Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Soukoroff leads plus/minus race

Statistics released by the Vernon Lakers show defencemen Phil Soukoroff and winger Jamie Steer lead the B.C. Junior Hockey League in plus/minus statistics.

The difference between the goals for and against, while that player is on the ice, determines the plus/minus total. Powerplay and short-handed goals are not included.

Soukoroff, who joined the Lakers this season from the Juan de Fuca Whalers, is plus-39, five goals ahead of Steer.

Vernon is the highest scoring team in the entire BCJHL and has the second-best goals against average, behind Delta Flyers, who lead the Coastal Division.

Meanwhile, the Lakers visit Merritt tonight, then host the Summerland Buckaroos, Friday, and Juan de Fuca, Saturday.

In the lone BCJHL game Wednesday, Barry Kress set up four goals as the Richmond Sockeyes thumped Delta 7-2.

Rob Clarke and Dwayne Wills each scored two goals for Richmond while goaltender Willie Popp stopped 35 shots. Chris Dixon made only 16 saves while allowing seven goals for the losers.

The win gives the Sockeyes sole possession of second place in the Coastal Division, 11 points behind the Flyers.

Vernon's plus/minus statistics are:

Player	Plus/minus
Soukoroff	+39
Steer	+34
Markin	+31
Biafore	+30
Greyeyes	+22
Martini	+21
Barkley	+18
Alger	+18
Parnell	+18
Jackson	+18
Drake	+17
Dennis	+14
Harder	+14
Hendry	+14
Paller	+12
Elliott	+12
Lightfoot	+ 8
Chase	+ 4
Olson	+ 1

KENDALLS KORNER

NHL clubs stocked with BCJHL talent



by
Don Kendall

Daily News
Sports Editor

How good are the players we watch in B.C. Junior Hockey League games at the Vernon Civic Arena?

"Great," is the answer if two televised National Hockey League games, Wednesday, are an indication.

It is difficult to predict what junior players will go on to star in the pro ranks, but we can check the current NHL rosters to see who has made the jump from the BCJHL to the big league.

On Wednesday, the Detroit Red Wings dumped the defending Stanley Cup Edmonton Oilers 7-4.

The outstanding play of the game was made by Detroit forward Joe Murphy, who stole the puck off Glenn Anderson and flipped it past Oilers' netminder Daryl Reaugh into the top corner of the net.

Murphy, who was the first player chosen in the 1986 NHL amateur draft, won the BCJHL scoring race with the Penticton Knights.

Anderson, a perennial 40-goal scorer with the Oilers, starred with Bellingham, of the BCJHL, before going on to the Canadian Olympic Team.

Hard-working veteran Mel Bridgeman of the Red Wings also started his junior career in the BCJHL with the Nanaimo Clippers.

In the other game, the Montreal Canadiens battled to a 3-3 deadlock with the much-improved Vancouver Canucks.

A series of injuries prompted Canucks' General Manager Pat Quinn to recall rookie Ian Kidd from the Fredericton Express, of the AHL, for Wednesday's game. Kidd set five BCJHL records with Penticton before moving on to the college ranks. Against the Canadiens, he took a regular shift, played the point on the powerplay, and certainly didn't look out of place.

Vancouver's roster is loaded with former BCJHL players including Barry Pederson, Nanaimo; Doug Lidster, Kamloops; Stan Smyl, Bellingham; and Greg Adams, Kelowna.

Even Les Canadiens have a BCJHL graduate on their roster. Veteran forward Ryan Walter, who recently returned from a back injury, started his junior career with Langley.

By the way, the NHL announced Wednesday that Brett Hull of the Calgary Flames is the league's Rookie of the Month, for November. Hull, like Murphy, won a BCJHL scoring title with the Knights.

A few years from now we may be watching a couple members of the current Vernon Lakers on an NHL telecast. In the meantime, we can watch them Friday night, against the Summerland Buckaroos, and Saturday, against the Juan de Fuca Whalers.