

Hockey hopefuls leave this week

Vernon Vikings coach Joe Tenant leaves for Medicine Hat on Wednesday where he will take a look at about 120 prospective junior A hockey players at the Medicine Hat Tigers training camp.

Players who don't stick with the Tigers will be assigned to either Vernon or Drumheller, Medicine Hat's two tier two affiliated, or just sent home.

Only two players who were on the Vikings' roster last season won't be trying to make the Tigers this year. Greg Walmsley is attending university in Ontario while Marty Stein is at U.B.C.

Besides 18 players from last year's club, Tenant will be taking two local players with him to Alberta.

Bruce Green, who played junior A in the Alberta tier two league last season, and Bob Johnstone, who played for

Vernon Midget Reps two years ago but was suspended last year, will be going to the Hat with Tenant.

Johnstone is given a good chance of making either the Tigers or Vikings because there is a shortage of good defencemen in the system.

Of the players from last year's Vernon team, at least three or four should stick with Medicine Hat.

Ron Areshnekoff, Darrell Billstein, Jim Scammel, Gary Gilchrist, and Owen Lloyd are all highly regarded by Tigers' coach Jack Shupe.

Tenant will be returning to Vernon about Sept. 19, with 30 to 40 players from Medicine Hat's camp. In addition to running the regular Vikings' camp here, he will also be holding a two-day rookie camp, for local players, when he returns.