

INTIMIDATION ELIMINATED

New rules discourage goons

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The hockey goon and his intimidation tactics may go the way of the Dodo Bird in junior hockey and pave the way for the re-emergence of the smaller, more elite player if a number of new rulings set forth by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association are applied in full principle this season.

According to Vernon's Tom Balfour, referee-in-chief of the BCJHL Interior Division, the much-needed rule changes will revolutionize junior hockey as we know it and will effectively eliminate the "clutch and grab" style that has been so dominant in junior hockey over the past several decades.

"It's going to revolutionize hockey as we know it," suggested Balfour, an official of the BCJHL for a number of years. "I'll put the Wayne Gretzkys and Mike Bossys back into the game... the game won't be dominated by big players and it should help to eliminate intimidation."

A newly renovated constitution of guidelines recently set forth by the CAHA changes the game.

Under the new guidelines, stickwork of any sort is no longer subject to interpretation by referees nor is a penalty left to his discretion. The guidelines are now in solid black and white in

the newly revised CAHA rule book and will soon be made available to fans and players in the various junior hockey leagues in the country.

The guidelines effectively define the penalty type infractions involving stickwork in four major areas... high sticking, slashing, cross-checking, and hooking.

"We (referees) have tended to let things go (over the years) and it's progressed until just about anything is acceptable," explained Balfour. "Now we're going to put an end to it."

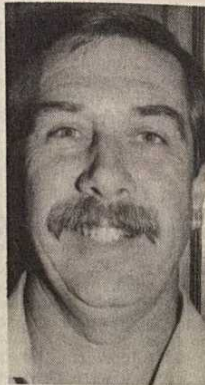
"It (new guidelines) will encourage clean checking. I've already seen some good old-fashioned body-checking going on."

Naturally a prominent area of injury and the major source of discussion centered around the involvement of high sticking. All high sticking has been removed from the game now according to the guidelines.

"A: Any contact with the high stick, accidental or not, shall be penalized."

B: Any player, in the process of checking an opponent, who raises his stick above the shoulders and does not make contact with the stick shall be penalized.

C: Any defending player raising his stick above the normal height of his shoulders in a manner intimidating to an oncoming opposing player



TOM BALFOUR
... revolutionize hockey

shall be penalized.

D: Where opposing players jostling for position anywhere on the ice surface raise their sticks above the normal height of the shoulders, they shall be penalized."

The last article in the clause concerning high sticking raised some area of doubt with Carl Enemark, general manager of Vernon Lakers, who wholeheartedly agrees with the new guidelines in principle in every other area.

Enemark feels it will leave goaltenders open to offensive players in the goal-crease area unless referees get back to penalizing players who stray into the goaltender's crease area.

"The goaltender in his crease has no protection

because the defenceman can't move the player in front of the net," explained Enemark. "We already had one goal on us as a result of this."

"If they (referees) don't call a penalty for a man in the crease then that will be the only falling down of the new rule."

However, Enemark, who has had talented teams brought to their knees through intimidation in past seasons, feels the rule changes are long overdue and looks forward to their implementation during the coming season.

"I definitely think it (new guidelines) will help hockey," he said. "It gives the smaller player a chance because it'll take away the intimidation of the stick... I think it's good for the league and it's good for hockey."

Meanwhile, another important area, concerning slashing, received a similar number of adjustments which will also eliminate the grey areas for junior hockey officials. Following are the new guidelines set forth by the CAHA regarding slashing:

"A: Any slashing action (regardless of degree) to the body of an opponent shall be penalized."

B: Any stick swung at an opponent who is out of reach shall result in a penalty."

C: Any swinging action with the stick where it is obvious that the player is



CARL ENEMARK
... "it helps hockey"

not playing the puck, shall result in a penalty."

D: Any chopping action on the shaft of an opponent's stick above the bottom hand shall result in a penalty."

Balfour used a number of examples to prove how the new guidelines in this area will help to improve the game and will eventually result in cleaner, faster hockey.

"The idea of say going up the ice (back-checking) hitting a guy (player) on the rear end will now result in a penalty," explained Balfour.

"Any chopping action above the lower hand... area on a stick will result in a penalty."

Though the area of cross-checking received similar clarification, there was still some room

left for interpretation in this category since there are times when cross-checking is an allowable element of defence.

A: Any chopping action (sharp punching action, sudden jarring or jolting forward action) with the shaft of the stick held between the hands shall result in a penalty."

Please Note: a defending player shall be allowed to place his stick on the puck carrier and ride him/her off.

The last area of treatment by the CAHA was hooking which has grown to become an integral part of the "clutch and grab" style of hockey played by many junior clubs. This particular action is responsible, more than any other, for slowing the game down and for taking the speed and maneuverability away from smooth-skating players.

Following are the rule changes for the area of hooking as set forward by the CAHA guidelines:

A: When the blade of the stick is hooked into the body (waist, hips, thighs, arm) of an opponent to retard his/her progress, a penalty shall be assessed."

B: Any tugging action, with the blade of the stick placed anywhere on the body of an opponent, in an effort to restrict his/her movement or slow him/her down, shall be penalized."

Naturally, hockey ex-

ecutives such as Enemark fear that the new rules won't be applied consistently throughout the league and against all teams fairly... an integral part of ensuring that they are properly manifested. However, according to Balfour, it will be his job to maintain this disciplined assessment in all rinks in the BCJHL and something which he will be personally striving to achieve.

"It'll be my job to stay on my guys (referees) so we get consistency in the penalty calling throughout the league," said Balfour.

"Everybody thinks very positively of the rule including players, coaches and referees alike."

Balfour also forewarned that in the beginning of the season it may appear as though the new rule changes are slowing the game down considerably since there will be a lot more minor penalties called. However, he stressed that as the teams learn to play within the guidelines of the new system, there will eventually be fewer penalties, fewer injuries to players, and the game will become faster-paced and more exciting and even quicker in ending.

"You could see games ending in an hour and 45 minutes or at least less than two hours," Balfour said.



SHARON WEITZEL
... a starter

Local player stars

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor
Vernon's Sharon Weitzel is spending a lot of time in the air these days... both at the volleyball net and in airplanes.

Weitzel is a member of the Canadian National Women's Volleyball Team, which is based in Regina. The VSS

Kelowna Packers host Vernon Lakers in the B.C. Junior Hockey League season opener tonight, at 8 p.m., at Kelowna Memorial Arena.

Packers boasted a record of three wins, no losses, and one tie in pre-season play while Lakers had three wins and a pair of defeats in five outings.

Vernon Coach Don Moores expects a wide-open, exciting game. "With the new rules adopted by the CAHA (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association), there won't be as much clutching and grabbing," he said. "The game should be a lot faster."

"I understand Packers have some speed and we have a good skating club."

Moores plans to start veteran Frank Romeo in goal tonight with Terry Forsyth as back-up. Lakers are two players over the roster limit so Mike Van Sickle and Tim Heighton will not dress

for tonight's contest.

Packers joined the BCJHL this year after Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League, moved to Spokane. And although the team is in its first season of operation, it has no shortage of experience. The Kelowna

line-up includes four players who performed in the WHL during the 1984-85 campaign and several others who have BCJHL experience.

Forwards Pat Mangold (Kamloops), Rick Viens (Saskatoon), and Ward Carlson (New Westminster), along with defenceman Mike Wegleitner (Kelowna) played in the WHL last season.

Lakers are on the road for five games before they play their home opener Oct. 3 against Kelowna.

18th game. Pete Rose collected three hits to go over the 100-hit mark for a record 23rd consecutive season, breaking a record he had shared with Ty Cobb and Carl Yastrzemski.

Astros 6 Dodgers 5
The Astros, victors in 20 of the last 23, won their ninth straight by getting out of a bases-loaded jam with one out in the ninth. Winner Bob Knepper, 15-10, left with the bases

filled. Pete Rose collected three hits to go over the 100-hit mark for a record 23rd consecutive season, breaking a record he had shared with Ty Cobb and Carl Yastrzemski.

It could have been two. But the Cardinals lost 6-3 Thursday night at Philadelphia while the Mets were beating



Lakers in Kelowna for season opener

Vernon Outdoors

Hiking Canoeing Cycling Orienteering

By BOB PLATT

To stand close to a glacier five kilometres wide, the moderate slope appearing only when the fog and clouds lifted for a while, was the experience the Blanket Mountain hikers had last Sunday. No wonder the clouds intervened, the altitude was all of 2600 metres.

THE FIRST HOURS

The foothills provided the party with a severe test in fortitude, brush impeded every step and it was sudden too. Warned in advance, people were prepared for the conditions and dressed accordingly. However, the elements had their way in the end and many were wet from thigh to toe.

The going was tough, after an hour of this bushwhacking on a new trail marked only by ribbons, they'd covered a mere two kilometres, but had climbed 300 metres. An alleviation of the pain came about when copious quantities of blueberries were encountered and handfuls were picked as people went along.

APPROACHING THE ALPINE

There was a gradual thinning of timber and undergrowth and then the pace increased; the meadows bore only heather as the alpine areas were reached.

The travail was worth it, on the plateau, nearly 2000 metres above sea level, it was a lunar landscape, rock formations and little soil, but when the atmosphere cleared, and it did at times, the surrounding mountains were revealed in all their majesty. Ahead lay Blanket, but snow covered the ground and it called for great determination to climb further, even if the slope was gradual. It proved to be 600 metres higher and the cold penetrated the innermost fibres of the being.

FOG DESTROYS THE MIND

At one stage groups of people were becoming spread out and hidden from each other. The leader was hard put to keep track of everyone and he succeeded by traipsing back and forth to rally his