

Hockey scouts attend junior games

You couldn't walk around Vernon Civic Arena on Sunday night without tripping over a hockey scout.

Scouts are easy to spot. If you don't recognize them as former National Hockey League players, you'll still be able to distinguish them from your average fans. They always dress stylishly, wear overcoats, sip coffee, and carry a rolled up program.

There were more than a dozen scouts in the arena Sunday to watch Kelowna Packers tangle with Vernon Lakers. In the past few years, the B.C. Junior Hockey League has emerged as a primary 'feeder' system for Western Hockey League and U.S. college teams. Also, National Hockey League teams are now paying a lot of attention to the BCJHL. Among the scouts on hand was Larry Popein, former player personnel director for Vancouver Canucks, who now scouts for Calgary Flames.

Grant Standbrook, assistant coach for the University of Wisconsin, shared some thoughts with us after watching the first two periods of Sunday's game.

Standbrook is very high on Vernon defenceman Shawn Lofroth, who missed the game due to a



by
Don Kendall

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Sports Editor

charleyhorse. It is probably a safe bet that Wisconsin will be flying Lofroth to its campus in the near future for a look around.

Other players who caught Standbrook's eye included Vernon netminder Daryl Dickens, Lakers' winger Stacey Hartnell, and Kelowna speedster Ward Carlson.

Carlson, who Standbrook called the best player on the ice, isn't eligible for a U.S. college scholarship because he played two seasons in the WHL.

Wisconsin is the school that recruited Vernon defenceman Ken McKenzie. And according to Standbrook, McKenzie is having an excellent sophomore season. "Ken doesn't get a lot of points, but he is a

good defenceman," he said. "He is very smart with the puck."

On the topic of another former BCJHL player, now performing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Standbrook said, "That kid is absolutely unstoppable. We beat his team (Minnesota-Duluth) a few weeks ago, but he scored three goals. I've never seen a wrist shot like he has. He is blessed with his dad's wrists and arm strength."

In case you haven't guessed who he was talking about, the player is former Penticton star Brett Hull.

Standbrook was also impressed with Vernon forward Dennis Holland, Sunday, but because he is only in grade 11, he isn't in the college's immediate plans. But, the fact that Holland has one more year in high school, isn't discouraging other U.S. universities from talking to him.

University of Michigan has phoned him and may be flying him down for a tour of the campus.

The contribution former BCJHL stars like McKenzie and Hull have made to NCAA teams have led college scouts to believe there is a wealth of hockey talent in the Okanagan. And they are right.

BCJHL

VANCOUVER (CP) —
Statistics released Monday by
the British Columbia Junior
Hockey League:

STANDINGS Coastal Division

Coastal Division			W	L	T	Pts
Richmond	21	3	0			42
Delta	13	11	0			26
Nanaimo	12	13	0			24
Sidney	7	16	0			14
Langley	4	23	0			8
Abbotsford	2	21	0			4
I n t e r i o r						

Division

Kelowna	21	5	0	42
Vernon	19	8	1	39
Penticton	19	4	0	38
Merritt	12	12	1	25
Summerland	9	11	2	20
Shuswap	7	19	0	14
S C O R I N G				
Coastal				

G A Pts

Lewis,	Nan	20	28	48
Jennings,	Nan	16	32	48
Austin,	Rich	26	21	47
Kujala,	Lan	18	29	47
Sloan,	Lan	18	28	46
Crossley,	Rich	23	21	44
Decker,	Del	16	28	44
Cayford,	Nan	15	29	44
Hardy,	Nan	19	18	37
Wermey,	Rich	16	21	37
I n t e r i o r				

Carlson,	Kel	35	34	69
Harrison,	Kel	28	34	62
Taillifer,	Shu	15	43	58
Shields,	Pen	22	33	55
Holland,	Ver	22	31	53
Stubbley,	Kel	25	25	50
Mangold,	Kel	17	31	48
Fisher,	Kel	10	38	48
Davidson,	Pen	14	32	46
Spooner,	Ver	22	21	43
G O A L T E N D I N G				
Coastal				

Min Ga Ave

Woodley,	Rich	731	33	2.54
King,	Rich	689	42	3.65
Palmer,	Del	392	27	4.13
Fry,	Sid	703	54	4.60
Dickson,	Del	648	51	4.72
I n t e r i o r				
Sharples,	Pen	609	35	3.44
Colvin,	Kel	402	24	3.58
Loewen,	Pen	574	36	3.76
Romeo,	Kel	738	53	4.30
Dickins,	Ver	1159	89	4.60