

TAPP RETURNS TO VERNON

Lakers name head coach



VERNON LAKERS owners Carl Enemark, left, and Bud Russell, right, welcome Chuck Tapp to the

organization. Tapp was named, Monday as head coach.

(Daily News Photo)

Kelowna affiliates with Revelstoke club

KELOWNA (Special) — A change in name will not be the only difference this season for the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Revelstoke Rangers.

The Interior Division squad has been named as a number one affiliate of the Western Hockey League's Kelowna Wings.

"We decided to affiliate with them for two reasons," said Wings' General Manager Joe Arling.

"First is a financial one, they are close enough to keep costs down, but secondly we were impressed

with the job Murray Lawrence did last year with Vernon Lakers and we think Revelstoke will be successful under him."

Lawrence was fired in early-May by former Lakers' owner Ray Willmet. Difference of philosophy was one of the reasons cited. Lawrence was recently named coach and general manager of the Rangers.

Arling expects to place about six players with the Rangers, but also hopes to use Summerland Buckaroos and Shuswap Totems for development of players.

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
Carl Enemark and Bud Russell, co-owners of Vernon Lakers Junior Hockey Club, Monday announced the signing of Chuck Tapp as head coach for the 1983-84 season.

Tapp, 29, spent three months as assistant coach of Lakers in 1982-83 before moving on to become assistant coach of Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League, for the remainder of that season.

"I had an offer from the Wings and I felt I'd learn a lot more with a major junior club," Tapp said.

Tapp will now reassign that personal knowledge to the Lakers.

Born in North Bay, Ont., Tapp grew up in Montreal where he played major junior hockey for Pirron Pirates, of the Quebec Hockey League. In addition to his stint with Kelowna last season, Tapp also has previous coaching experience with minor teams in both Montreal and Kelowna, where he has resided since 1977.

Although the sum is undisclosed, Tapp's position with Lakers will be a paid one.

Tapp's basic philosophy of the game will be similar to that which former coach Murray Lawrence implemented last season, but with a few major differences.

"Moving the puck and very disciplined hockey is my philosophy, basically knowing

where everyone is," he said. "I'll also be looking for a more aggressive team, though not a goon squad."

"I'm not too interested in size... just aggression and determination."

With training camp opening Sept. 1 and running for only about one week, Tapp will have a message for his returning veteran players once he does contact them.

"If I've got any advice to returning vets, it will be come back in shape because we won't have much time."

"I haven't talked to any of the guys yet but there's a possibility of 14 vets returning."

"Everyone we've contacted from last year's club is returning," Enemark said.

In addition to veteran players, both Tapp and Lakers' management have had their eyes and ears open for possible players. In all, the camp should boast in excess of 70 hopefuls, according to Tapp.

"I have some players in mind and there's lots of excellent local midgets and juveniles available. I've done a depth chart of the team so I know what we've got and what we're looking for."

One of the positions Lakers may be looking to fill is goaltender.

Though Tapp hasn't contacted any goaltenders at this point, he is optimistic about returning veterans.

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Basically, however, Tapp will have two things in mind as he assesses his hopefuls.

"Speed, with a little more aggression. I have a system we're going to implement and stick to."

Junior league scraps interlocking schedule

Vernon Lakers, along with the other teams in both the Coast and Interior Divisions of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, will adhere to a 56-game schedule like last year but, unlike the 1982-83 season, there will be no interlocking games between the two divisions.

"Four teams in this division wanted to interlock and two didn't, Merritt and Revelstoke," said Lakers' General Manager Carl Enemark. "On the Coast, two teams wanted to play the interlocking season and five didn't."

"There's a league meeting July 10 in Vernon to discuss the scheduling... mostly it's just a financial question."

Meanwhile, the Coast Division will drop from seven teams to six with the loss of Langley Eagles.

Eagles have been suspended from play for the 1983-84 season due to a controversy involving team owner Ron Dickson.

Dickson is also part owner of the Western Hockey League franchise, being moved from Nanaimo to New Westminster this season.

On the home front, Lakers will open their season with a pair of exhibition games against the Summerland Buckaroos. The series with the 1983 Interior Division defending champions will be a home-and-home event with Summerland here Sept. 20, and Lakers in Summerland, Sept. 23.

"We wanted to be the first team to play in Summerland this season," said Enemark.

Local hockey fans who hold season tickets may find their seats numbered this season if Lakers' management gets the go-ahead for the scheme.

"We're hoping to get 400 to 600 numbered seats in the arena for season ticket holders," added Enemark.