

FEW SPOTS OPEN

60 rookie hopefuls swell Lakers' camp

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The trouble with most rookie camps is that the quantity is generally there but the quality isn't. With even the 15-year-olds impressive in both size and talent, Vernon Lakers' rookie camp seems to be an exception to the rule.

With better than 60 hopefuls in rookie camp, coach Chuck Tapp is faced with the problem of having to decide which fish to throw back into the water and which ones to throw into the pan.

Nevertheless, after a half dozen skating and scrimmage sessions, Tapp began the difficult task of paring down the excess baggage in favor of the most marketable players.

Meanwhile, one veteran player is sitting on the fence as to a decision between playing the game and calling it quits for a college education.

For Rob Kossan, veteran of two seasons in a Lakers' jersey, the future looks dim in his eyes if he pursues the sport any longer.

"School is my main priority," said the talented winger who saw some action with the Western Hockey League Kamloops Oilers last season. "I've already paid my tuition in Kamloops (Caribou College) and I'm supposed to start this month. I've already taken one

year off and I'd just like to get my schooling done and get a degree.

"All the NHL teams are on a youth movement. . . basically I feel that if you haven't been scouted at 18 there's very little chance for it at 19 in Tier II hockey," added Kossan.

However, according to Mike Enemark, assistant coach with the club, Kossan's future may be brighter than he thinks and he could have the best of both worlds.

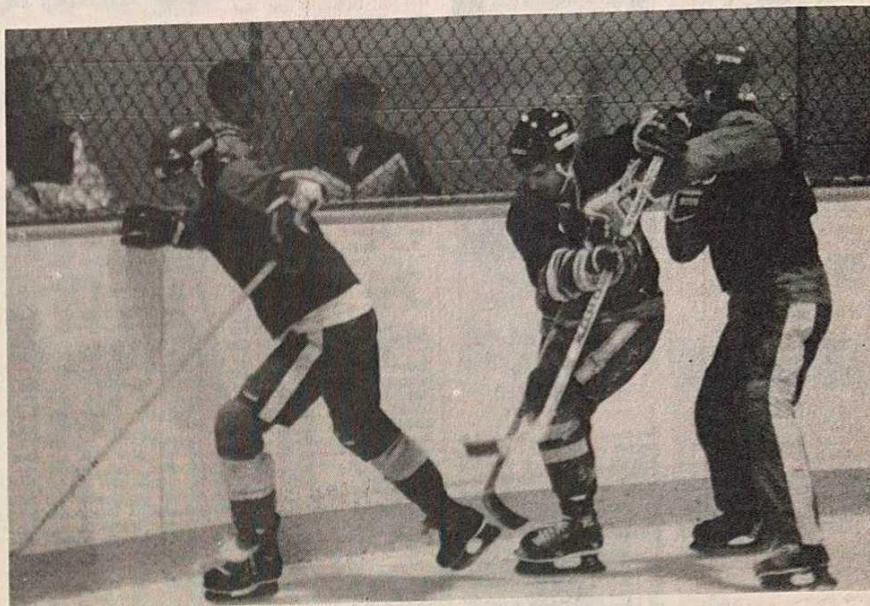
"We've talked to North Dakota University about him (Kossan) and they're still interested. . . he was ineligible last season because he played major junior but he's eligible again this year," said Enemark.

"Another thing that's drawing him back, though, is that we're going to have a good team and he's been here so long now that he doesn't want to miss out on it when it happens," added Enemark.

Despite one player having difficulty making up his mind, that's certainly not the case with many others.

One ice helping with rookie camp Friday night were Gavin Shuya, Nick Kapicki, Kevin Thorlakson, Gord Simpson, and Greg Kowal.

A few others stopped by to watch and meet their new coach including Bob and David Wensley. Another pair, Ron Berezowski and Todd Ewen stopped by as well with those two on their way to New Westminster for a tryout. If they are cut they too will be back in Lakers' camp.



BUMP AND GRIND is the name of the game when you're in junior hockey camp for your first time. In the above photo some hopefuls battle for the puck along the boards during a scrimmage while in the photo on the left, veteran winger Kevin Thorlakson takes a brief rest in some unorthodox fashion.

Thorlakson, like other veteran players, is helping out with rookie camp before main camp opens Tuesday.

(Daily News Photos)

UPSET 49-19

Brancato's Rough Riders run roughshod over B.C.

OTTAWA (CP) — "Now that was a hammer job," said elated Ottawa coach George Brancato Friday after his Rough Riders stunned British Columbia Lions with a 49-19 Canadian Football League defeat.

Riding the crest of six straight victories after an opening game loss, it was clearly a game the Lions were expected to win against the Riders, third in the four-team Eastern Division with a meagre 2-5 won-lost record.

But the defence that has kept Ottawa on the edge of credibility all season did it again against B.C. quarterbacks Roy Dewalt and Joe Paopao and their vaunted corps of receivers

with five quarterback sacks, four interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

The big difference this time was that the offence under quarterback J.C. Watts finally made use of the opportunities offered by the defence to go from a 14-11 halftime lead to a 35-11 lead after three quarters with three unanswered touchdowns — all after B.C. turnovers.

The Riders got two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter as a result of B.C. miscues and then gave up a face-saving score to the Lions with time gone in the game.

Brancato, as thrilled as the 22,234 fans at the victory, pointed to a defensive play early in the third



GEORGE BRANCATO
... stomped Lions

"That was the turning point," Brancato said.

all of Ottawa's touchdowns as well as booting field goals of 40 and 41 yards and a 35-yard single.

In all, Watts completed 18 of 33 passes for 384 yards while giving up just one interception as the Riders amassed 583 net yards compared with 287 for the Lions.

Running back Skip Walker produced 167 yards on 11 carries to lead all rushers in the game while Collymore had 124 yards on four receptions to lead all receivers.

Dewalt passed 14 yards to Pankratz for B.C.'s first-quarter touchdown and Paopao sent running back Don Taylor one yard to score on the last play of the game for the other. Lui

