

Johnstone's expertise valuable aid to camp

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Under the watchful eye of coach Mike Enemark and the conspicuous presence of Eddie Johnstone, Vernon Lakers' junior hockey camp advanced through another evening Wednesday night with Enemark paring four or five hopefuls at the end of the session.

Enemark is left with approximately 24 players vying for positions on the club but is expecting several more players to show up in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, with Johnstone's presence setting a torrid pace, the present band of players is rapidly shaping up.

"It's nice to have Eddie around alright," admitted Lakers youthful mentor. "It gives the guys a real lift to practice with an NHLer each day."

Johnstone, while delighted to lend his expertise to the camp sessions, is also utilizing the valuable pre-season ice-time to hone his own skills for the upcoming season with Detroit Red Wings.

ASK VETERANS

While Lakers camp isn't lacking in either size or apparently in speed, one thing the club could use more of is veteran players. With just four returning players, two of which are sophomore defencemen and one a goaltender, the balance leaves just one player from last year's 45 and 15 squad on the forward unit. 20-year old Greg Kowal, now in his third full season in a

Lakers' jersey, has set his own goals for the season and if he lives up to them, and there's every indication he will meet or exceed them, his example should provide a steady influence on the younger players on the roster.

"I've had a good training camp and I hope to get 40 goals but if I get 30 I'll be happy," said Kowal. The speedy winger managed to net 25 tallies last season but showed a marked increase in his output towards the end of the season while developing ever-increasing power in his shots.

NOTABLE LOCALS

Meanwhile there are some notable locals still among the many youngsters who are hoping to make the final cut on the Lakers' roster.

Chief among these are Dave Munk, 18, and Bill Bishop, 19. Munk had an excellent playoff with the local junior club two years ago when he was brought up from the midget ranks but saw only limited action last season with the Vernon intermediate Cougars. Now older and stronger, Munk could provide some much-needed muscle and hustle in the forward lineup.

Bishop has developed through the local minor hockey system and is a recent graduate of the local juvenile rep team who finished runners-up in the province last spring. If he maintains the scoring touch he had with the juvenile club he will surely be among the top point-getters on the local squad.

BANTAM GRADS

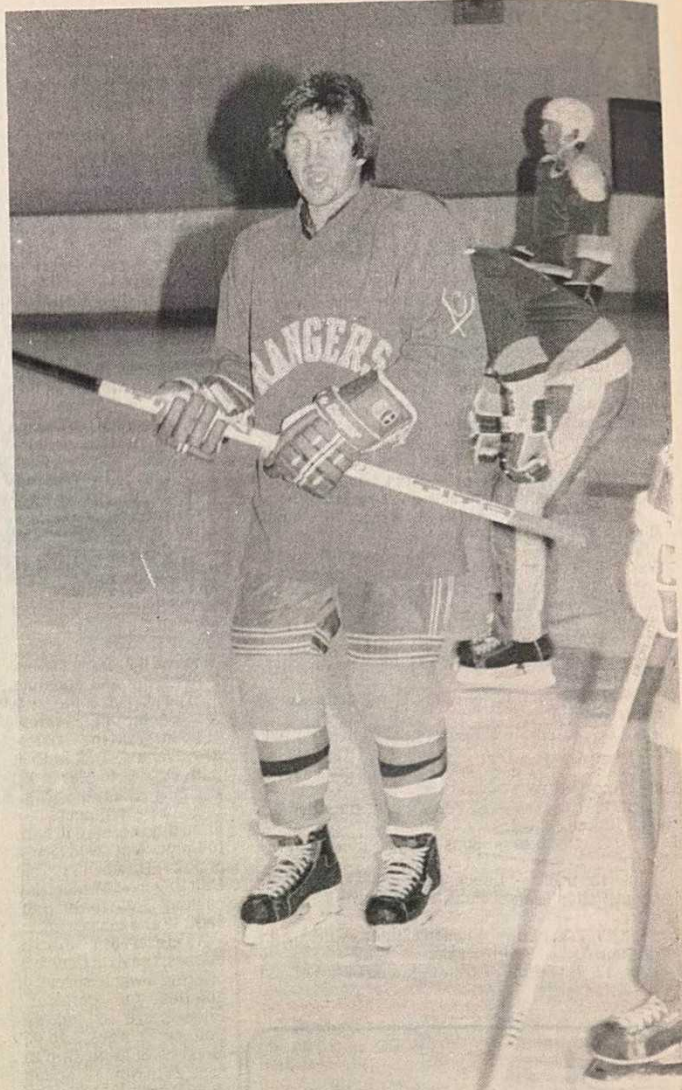
Another pair of attention getters at this year's camp are a pair of bantam rep grads from last year Troy Mick and Dennis Holland. Though both are just 15 years of age they play well together and could be very effective in the rough and tumble world of junior hockey.

Mick is the property of Regina Pats of the Western Hockey League (Major Junior) and is off to the Queen city soon for their camp. However, since it's doubtful he will see regular playing time with the major junior squad he may opt for a more glamorous career with Lakers in the BCJHL.

With Holland as centre and perhaps a speedy and battle-hardened winger patrolling the right side this duo could provide some surprise strength as a third line.

MATURITY

One of the more pleasant surprises, most notably for Enemark and his club is the style and maturity with which second year defenceman Tony Christis is displaying in the early going of the season. Possessing the size and strength ideally suited to his role on defence, Christis is exhibiting more confidence at the blue line as well as more agility and mobility in his skating technique. Christis is one of the players the club will be relying heavily on to provide stability on the defensive corps and to date is blossoming well in the role.



Veteran NHL star Eddie Johnstone has led the Vernon Lakers' camp through his fine example over the past week. Johnstone, who is utilizing the

valuable ice time at Lakers' camp to get into condition for his upcoming season, has been a valuable member of the camp instructional squad. (Daily News Photo)

TEAM CANADA

Natural goal scorers must get into the act