

JOE TENNANT

Vikings name new coach after ownership shuffle

Joe Tennant has been named coach and manager of the Vernon Vikings Junior A Hockey Club.

In addition to those duties, Tennant is also one of the club's six owners under a new set-up announced at a press conference Wednesday.

Four of the eight Vernon businessmen who previously owned the club, have remained as owner-directors along with Tennant and one new local owner, Pete Pasechnik.

The four who will remain with the team are Ernie Kowal, Les York, Vern Dye, and Nick Schuck.

Dye, who last season coached and managed the

club, told the Daily News he will definitely remain in an active capacity with the team but his actual job has not yet been announced.

FROM KAMLOOPS

Tennant was the often controversial coach of the Kamloops Chiefs, of the Western Canada Hockey League, last season.

He is known throughout Western Canada as a shrewd hockey man and will devote his efforts year-round to the Vikings.

Tennant started his executive hockey career in 1958 as a scout for Boston Bruins. He was closely involved for several years with the Estevan Bruins and later

the Calgary Centennials, of the WCHL.

For the past eight years, he has been running development camps with Calgary owner Scotty Munro.

Tennant said, "I had to leave Kamloops because there was an intolerable working agreement with one of the owners there.

"I did not get kicked out of the WCHL, I could have accepted a job with the Edmonton Oil Kings. But, I feel there is a lot of potential in Vernon and in possibly four of five years, I could see the WCHL coming to Vernon and giving this area Tier One Junior Hockey."

SEVERAL RETURNEES

Tennant will have a fairly good nucleus to work with this year as 12 to 15 of last year's

Vikings are expected back.

He said, "We will be the number one farm team for Medicine Hat Tigers and we plan on putting the best possible team on the ice. That means that no player can come to training camp and have a spot on the club guaranteed."

Tennant told the Daily News he plans on running a rookie camp prior to the regular training camp to give all local players a good shot at making the club.

He said, "I have developed a lot of players for a lot of people and I have wanted to become a manager or part-owner so I could develop players for myself."

The Vikings will be opening an office in Vernon in the near future.

Derby winner enters