THE VIEW FROM HERE . . .

Fix my salary like they fix theirs



by Al Paterson
Daily News Sports

Just a few days ago, a judge found major league baseball owners guilty of conspiring to fix salaries of their players.

This confuses me. I picked up a paper Wednesday and I saw where the average salary this year in major league baseball is $433,000. I wish somebody would come along and fix my salary like that. I'm just trying to figure out which idiot decided to sue the owners in the first place.

Would you sue your boss if he improved your salary from $20,000 a year to $433,000 in a 21-year span? Neither would I.

In 1967, the average major league ball player got paid about $20,000 per season. I know 20 grand went a lot further in 1967 than it does today, but $433,000 buys a lot of Kraft dinner these days, too.

If there is a conspiracy among players, somebody hand me a glove.

*****

AT LEAST the Vancouver Canucks are trying. They just aren't getting anywhere.

The Canucks acquired Paul Reinhart and Steve Bozek from the Calgary Flames this week in a deal that is probably good for both teams. Provided, that is, that Reinhart's bad back holds up. That, however, is a huge assumption and one that I personally doubt.

Nobody has ever questioned Reinhart's talent. When he is right he ranks right up there in terms of raw talent with the likes of Paul Coffey and Ray Bourque. What the Canucks gambled on is that he will stay healthy. He wasn't much use to Calgary last season, getting into only nine games.

With a salary approaching $350,000 a season, that's a pretty large gamble for the Canucks to take. But at least it shows the fans the team is trying to improve itself.

The problem is you can never trade your way to a Stanley Cup or the top rung of any professional sport. The deal is good for Calgary because Reinhart wasn't going to play much anyhow. Not with the likes of Jamie Macoun, Al McInnes, Gary Suter, Rob Ramage and Brad McCrimmon available for duty. Not to mention Ric Nattress, Dana Murzyn and Brian Glynn also ready to patrol the Calgary blueline.

Calgary gets a Vancouver draft choice, anywhere from the second to fifth round, depending on how much Reinhart plays this year for Vancouver. It should mean the Flames will get a pretty decent hockey player out of the deal. And, since the Flames are well-stocked at defence for the next half dozen years at least, the Flames can pick a kid and carefully prepare him for a pro hockey career.

Steve Bozek will help Vancouver but he certainly isn't the savior Vancouver needs so desperately. He is a solid journeyman, one of the better penalty killers in the league, but a guy who lacks the ability to win games by himself. He should feel right at home with the Canucks.

The surprise trade of the NHL this week was the one involving Calgary and St. Louis. The key players involved were Doug Gilmour and Mike Bullard.

Gilmour goes to Calgary, maybe a good move for him and the hockey club, with all the allegations of sexual misconduct swirling around his head. Gilmour is alleged to have had repeated sex with a 14 year old girl in St. Louis. That is a crime in every one of the United States. But no criminal charges have yet been filed against Gilmour. Why?

What I also don't understand is why Calgary wanted to dump Mike Bullard. In Bullard the Flames had one of the top snipers in the NHL. He has averaged 42 goals a season as a pro. Some of those pro seasons were spent laboring with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Flames also got rid of Craig Coxe. Why St. Louis wanted him is beyond me. If Coxe is a regular, the Blues are in serious trouble. Craig Coxe is a hard working player but he doesn't have the talent required to go along with a great work ethic. Sure he's tough. But you don't trade for toughness. You bring to camp about 20 guys with their knuckles dragging along the ice and the last guy standing makes your club.

Calgary did get Mark Hunter in the deal and he will help. Hunter is a hard-nosed player whose only trouble is he is hurt more often than not. Not a great state of affairs when you are a guy who has to play a physical game to be effective. But Hunter does score regularly when he is healthy enough to play. He is also a character guy who shows up for work every night and gives you everything he has.

So I figure Calgary got the better of both trades this week.

*****

THE VERNON LAKERS haven't started their pre-season yet but already the club looks to me to have the makings of a champion. The only question mark right now, at least to my way of thinking, is in goal. Mind you, I wasn't that impressed with the goaltending last year.

The Lakers have one kid in camp, a boy named Scott Bailey, who I think has similar star-quality as Grant Fuhr. But Bailey is only 16 years old. He is a year or two away from being a BCJHL number-one goalie. Right now, though, I think he would make a good back-up.

I watched Bailey play last year with the Kelowna "AAA" bantams and he singlehandedly won games for that team. Bailey earned the starting job with the B.C. Best Ever Under-17 Team and he shone in a one-week intensive session in Calgary.

I look for the Lakers to add a couple or three players, including one big defenceman, prior to the start of this B.C. Junior Hockey League season.

We'll know more how the team looks after this weekend when the team plays three exhibition games in as many nights. Just don't put too much stock in those exhibition games because coaches want to find out who can and can't play during those games.

The guys who can't play will be down the road.

Vernon Daily News | **sports**
Editor — JIM JUDD

SPORTS BRIEFS

Inter-squad contest set for this evening

The Vernon Lakers will entertain early season hockey fans this evening as they split their forces for an inter-squad game. The event will take place beginning at 8:15 p.m. at the Priest Valley Arena. There will be no charge for admission. The club intends to make a number of roster cuts following the contest in preparation for the B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition season which begins this weekend.

Plays out option

MONTREAL (CP) — Shayne Corson, a Montreal Canadiens centre, has notified the NHL team that he plans to play out his option this season. In the final year of his contract, which was for two years, plus an option, Corson could become a free agent, with compensation, at the end of the current season if he remains unsigned. Corson, 22, appeared in 71 games last season, scoring 12 goals and adding 27 assists.

Honors Cus

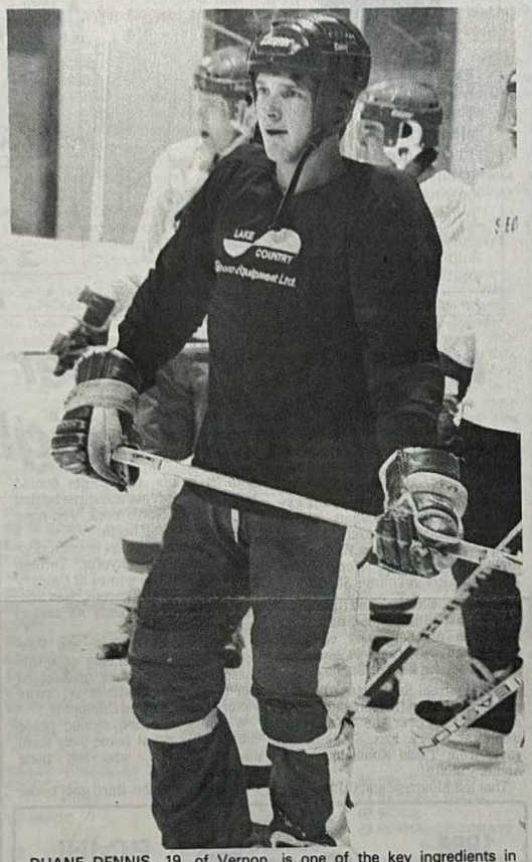
NEW YORK (AP) — Cus D'Amato and Jimmy Jacobs, who directed Mike Tyson's ascent to the world heavyweight championship, will be inducted in the Boxing Hall of Fame in November. D'Amato trained Tyson and Jacobs co-managed him with Bill Cayton. They'll go into the old timers group along with Billy Graham, the former welterweight contender. Selected for the modern group were former world lightweight champions Carlos Ortiz and Joe Brown.

Signs Shannon

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Bullets pre-season game Oct. 17, sponsors said Monday. The game at the Louisiana Superdome billed as the Pistol Pete Shootout is being presented by Madison Square Garden Enterprises and a local television station.

Names winners

NEW YORK (AP) — Quarterback Boomer Esiason of Cincinnati, defensive lineman Ray Childress of Houston, running back Neal Anderson of Chicago and nose tackle Michael Carter of San Francisco have been named as players of the week in the AFC and NFC. Esiason was named AFC offensive player after completing nine of 11 passes in the second half as the Bengals beat Phoenix 21-14. Childress was named the AFC defensive player after registering two sacks among his six tackles in a 17-14 overtime win over Indianapolis. Anderson, who carried 24 times for 123 yards in the Bears' 34-7 victory over Miami, was named the NFC offensive player. Carter was named NFC defensive player for his work in the 49ers' 34-33 win over New Orleans.



DUANE DENNIS, 19, of Vernon, is one of the key ingredients in the Lakers' lineup this season. The rugged winger has an excellent scoring ability but also dishes out some of the most bone-crunching checks in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. The club's main camp continues through this week with a series of exhibition games scheduled for the weekend. (Daily News Photo)

Roster to shrink prior to weekend

The Vernon Lakers training camp roster will be substantially reduced tonight.

Following an inter-squad game this evening at the Priest Valley Arena the Vernon coaching staff intends to pare a good number of skaters from the current roster which stands at 46 players.

"We'll make some cuts after the game tonight," confirmed Head Coach Ernie Gare. "Probably eight or 10 players."

Gare hopes to trim his camp to 35 players which he'll carry through the weekend exhibition games. The first exhibition encounter will take place Friday night at the Rutland Arena versus the Kelowna Packers. That game gets underway at 8 p.m.

The job of trimming players won't be an easy one though the first cuts will certainly be simpler to make than the ones that will have to be made after the weekend.

One position that will obviously feel the axe blade soon is centre ice. Gare currently has nine players vying for four positions at centre including a pair of American players. Unfortunately for Gare, all nine players have shown him some good stuff at that position and all seem to be capable of handling the load at centre.

Meanwhile, Gare has been pleasantly surprised in a number of areas, not the least of which has been his goaltending.

"Our goaltending is good," he said. "I'm happy with that — I think they're going to do the job."

Gare has three goaltenders currently capable of making the club.

And, to compliment his goaltending, the Lakers have a full compliment of good solid defencemen anchored by returning 20-year olds Adrian Markin and Shawn Hendry. However, a local youngster has been very impressive as well.

"Ryan Loxam is playing very well on defence," said Gare. "He's really come along since rookie camp."

Loxam, 16, played for the Vernon Bantams last season. He's 5'9" and 195 lbs. giving him the kind of size necessary for junior hockey.

"I think we'll have more of a defensive defence this year which is okay," explained Gare. "We won't have any Phil Soukoroffs or Chad Biafores to move the puck and make the offensive plays though."

Navratilova falls to her personal patsy

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in eight years, Martina Navratilova didn't hook the big one.

"If this year was a fish," Navratilova said, "I would throw it back in."



Navratilova failed to win a Grand Slam event for the first time since 1980 and the final flop in a

"She played the best match of her life and I didn't play well," Navratilova said. "That's what it was going to take for her to beat me. If you play someone that many times, they are bound to be on their game when I am not."

And she was not.

BROKE GAME

While Garrison played spectacularly in spots — she broke Navratilova in the 10th game to take