

Locals encouraged

Junior hockey starts in earnest here Friday

Hockey fever is becoming more evident in the Vernon Junior Essos camp these days as the roster of 20 young players continues introductory workouts on both the gym floor and stretch their muscles with some free skating exercises at the Kelowna Arena.

Action will really get underway when the team moves into Vernon Civic Arena tomorrow night and coach Odie Lowe begins to put them through their paces.

The Essos have been travelling to Kelowna all this week to take advantage of the ice put in there to accommodate the professional training camp of the Salt Lake City Eagles, newest entry into the Western Hockey League.

These same Eagles, over 40 strong, will take up training here in Vernon starting next week after a

weekend exhibition swing to Victoria.

Official opening of the Esso training camp Friday night means that at least eight local boys will have first chance to wear the Vernon uniform this winter.

So far, showing keen interest in making the team are Bob Mayer, Wayne Dye, Rick Munk and Jim Inglis, all back from last year, while moving up from minor ranks will be brothers Willy and Wally Bevan, Dave Ogasawara and Lane Marchand with two or three more possibly turning out.

We've got an almost complete rebuilding job ahead of us this season, losing both last year's goalies, Jack Gilroy and Allan Alexander, plus having only one returning defenceman and up front our hopes lay in the return of Wayne Dye, Lawrence Quechuk and Don Manson," said coach Lowe.

Manager Vern Dye is also optimistic of the upcoming season. "We are going to take a close look

at the local boys and give all of them a real good chance to make the team.

"It is only natural to give

preference to boys graduating from the Vernon Minor Hockey Association. All we ask of any of them is that they have enough desire to play hockey and we will do the rest," said Dye.

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