It's Official Now

Minor Hockey Buys Out Vernon Blades

VMHA Acquires Juniors To Promote Local Players

By PETER FRALICK

The controversy over the Vernon Junior Blades has finally been settled and the squad can get its mind back to playing hockey.

For several weeks rumors of one sort or another have been going hither and yon around town about suspected changes in club management.

It's official now, Junior Hockey is now part of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

A meeting of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association Monday night confirmed arrangements to acquire the Vernon Junior Blades hockey club and bring junior hockey in Vernon under the control of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association, a release issued last night from the Minor Hockey Association announced.

The deal has been pending for some time as final details of the takeover were finalized.

"All necessary arrangements were completed on Tuesday of this week," the Association continued.

William "Bill" Brown, a prominent hockey figure in Vernon for many years, who almost singlehandedly has guided the club since its formation four years ago has given up all associations with the club, according to the report issued last night.

Mr. Brown has been active in minor hockey locally for quite some time and is best remembered as coach of a B.C. Juvenile championship squad some years ago.

"John Zahara will replace Hap Schaefer as coach for the balance of this season," the Minor Hockey Association reports. Schaefer has been expected to remain with the club as manager but has decided to retire at present. He expects to be active in minor hockey next season, the report continues.

The new coach has had considerable experience both with junior hockey in Alberta and with senior hockey in Spokane. The report lists him as an experienced and well qualified coach.

Vern Dye, well known sports personality in Vernon, particularly with his association in minor hockey and the intermediate Luckies will be team manager.

The new management will announce a permanent coach before the start of the 1966-67 season.

Russ Fish will continue as team trainer, the report revealed.

The report listed the object of the change to bring continuity to the management of the club through the minor hockey association.

Also on the objective list was to increase the efficiency of the club by diversifying the personnel working with it and to increase the team's public appeal by producing a really competitive club.

High on the list of reasons for the take-over was "to insure that our local boys from pups to junior can play hockey on teams run primarily for local boys under minor hockey control."

A separate committee under the minor hockey association has been set up with Dr. H. K. Clarke as chairman. Other members include, Jack Thompson, Gord Henschke, A. C. Crowe, Don Kerwin, W. Tait, Ernie Kowal, George Beaven, Vern Dye, John Zahara and Fred Worth.

Now that all details of the switch have been made public, maybe some of the wild rumors, denials and counter-rumors can be tossed into the ash can where many of them belong in the first place.

While no amount was mentioned in the official release it was believed that money changed hands in the take-over. Details of this transaction were not made public.

More information about changes in club policy and club playing personnel were promised for later this week by the new committee.

It is hoped that more complete information about these results of the change in top management will be made public in time for Friday's edition of The Vernon News.

Meanwhile, the big problem for the new management remains the same old problem that faced the retired executives, to win some hockey games.

How they plan on doing this feat with a team that has won one and tied one through 16 starts this season will be a matter for a great deal of discussion in sporting centres around town.

However, in this day and age results seem to be the criterion by which we judge success or failure which means the public will judge the club by their performance when assessing the benefits of the take-over.

All we can say is "Dig, Vernon Dig," and lend a shoulder to the wheel.

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NORTH SPORTS OKANAGAN

Olympics Hold Lead In Peewee "A" Hockey

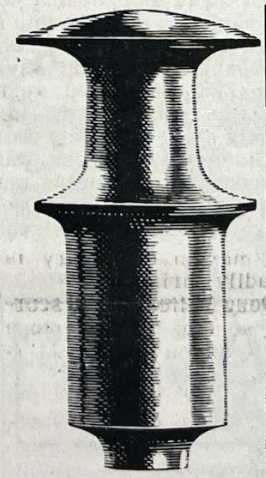
Olympics retained their three point bulge in Pee Wee "A" Division house league minor hockey by holding the surging Falcons to a 1-1 draw in action this week.

Olympics Fred McLeod and Falcons Philip Kowalski were unbeatable on all

Scott Davis picked up three points as Panthers took over sole possession of second place in the "B" Division via a 4-0 whitewashing of winless Totems. Danny Brown looked sharp in the Panther nets.

Davis rapped home two goals and assisted on an-

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Remaining Jr. Hockey Schedule

Following is the remainder of the Junior Hockey League schedule (home teams named last):

December

17—Vernon vs Kelowna
Kamloops vs Pen.

18—Vernon vs Kamloops

26—Ver. vs Pen. 2 p.m.
Kam. vs Kel. 2 p.m.

27—Kel. vs Ver. 2 p.m.
Pen. vs Kam. 2 p.m.

January

1—Pen. vs Ver. 2 p.m.
Kel. vs. Kam. 2 p.m.

2—Pen. vs Kel. 2 p.m.

5—Pen. vs Kamloops

7—Vernon vs Kelowna
Kamloops vs Pen.

8—Penticton vs Vernon
Kelowna vs Kamloops

14—Vernon vs Penticton
Kamloops vs Kelowna

15—Kelowna vs Vernon
Pen. vs Kamloops

21—Kamloops vs Vernon
Kelowna vs Penticton

22—Vernon vs Kamloops
Penticton vs Kelowna

28—Vernon vs Kelowna

29—Kamloops vs Vernon