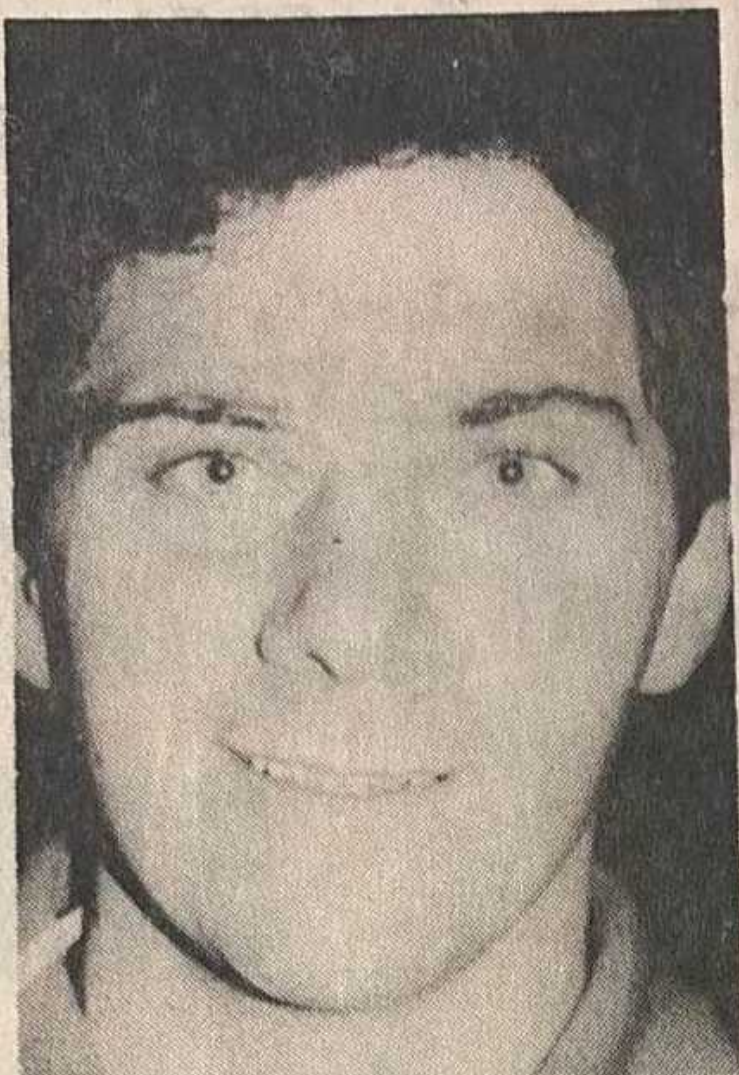




CARL ENEMARK



DON MOORES

Lakers axe coach for 'good of the team'

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Sparked by inconsistent play in the past two months and following on the heels of a current three-game losing streak, Vernon Lakers' President Carl Enemark put the axe to Head Coach Don Moores early Sunday in a move he (Enemark) feels is for the betterment of the team.

Lakers, currently holding down third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division, are sporting a record of 25-16-3 but since Dec. 1 have only managed a 6-8-2 record.

"If you look at the overall concept of the way we've been playing we just haven't been doing well enough since Christmas," explained Enemark who has owned the local junior A club for the past three seasons. "I felt the team had to have a shake-up. We're doing it for the good of the team because we've got a lot of talent."

Enemark felt that since Moores, a native of Kamloops, had such a great distance to travel between centres, it detracted from his ability to coach and to keep his finger on the pulse of the team.

"The biggest hardship he (Moores) had was having to travel from Kamloops," suggested Enemark. "He had to go back and forth as many as five times each week."

Moores, meanwhile, felt the decision was unjustified and somewhat unfair.

"I don't think it was justified," he said. "We (Lakers) have had our problems but our team was really coming together. It was a decision he (Enemark) felt he had to make and I can't agree with it."

Moores didn't feel, as some might, that it is too late in the season to find a suitable replacement since he has confidence in the talent on the club.

"I have a lot of respect for my players and I really want to see them win," he said. "If they work and play hard they can go a long way."

The players, however, had a collective opinion of their own and immediately after the shock wave of the news had passed there was some dissention among their ranks. According to Enemark, a series of meetings and phone calls among the players themselves prevented a threatened player walkout.

"We had a pretty good vote of confidence last night (Sunday) and they're ready to continue," Enemark said. "I still have to talk to them individually to know if they'll be staying."

Some of the players were vocal about their displeasure with the decision, including veteran Shannon Pohl who has been with the club on and off for the past three seasons.

"I don't feel a new coach at this point will help us," he said. "Don (Moores) knew his stuff and it's not fair to him."

However, Pohl, one of three brothers who plays with the local club, expressed his desire to remain with the team since a lot of the players have personal, as well as team, goals to achieve.

Enemark indicated that he had a replacement in mind, however, he, refused to name that person. There is some speculation that Enemark's son, Mike, who is presently working with the Midget A rep team, will be asked to step in as assistant coach while present assistant coach Dave Caldow may get the nod as head coach.

The younger Enemark served as head coach of the club during the 1983-84 season and for 21 games into the 1984-85 campaign. He was replaced by Moores in early November of 1984, leaving the Kamloops coach with a 10-10-1 record to work with.

Regardless of whether Mike is named in the matter, at least one member of the Enemark family will have a hand in team affairs after this point.

"No matter what happens, Carl Enemark will be involved more closely with the team in matters of discipline etc.," said the Lakers' president.

Lakers drop three games during horrendous weekend

Despite excellent efforts from their specialty teams, Vernon Lakers dropped their third game in as many nights, Saturday, as visiting Richmond Sockeyes earned a 5-4 victory.

The loss leaves Lakers with a record of 26-16-2 and third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division. Sockeyes kept their hold on first place in the Coastal Division with the victory.

Lakers fell behind 2-0 in the early going and never got closer than a goal. The contest was held up for a lengthy time at the midway point of the first period when a line brawl erupted and four players from each club were ejected at its conclusion. Lakers lost defencemen Murray Baron and Shawn Hartnell, along with forwards Al Young and Greg Guest.

Stacy Hartnell, who turned in his strongest performance of the season in a losing cause, put the local club on the board at 13:07. However, Sockeyes restored their two goal lead less than a minute after Hartnell's goal and ended the period with a 3-1 lead.

Through most of the second stanza, Lakers were forced to kill penalties but stopped Sockeyes' power-play on five consecutive occasions. At 12:26, on their first man-advantage situation, Lakers closed to within a goal again when centre Mark McLeary scored on a situation set up by Hartnell and Wes Gentles.

Gentles also turned in one of his strongest performances, checking his opposition into the ice. The speedy

winger, who doubles on defence, also set up a pair of goals.

Richmond again restored its two-goal lead when Dan Baker took advantage of a defensive lapse to pop in a rebound from the side of the net.

Lakers outplayed their much larger rivals during the third period, but a goal by Ron Popoff prevented overtime.

Doug Spooner scored to make the score 4-3 when Hartnell and Campbell Blair set him up on the power-play. Trevor Pohl also tallied on the man-advantage attack with Gentles and McLeary drawing assists.

Despite pulling goaltender Scott King, who made 20 saves off Sockeyes during the night, Lakers couldn't net the equalizer in the dying seconds.

Richmond's Ray Woodley turned in

an admirable performance, kicking out 38 of 43 shots directed his way by the Vernon juniors.

Lakers are in action again Tuesday night when they travel to Penticton to take on division-leading Knights. The game begins a series of four games, all on the road, and all within their own division for Lakers.

In BCJHL action Sunday night, Kelowna's Kevin Taillefer scored at 2:30 of sudden-death overtime to lift Packers to a 6-5 decision over Merritt Warriors. In other games Richmond hammered Shuswap Totems 10-4, and Delta Flyers edged Sidney Capitals 5-4.

In other action Saturday night, Delta defeated Summerland Buckaroos 7-5, Langley Eagles edged Abbotsford Falcons 4-2, and Penticton stoned Totems 11-3.

King scores 36 to spark High Flyers

Steve King scored 36 points to lead High Flyers to an 85-71 win over Okanagan College Lakers in Karling O'Keefe Basketball League action, Thursday night, at Vernon Secondary School.

King, who was among the top high school guards in the Okanagan during his two seasons with Vernon Panthers, sunk three, three-pointers to pad his total.

Lorne Hanson added 18 points for

with 18 points while Mark Beaupre added 14.

Centre Clint Kanester was the offensive star for Spallumcheen with 22 points.

Sun Valley never trailed after taking an 11-4 lead in the opening minutes. Golden Crown managed to stay within 10 points throughout the game, but could never catch their foes.

Bill Howard, with 21 points, and Bill Haworth with 18, were the leading