	Kelowna	Black Hawks
Brad Maxwell	21	368	Bellingham	North Stars
Ron Flockhart	35	319	Merritt/Revelstoke	Blues
Eddie Johnstone	0	258	Vernon	Red Wings
Dave Lewis	7	223	Kelowna	Red Wings
Eddie Beers	0	210	Merritt	Blues
Paul Cyr	27	194	Nanaimo	Sabers
Greg Adams	44	171	Nanaimo	Capitals
Ray Ferraro	59	164	Penticton	Whalers
Greg Adams	47	146	Kelowna	Devils
Torrie Robertson	1	122	Nanaimo	Whalers
Tim Watters	16	122	Kamloops	Jets
Doug Lidster	63	121	Kamloops	Canucks
Dean Evason	59	114	Cowichan	Whalers
Larry Playfair	9	106	Langley	Kings
Geoff Courtnall	36	102	Cowichan	Bruins
Al Hill	2	94	Nanaimo	Flyers
Gary Nylund	27	84	Delta	Black Hawks
Craig Redmond	8	71	Abbotsford	Kings
Tim Hunter	21	67	Kamloops	Flames
Don Nachbauer	2	63	Merritt	Flyers
Larry Melnyk	15	52	Abbotsford	Rangers
Dan Hodgson	22	47	Cowichan	Canucks
Wade Campbell	3	35	Langley	Bruins
Bob McGill	5	28	Abbotsford	Maple Leafs
Cliff Ronning	25	25	New West.	Blues