



VERNON VIKINGS' COACH GERRY WENMAN, (LEFT), WITH VERN DYE

WENMAN NAMED AS NEW COACH

Gerry Wenman has been named coach of the Vernon Vikings of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League for the 1976-77 season.

The post became vacant three weeks ago when Vikings' majority shareholder Vern Dye announced Joe Tennant would not be rehired.

Dye said, "I feel confident Gerry will do a good job. He has a good background and understanding of hockey."

Wenman played junior A hockey with Melville Millionaires of the Saskatchewan League and Regina Pats of the Western Canada Hockey League. He later played senior hockey in Weyburn, Melville, and Yorkton.

His coaching career includes a stint with the Vikings in 1974, when he took over the club in the playoffs.

Wenman, 40, said, "I'm looking forward to getting involved in hockey again. My philosophy is there are certain rules that have to be set down, but I am not going to be a babysitter."

"I want a hard-hitting, entertaining, and of course, winning squad."

Murray tees-off in Regina

Vernon's Patti Murray is among 72 entrants who tee-off today in the Canadian junior women's golf championship in Regina.

Defending champion Pamela Johns, of, of Thornhill, Ont., is too old to compete, leaving the field open.

The 54-hole competition is open to girls 18 and under.

Early favorite to succeed Johns is Stacey West, also of Thornhill, who placed second in the event last year.

Last week West placed fifth at the Canadian amateur women's golf championship in Prince Albert, Sask. She is also the defending Ontario junior champion.

As well as individual efforts, the interprovincial team championship will be decided after 36 holes of play. The individual champion will be decided Thursday after 54 holes.

Only one American is among the field playing on the par 73, 5,862 yard Regina Golf Club.

KENDALLS KORNER

Busy month lies ahead



Vern Dye and Gerry Wenman have a lot of work ahead of them in the next month.

Vernon Vikings' majority shareholder Dye announced Monday that Wenman will coach the BCJHL team for the 1976-77 season.

In the next five weeks, the duo must recruit players, set up training camp, sell season tickets, and try to ice a winning team. But, their biggest job will be putting people in the rink.

Vikings have not been plagued with an abundance of fans in recent years, something that naturally has Dye a little worried.

Dye said, "I don't know what keeps the fans away. It can't be calibre because we had the best team in the BCJHL last season and broke just about every league record."

"If the fans want to see more local players, we'll try to give that to them this year."

SHAVES BUDGET

One of Vikings' main objectives this season is to cut the budget. Last year the club's budget soared to about \$103,000. Dye wants to cut that total by at least \$30,000 this year.

Already he has saved more than \$10,000 by not rehiring a full-time coach, and he plans on cutting further costs in the areas of travel, phone calls, and use of imported players.

Dye said, "I'll tell you one thing, our phone bill won't be \$4,000 this year."

Wenman will be given the task of building a winner with probably about eight local players and 10 imports. In past years, Vikings have usually employed about four local boys.

Among those fighting for local berths will be Jim Misener, Jim Sparrow, Wilf Leifke, Keith Louis, Bruce Green, Gary Criss, Rob McLean, Willie Madden, and Dave Thorlakson.

Wenman said last year's players will be invited back, if they don't stick with Medicine Hat Tigers.

NEEDS VETERANS

Dye said, "I feel it is important we have experienced veterans on the club. Guys who have helped us in past years like Gary Huth, Jack Lefley, and Grant Sidnick will certainly be invited back."

On the subject of Medicine Hat, Vikings are hoping Tigers will maintain Vernon as their number one farm team.

Dye said, "I don't anticipate any problems working with Tigers. We are certainly willing to develop players for them, and Wenman played with Medicine Hat Coach Jack Shupe in Weyburn."

To compound Dye's headaches, it is rumored Grand Forks junior B team will not affiliate with Vikings this season, and minor hockey may have to be Vernon's only source of player aid during the season.

Wenman is the kind of guy who will give 100 per cent to the club. And Dye has been a devoted hockey man for years. But, no matter what the Vikings do this season, they will be living in the shadow of the 75-76 team and Joe Tennant.

Despite his fiery attitude and tough discipline, local hockey fans became accustomed to Tennant, and the exciting style of last year's team.

Now, Wenman and Dye have to convince the fans this year's squad will be as entertaining. Good luck!

Positive thinking pays off

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Dave Stockton predicted three days before the end of the PGA national championship that he would win. Few believed him.

"I'm a positive thinker," said Stockton, a student of psychocybernetics, the science of mind over matter. "I play well in the PGA more often than not."

But even Stockton admitted he was shocked to learn that he led by only one stroke in Monday's final round of the rain-delayed PGA tournament as he strolled down the 18th fairway. His worst fear was a sudden death playoff.

"I really chipped it up on the 13th and 14th holes and I didn't want to go back out there for a playoff."

Stockton, 34, using a three-wood because he had been wild with his driver, put his ball slightly to the right near the rough on No. 18, a 465-yard par four.

He was short of the green by about five feet with a two iron, the ball on a slight downslope. He chipped to within about 15 feet of the pin.

SINKS PUTT FOR WIN

Then, with the \$45,000 first prize on the line, Stockton did what he does most often—he sank the 15-foot putt to give him the title by a single stroke at 281, one over par on the Congressional Country Club course.

In the last two rounds, Stockton needed only 51 putts—25 on Saturday and 26 on Monday—which he said was about normal for him.

Stockton, winner of the 1970 PGA championship in Tulsa, had rounds of 70, 72, 69 and 70, gained an advantage when three earlier leaders—Charles Coady, Jack Nicklaus and Don January—suffered double bogeys in the final round.