

Sports

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Vikings kickoff season Thursday

Several top professional hockey players are expected to be in Vernon Thursday when Vernon Vikings officially kickoff their 1974 season.

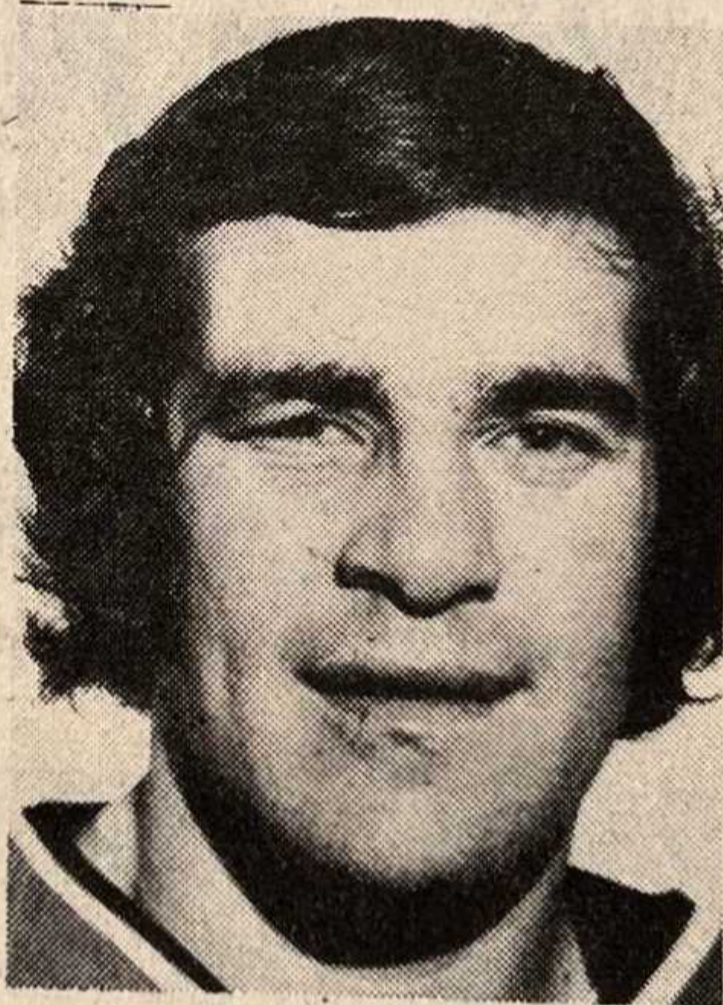
Vikings' General Manager and Coach Joe Tennant said the club will be holding a press reception Thursday at Smitty's Pancake House at which time the season ticket drive and program sales campaign will officially get under way.

Tennant said among the top players he expects at the reception is Philadelphia Flyers' defenceman Joe Watson.

Bob Nystrom, a 20-goal scorer with the New York Islanders has also been invited by Tennant and is expected to be there.

The Vikings' new coach said there will probably be a couple surprise players on hand too.

Vernon's Tom Serviss, who played last season with the Los Angeles Sharks in the WHA, and this year will be



JOE WATSON
... in Vernon

with the Michigan Stags, will be on hand as will another Vernon product, Eddie Johnstone.

Johnstone played last season with Medicine Hat Tigers in the Western Canada Hockey League and has been drafted by the NHL's New York Rangers and the WHA's Stags.