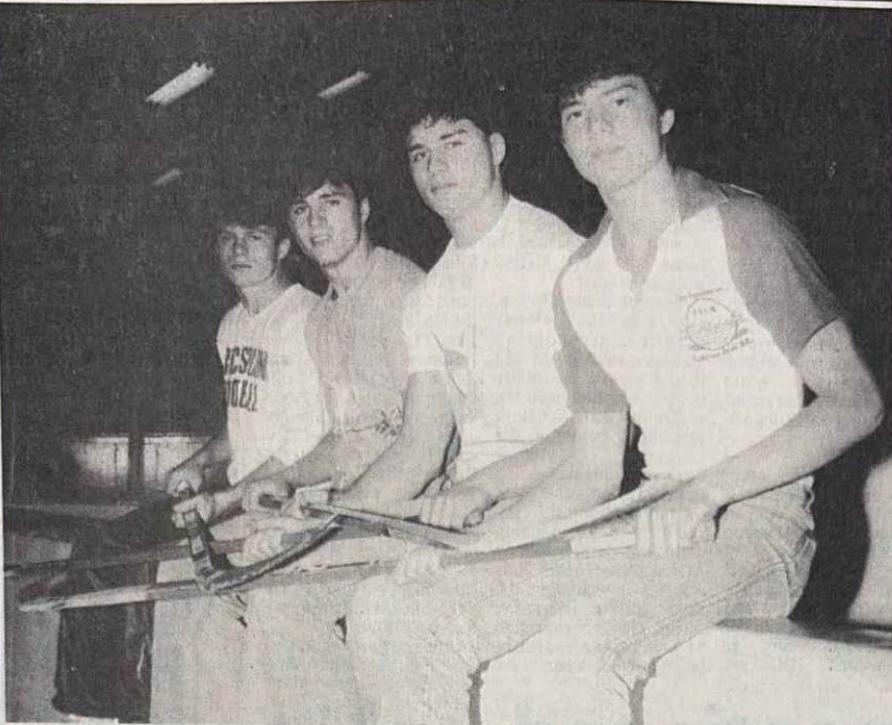




THESE FOUR brothers, the Pohl boys, want to play for the Vernon Lakers this season. It would be a dream come true for the boys, three

of whom were born within 40 minutes of each other. Shannon Pohl, seen here at far left, wants brothers Trevor, Troy and Terry to join him in a

Laker uniform this season. The problem is that Lakers don't own playing rights to the triplets.

(Daily News Photo)

VETERANS SIDELINED

Lakers meet Knights

Vernon Lakers' Head Coach Don Moores has an opportunity to find out how good his rookies are this weekend when his club meets Penticton Knights in a pair of B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition games.

Lakers have won a pair of pre-season decisions over Shuswap Blazers, but Penticton is the defending Western Canada Champion and will provide much tougher competition.

Vernon goes into the weekend series with five veterans sidelined and two others still at Western Hockey League camps. Murray Baron (flu), Greg Guest (torn muscles in shoulder), Shawn Lofroth (broken wrist), Chris Saunders (broken wrist), and

Al Young (broken finger) will miss the weekend twinbill. Jason Phillips (Brandon) and Daryl Weinberger (Calgary) are at WHL training camps.

"It will give me a good chance to see how our rookies stack up against the best in the league," Moores said. "It should be an interesting weekend."

Three players Moores would like to take a look at, the Pohl triplets, are in Vernon, but unable to play. Their rights were recently traded by Blazers, to Merritt, and no deal has been reached for their release.

The first game tonight is in Penticton with the rematch Saturday, in the Vernon Civic Arena. Face-off both evenings is at 8 p.m.

ASK AL

Triplets in limbo

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

It's a classic hockey dilemma.

Four brothers want to play for the same team, the team wants them but there is a rub. The team that owns the rights to three of them traded them away. The team that obtained the rights won't release the kids because the kids won't report to the new club. The league president doesn't want to get involved. Confused? So are the kids.

The players in question are the Pohl boys, Shannon, the eldest of the bunch at 20, and triplets Trevor, Troy and Terry, all of whom were born within 40 minutes of each other Oct. 14, 18 years ago.

A DREAM

Shannon, a third-year Vernon Lakers winger, says it's a dream for him to play on the same club as his brothers. Because this is Shannon's last year of junior hockey eligibility, he knows this is the last chance for that to happen. Trevor, Troy and Terry think it's a great idea too. That's why they're presently in Vernon. Watching.

Watching is all they can do at the moment because their playing rights are owned by the Salmon Arm Totems.

Totems head coach Alvin Backus says the rights are en route to Merritt Centennials.

The Cents got the Pohl boys in exchange for Kevin Cheveldave who wanted to play his last year of junior in his hometown, Salmon Arm.

WON'T GO

Now here's the rub. The Pohl boys don't want to go to Merritt. And Salmon Arm doesn't want them back. To hear the Pohl boys tell it, Merritt Coach Chuck Tapp says he can't wait much longer for them to report. If the Pohl brothers don't turn up in Merritt soon they say Tapp has told them he will trade them to Williams Lake.



Tapp was unavailable for comment.

Vernon Lakers spokesman Vern Dye when contacted by the Daily News, was understandably guarded in his choice of words. Something to do with possible tampering charges even though everything to this point has been above board in this connection.

B.C. Junior Hockey League president Les 'Bunny' Jubault would prefer the situation resolve itself. Jubault has, however, gone on record as saying he will guarantee the boys a place to play in the league if they are prepared to move. Jubault said the league just couldn't condone a situation where players were telling the league where they were going to play. He did say he will step in soon if that becomes necessary.

POKER HAND

What it all boils down to is a giant poker hand. Each player is holding his hand right until the bitter end. Salmon Arm appears to have the edge at the moment because they've already got the guy they wanted in Cheveldave and have indicated they don't want the Pohl boys back in any case. That leaves Vernon and Merritt.

Vernon appears to be in the driver's seat because they have the players in camp just itching to get on the ice. The Lakers probably won't part with a proven veteran which is likely what Merritt is hoping for. No, likely the Cents will probably have to settle for future considerations or a couple of rookies.

The reason Vernon probably won't part with any veterans is because they don't really know how good these triplets are. And nobody is going to trade a proven commodity for three unknowns.

Expect this situation to be resolved pronto. One way or the other. I think I detected a slight twinge of annoyance in Jubault's voice when he said he would be in Prince Rupert this weekend and he hoped the situation would be resolved by the time he got back.