

The Morning Star Third Section

Sports

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Pateron resigns as Lakers' GM

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Al Pateron called it the "dream job" when he became general manager of the Vernon Lakers hockey club last spring.

The dream turned into something of a nightmare, however, forcing Pateron to resign his position with the B.C. Junior Hockey League's top team.

"I resigned about noon today," said Pateron, Monday. "We (he and owner Duncan Wray) talked it over and it was decided that we had to put the team first. In the best interests of the team, I chose to resign."

Lakers' head coach and assistant general manager Rob Bremner is assuming Pateron's post.

Pateron, a 43-year-old former sportswriter, spent Thanksgiving Sunday with his wife and son, a rare day off from the arena.

"Sunday was the first day off I had since June and that's not healthy. It was a tremendous workload, a lot more work to do than I realized," said Pateron.

"I basically worked four months without a day off and I was putting in 15-16 hours a day.

"When you have one problem per person (player), that's 20 problems a day.

"It's always something I always wanted to do. I swung the bat and I struck out in the sense that I can't complete the job I started."

Pateron, a minority owner who admitted to being "a little bit

tired", will continue to help the Lakers in promotions.

"I'll be helping the team succeed. I'd like to see the team go all the way...I still have my health and my family and now I have to look for another job."

The Lakers attracted 3,500 fans to their first three home games at Civic Arena.

"I think he (Pateron) did a wonderful job getting the team off the ground," said Wray.

"Look at the crowds we've been getting and the promotions he's been running."

Pateron was hired despite a lack of experience in any accounting or financial oriented position.

"I think there might have been more in the job that Al

anticipated," said Wray. "In the best interests of his team, he decided to step down."

Wray, the Lakers' majority owner, "hasn't firmed up anything" as far as paying Bremner for his additional role.

Bremner, 31, is highly organized and owns a Masters degree in education. He says he's ready for the added responsibility.

"It's something I didn't plan on thinking about when I came here," he said. "When they gave me the assistant GM as well, I just figured I'd be helping out Al.

"I have the background for it so it's not that much of a problem. It's just a matter of a few more duties and (assistant coach) John Cameron will assume some more jobs."



Al Pateron

Bremner signed a three-year deal with the Lakers prior to this season.