

Lowe Worried At Lack Of Response By City Boys

Vernon Juniors' coach Odie Lowe is happy at practice turn-outs, but still believes there are a number of players, particularly in the city, who can help the club in its first Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season slated to open October 31.

Lowe said the rural response to an appeal for players had been wonderful. At Tuesday night's session, five were present from Salmon Arm, four from Falkland and two apiece from Armstrong and Lumby.

"It's the local apathy that has me worried," Lowe told The Vernon News.

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT

Biggest disappointment so far has been the unsuccessful attempt to lure defenceman Warren Henry into training camp.

Henry was an outstanding member of last year's All Star junior squad which contested the western Memorial Cup play-offs against Trail's junior Smoke Eaters, and was given a bright hockey future by the experts he came in contact with.

Now schooling has achieved primary importance in young Henry's eyes, something he cannot be blamed for taking seriously.

Saturday

February with the exception of the Grandview players who will be turning out for their own club.

Lumby's Ray Ostrass will fill in between the pipes, and the defensive chores will be handled by Normie Ogasawara, Dick Ramsey, Ken Watt and Ron Catt. Forwards are Ray Anchikoski, Merv Humphries, Pete Baron, Jim Moore, Joe Ostrass, Dale Erichuk, Adam Gregory, Dennis Culling, and Nick Jost.

Game time is set for 8:30 p.m., with NOHL president Garth Tubman dropping the first puck to get the new season underway.

Sunday night sees the regular schedule commence with Lumby going against Armstrong and Grindrod meeting Head of the Lake.

"Our practices so far have been up and down attendance-wise," revealed Lowe. "Response to mid-week sessions



ODIE LOWE

. . . worried again

has been good, but I would like to see more players out to our Sunday morning exercises."

"I can't understand some kids. Last year they were complaining about not enough ice time, now when we get it, they stay away."

MORE QUANTITY

Judging by Tuesday's turnout, which totalled 27 hopefuls, Vernon's junior club will perhaps have more quantity than quality, but that, according to Lowe, is the main object of the junior promoters, at least for this year.

"We have quite a few juveniles turning out regularly, but next season they'll be juniors with a year's junior experience under their belts," Lowe claimed.

Season tickets are going slowly. Manager Howie Sugden plans to launch a blitz within the next week, but in the meantime they can be had from Lowe, Sugden or Bill Brown.