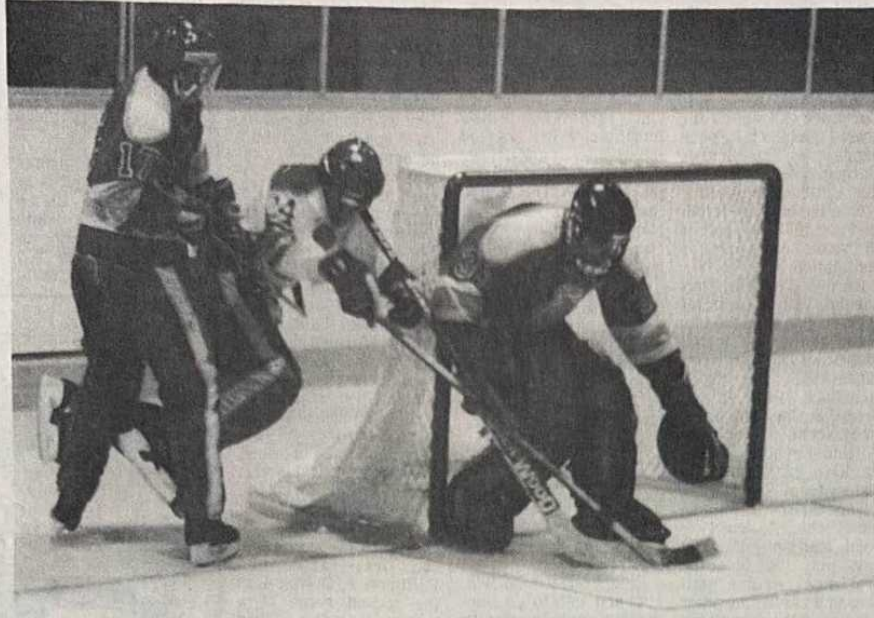




VERNON LAKERS' forward Troy Mick (24) got an unwelcome reception near Pentiction Knights' net Saturday night during an exhibition

matchup between the two clubs. Lakers battled Knights to a 2-2 tie in the first period and a 3-3 draw after two, but lost the game 8-5. Lakers

wrap up their exhibition season Tuesday night when they host Merritt Warriors at the Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)

Pentiction power-play deadly against Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
Pentiction Knights capitalized on five power-play opportunities to defeat Vernon Lakers 8-5 in BCJHL exhibition hockey action, Saturday night, at Vernon Civic Arena.

It was the second, consecutive night in which the Centennial Cup finalists posted decisions over Lakers, dropping the local club's exhibition season record to 2-2. Lakers host Merritt Warriors, Tuesday night, in their final exhibition encounter before the BCJHL regular season kicks off.

Knights broke open a

3-3 tie with three consecutive goals to open the third period, Saturday, and outscored Vernon 5-2 in the final frame to earn the decision before more than 200 fans in the local arena.

Despite the loss, Lakers' coaching staff was pleased with their teams performance and was able to spot key areas which they marked for improvement in the months to come.

"We played a lot better than we did in Pentiction," offered assistant coach Dave Caldwell. "We learned a lot about ourselves."

"We have to work on scoring more goals. They didn't outplay us, we just

couldn't buy any goals and we didn't capitalize on enough of our chances."

Lakers played both weekend encounters without five players who could make a major difference in close-scoring games like the one played Saturday. Included in the injury lineup are defenceman Chris Saunders and forwards Shawn Lofroth and Allan Young.

The club went with newcomer Terry Forsyth in goal, who performed admirably but was stung for a few bad goals.

"They got a couple of unlucky goals that hurt us," suggested Caldwell who joined Head Coach Don Moores behind the bench while Murray Batty, another assistant coach, watched the action from the broadcast booth.

Lakers jumped to a 2-0 lead early in the first period on goals by veterans Wes Gentles and Shannon Pohl, but Knights drew even before the period ended with goals by Brent Johnson and Cal Brown.

The teams traded goals in the second frame with newcomer Doug Spooner providing the marker for Vernon and Greg Cyr replying for Pentiction.

Cyr added his second for Pentiction in the third frame while sophomore John DePourque added two, Dan Holden and David Shields singles.

Stacey Hartnell and Dennis Holland replied for Lakers.

The game was inter-

rupted often by penalty infractions with the newly-implemented high stick ruling accounting for most of the stoppages in play as will likely be the case until teams learn to play within the new guideline set up by the CAHA.

Meanwhile, Lakers coaching staff decided against making any further cuts from their lineup until the whole club is healthy and a proper assessment of the team's needs can be made.

"We can't do much more now until we get all our players back," suggested Caldwell in reference to the five who are currently on the sidelines with a variety of minor injuries.

The team is currently carrying 27 players, including the five walking wounded.

Lakers open their regular season on the road with the first game in Kelowna, Friday, against the fledgling Packers, who have gone undefeated in exhibition play.

Kowal named Coach of Year

Ernie Kowal, of Vernon, was named the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association's Coach of the Year, Saturday night, in Prince Rupert.

Kowal was presented with the Ernie Gare Sr. Memorial Trophy at the BCAHA's annual meeting. He has coached and served in various Vernon minor hockey executive capacities, including president, for more than 15 years.

"Winning this award is a great thrill for me," Kowal said. "It was something special because Mrs. Gare presented the trophy to me and I knew her husband. Also, I coached in Vernon with their son (Ernie Jr.)."

Kowal and Ernie Jr. co-coached the Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Rep Team in 1983. The younger Gare is now head coach of the Western Hockey League.

Kowal, who has coached at every minor hockey



ERNIE KOWAL
... best in B.C.

Vernon Minor Hockey President Dan Oxnard said there is no one more deserving of the award than Kowal. "I think it is great that Ernie won," Oxnard said. "He has worked very hard, not only in hockey, but also in baseball and other sports."

Kowal holds a level IV Canadian Amateur Coaching Association certificate.

"The coaching programs have really helped me," Kowal said. "They taught me that there is more to coaching than what goes on during a practice, or game. When I look back a few years, I was a terrible coach. I think, and hope, I've improved a lot since then."

level, guided the Vernon Atom Reps to the Okanagan-Mainline championship in 1984-85. "But I don't feel I won the award because my team won the championship," he said. "I think they base the award on service to hockey, teaching ability, coaching ability, and sportsmanship."

WINS SEVEN

The late Walter Alston, who managed the Dodgers both in Brooklyn and Los Angeles, had the best managerial record in the All-Star Games, winning seven and losing two.



SPALLUMCHEEN CLUB CHAMP

Janie Szeszetalow, centre, accepts the Spallumcheen Ladies Golf Club Championship Trophy from club Captain Marion Sheare, right, after winning the title on the

weekend at Spallumcheen. At left is Marcia Giguere who won the low net portion of the 36-hole playoff.

(Daily News Photo)

Player dies after mishap

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. (CP) — An 18-year-old hockey player died early Sunday after his throat was slashed by a skate during a British Columbia Junior Hockey League exhibition game.

Jeff Butler "never had a chance" after the skate blade gashed his neck as far back as the spinal column Saturday night, said Murray Lawrence, general manager of the Abbotsford Falcons.

Two doctors and two nurses who were at the arena tended to Butler immediately, Lawrence said, then he was rushed to Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford district hospital where he died during surgery.

A hospital spokesman said the cause of death was a massive loss of blood.

Butler was from White Rock, south of Vancouver. He had joined the Falcons of the tier-two junior league last week on a tryout basis after playing at Bellingham, Wash., last season, Lawrence said.

A teammate was tripped during a scramble for the puck and tumbled with his feet in the air, and a skate caught Butler in the neck at 10:56 of the second period in the pre-season game between Abbotsford and the Sidney Capitals. The game was suspended.

It was the second throat-slashing in the BCJHL in less than a year. Henry Reimer of the Richmond Sockeyes survived a similar accident last season and returned to play.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Great triumph in Newfoundland

One of the greatest triumphs in Canadian sports history occurred last Saturday in St. John's, Nfld.

Canada's National Soccer Team upset Honduras 2-1 to advance to the World Cup next year in Mexico. On route to the World Cup, Canada defeated Jamaica (default), Haiti, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras.

How big an upset was Canada's victory? It was the equivalent of Honduras defeating Canada in

up to Guatemalan referee Romulo Mendez after the game and kicked him on the back of the leg. Mendez doubled over in pain and limped off the field surrounded by police.

On the other side of the coin, Canada suddenly loves its soccer team... a group of players who gambled the program would survive despite a shortfall of more than \$500,000 in the team's operating budget.

