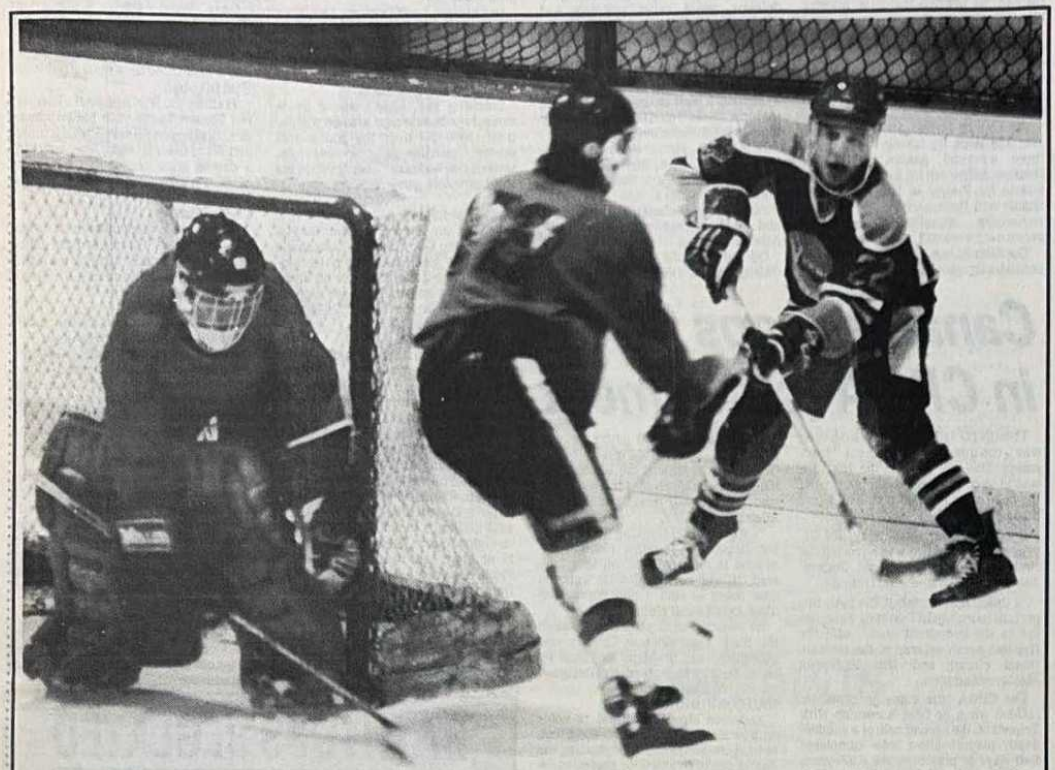
Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL



VERNON LAKERS' centre Dallas Drake, right, centres the puck during B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition action, Sunday night, in Enderby. Drake scored two goals and added two assists to lead the Lakers to a 12-2 win over the Salmon Arm Tigers. Lakers play their final pre-season game tonight, at the Civic Arena, against Penticton Knights. Game time is 8:00 p.m. (Daily News Photo)

# Hockey wants a better image

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The introduction of an awareness program aimed at cleaning up the image of minor hockey in the province, along with a new level of competition for B.C.'s smallest association teams were the major focal points of the 68th annual B.C. Amateur Hockey Association Meeting, held over the weekend, in Vernon.



BRUCE ALLISON

The annual gathering drew about 340 minor hockey delegates from all parts of the province. The weekend produced a total of 51 resolutions in addition to the election of new executive for each association in the province. Guest speakers for the weekend included Brian Burke, Director of Player Personnel for Vancouver Canucks, and Ed Chynoweth, President of the Western Hockey League.

The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the awareness program which will kick off with a week-long introduction Oct. 3-10. The slogan for the program will be, "Learning the skills and having fun."

"We're trying to get the emphasis back on having fun and learning skills so that the kids don't have to worry about the risk of injuries," explained BCAHA President Bruce Allison. "There will also be a movement towards better communication and we'll stop the negative image."

"The bottom line is that membership has to be allowed to speak and to be listened to."

In his closing remarks to the delegates Sunday morning, Allison also indicated the BCAHA would be cracking down on those who give the game a bad image and who abuse it.

"We'll be taking a new look at gross misconduct penalties," said Allison. "There will be an automatic three-game suspension for gross misconducts."

A gross misconduct is usually issued by an official against a player who makes an obscene gesture towards an official or a player who uses verbal or physical abuse against an official.

"I would be irresponsible if I allowed this to happen," continued Allison. "All the rules are there to make this game enjoyable and the officials have been instructed to do their jobs."

At the same time, however, delegates voted against the introduction of BCAHA legislation that would ban bodychecking at the pee wee level and down.

"That's a very contentious issue," suggested newly appointed third vice-president Gordon Strachan of Kelowna. "We feel that the skills at pee wee and lower levels can't be properly learned while bodychecking is being used.

"They (delegates) feel that it's too difficult for the officials to call, though."

Strachan did say, however, that the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association was also considering implementing the same ruling and that if that were the case, then all minor hockey associations in the country would automatically introduce the measure.

Also coming out of the annual meeting was a decision to create an "A" level of competition that would enable teams from the BCAHA's smallest associations to compete against one another at the provincial level.

"You could say we've created a new level of competition for the smaller systems," suggested Strachan.

Associations with less than 75 registrants in pee wee, bantam, and midget age levels, combined, will be the groups in this category.

"They make up about 45 per cent of our total member associations," explained Strachan. "To the best of my knowledge, that would create 11 'A' associations in the Okanagan-Mainline District."

Previously there were provincial competitions only for "AAA" and "AA" levels. The "AAA" levels were associations with more than 140 registrants while "AA" is 76-139 registrants.

During the course of the three-day event, delegates had the opportunity of attending workshops and seminars conducted under the auspices of the BCAHA and the CAHA. Among these were a referee and coaches' seminars and even a registrars' seminar.

Allison, the BCAHA executive members and the delegates seemed to feel that the success of the weekend meeting was owing mainly to the excellent hosting job done by the Vernon organization.

"From what I've seen, I'd say it was extremely successful," said Allison. "Bonnie Mitchell and Vernon minor hockey did a first-class job. This was one of our best meetings in the last 10 years."

## OLSON NEEDS SURGERY

The new junior hockey season has started on the wrong foot, or rather, on the wrong feet for Vernon Lakers' sophomore defenceman Greg Olson.

The B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star is currently watching the team's training camp from the sidelines awaiting treatment for a painful inflamation in his ankles. The affliction apparently began last season and has grown steadily worse until, at this point, the 18-year-old speedy blueline requires corrective surgery before he can suit up with the local club again.

"It hasn't been (properly) diagnosed yet but it's a problem that began last season and it's gotten worse over the summer," explained Lakers' Assistant Coach George Fargher. "He's supposed to see a specialist and his diagnosis will determine whether he needs an operation or if therapy and cortesone treatments will work."

However, Olson's estimation of the time he will lose with the club, and Fargher's estimation vary.

"He could be gone for possibly six weeks," added Fargher.

"I'll only miss three weeks at the most," insisted the Vernon player who accumulated 25 points while patrolling Lakers' blueline last season.

"It's called a tallus," he explained further. "It's a quarter-shaped growth and when I put on my skates it puts pressure on it and it swells up and my ankles fill up with fluid . . . then it's painful and you have to ice it."

In the meantime, the Vernon coaching staff isn't too concerned over the loss of Olson's services as a rearguard since there has been speculation that Head Coach Ernie Gare has plans to move the speedster up onto the wing to take advantage of his mobility.

# Lakers blast Tigers in pre-season contest

Salmon Arm received a rude welcome back to the B.C. Junior Hockey League, Sunday night.



CHAD BIAFORE

Vernon Lakers hammered the Tigers 12-2 in BCJHL exhibition action action before a sparse gathering in the Enderby Arena. Salmon Arm rejoined the league's Interior Division after a one-year leave of absence.

Greg Scholte gave the Tigers a short-lived lead with a powerplay goal at 2:56 of the opening period. But, that was one of the few highlights for the Shuswap club.

Lakers led 2-1 at the end of the first period, 6-1 after 40 minutes, and added six unanswered goals in the third period.

A rash of penalties, including a pair of five-minute hooking majors, slowed the opening period to a crawl. But, the speedy Lakers completely dominated the final 40 minutes.

"Because of the penalties, there wasn't much flow in the first period," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "But, we got untracked in the second period."

Dallas Drake led the Vernon attack with two goals and two assists. Darcy Martini and Ian Young also tallied twice for the Lakers while Mike Paller, Jamie Steer, Chad Biafore, Greg Parnell, Dane Jackson and Kevin Harder added singles.

Ian Alger added four assists and Harder helped to set up three goals.

After a sluggish start, Drake displayed the talents that helped him win the Kootenay International Junior 'B' League scoring title last season. He scored twice, within four minutes, early in the third period, then made a perfect pass to set up Parnell for his goal.

Mike Barkley, Martini, and Alger were also standouts for the Vernon squad. Alger's performance was particularly impressive because the veteran forward had been a disappointment at training camp and in earlier pre-season games.

"Ian looked better," Gare said. "And Martini showed us what he can do with the puck."

Martini, a 6-3" defenceman, made several impressive rushes out of his end, scored his first goal on a blistering slapshot, and cleared opposing forwards from the front of his net.

Lakers return to the ice tonight when they host Penticton Knights, at 8:00 p.m., in the Civic Arena. Vernon's regular season opener is scheduled Friday night, in Penticton. On Saturday, Portland Winter Hawks make their annual visit to the Civic Arena for an exhibition game.

# Dever departs, Tyszka arrives

While his team was on the ice, Vernon Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis was on the telephone.

Lis completed one trade while confirming another deal, over the weekend.

Lakers sent sophmore defenceman Bob Dever to Abbotsford for future considerations. And goaltender Mark Tyszka, acquired in a trade with Penticton Knights last week, decided to report to Vernon.

Tyszka was dealt to the Lakers in exchange for defenceman Jason Fox. Tyszka refused to report and returned home to Edmonton. But, the 18-year-old netminder changed his mind and was scheduled to arrive in Vernon earlier today. In the meantime, Knights traded Tyszka to Sherwood Park, of the Alberta Junior 'A' League.

"What happened between Penticton and Sherwood Park is their business," Lis said. "Tyszka was traded to us, he is our property, and we plan to dress him for tonight's game (against Penticton)."

Meanwhile, Dever was caught in a number's game. After spending the 1986-87 season with the Lakers, he apparently didn't fit in with the team's plans this winter.

Lakers still have 10 defencemen on their roster.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

# Minor hockey now registering

Registration is currently under way for the 1987-88 Greater Vernon Minor Hockey Association season. Players ranging in ages from beginners (pre-novice) to juvenile can register daily at Sun Valley Sports in Downtown Vernon. Birth certificates must be available at time of registration. For further information call Pat at 545-7640.

### Series deadlocked

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — Brooklin Redmen scored five unanswered goals in a five-minute span overlapping the second and third periods Saturday night to down the New Westminster Salmonbellies 16-14 and even their Mann Cup

your mind, it really does," she said.

So an unfamiliar emotion surfaced as she prepared for the 4-foot putt she needed on the 18th hole Sunday to win the $225,000 Cellular One-Ping championship.

"I was a little nervous," she said. "I haven't felt that way for a long time."