

# Kapicki is excited about hockey season

By JIM JUDD  
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Vernon Lakers are going to be an improved and dynamic hockey team this season and if you don't believe what you read here, take it from someone who knows, veteran Nick Kapicki.

Kapicki, who turned 19 this summer, will be battling for a spot with the team he helped gain respectability just one season ago. As one of 10 or more returning players from last season's lineup, Kapicki can see the groundwork being laid for a much better team.

"The team will be bigger ... much bigger," said Kapicki. "We won't get pushed around but we won't be a goon club either by any stretch of the imagination. But, we'll also be a good skating club like we were last year."

Kapicki scored 18 goals and added 35 assists in his rookie season while centering speedy Greg Kowal and Kevin Thorlakson. However, Kapicki suffered a broken foot late in the

season and was sidelined for a dozen.

regular season games before returning to duty in game three of the Interior Division semi-finals with Penticton Knights.

Kapicki also feels, unlike last season, that the Interior will be the tougher of the two divisions in the BC-JHL. He shed some light on how the Interior will stack up in the final analysis.

"I think Vernon will finish first and then it will be routine ... either Penticton or Summerland (formerly Kelowna) battling it out for second and third place. Revelstoke will be a much improved team though and the hockey should be much cleaner there," he said.

Barring any line-up

changes, Kapicki is looking forward to another season with his linemates, Kowal and Thorlakson.

"We'll be playing with more confidence this year because of our experience ... we'll know what to expect and how much we can push ourselves.

"They may make a few changes, though ... especially with our line. They may add some size to it or even put one of us on another line ... but it doesn't really matter to me, I'll play to win no matter who I'm with."

There are other reasons, perhaps smaller ones, which make Kapicki, among others, optimistic about this season.

"You always look forward to the little things

like new uniforms ... it sort of adds a little spice to the team. Actually, it's just one more good reason why guys will want to come back for another season.

"In general, I'm happy with the way the team is shaping up and that goes for the coaching change as well. I think Chuck's (Tapp) experience in tier one (Kelowna Wings) is really going to benefit us because let's face it ... that's much better hockey up there," added Kapicki.

In closing Kapicki had a message directed towards Lakers' fans.

"I just hope people will come out and give us a try and I'm sure they'll like what they see."

Vernon's rookie camp opens Thursday.

