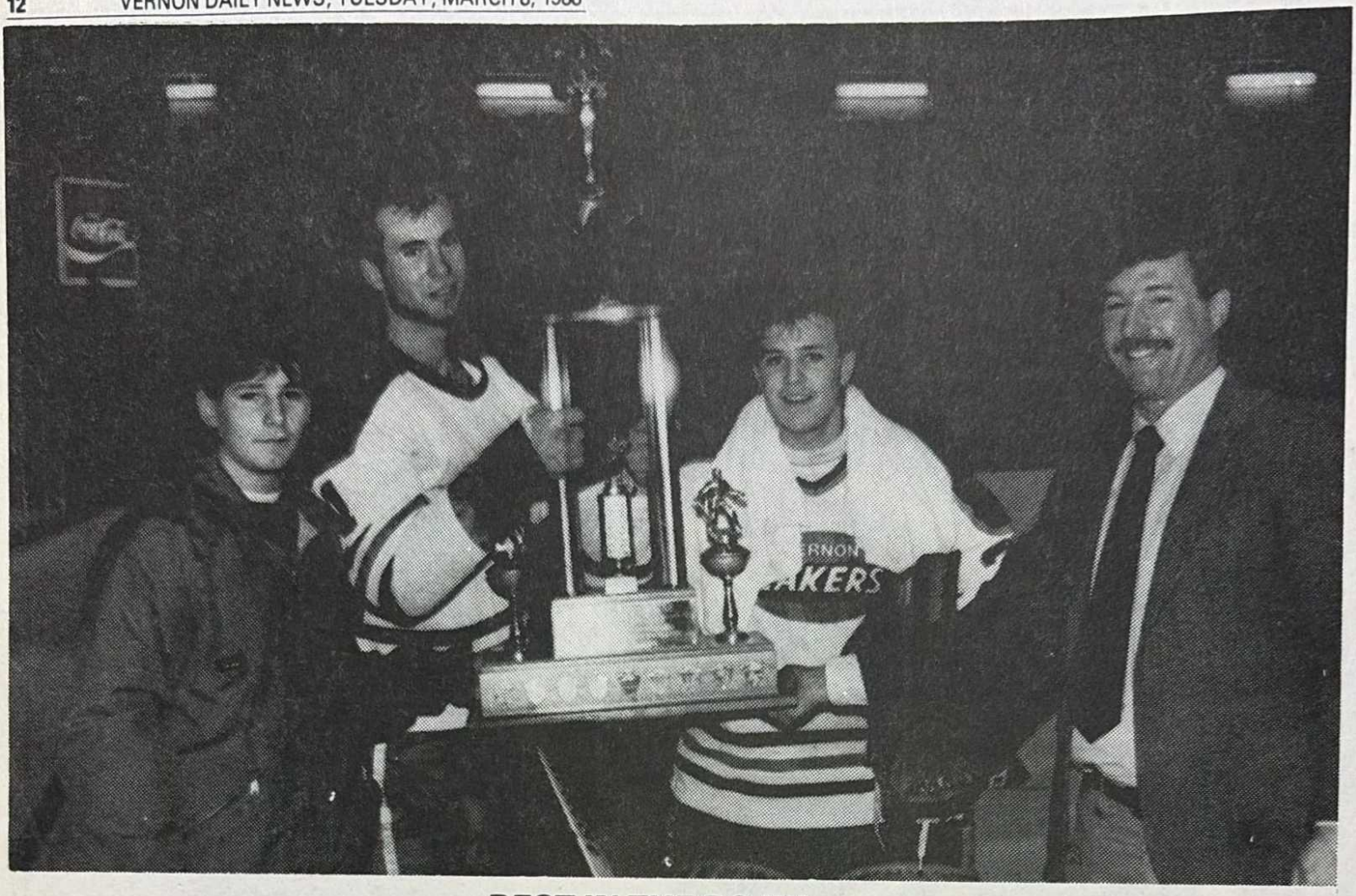


Interior final

Vernon Lakers prepare to make it three in a row tonight as they take on the Penticton Knights in Game three of the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division final. Vernon leads two games to none. The game is 8 p.m. at the Centennial Arena. For more, see page 11.



BEST IN THE BCJHL

The Vernon Lakers' goaltending duo of Glen Fry, left, and Barry Rysz were presented with the Wally Forslund Memorial Trophy after posting the best goals-against average in the B.C. Junior Hockey League during the 1987-88 season. Making the presentation are Forslund's grandson, Tyler, and his son, Ed. Ed Forslund starred in the BCJHL as a net-minder with the Victoria Cougars. (Daily News Photo)

Junior series resumes tonight

The Vernon Lakers host the Penticton Knights tonight, at 8 p.m., in the third game of the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division final series.

The Lakers lead the best-of-seven series 2-0 after manhandling the Knights 10-2 and 8-3 last weekend.

Despite the lopsided scores, Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare doesn't expect his club to be overconfident going into tonight's confrontation.

"We have them down and we want to finish them off," Gare said. "Everyone knows what Penticton did against Kelowna."

In the division semi-finals, the Knights won four consecutive games after Kelowna took a 3-0 lead in the series.

Gare said, "We won't be changing our strategy at all . . . we're going to take the game to them. We'll be dumping the puck in, sending two guys after it, and forechecking hard."

The Lakers' list of walking wounded continues to grow as the series progresses. Wingers Mike Barkley and Trevor Pohl are still bothered by shoulder injuries and are not expected to play. Defenceman Greg Olson, who suffered a bruised shoulder in the series opener, may see limited duty tonight.

The fourth game in the series is scheduled Wednesday, in Penticton. If the Lakers can sweep the series, they would have 10 days to rest their bumps and bruises before clashing with the Coastal Division champions. The Richmond Sockeyes and Delta Flyers start their best-of-seven series tonight.

"We know we haven't won anything yet," Gare said. "We still need two more wins . . . and we don't want the series to drag on."

KENDALLS KORNER

Lakers are getting even



by Don Kendall

Daily News Sports Editor

There is an old saying, "Don't get mad, get even."

Unfortunately for the Penticton Knights, several members of the Vernon Lakers have chosen their current B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff series as their opportunity to get even.

During the first part of this decade, the Knights were a dominant force in the BCJHL. Brett Hull, Ian Kidd, and Joe Murphy helped turn Penticton into the class, and power, of tier two hockey. They peaked in 1986 when they captured the Centennial Cup.

In Penticton's glory years, they regularly embarassed other teams in their own arenas.

Several Lakers have been in the league long enough to have nightmares about evenings when the Knights invaded their rinks.

Mark Greyeyes and Keith Chase (Merritt); Ian Alger (Revelstoke and Abbotsford); Wes Elliott (Merritt and Abbotsford); Trevor Pohl (Vernon); Phil Soukoroff (Juan de Fuca); and Mike Paller (Abbotsford) still remember losing to the Knights by a touchdown, or more.

"We don't have any difficulty motivating our guys when we play Penticton," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "Our guys still remember what it was like getting thumped by the Knights all the time."

Gare admits his club was even more emotional last season when they defeated Penticton in the division semi-finals. "It was unbelievable in the dressing room," he said. "Guys like (Al) Young and (Ed) Tuckwood couldn't sit down for a second. They wouldn't lose to the Knights again . . . they would have done anything to beat them. I think Young would have gone through a wall."

Chase confirms that eliminating the Knights last year was a great experience. "It is still nice to beat them," Chase said. "But last year was the big one. I remember when they'd come into Merritt and be ahead 15-2. Then they'd get a powerplay and put out Murphy and their other big guns to get a couple more goals."

Now, the skate is on the other foot. Vernon is the team with the great organization . . . and talent. The Lakers dominated every aspect of their first two games with the Knights.

Philadelphia Flyers' Vice-president Keith Allen, who watched the Lakers thump the Knights 10-2 in the series opener last Friday, had nothing but praise for the Vernon squad.

"They have the killer instinct," Allen said. "When they went ahead by four or five goals, they didn't sit back. They kept going at Penticton . . . they kept forcing the play."

The series isn't over yet, but the Knights will be hard-pressed to come back after being outscored 18-5 in the first two games. Besides, the Lakers aren't quite even yet.