

Berezowski sets a goal

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports

If everything goes according to Ron Berezowski's plans, he'll have his signature on a National Hockey League contract within a couple of years.

Berezowski is one of three players brought into Vernon Lakers' camp this week in an attempt to strengthen the lineup. The other two players are Brad Anderson, who came from Medicine Hat, and Mike Enemark, from Quesnel, of the Peace Cariboo League.

Berezowski is in Lakers' camp via Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League. Before he was in Kamloops, he was with Estevan, of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, and prior to that he was in the camp of the Brandon Wheat Kings, also of the Western Hockey League.

FOUR CAMPS

So, in a month and a half the Prince Albert native has been in four junior hockey camps and three provinces. While in Estevan, Berezowski became reacquainted with Bill Proski, a Kamloops Oilers' scout he first met two years ago while playing in a bantam tourna-

ment in Kamloops.

Berezowski, figuring he was no longer on Brandon's list, made the trip out west to try out for the Oilers. He spent a week in Oilers' camp before being released.

"I knew I really didn't have a good chance to make Kamloops because I came late and the team had pretty well been chosen," said Berezowski. "But the coach (Bill Laforge) said he's probably bring me back up in about a month to give me another try."

Berezowski, 16, a smooth skating 5'11", 170-pound centreman, said he likes the rough going, something he got used to while playing exhibition games with Estevan.

"That's just a brutal league (SJHL), there's a lot more hitting than here (B.C. Junior Hockey League)."

It was his lack of aggressiveness which Berezowski said got him released from the Wheat Kings.

"The guys up there (WHL) are faster and built better and played more aggressive than I did," said Berezowski. "Then in Estevan, I started to work more and now things are starting to go for me."

To remind himself to

continue to work hard, Berezowski reads a newspaper article which he clipped from the Prince Albert paper. The article is about veteran NHL players losing their jobs to rookies because the veterans were becoming too complacent.

AN INCENTIVE

"I read that article just about every night," he said. "It gives me more incentive to keep working, to never let up. That's what happened in Brandon, I just thought I was too good and didn't have to work that hard."

To Berezowski, working hard means playing tough in games and practices.

"I'm starting to play aggressive again, you've got to let the coach know that you're not afraid of the rough stuff and that you can handle yourself," he said. "Of course, I also like to score a lot of goals too."

Scoring goals isn't something Vernon Lakers are used to. In the last two seasons, Lakers have finished last in the Interior division, with a total of just 17 wins.

"I've heard the team hasn't been too good, but hopefully this year we can change things around," said Berezowski. "Everyone has a positive attitude and hopefully we can go all the way to the Centennial Cup (emblematic of junior hockey tier two supremacy)."

If Lakers do make it that far, Berezowski wouldn't have to worry about making a tier one club to make a few NHL scouts heads turn. However, it is unlikely Lakers will improve enough to win the BCJHL title, not to mention a national title. So, to get drafted, Berezowski's best bet would be to play tier one.

"In the WHL there are more scouts watching than in college or tier two," said Berezowski. "Besides, school isn't my biggest field ... just as long as I finish grade 12."

Berezowski has been playing hockey since he was four years old, mostly under the watchful eye of his father.

"My dad has taught me everything I know, after every game he would tell me what I did wrong and then the next game I'd try to get it right," said Berezowski. "They (parents) know I want to make hockey a career. I phone them once a week just to let them know what's going on, they're behind me 100 per cent."

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Editor—DON KENDALL

Oswald stays with Kamloops

Vernon Lakers had hoped to have a new goalie in the line-up Friday night when they host Revelstoke Rockets in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at the Civic Arena. However, netminder Shawn Oswald was recalled by Kamloops Oilers, of the Western Hockey League, before he had an opportunity to leave Kamloops.

Oswald was assigned to Lakers, Tuesday, but Oilers' number one goalie Mike Schamber quit the team hours later. Schamber, who was obtained in the off-season from Winnipeg Warriors, has returned to Winnipeg to play for the University of Manitoba.

Schamber, 20, had attended Edmonton Oilers' training camp.

Oilers still have three goalies, including Oswald, on their roster. Ken Troude and Martin Wood split the goaltending duties Wednesday night when Kamloops dumped Kelowna Wings 9-5.

Oswald, who spent the 1981-82 season in Vernon, did not dress for the game.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said Oswald may still end up in Vernon. "There is still a good chance Shawn may be joining us," Lawrence said. "Kamloops was surprised when Schamber left and they have had to reassess their goaltending situation."

All students will be admitted to Friday's game for \$1. Meanwhile, 30 shots per game would be a normal work rate for most hockey goaltenders, so Ron Boyd of Richmond Sockeyes can be excused for feeling overworked.

The Richmond netminder faced 31 shots in the second period alone and 77 overall as Cowichan Capitals buried Sockeyes 10-3 in the lone BCJHL game Wednesday night.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Club 2929 sweeps match

Club 2929 defeated Granville's Towing 4-0 in Women's Intermediate 'A' Volleyball League action, Wednesday, at W. L. Seaton Junior Secondary School. In other matches the scores were: Gilbey's Girls 3, Jolly Jumpers 1; Thriftys 3, Taylor Service 1; Al's Gutter Gals 3, All About Sports Wear 1; Lake Country Sports 3, Downtown Realty 1; and Pizza Patio 2, Valley Girls 2.

Novice hockey

Vernon Minor Hockey Association's junior novice

agreed to terms with the Pacific National Exhibition on a 12-year lease agreement for National Hockey League games at the Pacific Coliseum.

Arthur Griffiths, assistant to the chairman with the Canucks, said Wednesday the agreement is now in the hands of lawyers to determine the final wording.

Walker honored

TORONTO (CP) — Ottawa running back Skip Walker ran 17 times for 91 yards and two touchdowns



VERNON LAKERS' forward Ron Berezowski struggles to get free during a Lakers' workout this week in the Civic Arena. Berezowski, 16,

hopes to be recalled by Kamloops Oilers before the 1982-83 season is too old.

(Daily News Photo)