

## ***SIX TEAMS IN INTERIOR***

# **Kelowna joins BCJHL**

The B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division will have six teams during the 1985-86 season.

At the league's annual meeting last weekend in Penticton, directors approved the relocation of Revelstoke Rangers to Abbotsford and granted a franchise to a Kelowna group.

The way was cleared for Kelowna to obtain the franchise when the Western Hockey League Kelowna Wings moved to Spokane, Wash. earlier this month.

League President Les Jeboult, who was re-elected, said Revelstoke's move will leave the Coastal Division with seven teams but Burnaby Bluehawks are up for sale, "and I doubt if they will operate."

Other teams in the

Coastal Division are Langley, Nanaimo, Richmond, and Sidney. As Revelstoke relocated to Abbotsford, Abbotsford Flyers will move to Delta.

Joining Kelowna in the Interior will be Vernon Lakers, Penticton Knights, Salmon Arm Totems, Summerland Buckaroos, and Merritt Warriors.

Lakers' President Carl Enemark said he was pleased with the proceedings at the meeting.

"Naturally I'm glad that there will be a team in Kelowna," he said. "And I think we made a couple decisions that will have positive results for the league."

Motions approved by the governors included continuation of the interlocking schedule with the two divisions and ex-

pansion of the championship series from a best-of-seven to a best-of-nine affair.

Enemark said, "I feel we have to keep the interlocking schedule to give the league credibility. If we don't play interlocking with the Coast, we might as well have two separate leagues."

"The longer championship series will help the two teams in the final. The only time we have an opportunity to make money is in the playoffs and the new format gives us the possibility of two more playoff games."

Salmon Arm and Merritt had been rumored to be in serious financial trouble. However, Enemark said it looks like both teams will operate next season.

"Salmon Arm has a

working agreement with Kamloops Blazers (of the Western Hockey League), so they should have a much better club," Enemark said. "Merritt

changed its name (from Centennials to Warriors), but other than that, they didn't give us any indication of changes or problems."

## **Lions, Argos record wins**

**By The Canadian Press**

Two games into the exhibition season, Toronto Argonauts and B.C. Lions are unbeaten. Yet, the training camp questions remain, for the most part, unanswered.

The Argos downed the Tiger-Cats 24-13 in Hamilton on Monday night while the Lions edged the Eskimos 17-16 in Edmonton.

It was Toronto's second encounter with Hamilton and the Argos now have outscored the anemic Ticats 48-19.

Toronto, looking for a proficient backup to starting quarterback Condredge Holloway now that veteran Joe Barnes has been traded to Calgary Stampeders, has been testing second-year Argos Ricky Turner

# Local players selected in draft



Dozens of Vernon minor hockey officials received a reward, of sorts, last Saturday.

It is gratifying for local officials to know their dedication helped four Vernon players sharpen their skills for junior hockey . . . and hopefully the National Hockey League.

Jeff Finley, Brent Gilchrist, Bruce Major, and Rudy Poeschek, all graduates of the Vernon minor system, were selected in the NHL's amateur draft last weekend, in Toronto.

Finley went to New York Islanders, Gilchrist was chosen by Montreal Canadiens, Bruce Major was selected by Quebec Nordiques, and New York Rangers picked Poeschek.

## A LONGSHOT

Poeschek, who was drafted 238th overall, must be considered a longshot to ever play in the NHL. However, the other three players were among the first 100 selected and have a legitimate chance to play pro hockey within two or three years.

Vernon had not had a prospect drafted by the NHL for more than a decade and this year our area contributed more players to the draft than any other city.

Finley, Major, and Gilchrist starred on the same minor hockey rep teams from pup to midget.

Major was a scoring star from the day he laced up his skates and grabbed a stick. He won numerous scoring titles and was sought after by several junior teams after his first season in midget, in 1983. He spent his rookie junior season with Vernon Lakers and attained all-star status in 1984-85 with Richmond Sockeyes, of the B.C. Junior Hockey league.

## BEST PEE WEE

Finley burst into prominence at the pee wee level

when he helped Vernon win the Winter Carnival Tournament and provincial championship. At the 1980 Carnival tourney, NHL Hall-of-Gamer Babe Pratt called Finley the 'best pee wee in B.C.'

Gilchrist was a rugged left winger, who spent his early hockey years in the shadow of Major, Finley, and hard-working Les Olsen. But in bantam, Gilchrist started attracting the attention of scouts. And by midget, when he had moved to centre, he was considered a top prospect.

He earned a regular spot with Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League, while still eligible for midget . . . at age 16. After a mediocre rookie season, Gilchrist emerged as a star during the 1984-85 campaign. He was chosen in the fourth round by Montreal, but was ranked as high as 16th overall by NHL Central Scouting before suffering a knee injury, in February, that sidelined him for more than a month.

Poeschek was captain of the Vernon team, which included Major, Gilchrist, and Finley, that placed second, behind North Shore Winter Club, in the 1979 Winter Carnival Tournament. However, the big defenceman was slightly older than the other three local draftees and had to move up to bantam in 1980 . . . and missed the championship season.

## IN KAMLOOPS

He started his junior career with Vernon and then moved on to Revelstoke, of the BCJHL. He spent the last two seasons with Kamloops Blazers, of the WHL.

Blazers won the WHL championship in 1984 and placed second, behind Prince Albert Raiders, this year.

It will probably be a long, long time before Vernon has four players drafted in the same year again, but for now, Vernon is number one!