Lis comes up big

BCJHL ALL-STAR GAME HERE

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers owner Mel Lis came out beaming from the B.C. Junior Hockey League's annual governor's meeting this weekend in Nanaimo.

Lis had managed to secure the league's 1989 all-star game with nary a whimper from Kelowna or any other team in the league. He also went unopposed in getting league approval in support of the Vernon bid to host the 1990 Centennial Cup.



MEL LIS

"I couldn't believe it when Kelowna didn't say anything when I went after the all-star game," said Lis. "They were asleep at the wheel."

About the only thing that didn't meet entirely with Lis' approval was a move by the Delta Flyers to Powell River. But even then Lis was at least partly mollified when the Powell River group agreed to compensate every team for the extra costs incurred in going to Powell River.

The league hired itself a full-time president in Bruce Allison.

The Richmond man takes over officially when his term as president of the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association expires Aug. 30.

"I think he'll do a good job for us," said Lis. "He's on full-time as of Sept. 1 officially, but the thing about him is that he knows so many people. His connections alone will mean he'll make up for his salary along with what he will save us. He will give the league instant credibility."

The BCJHL adopted NHL offside rules and also those relating to coincident minor penalties. There was, however, no change to the fighting penalties because that kind of change would have to come down from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

Dave Ferguson is no longer employed as the vice-president of the BCJHL Coastal Division. There isn't going to be one this season but Vernon's Vern Dye will continue serving as Interior Division VP.

The BCAHA will supply the referee-in-chief to the BCJHL this coming season and he will assign referees. The power to remove officials deemed to be under-qualified remains with the BCJHL league governors.

"What it means," said Lis, "is that the BCAHA will pay the refs but we can still get rid of the ones we don't want."

A group from Anchorage, Alaska sought entry into the league but wasn't sufficiently well-organized, in the opinion of league governors, to warrant entry at this time.

The move by Delta to Powell River was the only one made official but Lis said another move is a virtual certainty. Look for the Juan de Fuca Whalers to move to Duncan before the season starts.

Local hockey fans won't get to see Vernon beat the tar out of the hapless Summerland Buckaroos next season. The Bucks will sit out next season because a Kelowna Packer official wouldn't let a group of new Buck owners into the Packers' 50-mile protected radius. A group headed by Kelowna businessman Martin Schmigelsky attempted to purchase the Buckaroos and wanted to move the club to Westside.

"I know we would have had a good thing here," said Schmigelsky. "We had a lot of support. I knew we wouldn't be accepted even before the meeting, that's why I didn't bother to go. Ron Swail (former Packer general manager and current Packer league governor) flatly refused us.

"I offered three things to the Packers," he added. "A non-local players card, I guaranteed them I wouldn't go after their advertisers on the Westside and I agreed to let the league review our operation after a year and the league review would be binding. "He flatly refused," he said. "What more can you do?"

Schmigelsky says it doesn't make sense to let Powell River into the league but not allow Summerland to move to Westside.

"Powell River is 400 miles away," he said. "It will cost teams an extra $5,000 or $6,000 a year by adding to the travel costs. If there was six teams in the Interior (counting Westside) there was the possibility of a split schedule with the Coast. Now that's impossible and Interior teams will have to make one more trip each down to the Coast."

Schmigelsky's deal with Summerland owner Dick Selles was contingent upon acceptance of the group by the BCJHL. Since that approval was not granted, the deal is off now and the Buckaroos were given a one year leave of absence by the league.

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Editor — JIM JUDD

Okanagan zone takes big share of medals

The Seniors' Games were a harvest of medals for competitors from this zone.

Statistics released recently show that Zone five competitors picked up 47 medals in all at the first seniors event. Included in this total were 22 gold medals. The harvest represented the largest number of medals won by any single zone.

Valley to the southern portion of the Lower Mainland, were nearly as successful as Zone five athletes. The zone three contingent took home 30 medals with them of which only 12 were gold.

In decending order, here's a breakdown of the number of medals won by each zone:

Zone five (47) 22 gold, 16 silver, nine bronze; zone three (30) 12 gold, six silver, 12 bronze; zone one (18) six