



VERNON VIKINGS' Coach Gerry Wenman gives some tips to veterans Gary Gassoff, left, and Ken

Oulton at a workout this week. Vikings, loaded with inexperienced rookies, swing into action tonight

against Kelowna Buckaroos in an exhibition game in Enderby. The same two teams meet back in Vernon

on Wednesday. Game time is 8 p.m. (Daily News Photo by Jack Nittel)

AT ENDERBY ARENA

Vikings battle Kelowna in pre-season contest

Vernon Vikings play their first exhibition game of the season tonight when they tangle with Kelowna Buckaroos, at 8 p.m., in the Enderby Arena.

Vikings' Coach Gerry Wenman said he is relatively pleased with the prospects at camp. However, there are several gaping holes to fill in Vernon's line-up.

Only three members of the record-setting 1976-78 squad, Keith Ferner, Ken Oulton, and Gary Gassoff, are back with the club. The rest of the team is filled with inexperienced rookies and local hopefuls.

With Ferner in goal, Wenman should have few reminding problems. The defence seems relatively solid with Oulton, Jim Misener, and promising rookies Brad McDonald and Randy Willis. But, up front, Vikings are in trouble.

Gassoff has been shifted from wing to centre in an attempt to strengthen the middle. But, a lack of size and experience is going to hurt at other positions.

There are few other brightspots. Vernon product Gary Gilchrist, who played last season with Medicine Hat

Tigers, will play with Vikings until he leaves for pro camp, at Port Wayne, Indiana, on Oct. 2. Speedy centre Byron Smith has also been impressive.

However, they will be up against a Kelowna team with a wealth of experience.

Starting goalie will be Randy Struch, who spent last year with Merritt Centennials. Bucks could boast the best defence in the B.C. Junior Hockey League with Rick Benningshof, Bill Audycki, Scott Lang, and Ian Malcolm.

Up front, the offensive charge will be lead by

defending scoring champion Mike Willis. The classy centre will get lots of help from returnees John Oliver, Phil Logan, and Robbie Wright.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye said he has hoped for more experience up front, but his recruiting plans ran into some bad luck. For various reasons, Grant Sidvarious, Randy Merritt, Simpson, and Lionel Dave Thorlakson, and Lionel Williams did not show up at camp.

Kelowna and Vernon meet again Wednesday at the Civic Arena.

Two qualifying spiels to precede main event

Third annual Vernon Curling O'Keefe Car Spiel is adding a new twist this year.

For the first time, two qualification spiels will be held in addition to the 22 invited rinks, six teams will qualify through the local qualifying event, and four other squads will be able to enter through an open qualifying event.

As in past years, the local competition is open to anyone from Falkland, Lumby, Armstrong, Enderby, Salmon Arm, and Vernon.

Chairman Barry Amies told the Daily News all invitations have been sent out and there will be an excellent assortment of big-name curlers on hand.

Amies said, "In addition to the curling, Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, there will be lots of off-ice

activity including a banquet, calcutta, and Bierfest."

First prize is four new Vegas while the second-place rink picks up \$3,200. Third place team gets \$1,600, fourth spot wins \$1,200 and fifth to eighth place teams pick up \$500.

The SPORTS

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Lions blow another one

One of the easiest occupations in the world is arm-chair quarterback and a lot of people were calling different signals from their living room than Cal Murphy was calling for the Lions on Sunday.

In a style B.C. fans have learned to know and hate, the Leos blew another one to Winnipeg.

Lions appeared to have the game in the bag until the fourth quarter when the Bombers caught fire. Or did the Leos leave early?

B.C. fans have never been known to stick by their quarterback. Only in 1963 and 1964, when Lions had a winning team, did the Vancouver faithful like the offensive leader, Joe Kapp.



Lefley gets look at Canucks' camp

Vernon Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye was surprised Saturday when winger Jack Lefley was not here for the opening of Vikings' training camp.

A funny thing happened to Lefley on the way to Vernon. The rugged 20-year-old ended up at Vancouver Canucks camp in Victoria.

Canucks have run into a string of injuries at camp and Coach Phil Maloney decided he wanted to look at two more players. The two selected were Chris Dwyer, from Calgary, and Lefley.

Big Jack first came to Vikings midway through the 1974-75 season when he was released by Medicine Hat Tigers. Last year, he started with Vernon, went up to Tigers in November, and finished the year back with Vikings.

Canucks' Executive Greg Douglas told the Daily News today Lefley hasn't looked out of place.

Douglas said, "We don't expect him to make the club,



JACK LEFLEY
... in Victoria

and it would be a surprise if he made one of our farm teams, but he is certainly working hard."

LOCAL SPIEL

Entries for the local event, Oct. 16 and 17, should be sent to Box 595, Vernon, with a \$50 registration fee. Five of the qualifying teams will have their \$50 refunded, with the sixth, and winner of the spiel, gaining a free berth into the car spiel.

The new open event will give out-of-town curlers, who have not been invited, a chance to enter the spiel through the back door. It is a 32-team, double-knockout bonspiel with a \$100 entry fee. Four teams will advance to the car spiel and have the \$100 refunded.

It is scheduled Oct. 23 and 24.

BIG NAMES

Car Spiel Publicity

Six Vernon and District Riding Club members came home with ribbons from the recent Salmon Arm Fall Fair.

Candy Delange, aboard Whispering, placed first in team jumping, junior A water carrying race, junior A polo race, and costume class, along with Jody Houston.

Delange finished second in the polo race, fifth in junior A jumping and show hack, and sixth in junior A English equitation.

Cindy Houston, on Freckles, came first in junior B polo race, junior B water carrying race, and junior B western pleasure. She was second in junior B polo race, third in junior B western

equitation, fourth in junior B showmanship and open saddle pony, and sixth in stake race and pole bending.

Barb Hay, riding Snips Whispering, placed first in halter and junior A western pleasure events while placing fifth in junior A western equitation.

Tanis Hubner, aboard Centennial Hub, was first in junior B showmanship, second in registered Appaloosa and junior B English equitation, third in junior B English pleasure, and sixth in junior B western equitation.

Bev Hay, riding Beavers Aquilla, won the junior B western equitation while placing third in junior B showmanship and western pleasure.

Pat Shillam, on Coquette, was second in road hack and show hack, while picking up third in junior A English equitation.



KEN HODGE
... with Esopo

Six local riders pick up ribbons

Rangers change everything

NEW YORK (AP) — The disastrous 1975-76 National Hockey League season of New York Rangers has them working overtime trying to erase the bad memories.

First, they invited fans to call general manager-coach John Ferguson directly to discuss the team's problems and, it was hoped, purchase season tickets at the same time.

Then, there were player moves that added goalie Gilles Gratton, right winger Ken Hodge and left winger Nick Fotu among others.

Ferguson thinks Gratton, previously with St. Louis Blues in the NHL and Toronto Toros of the World Hockey Association, has "all-star potential." Hodge "will play right wing for his old buddy, Phil Esposito with whom he

Aerial