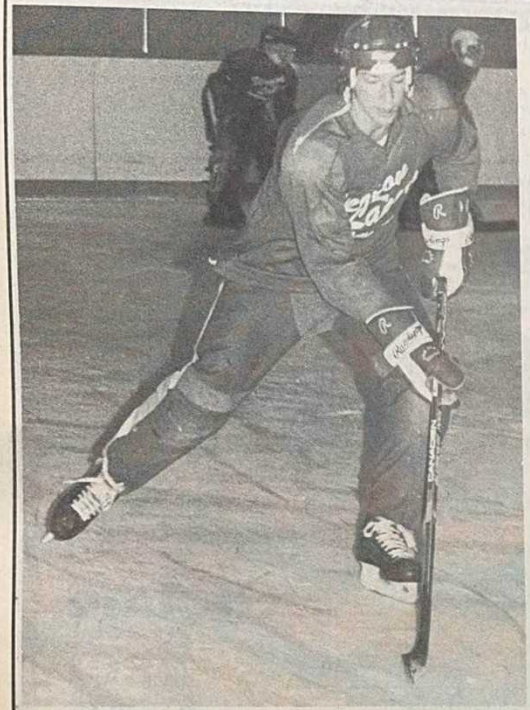
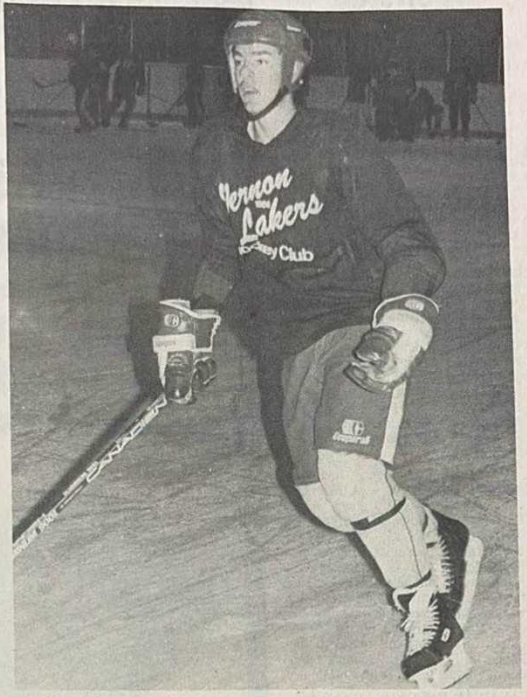
CAMP CONCLUDES FRIDAY

Rookies hope to catch coach's eye





VERNON MIDGET hockey graduates Sandy Moger, left, and Kris Gänzert are two of the promising young prospects at Vernon Lakers' rookie camp this week. Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare wants to take 15-20 of the best from this camp to his main camp Sept. 7 and these two local players will likely be among the chosen few.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

With more than 60 young players giving it their best shot, the problem of narrowing the field to 15 or 20 prospects might appear to be difficult for Vernon Lakers' coach Ernie Gare. But in reality, the task poses virtually no problem for the newest Vernon mentor.

Gare plans to select the top 15-20 players to take to the club's main camp, which gets underway Sept. 7 at Priest Valley Arena. From what he's seen after three days of drilling the young hopefuls, selecting that bunch will be a simple job.

"It won't be that tough to pick 15 or 20," he suggested confidently. "The first 10 or so will be easy, but the last five or eight will be sort of tough because there's a grey area there."

Gare, along with a little help from some friends such as veteran pro Eddie Johnstone, has divided the players into two groups with the bantam and midget-age players in one group and the midget grads, juveniles, junior B players, and also-rans in the second squad. Naturally, the second group is the larger, physically, of the two, but doesn't necessarily harber the most talent.

"I kept the younger ones — bantams and midgets, together and the older ones in the second group . . . it's easier that way," explained Gare.

There are some good future prospects skating in the younger group, but the majority of players who will go on to the main camp will likely come from the second group. However, Gare plans to have a good working relationship between Lakers and the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

"Vernon minor hockey has produced some terrific talent in the past years and we want to take advantage of that," suggested the Nelson native. "We're going to affiliate some players with the midget team . . . you want to keep the community involved as much as possible."

A number of local players will likely see regular duty with the club this season. Most assuredly one of those will be centreman Doug McIntyre, tho toiled for Weyburn Red Wings, of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, last season. The burly puckster seems to have all the right tools and qualifications to make an outstanding contribution to Lakers.

Meanwhile, another youngster, Sandy Moger, has caught the attention of Gare during this rookie session.

Moger played for Vernon Lake Country Sports Midget Rep Team last season after failing to impress Don Moores during last fall's Lakers' camp. A year has made a significant difference to the lanky forward.

"His co-ordination has caught up with his growing," said Gare of Moger. "He's got real good hands and he uses the ice and his wingers well."

The rookie camp concludes Friday with two intra-squad games at Priest Valley Arena.

ICE CHIPS . . . Gare, along with Merritt Warriors' Coach Brian Barrett and Penticton Coach Dwayne Pentland all played junior hockey on the same club, in Penticton in 1970.