

WIHL team to be located in Kelowna?

KELOWNA (Special)—A Vernon man is attempting to secure ice time so that he can operate a Western International Hockey League in Kelowna next season.

Gary Swanson, owner of the now-defunct Vernon Cougars of the North Okanagan Hockey League, is meeting with city officials today in hopes of acquiring a guarantee for ice from the city.

He was to meet with Mayor Dale Hammill and Henry Markgraf, director of public operations, this morning but Markgraf said it was unlikely any guarantees would be made at this time.

"As far as I'm concerned, I don't think we can squeeze two teams in again," Markgraf said, referring to the 1982-83 season when two junior clubs, the Buckaroos and Wings, shared Kelowna Memorial Arena.

"Right now council's policy is that the buildings are there for the minor

hockey players and figure skaters," Markgraf said.

But Hammill has expressed interest in having a senior team in Kelowna and recently asked council to hold off signing a three-year contract with Kelowna Packers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, for use of the arena.

Swanson said he applied for a WIHL franchise for Vernon this season, but was turned down by the league. He is optimistic, however, that his next application, if accompanied by a guarantee of ice time from the City of Kelowna, would be successful.

"If I can't get a letter from the city (Kelowna) then I'll look at Vernon," Swanson said. "But my first choice right now is to go to Kelowna. If you want to build a team to be competitive, you've got to be centrally located. There are four or five excellent players in Vernon and four or five more in Penticton, plus Kelowna has always had half a dozen excellent players."

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Pohl may miss several weeks

Vernon Lakers will know the status of veteran forward Shannon Pohl later today.

Pohl has been sidelined for the past week because of tiredness and the preliminary diagnosis was mononucleosis.

"Shannon had a doctor's appointment today and we'll know more after that," said Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye. And to compound his club's problem, Dye said there is a possibility that sophomore Greg Guest, who has also complained of fatigue, may also have mononucleosis.

Dye said, "By Thursday, we should know approximately how long both players will be out of the line-up."

Mononucleosis, often referred to as the Kissing Disease, can sideline players for a couple weeks, or up to several months, depending on the conditions.

Lakers return to the ice Friday night when they host Abbotsford Falcons. Meanwhile, Kelowna Packers moved into first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division with a 7-4 win over Shuswap Blazers, Tuesday night in Kelowna.

Packers now have 38 points, one more than Lakers. Penticton Knights occupy third place with 36 points.

In other games, Delta downed Nanaimo 8-5 on Vancouver Island and Richmond dumped Abbotsford 12-4.

Kelowna trailed 1-0 after the first period and tied Shuswap 2-2 after the middle frame before turning it on with five goals in the last 20 minutes.

"We were scared we were going to lose," said Naka, adding that during the first two periods the team "was standing around waiting for things to happen."

Kip Noble, Ward Carlson and Carey Fisher scored two apiece for the Packers.

Murray Yewchuk scored two goals for the Blazers, who are in the cellar with a 6-18 record.

FLYERS 8 CLIPPERS 5

Todd Decker scored two goals and added three assists to pace Delta's win over Nanaimo.

Delta now is in sole possession of second place in the Coastal Division at 12-11. Nanaimo is in third at 11-12.

Delta led 3-0 after the first period and moved ahead 5-1 after 40 minutes. Todd Jennings scored twice to lead the losers.

SOCKEYES 12 FALCONS 4

Abbotsford opened the scoring but Richmond Sockeyes bounced back with six consecutive first-period goals.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

The beard remains alive

And still the beard lives.

In fact, it's not only living, it's prospering very well while slowly obscuring my fine features with a shaggy appearance.

Vernon Lakers' unbeaten streak is now into its fourth week and correspondingly, so is the growth on my face which I vowed not to shave until the local junior club loses again. The idea was to bring them luck in the superstitious traditions that make the game of hockey the colorful sport it is.

However, I honestly didn't expect it would get beyond a couple of weeks. Withstanding the half dozen games Lakers have left to play before their Christmas break, this could carry on well into the new year.

But, as Lakers' Head Coach Don Moores suggested when I lamented to him that I would have to go at least another week without shaving when the club defeated Penticton Knights 3-2 Saturday night — "Gee, Jim, that's too bad."

Why should he care if I never see my face again anyway?

However, all kidding aside, beard or no beard, Lakers are playing some mighty fine hockey and have been rewarded for their efforts of late in the form of first place in the BCJHL Interior Division. That position will only be a temporary one, mind you, since both Kelowna Packers and Penticton Knights have a number of games in hand on Lakers. Packers have four while Knights have five in hand.

In the same light, though, those two clubs play each other twice during that space of games so they can do nothing but harm to one another as far as Vernon is concerned.

With the two goals scored against them Saturday night, the Vernon club has allowed just 13 goals against in the past five games... a positive reflection on their defensive game which had shown signs of instability prior to the current unbeaten string.

That string, by the way, now stands at nine wins and one tie in



by
Jim Judd

Daily News
Sports Writer

their last 10 outings.

This weekend the club will have to defend the streak twice more.

Friday night they entertain the Abbotsford Falcons of the Coastal Division. I don't expect to get any closer to my razor following this one. If Langley Eagles are the doormats of the Coastal Division then Abbotsford has to be the felt underlay beneath the doormat. In the 1985-86 BCJHL campaign to date Falcons have managed just two victories. They shouldn't for any reason assume Lakers are going to give up their streak to give them number two.

Sunday night it will be Kelowna's chance at beating the streak. Packers don't relish streaks of any sort these days, having had their winning streak ended at 12 last weekend at the hands of the Delta Flyers, who escaped from Kelowna Memorial Arena with two points and left Kelowna Coach Wayne Naka scratching his head in wonderment.

After that, should they escape with the streak intact, there are three games remaining prior to Christmas break. One at home against the pesky Merritt Warriors and then a pair of road games against Summerland Buckaroos. Bucks turned Lakers' win streak into an unbeaten streak earlier this month when they earned a 3-3 draw at the Civic Arena.

Whatever happens, however, it's been a tremendous effort by the team in achieving such an enviable string of points. When the streak does end, they'll have no reason to feel bad.

In the meantime I'll just keep combing my face.