

Big Jack doing well



Latest report from Medicine Hat Tigers camp says that big Jack Lefley is fitting in well with the club.

Lefley, 19, was called up by the Tigers 10 days ago for some muscle on left wing.

Surprisingly, a lot of people were happy to see him go. For instance, one Kelowna Buckaroos' official said over the weekend that they were very glad to see Lefley go.

He said, "Lefley was definately one of the Vikings' leaders, and he was awfully rough on our players in the corners."

Tigers' fans were happy to see Jack called up. Medicine Hat has an abundance of scorers but has a history of small teams.

Tigers have lots of goal scorers. Don Murdoch already has 17 goals while Greg Carroll and Morris Lukowich have 11. But, in the fighting department, Gary Gilchrist has been handling most of the duties.

In fact, in Flin Flon Sunday night, Gilchrist started a huge brawl which lasted 15 minutes. Lefley gives Gilchrist some help in the policing department.

Also in Sunday's game, Lefley scored a goal.

But, the happiest people about Lefley's departure were Coach Joe Tennant and the Vikings. Although Vernon misses Jack's leadership, both on and off the ice, they were glad to see him get another chance in the WCHL.

TEAM-PLAYER

As Tennant said, "Jack is one of the best team-players I've ever had. He was always ready to help a rookie and put a veteran in his place when he stepped out of line. We'll miss him."

Lefley first came to Vernon, midway through last season, from the Tigers. Medicine Hat Coach Jack Shupe didn't feel Jack was using his 195 pounds in the right manner. Shupe said, "He just wasn't hitting the way a player of his size has to."

With Vikings, he turned into an excellent penalty killer and gained confidence. When he left Vernon 10 days ago, he was the club's top scorer.

He may be back in Vernon before the year is over, but everyone is hoping he can stick with the Tigers.

Also in the Hat, Gilchrist is off to his usual slow start. He has yet to score a goal, but has lots of statistics in the penalty department.

Centre Ron Areshnekoff is starting to play better and has three goals. Defenceman Owen Lloyd has also been involved in several fisticuff battles and is reported to be holding his own.

Brad Shultz, released two weeks ago by the Tigers, appears to have made the Calgary Centennials. If he doesn't stick with the Cents, he may end up back in Vernon.

Sports

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