

them.

Youngsters impressive

If the results of Vernon Lakers first inter-squad contest are any indication, a trio of local youngsters could be providing the bulk of the entertainment and perhaps more than their share of the workload for the local junior hockey club this season.

The line of Dennis Holland, centering bantam teammate Troy Mick and former midget rep Curt Peterson, proved to be the class of the evening and the surprise of the camp for General Manager Carl Enemark. The local trio paced the White squad to an 8-4 victory over the Reds in the game played Sunday night.

"The surprise for the white squad was the kidline of Vernon," said Enemark who also indicated that he is very pleased with the way the camp has been progressing in general. "We were very surprised that there are so many good local players. We feel we'll have seven or eight on our roster this season . . . we'll keep all 13 a while longer to give them a good look."

The last time Lakers enjoyed the benefits of an all-Vernon kid line was two seasons ago when the trio of Nick Kapicki, Greg Kowal and Kevin Thorlackson helped to provide a major turn-around for the club after a dismal season the year before. However, of that original three, only Greg Kowal checked into camp this season and due to an unfortunate turn of events Sunday night, the veteran winger will be sidelined for a few days.

Kowal suffered a bone chip in his ankle and though the injury could have been more serious, a few days rest are required to help the speedy forward recover.

"He should be ready to play in a couple of days," Enemark said. "He looks really good though."

As one of just four returnees from last year's team that posted a 45-15 record in regular season play, Kowal will have to provide leadership for the youngsters and new players who will fill the roster this season.

Another player who will have to shoulder some of this responsibility is defenceman Tony Christie who, besides being a second-year player, is also one of the few 20-year-olds on the club.

"Tony shows a lot more confidence and his attitude is really good," said Enemark of Christie. "We'll be looking to him to be one of our leaders this year."

Meanwhile, Enemark is expecting a new shipload of hopefuls from Alberta this evening with five or six new players to arrive.

The camp continues all this week under the watchful and helpful eye of NHL star Eddie Johnstone who has provided a welcome twist of class to the Lakers' tryouts.

"He's been a tremendous help to us and he's a great example for the boys," said Enemark. "He's also a good example of someone who's given a lot back to the game . . . Vernon can be proud of him."

Although Enemark is grateful for Johnstone's helpful attitude, he did express some disappointment in a handful of former players who chose to take their experience and expertise elsewhere.

"I'm disappointed that they don't want to play at home but that's their decision," said Enemark in reference to players such as Bruce Major who is currently in camp in Penticton.

Lakers' first exhibition game will be against Penticton Knights Sept. 16, while Salmon Arm Totems come to town Sept. 18. Regular season begins with a home game against Revelstoke Rangers, Sept. 21.