

Vikings' coach pleased with prospects at camp

MEDICINE HAT (Staff) — "We're going to have one helluva hockey team in Vernon this year," said Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant this morning.

Tennant told the Daily News this is probably the best junior hockey training camp he's ever been at.

The Vernon coach said, "A lot of the guys who made our club last season are going to have to fight for jobs this year. I can't believe how many good players we have here."

GAME TUESDAY

Since the camp opened Friday, it has been reduced from 130 players to 75. Vikings are scheduled to play Medicine Hat Tigers in an intra-squad game Tuesday night, and Vernon will then

head home on either Wednesday or Thursday.

At least four, and possibly more, of last year's Vikings will be wearing Tiger uniforms this year.

Goalie Jim Scammel, defenceman Owen Lloyd, and forwards Gary Gilchrist and Ron Areshnekoff have had excellent camps. Centre Darrel Billsten may also stick.

Tennant said there are countless great, young prospects. So many, in fact, that incumbent Vikings' defenceman Harvey Teske has already been released.

As of today, Darrell Furmanek looks like he will be back in Vernon as the starting goalie.

On defence, veterans Terry Anaka, Brian Griese and

Peter Poeschek all look good along with rookies Dean Pratico and Bob Putnam. Vernon native Bob Johnstone got off to a slow start but is improving every day.

STRONG CENTRES

Up front, centre position appears to be the strongest with Gary Huth, from Chilliwack, incumbent Brad Schultz, Darrell Billsten (if he doesn't make the Tigers), and rookies Rick Simpson and Don Wilkinson.

The left wing position is wide open with Brent Bucyk and Kevin Delmas among the most impressive. On the right side, veteran Grant Sidnick along with Robert Patrick and Robbie Jacobson, will probably be wearing Vikings' uniforms.



JIM SCAMMEL
... should stick