

ALTERNATIVE TO NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY

European scouts visit Vernon

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The possibility of a future career in a European hockey league was put forward to Vernon lakers, last Saturday, by a pair of scouting agents for German third division teams.

Ken Read and Jack Ossachuk met with the local team and management following a scouting report they compiled on the club during a game Friday night, with Revelstoke Rangers.

Read spent three years playing in Germany and another year as a professional in Australia while Ossachuk played three years in European leagues.

Both Read and Ossachuk agreed several graduating members of Vernon Lakers had the ability to play third division hockey in Germany and both encouraged those interested to think over the possibility of playing in that European country.

"If you're not going to school or on to a higher level of hockey in North America, the best experience you could have is going to Europe," said Read.

"You learn a lot, you grow up a lot, and you have a great time . . . you'll never regret it."

Both Read and Ossachuk, now of Quesnel, reiterated some of their own experiences through anecdotes and

stories and each took a turn at explaining the various procedures necessary to play in Germany.

The major areas stressed by the two speakers dealt with attitudes that had to be adopted before embarking on a career in Europe.

"The mental preparation is extremely difficult," said Read. "If you make the team, they really expect a lot for their money."

There were other areas that required additional strengthening of character as well according to Read.

"If we do get you on a team, you've got to stick with it," Read explained. "If a player we send comes home early, that reflects on us."

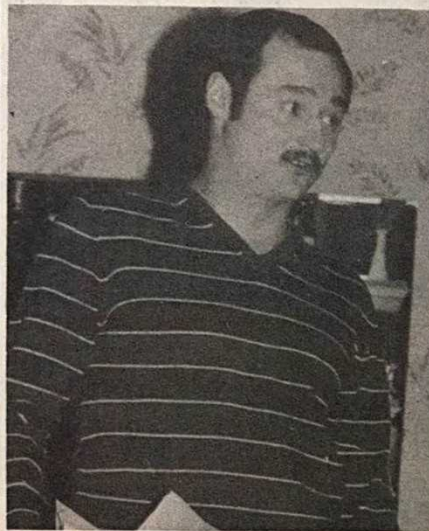
Ossachuk stressed much the same thing when he addressed the group.

"Attitude is big," said Ossachuk. "Go there with the intention of staying at least two years."

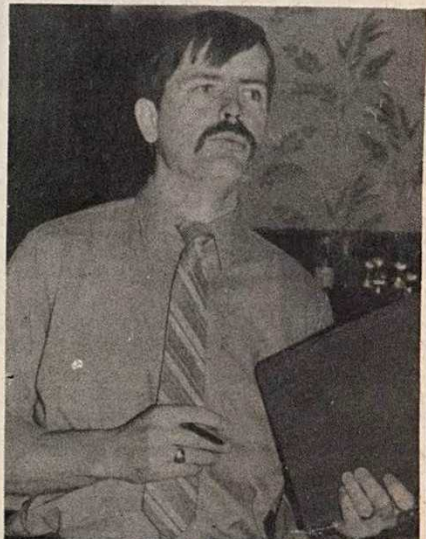
Ossachuk also explained the additional stress placed on Canadian players in Europe.

"If you're a Canadian and a hockey player, you're expected to perform and that means you have to have a high level of conditioning."

Players on the Vernon team interested in going across the ocean next season included Bob Wensley, Gavin Shuya, Ken MacKenzie and Mike Enemark.



JACK OSSACHUK, scouting for hockey teams in Germany was one of a pair of former European players who entertained Vernon Lakers at a special breakfast and expounded on the prospects for a European hockey career to the local players. Ossachuk played in Europe for three seasons. (Daily News Photo)



KEN READ, of Quesnel, a former professional hockey player in Germany and Australia traveled to Vernon recently to orient Vernon lakers as to the prospect of pursuing a hockey career overseas. Read is presently a scout for teams in German's third division league. (Daily News Photo)