

Tough luck little guys



Junior hockey training camps do not open for about another four weeks but Vernon Vikings already have a LARGE number of players lined up for the upcoming season.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant, along with just about every other junior and professional coach in hockey, is going for size.

Philadelphia Flyers and Boston Bruins have proved that a good big man will beat a good little man at any time.

Vancouver Canucks drafted a winger from the Ontario Junior A Hockey League, who scored only a handful of goals and moves like he has two left skates. But, he's big.

Vikings have acquired a lot of big, young hockey players, just what Tennant was after.

If these kids are half as good as their credentials say they are, Vernon is going to have a much improved hockey team this year.

Tennant announced Wednesday seven kids from Alberta and northern B.C. will be attending the Viking camp. Of those seven, the oldest is 17, and only one of them is under six feet.

That is the way Tennant has been going after players this year and he already has at least one big player coming to camp from the Northwest Territories.

He has made no secret of the fact that he wants a young team, and a big team. And, he appears to be building that. What's even more important, he seems to be building a winning team.

TICKETS GOING WELL

While on the subject of hockey, there probably won't be too many nights this winter when the arena is almost empty when the Vikings play.

Tennant is heading up a season ticket blitz which is going better than even he had hoped.

About 150 season tickets have been sold already and Joe tells us that more orders are coming in daily.

FIRST PREDICTION

Few sports writers, if any, have yet voiced their opinion on how many games Team Canada is going to win against Russia this September.

On paper, the team coach Billy Harris picked looks fairly impressive. He picked a lot of hockey players with an abundance of pride and desire.

Guys like Johnny McKenzie, Jim Harrison, Rejean Houle, and Brad Selwood, aren't Orr or Esposito, but you can be sure they will give 100 per cent all the time.

If Team Canada is in as good physical condition as Harris says they will be, I think our club could win five or maybe six games.

But, if Canada isn't ready, they'll wish they were in the Siberian Salt Mines.