

75 players left at Tigers' camp

MEDICINE HAT (Special) — Vernon Vikings General Manager Vern Dye said today he is impressed with the players at Medicine Hat Tigers' training camp.

Dye said, "I'm very happy with the prospects. I'll be bringing back some good hockey players."

Tigers, Vikings' parent club, had 160 hopefuls on the ice when camp opened Friday, but that total has been trimmed to 75.

Two players who will definitely be back with Vikings this year are goaltender Keith Ferner and defenceman Ken Oulton.

BEST AVERAGE

Ferner, who sported the lowest goals-against average in the B.C. Junior Hockey League last season, was not impressive during the opening two days and Tigers' Coach Jack Shupe elected to go with a younger goalie.

Darrell Furmanek, who spent the last two seasons in Vernon, is given a good chance as being Medicine Hat's number two goalie behind incumbent Pete Peters.

Oulton, 17, has looked good at camp, but is a little small for tier one this season. However, he could be the best blueliner in the BCJHL.

One ex-Viking certain to stick with Tigers is 200-pound defenceman Brian Maser. Maser, 18, has been one of the best players on the ice and has been hitting everything in sight.

ONLY SO-SO

A few of last year's Vikings have been disappointing to

date. Shupe was counting heavily on moving up Vernon's entire first line of Steve Danshin, Ken Stroud, and Calvin Halasz. However, the trio has looked only so-so.

Dye said, "One player who has come on like gangbusters in centre Rick Simpson. Simpson weighs more than 200 pounds and is going to be an asset wherever he plays."

Darcy Wilkinson, Drew Tumbach, and Clyde Goodswimmer are given outside chances of sticking with Tigers. Two-year Viking Darrell Billsten is attending university in Edmonton and wants to play with Spruce Grove Mets, Tigers' other tier two affiliate.

Dye said, "I'm going to bring home 10 solid players. There are going to be some tough choices."

LIKES LINE

Dye likes the line of Brian Smith, Terry Smothers, and Rob Brink, as well as defenceman Lionel Williams and Brad McDonald.

McDonald, from Salmon Arm, and Williams both played with Grand Forks Border Bruins, Vikings' farm team, last year.

Only two Vernon natives at the camp, Jim Misener and Rob McLean, are among the 75 still trying out.

Registration for Vikings' camp will be Friday, at 7 p.m., at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Blanda forgotten by Oakland fans

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

If there was any George Blanda sentimentality lurking around Oakland Coliseum on Sunday, it was washed away by Fred Steinfort's game-winning field goal that sent defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers to defeat.

Steinfort, a soccer-style kicker who has sent the aging Blanda into retirement by replacing him as Oakland Raiders' kicker, booted his first National Football League field goal from Pittsburgh's 21 yard line with 18 seconds on the clock.

The kick broke a tie and allowed Raiders to win the

season opener 31-28.

Meanwhile, Washington Redskins were at it again, playing poor defensively when it meant the most, then turning around and beating New York Giants 19-17.

Steinfort had a happy welcome to the NFL. Seattle Seahawks and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, expansion teams making their first starts, did not.

Seattle gave St. Louis Cardinals a fight before falling short 30-24 while Tampa Bay was a punchless 20-0 loser to Houston Oilers.

Hank Stram, a long-time pro coach with Kansas City, returned as the head man at