

Tough start for Enemark

Mike Enemark couldn't have picked a worse time and place to return as head coach of Vernon Lakers.

Penticton Knights recorded their 50th consecutive home ice victory with a 9-4 decision over Lakers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Tuesday night.

Enemark was named head coach Monday night after Lakers' President Carl Enemark (his father) fired Don Moores.

The win gives Penticton 78 points, 10 more than second-place Kelowna Packers in the Interior Division. Vernon occupies third spot with 53 points.

"The difference in the game was they capitalized on their chances and we didn't," the younger Enemark said. "Every time Penticton had a scoring opportunity, they put the puck in the net. We should have scored at least six or seven goals."

Dave Shields scored three goals to lead the Knights while Greg Cyr, Marc Rousseau, Bill Thomas, Rod Summers, Cal Brown, and Chris Anderson added singles.

Mark McLeary scored two goals for Vernon while Campbell Blair and Greg Guest notched one apiece.

Knights' goaltender Warren Sharples made 38 saves while Vernon netminders Daryl Dickens and Scott King combined to block 31 shots. Dickens was pulled after Knights opened a 4-1 lead.

"You can't really fault our goaltenders," Enemark said. "We fell behind 1-0 early in the game and some of the guys started panicking. We gave away the puck a few times, they got a couple breakaways, and next thing we know, we're behind three goals."

Lakers were without Shannon Pohl (back injury) and Steve Humphrey (sick). Enemark also lost the services of Trevor and Troy Poh., who were ejected early in the second period for fighting.

Vernon is idle until Saturday night when it visits Summerland. On Sunday, Lakers visit Salmon Arm Totems.

In other games Tuesday, a late goal by Grant McDonald lifted Nanaimo

Clippers to a 5-4 win over Sidney Capitals and Delta Flyers beat Richmond Sockeyes 6-2.

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In Nanaimo, the Clippers, third in the Coastal division, entered the final period trailing 4-3, but Bill Hardy tied it at 8:57 with his second goal of the night. McDonald took a pass at the left boards and scored from close in at 14:39.

Maroons favored at Seaton

Fulton maroons are favored to win the Seaton Sonics Carnival Classic Senior Boys' 'A' Basketball Tournament this weekend at W.L. Seaton Secondary School.

A total of 12 teams, from throughout the province, are entered in the three-day tourney.

Maroons are currently ranked third in B.C. and are undefeated in league play this season. Their toughest competition could come from Sentinel, of North Vancouver. Sentinel, which features a 6'8" centre, upset Oliver Hornets in the opening round of the B.C. championships last season and is currently ranked eighth in the province.

Play gets under way at 11:45 a.m. with Kelowna meeting Merritt. Other opening round games include Revelstoke battling Lumby at 1:30 p.m., Vernon taking on Barriere at 3:15 p.m., Seaton hosting St. Annes at 5 p.m., Fulton tangling with Armstrong at 6:45 p.m., and Sentinel playing Lillooet at 8:30 p.m.

Play continues all day Friday and Saturday with the consolation final at 6:45 p.m. and the championship game at 8:30 p.m.

Strength and unity needed

The annual crisis which seems to be an ingrained characteristic of Vernon Lakers has finally come and gone this season.

It's a relief of those of us who knew it was coming, but just didn't know exactly when it would happen nor of what magnitude it would be.

Since their inception five seasons ago, Lakers have staged an annual fiasco of some sort. In the past three seasons, the event has been a sudden change in the coaching staff. This is the fourth in the past three years.

By some standards this is but a drop in the bucket. By junior hockey standards, it's somewhat removed from the norm.

But no matter. It's over and done with for at least another season and with only minimal harm done on the surface.

The reasons for this year's change in coaching, according to club President Carl Enemark, were in the best interest of the team. Enemark felt there just wasn't the right chemistry happening on the ice and to a certain extent he was right. Whether the implementation of Mike Enemark will help to re-adjust that chemistry into the right proportion is another fact that remains to be seen.

From Carl's point of view, he shells out the dollars that make the club operate and therefore any, and all, decisions in such matters belong to him. He is right and everyone concerned should respect this position.

The trouble is, with this season's crop of players, things aren't as quick to come into focus. Though there is a lot of talent on the club, there isn't a lot of maturity either on the ice or off it. This has been evident by their lack of consistency during the season and also their lack of leadership both on and off the ice.

After the initial shock wave of Sunday's axe falling on Don Moore's head, most of the team were left somewhat bewildered as to their next move. Naturally a good portion of them felt a kindredship with Moores having been under him for the past two seasons. Some even voiced an immediate plan to quit the team in protest.

This latter move would have been a severe mistake on their behalf and hopefully those who still feel this way will come to realize it in a short while.

Though Moores voiced some displeasure at being gassed by Lakers Sunday, he did have the



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presence of mind to suggest those players who swore their allegiance to him, that they shouldn't quit the team on his behalf.

Even if Carl Enemark didn't agree with Moore's coaching tactics and his success record, he certainly can't argue with the respect Moores garnered from his charges and for this he can be grateful, at least.

With Moores' support and some advice from a few others, the majority of the players now realize that to quit in view of the current situation would only make martyrs of them. If they learn nothing else in junior hockey in the next couple of years, they must learn that coaches

are the most expendable part of any team. If they choose to make each firing of a coach their personal cross to bear, then they'll never last in the game.

Instead, they have to draw some strength from the situation, using the experience to make the club stronger as a whole rather than weaker.

By now there are a few among them who realize that they weren't putting out enough effort on a consistent basis to make Moores' coaching tactics work on ice. Perhaps if they had given more effort at all times there would never have been a need for what has transpired.

Hopefully, if they really cared for their former coach at all, they'll put out the tremendous team effort it's going to take to make this a winning season instead of a disaster.

If, as most of them suggest, Moores has laid all the groundwork for the team, then it's their responsibility to put what they've learned to good use. Otherwise, Moores' entire stint with Lakers was nothing more than a waste of time and money ... both his and Carl Enemark's.

Certainly there are some players

on the club who aren't going anywhere and there are others who have already achieved what they set out to obtain (vis-a-vis college scholarships). It's the lackluster attitudes of late, of these players that has contributed significantly to the recent incident. It's these players who must now realize they have a debt to pay to their team-mates still struggling for recognition.

They also have a debt to pay to Moores — to make amends for the frustration they caused him with their indifference to the game. They must show him, in his absence, that he had reason to have confidence in their ability.

Also, they have a debt to pay to the club for allowing them an opportunity to develop themselves in the sport and to have obtained their scholarship if that be the case.

There's also a debt to pay to the hundreds of fans who have supported the club through the thick and thin of the past season.

Don Moores doesn't want to know that his team was a bunch of quitters.

And if lakers won't do it for anyone else, they should do it for Moores.

This is a time to be strong Lakers.