

Big defenceman returns for second year in Vernon

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

As a 16-year old, Regan Desroches had what it took to play junior hockey in the BCJHL. That was in the 1981-82 season and Desroches established himself as a hard-working defenceman.

Now, as an 18-year-old, Desroches plans to re-establish himself on Lakers' blueline and convince coach Chuck Tapp that the year of junior hockey he missed while completing high school didn't matter.

"I couldn't get into the right courses here at school so I said what the hell... I'll go back to Nanaimo and finish my school and worry about junior hockey later," said the Vancouver Island native.

"I never stayed as sharp in juvenile hockey as I would have playing junior but I stayed in shape," added Desroches. "I've got more experience and more confidence now."

Presently Desroches is one of about a dozen who are battling for a position on Lakers' defensive squad. However, with his junior hockey experience and his impressive size, 6'1" and 210 pounds, Desroches has the kind of credentials that render him a valuable asset to any hockey team.

Though his size is impressive, Desroches will be the first to admit he's slightly overweight at this stage of the camp.

"I'm about 10 pounds overweight but that'll be gone right away," said Desroches.

Desroches' performance in camp hasn't gone unnoticed by Lakers' management.

"I'm pretty high on him, said General manager Carl Enemark. "He's a good acquisition. He's a good steady hockey player on the blueline... just what we need!"

Being a veteran on the Lakers' line-up, Desroches shed some of his personal observations between this camp and the team he toiled for two years ago.

"This camp looks very good," said Desroches. "I was here at last year's camp and it's way better than that camp was."

"Chuck (Coach Chuck Tapp) is great," he added. "He has a lot of discipline and a lot of knowledge about the game."

When asked why a native of the Nanaimo area didn't choose to try out for a team in his own neighborhood, Desroches said, "They were good to me last time I was here and I liked the town so I came back. From what I heard this was supposed to be one of the good teams this year and that was another reason why I came back."

And, Desroches appears to know just what he has to do to contribute to the Lakers this season.

"I hope to contribute defensively but it depends on the situation... I can play offence too," he said.



EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Regan Desroches, a native of Nanaimo, is looking for a regular spot on the blueline with Vernon Lakers this season. Desroches, at 6'0" and 210 pounds, is one of the bigger prospects in camp and also carries junior hockey experience. (Daily News Photo)

Hockey loop needs teams

White Valley Hockey League may operate with only four teams during the 1983-84 season.

League President Mike Kirk said the league is accepting applications from interested teams, but time is running out.

Defending champion Club 2929 has joined the Winfield Commercial Hockey League and Fisher's Hardware has folded.

The Lumby-based loop now includes National Hotel Raiders, Labatts Sabres, Armstrong Flyers, and Lumby Flying Frenchmen.

"We thought Westside Totems were going to enter, but they decided against it," Kirk said. "It would be nice to have five or six teams, but if we don't get any new applicants within the next week or so, we'll have to go with four."

The season is tentatively scheduled to get under way Oct. 5, with each club playing a total of 25 games.

Any team interested in joining the WVHL is asked to phone Kirk at 542-4861.

Weixl tops in tournament

Don Weixl, of Spallumcheen Golf and Country Club, fired an 18-hole total of 74 to win the overall low gross title during Spallumcheen Open Senior Men's Tournament, held recently.

Rocky Curtis, of Kelowna, captured top spot in the overall low net category with a score of 62.

Flight winners were as follows:

Age 55-59: Gordon

Campbell, Spallumcheen, low net, 65; Tom Prentiss, Prince George, low gross, 82.

Age 60-64: George Forscutt, Vernon, low net, 64; Ken Reid, Salmon Arm, low gross, 75.

Age 65-69: Bill Taylor, Spallumcheen, low net, 63; Mike Fussell, Spallumcheen, low gross, 75.

Age 70 and over: Len Schmidt, Spallumcheen, low net, 62; Joe Diett, Spallumcheen, low gross, 76.

Patey in hospital

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Centre Larry Patey of St. Louis Blues underwent surgery Monday for repair of a herniated disc and will be lost for four months, the National Hockey League team announced.

Patey, one of the league's top penalty-killers, suffered the injury last spring.

Patey, a nine-season NHL veteran, led the league in 1980-81 with eight short-handed goals. Last season he totalled nine goals and 12 assists in 67 games.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Lakers loaded with experience

Junior hockey training camps are tough... tough on coaches, parents, players, and sports reporters.

A reporter's job is to trudge his way through all the hype and hysteria to give an unbiased opinion of what he thinks the team will be like.

When camp opens, management is always filled with enthusiasm and optimism. In 13 years of reporting, I've heard about dozens of budding superstars.

"We've just signed Johnny Wonderskates. He is 6'5", weighs 220 pounds, and was the top defenceman in the North Alberta Backwoods League last season."

Days later, when the coach finds out Johnny can't skate from one end of the rink to the other, he is cut to make room for Billy Boomer. "Billy has all the tools. He was the last cut from Pine Point Penguins... what else do they do but play hockey in Pine Point?"

BUILT IGLOOS

After two scrimmages, management finds out Boomer spent all his spare time building igloos.

This year, there is a quiet type of optimism at the Vernon Lakers' camp. After placing second in the BCJHL Interior Division last season, fans expect Vernon to again challenge for the division title. And they probably won't be disappointed.

Few BCJHL camps, other than Lakers, can boast more than

15 players with junior 'A' experience. Despite the number of veterans on the roster, no team officials are predicting Lakers are going to run away with first place. In fact, about the most positive statement we could get out of anyone is from General manager Carl Enemark who said, "We've got a lot of talent to choose from."

VETERANS RETURN

Up front, returnees include Rob Kossan, Bob Wensley, Brent Doucette, Greg Kowal, Nick Kapicki, Gord Simpson, and Kevin Thorlakson. Dave Wensley also played in the BCJHL last year, with Richmond Sockeyes.

Todd Ewen and Ron Berezowski, who are still with New Westminster Bruins of the WHL, will be returning to Vernon if they fail to stick with the tier one club.

On defence, the only players back from last year are Gavin Shuya, the top rearguard in the league, and Ken McKenzie. However, there is no shortage of experienced defenders. Others include: Regan Desroches, who spent the 1981-82 season with Lakers; Chris Saunders, who played midget last year and was called up by Lakers for playoffs; and Clay Cody, who toiled with Kelowna Wings of the WHL in 1982-83.

Another defenceman with tier one experience, Rick Sarrafain, is expected to arrive later this week.

In goal, Shawn Oswald has two years of junior under his belt

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

SEPTEMBER, 1978

The volleyball dynasty at Vernon Senior Secondary School appears to be over. After four years of provincial ranking, the Panthers

are going through a rebuilding program. Coach Barrie Reid told the Daily News it will be tough for his club to qualify for the provincial championships.

By the Canadian Press
Montreal Manic, which squeaked into the North American Soccer League playoffs on the final day of the regular season, lowered the boom Monday night on New York Cosmos with an astounding 1-0 shootout victory over the Eastern Division champions for a sweep of their best-of-three quarter-final series.

Veteran Dragan Vujovic was Montreal's David against the Goliaths from New York, Soccer Bowl finalists the last four years, with the decisive goal in the shootout.

"Pressure doesn't bother me at all," Vujovic said after his goal in the second round of the shootout, which followed a scoreless, 15-minute overtime period.

"Pressure bothers young players, but when you've been playing 15 years..."

In other action, Toronto Blizzard edged Vancouver Whitecaps 4-3 to even their quarter-final series 1-1, while Chicago Sting did likewise with a 1-0 victory over Golden Bay Earthquakes.

With the score tied 2-2 in the shootout, Vujovic dribbled around Cosmos netminder Hubert Birkenmeier and fired into an empty net to the delight of 20,726 fans — Montreal's largest crowd of the year.

'NO PROBLEM'
"I saw that he was coming out quite a bit and I tested him with a couple of fakes and then I went around him," Vujovic said. "No problem."

New York coach Julio Mazzei said his players stuck to their game plan, "but unfortunately we didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

The teams played a defensive struggle throughout regulation time with New York holding a slight edge in play. Manic goaltender Ed Gettemeier made several key saves and turned aside three penalty kicks.

Montreal won the first game of the series 4-2 last Monday at East Rutherford, N.J.

Blizzard 4 Whitecaps 3
Neill Roberts took a pass from fellow-forward David Byrne and deflected the ball past Vancouver goalkeeper

BOYS HIT BLEACHERS
In the history of baseball at the Polo Grounds in New York only three players hit some runs into the centre field bleachers, 140 metres from home base — Joe Adcock, Lou Brock and Hank Aaron.

Tino Lettieri with three minutes and 15 seconds left to play to send the clubs back to Vancouver's B.C. Place Stadium for the deciding game Thursday night.

The winning goal was especially gratifying for Roberts, who played despite a dislocated right shoulder which was heavily bandaged.

"I came behind a defender and made a run at the near post," said Roberts, 29, a native of South Africa.

"I was off balance, so I hit it with my left foot and the ball struck into the far side of the net."

Vancouver coach John Giles, whose team won the opener 1-0 last Thursday, said he expected the series to go three games.

"We expected a tight game tonight and we got it," said Giles.

"Home field Thursday has got to be an advantage for us."

Ace Ntsoelengoe, with two, and Byrne had the other Toronto goals, while Frans Thijssen, with two, and Peter Beardsley replied for the Whitecaps.

Sting 1 Earthquakes 0
At Chicago, the Sting rode Tim Twellman's goal to its victory over Golden Bay. Twellman scored at 22:14 with a low volley shot from 10 yards out and was assisted by Karl Heinz Granitz.

Golden Bay had two good scoring opportunities in the first half, but Chicago goalie Victor Nogueira was able to come up with excellent saves on close-range shots from Leo Cuellar and Stan Terlecki.

The deciding game will be played Wednesday night at San Jose, Calif.

Spallumcheen ladies' draw

Pin Round No. 10 and Trophy Day

NUMBER 1 TEE

8:30 a.m. Helen Fogtman; Shirley White; Rita Guidi.

8:36 a.m. Joyce Jensen; Greta Maundrell; Robin Scott.

8:42 a.m. Elie Krawec; Mary Wilkinson; Bert Young.

8:48 a.m. Marge Bennett; Verna Nelson; Jean August.

8:54 a.m. Kay Moryson; Petie Kaulback; Ev Zamis.

9 a.m. Anne Pineault; Colleen Schier; Lois Weixl.

9:06 a.m. Ethel Thompson; Rosemarie Vonnentz; Celia Schmidt.

9:12 a.m. Fran Leng; Wyn Oliver; Lenore Hey.

NUMBER 10 TEE

8:30 a.m. Betty Griffin; Vera Jensen; Faye Dewilde.

8:36 a.m. Diane Simms; Jean Thomas; Marion Sheare.

8:42 a.m. Nell Daisley; Freda Holland; Sylvia French.

8:48 a.m. Kay Coleman; Marg Hamilton; Marcia Giguere.

8:54 a.m. Irene Bliss; Grace Myhill; Joanne Bradley.

9 a.m. June Sutherland; Audrey Davies; Norma Rees.

9:06 a.m. Babs McKay; Sally Allanson.

Keep count of your putts.

