

TEAM FINED...**... COACH SUSPENDED**

BCAHA comes down on Knights



FIREFIGHTERS BONSPIEL

Vernon hosted the annual Firefighters' Bonspiel last weekend. Winner of the 'A' event was the Nick Shaigec rink of Vernon, above. From left are: lead John Poroznuk, second Phil Bodnarchuk, third Hal Reich, and Shaigec. Kelowna's Gib Loseth foursome, below, won the B event. From left: lead Dick Auty,

second Richard Wudrich, third Ray Nicholls, and Loseth. A Lumby rink, bottom photo, captured the C event. From left: lead George Desjarlais, second Larry Wejr, third Dewey Thompson, and skip George McIntosh. (Daily News Photo)

B.C. Amateur Hockey Association came down hard on Rick Kozuback and Pen-ticton Knights of the B.C. Junior Hockey League earlier this week, imposing a stiff fine and heavy suspension on the team and coach.

However, the action by the BCAHA, in response to the use of illegal players earlier this season by Knights, may only be the tip of the iceberg in the matter which now must go before a special hearing of the BCJHL Sunday in Princeton. Further action against Kozuback and the Knights is pending that hearing.

Kozuback, who coached Knights to the Centennial Cup final last season, has been suspended for 10 games and the team fined \$1,000 for using forward Bill Thomas in defiance of a Canadian Amateur Hockey Association directive.

Under the terms of the suspension, Kozuback is to have no contact with the team during games or practices. Assistant coach Nick Iannone is expected to run the team in Kozuback's absence.

Knights' executive doesn't appear to be too concerned with the action by the BCAHA

although there is some question remaining in their minds as to the extent of the punishment pending by the BCJHL.

"Basically it will be business as usual but without Rick (Kozuback) on the bench," said Knights Public Relations director Ron Taylor. "But is this the end of it?"

Kozuback's suspension begins immediately and will see him sit out the club's remaining five games this month and five more in the new year. That will include a three-game swing through the BCJHL Coastal Division.

Meanwhile, the BCJHL, which was waiting for the BCAHA's ruling on the matter before deciding it's own punishment, has now scheduled a hearing on the matter for Sunday in Princeton at which time it will impose perhaps further suspensions and/or rescind points accumulated by Knights while they were playing with suspended players. According to reliable reports, Knights could lose anywhere from 15 to 20 points which would drop them from their current position, third in the Interior Division, to fifth place.