

COACHING RUNS IN FAMILY

Moores takes over Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Don Moores put Vernon Lakers through their paces Monday night's practice session as he assumed his role as head coach of the local junior hockey club.

Moores, of Kamloops, replaced Mike Enemark as head coach, Monday, when Enemark resigned.

It's too early to tell if Moores can instill any more confidence in the Lakers and he has no previous experience coaching junior hockey, however, if family genes are running through the blood in his veins, Vernon may well have a good coach.

Moores has two older brothers who are head coaches of university hockey clubs.

BROTHERS COACH

Bill Moores, a former junior hockey star with the now defunct Edmonton Oil Kings, coaches University of Alberta Golden Bears, of Edmonton. The older Moores has held that position for the past eight years.

Another brother, Jack, spent four years as head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds Hockey Club and stepped down this season.

Jack is taking a year off, but will spend that time scouting for the UBC varsity squad.

Meanwhile, the third in the line of coaching brothers has had numerous occasions to assess the team he has taken over prior to his appointment Monday, and he likes what he has seen so far.

"I don't think I would have taken the job if I thought there was nothing that could be done," said Moores. "I've seen them (Lakers) play eight times now and the one ingredient they have is that they have a lot of guys who want to play hockey."

While he is high on their enthusiasm, Moores is also impressed with their ability to work hard. Under his guidance, Moores hopes to increase their efficiency on the ice more than anything else.

"I know they work hard but they don't always get a lot done," he offered. "I think we can channel a lot of that energy into more positive hockey . . . there's a lot of things that I have to see before I can make any assessments though."

Moores doesn't plan any personnel changes until he has given his players an opportunity to prove themselves.

"I'm going to leave everyone where they are until they've shown me their stuff," he said.

Moores, 28, was third round draft pick of Los Angeles Kings in 1976. He is now employed by a Kamloops newspaper as an advertising salesman.

Although he doesn't condone violence in hockey, Moores desires toughness and discipline in his players.

"I like guys that can give a tough check and also receive a tough check," he said. "Discipline is a real must."

One of the primary objectives Moores has already set will be to undermine the domination of Penticton Knights, who lead the Interior Division by a healthy 10 points over second place Summerland Buckaroos and 11 points over third place Vernon.

"Penticton is a well-coached, disciplined hockey club and it'll take us a while to get that far but I think by the end of the year we can knock them off," explained Moores.

Although there is a lot of room for improvement on the club, the team hadn't exactly gone to seed under the auspices of Enemark. After 21 games this season, the club has a .500 winning percentage based on 10 wins, 10 losses and a tie. Although the team lost just 15 of 60 games last year, Enemark was forced to rebuild virtually from scratch and his record is the result of having to play 13 of 21 games on the road to date.

Moores will step into a much brighter situation having eight of his next 10 games at home which will afford the new coach an opportunity to experiment a bit more with new tactics than if he had a more arduous road schedule.

Moores' coaching debut will be Friday night when Lakers host Salmon Arm Totems.