

More players attend school



Once upon a time, not so long ago and not so far away, there was an idea that every teenage boy who could skate and shoot a puck should play junior hockey.

Reasoning behind this conception was that to make it to the professional hockey ranks, a boy had to play junior A. It was, and still is, every boy's dream to lace on a pair of skates in a NHL dressing room. However, a new breed of hockey players have a new idea.

Veteran junior hockey executives across the country feel for a boy to develop properly as a player, he must concentrate completely on hockey. That means no wine, women, song, work, or in most cases, schooling.

Players today are placing more emphasis on schooling and are proving themselves smarter for that choice.

Two types of players are choosing school over a marriage to junior hockey. The first type is the boy who has reached 17, 18, or 19 years of age and realizes he won't be able to make a living playing hockey.

A very small percentage of players can say they make their living in hockey once they are finished junior. Often we hear of the players who sign for huge bonuses, but we seldom hear of the boys who toil for a few years in hockey's minor leagues, for \$7,000 or \$8,000 per year, and find themselves unemployed at 25.

LITTLE EDUCATION

Most junior hockey players have never attended college, and many never completed high school. With stars in their eyes, hockey was their only life.

Kelowna Buckaroos are an exception to the rule. Most of the Bucks attend school, and many go on to college.

A couple good examples of the new type of players are Marty Stein and Darrell Billsten.

Stein spent two seasons with Vernon Vikings and had two unsuccessful attempts at making Medicine Hat Tigers. At 19, Marty quit junior hockey to attend U.B.C. and get an education.

While at U.B.C., Marty plays college hockey and is getting an education for the future.

Billsten also spent two years with Vikings, and at 19, elected not to attend Medicine Hat's camp this year. He plans to enrol at University in Edmonton and wants to play junior hockey there, providing it doesn't interfere with school.

COLLEGE ROUTE

The second type of new breed is the player who hopes to make it to pro through college hockey. Even if a young man doesn't make it to the pro ranks after graduating, he has an education to fall back on.

Many players are now choosing the college route. Doug Berry, Gord Gibson, and Bill Stankoven are among the ex-Kelowna players now playing college hockey in the U.S.

Danny Lucas, 18, who scored 54 goals two years ago for Victoria Cougars in the Western Canada Hockey League, announced recently he won't be returning to Victoria this year, but instead will play for U.B.C. Thunderbirds.

Each year the list of college players making it to the pros grows. Ken Dryden, Henry Boucha, Red Berenson, Bob McAneeley, John Wright, Keith Magnussen, John Marks, Morris Mott, Ken Broderick, Bill Nyrop, Dean Talafous, Cliff Koroll, Ron Anderson, and Larry Pleau are just some of the major league players who got their hockey background in college.

There is no doubt about it, junior A is still the best road to the pros. But, if you don't want to put all your eggs in one basket, college has to be the choice.

was benched in favor of
speedier Perreault. playoff.

The SPORTS

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8 VERNON DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, SEPT. 14, 1976

Tigers reduce training camp

MEDICINE HAT (Special)
— Medicine Hat Tigers reduced their training camp roster to about 50 Monday and were scheduled to cut another group of players today at noon.

Among those released were Vernon natives Jim Misener and Rob McLean, both who will now try to land spots on the Vikings.

Nine members of last year's Vernon squad are still fighting for positions at the Hat. They are forwards Ken Stroud, Calvin Halasz, Steve Danshin, Rick Simpson, Clyde Goodswimmer, Drew Tumbach, and Darcy Wilkinson, defenceman Brian Maser, and goalie Darrell Furmanek.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye said it looks like Tigers are counting on Furmanek to be their number two netminder this season.

Dye said, "Several of the other kids also have good chances of sticking. Simpson has put on some weight and has been one of the biggest surprises at camp."

Six players, including veterans Keith Ferner and Ken Oulton, were assigned to Vernon on Monday, and Dye

picked up a big defenceman this morning.

Doug Berg, who stands 6'3", played junior B last year in Jasper. According to Tigers, he just needs one more year of experience before he is ready to play tier one.

Boarding houses are still needed next weekend for Vikings' training camp. Anyone interested is asked to phone 545-1770 or 542-9931.

Spallumcheen ladies' draw

No. 1 Tee: 9 a.m.: Shirley Emblau, Betty Griffin, Marion Sheare.

9:10: Eleanor Beaulieu, Phyl Phare, Diane Banera.

9:20: Pat Bossons, Mary Edwards, Frances Leng.

9:30: Rosemarie Von Pentz, Ethel Thompson.

No. 10 Tee, 9:00 a.m.: Ina Fee, Kay Coleman, Marg Hamilton.

9:10: Evelyn Zamis, Rae Banner, Val French.

9:20: Rita Guidi, Kathy Wise, Jan Hamaguchi.

9:30: Verla Stuart, Dorothy Franks.

Competition: Throw Out Four, Long Drive No. 3 - H'Caps 32 under; Long drive No. 4, - H'Caps 33 over.

Last weeks winners: Shirley Emblau, Marg Hamilton.