CONFUSION IN ABBOTSFORD

All-star game tonight

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

ABBOTSFORD (Special) — The school of thought seems to be that the annual B.C. Junior Hockey League All-star Game tonight will be a wide-open, offensive affair as opposed to a defensive battle.

However, if it comes off at all it might be considered a feat of engineering genius as the moment approaches and confusion reigns in Abbotsford.

The game, featuring the most talented players of the Coastal Division against their counterparts from the Interior Division, is scheduled for 8 p.m. at MSA Arena in this Fraser Valley community.

Under normal circumstances, the situation would call for a concentration of bodies and minds in one central location, but that isn't the case this time around. The Coastal Division players, coaches, and support staff are holed-up in the Davy Crockett Motor Inn, near the core area of the city. The Interior entourage, meanwhile, opted for the Travel Lodge in Clearbrook, a sleepy suburb of this city of more than 100,000 people.

In between the two locations is the MSA Arena. The site of the banquet, scheduled this afternoon, is at a different location. Through an oversight, there has been no official itinerary circulated and attempts to meet on common ground have mostly met with failure.

Luckily, some previous briefing has offered a little insight as to the flow of the operation for both groups. But, the apparent hopelessness of the situation is almost comical.

At 9 a.m., the Coastal Division squad was scheduled to practice while the Interior Division was slated to take to the ice at 10:45 a.m. Whether these sessions would transpire was anybody's guess early this morning. However, with a light-hearted, almost festive mood prevailing, the onus seems to be on having a good time rather than maintaining schedules.

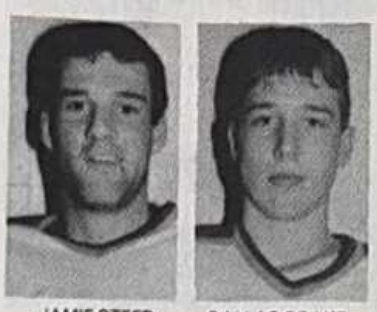
That goes for the game itself as well. Rick Hopper, who will act as coach of the Coast, is predicting a high-scoring game and that seems to be the general concensus.

"I'm sure it will be wide-open . . . really offensive," suggested Hopper, who in everyday life is the chief mentor of the Coastal Division leading Delta Flyers. "I'm just going to let the kids have some fun and do their thing.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the last shot wins it though."

Hopper's Flyers, along with the Vernon Lakers, have the most representatives of any team. In fact when the puck is dropped, it will be the Flyers against the Lakers for the first shift.

Among the eight Vernon players in the Interior line-up is five-year veteran Ian Alger, who epitomizes the hard-checking defensive style player. Ironically, Alger is looking for an offensive style of game, in spite of the way he will play.



JAMIE STEER

DALLAS DRAKE

"It'll be wide open definitely, but I'll stick with my style because that is what got me here and that is what keeps me in the game," Alger said.

Despite his longevity in the BCJHL, Alger will share the spotlight tonight with a five-year veteran from the Coastal Division. Second string goaltender Glenn Pencer of the Chilliwack Eagles has also been around the league for a fistful of years.

The game will also feature a number of rookies, including two from Vernon who have scouts buzzing with excitement. Dallas Drake and Jamie Steer, battling for the BCJHL scoring title in their first seasons, will both be on the ice for the Interior Division.

While many eyes will be trained on Steer and Drake, a good deal more will be on Lakers' recent scoring sensation Mike Barkley. Barkley, according to the thickly spread rumors circulating, will reportedly be drafted in the first three rounds of the National Hockey League amateur draft this spring.

Vernon is also represented by Coach Ernie Gare, goaltender Glen Fry, defenceman Chad Biafore and Phil Soukoroff, and forward Mark Greyeyes.

The Coast won last year's game, 5-4, in Merritt. But, tonight's game will probably resemble the 1986 game, which the Interior won 15-7, in Nanaimo.

Vernon Daily News | sports
Editor — DON KENDALL



DARREN HICKSON, of the Vernon Coca Cola Juvenile Reps, (right) battles for the puck along the boards with a forward from the Salmon Arm Essos during action Sunday, at the Vernon Civic Arena. The visitors skated away with an easy 5-1 victory to move into sole possession of first place in the four-team juvenile loop. Vernon, which dropped to a 5-2 record, holds down second place.

(Daily News Photo)

Lakers lead League

The Shuswap Lakers strengthened their grip on first place in the Vernon Major Men's Basketball League with a 75-66 win over the Scenic Valley Garden Centre Raiders, Monday, at VSS.

In another game, the Nor Kor Buds edged the Silver Bullets 74-70.

Glynne Green led the Lakers with 29 points while Don Jameson dropped in 20.

Tony Wolcott and Lorne Hansen, with 23 points each, handled most of the scoring for the Raiders.

In the other game, Art Dulaba was the top sniper for the Buds with 21 points, including 19 in the first half. Morris Vardabasso added 18 points for Nor Kor.

Bill Haworth, with 22 points, and Duncan MacDonald, with 14, countered for the Silver Bullets.

Oldtimers lacrosse club formed

One of the Okanagan's all-time great lacrosse players hopes to form an oldtimers' team.

Lance McGregor, who starred for more than a decade with the now-defunct Armstrong Shamrocks, is assembling a team to compete in an oldtimers' tournament, July 1-3, in Prince George.

Tournament organizers hope to attract teams from Vancouver and the Okanagan, in addition to two Prince George teams.

"I'm sure there are lots of guys around here who would like to pull their lacrosse sticks out of the closet," McGregor said. "I expect the majority of our players will be from Vernon and Armstrong, but Kelowna players are welcome too."

The only stipulation is that all players must be at least 30 years old.

McGregor said, "The guys in Prince George think the tournament will be a lot of fun . . . and will help promote lacrosse in that area."

For further information phone McGregor at 546-9639.

Salmon Arm dumps Vernon

The Salmon Arm Essos defeated the Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps 5-1 Sunday night, at the Civic Arena, to move into sole possession of first place in the four-team Okanagan-Mainline Hockey League.

Vernon drops to second place with a 5-2 record and Salmon Arm moves to 6-1. The other two teams in the league are Kamloops and Kelowna.

The Vernon club, playing with just 12 skaters due to the injury bug, still came up with what Coach Jim Sparrow described as their worst effort of the season.

"We were definitely missing our goal scorers but also some key players," he said. "Regardless, we were playing brutal hockey — you wouldn't have known it was the same team that played last week."

The local juveniles were without the services of forwards Scott Cameron and Rich Dahlen while defenceman Sam Hamilton is still on the injury list with torn ligaments in his knee. Midway through the game the Coke squad lost top defenceman Mike Weir to a fighting infraction.

Ralph Lett scored the lone goal in a losing cause.

The Coke squad will be in action again next weekend when it travels to Kamloops to compete in a tournament which will feature teams from Prince George, Kamloops and Salmon Arm.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JANUARY 1983

Sun Valley Sports stretched its winning streak to nine games with an 82-62 win over Nor Kor Contractors in Carling O'Keefe Basketball League action. Sun Valley has 18 points, eight more than second-place Armstrong. Rene Dolcetti led the Sun Valley attack with 22 points, while Steve Zack added 14.

JANUARY 1983

Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps won a pair of lopsided Okanagan Mainline Hockey League games. Vernon blasted Ashcroft 10-2 and then went on to defeat the same club 16-0 in a second game. Richard Belec and Bill Bishop led the offence in the second game, with three goals and four assists.

KENDALLS KORNER

Lakers pull away from BCJHL rivals



by Don Kendall
Daily News Sports Editor

The Vernon Lakers discovered how good they are last weekend.

The Lakers won three road games, within 48 hours, including victories over the top two teams in the Coast Division . . . the Delta Flyers and the Richmond Sockeyes.

Back in training camp last September, Vernon General Manager Mel Lis predicted his club would win the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division title. But, even Lis couldn't have imagined that his troops would be such a dominant force.

Following are a few facts and figures that tell the story of how impressive the Lakers have been this season.

. . . The Lakers rank first overall in the BCJHL, seven points ahead of second place Delta. The last time Vernon won the regular season title was in the 1975-76 season, when the late Joe Tennant was behind the bench. For those of you who are too young to remember, and those who are trying to forget, Penticton eliminated Vernon in the second round of the 1976 playoffs. Vernon, then known as the Vikings, outshot Penticton in every game, but was thwarted by goaltender Pat Murphy.

. . . Vernon now has 64 points, 20 more than the Kelowna Packers, who occupy second place in the Interior Division. With 11 games remaining in the regular season, the Lakers' magic number is two. Any combination of two Vernon victories, or two Kelowna losses, will give the Lakers top spot in the division.

. . . The statistic that is the most impressive is Vernon's record on the road. The Lakers have an 18-4 mark away from home. Vernon has lost only once in its last 19 road games, including a 15-game winning streak.

. . . Vernon is the highest scoring team in the BCJHL. The Lakers have blinked the opposition's red light 287 times, 35 more than the Sockeyes, who rank second.

. . . Defensively, the Lakers rank second in the BCJHL, behind Delta. The Flyers have allowed 147 goals, in 40 games, and Vernon has given up 152 goals, in 41 games. The last time Vernon won the league's goaltending award was during the 1975-76 season when Keith Ferner and Darrell Furmanek combined for the lowest goals against average.

. . . Speaking of goaltending, statistics released by the BCJHL show that Vernon's duo of Glen Fry and Barry Rysz currently rank first and second, respectively, in goals against average. Richmond's Willie Popp is in third spot.

. . . Watch for the biggest crowd of the year Jan. 30 when the Lakers host Delta. That could be the game that determines first place overall.