

New system looks good



You have to see it to believe it!

Just back from Medicine Hat, Alta., where nothing is more important than hockey.

Medicine Hat Tigers total drawing area is about 40,000 people and last year the team averaged 3,900 fans per game in its beautiful 4,200 seat arena.

Already this season, more than 2,400 season tickets have been sold and before the schedule starts, that figure could reach 2,600.

Tigers and Vernon Vikings appear to have worked out an excellent working agreement. Naturally Medicine Hat gets first choice at the players, but Vikings get everyone the Tigers reject.

According to the way the development system is planned, Vernon will keep a few 19 and 20 year olds to settle down the 17 and 18 year olds destined for Medicine Hat.

Grand Forks, Vikings' farm team, gets the choice of the 15 and 16 year olds, scheduled to move up to Vernon next year. Grand Forks will also keep a few older players for leadership.

It has been several years coming, but the agreement now seems to be worked out to the satisfaction of everyone and should ensure Medicine Hat, Vernon, and Grand Forks competitive teams each year.

There is no easy way to build a winner, but this is probably the best way. Players, coaches, and press agreed that Tigers had as many talented players as they had ever seen at one junior A training camp.

BITS AND PIECES

Terry Lowe, who toiled last season with Vernon midgets, appears to have made the Taber Golden Suns of the Alberta junior A Hockey League.

Lowe, 17, has started attending school there already. Suns' Coach Vic Stasiuk told the Daily News that Terry is awfully small for junior hockey, but works so hard he can't cut him.

Another Vernon product, Dean Solheim, who played with Taber last year, is still at Lethbridge Broncos tier one camp. However Stasiuk said he thinks Solheim will end up back in Taber.

Also at Lethbridge is defenceman John Scammell who spent part of last season with the Vikings.

Scammell, 17, was recognized as one of the toughest players in the BCJHL last year and wasted little time showing why in the Broncos' camp. Last Monday, Scammell won a clear-cut decision over supposedly the toughest player in camp.

'Cement,' as he was known last year, is up to 190 pounds and should stick with Lethbridge. If not, Vernon Coach Joe Tennant would love to get him back.

Vic Stasiuk Jr. was at the Tigers' camp but didn't impress too many people. He left on his own Monday and is not expected to report to Vernon.

A sad note: One of hockey's greatest and most colorful men, Scotty Munro, is in serious condition in Calgary hospital. He is suffering from cancer.

Sports

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