



VERN DYE
... controls team



JOE TENNANT
... leaves club

Tennant leaves Vernon Vikings

Vernon Vikings, of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League, will have a new coach, general manager, and majority shareholder for the 1976-77 season.

Long-time junior hockey enthusiast Vern Dye announced today he has purchased controlling interests in the Vikings. At the same time, Dye confirmed Joe Tennant will not be back this year as general manager and coach.

Dye purchased Tennant's share in the team, for an undisclosed amount of cash, giving him 74 per cent control in the club.

The move had been rumored for two months.

Tennant came to Vernon two years ago from Kamloops, where he had been coach of Kamloops Chiefs of the Western Canada Hockey League. Almost from the start, the often fiery Tennant disagreed with the way Dye and Les York, the team's other owner, wanted the club run.

The situation deteriorated last season until finally

Tennant and Dye realized for the good of the team, one of them had to go.

Vikings' budget was more than \$100,000 during 1975-76 but Dye says this season's operating costs will be trimmed to the bare minimum.

BUDGET CUT

Dye said, "I'd like to see our budget down to around \$60,000. By eliminating a full-time coach, curbing travel costs, and using more local players, I'm sure we can save a lot of money."

It is estimated Vikings lost \$22,000 during the 1975-76 season.

No replacement for Tennant as coach has been announced, but Dye says he hopes to make an announcement within a week. Several local men are being considered.

Dye told the Daily News he does not expect the move to change Vikings' relationship with Medicine Hat Tigers of the WCHL.

He said, "I have talked with the Tigers, and at this time, I believe we will continue to be their number one farm team."

The

SPORTS

DON KENDALL—Sports Editor

PHONE 545-0671

Page