EXHIBITION GAME FRIDAY

Vets could get cut

The new broom isn't exactly going to sweep clean but Vernon Lakers newest Head Coach Ernie Gare has already indicated that veterans in training camp run the risk of losing their jobs to eager rookies if they don't pull their weight.



GREG GUEST

Lakers' training camp is now in its fourth day having completed day three at Enderby arena Tuesday evening. Tonight the camp moves back to Priest Valley arena at 9 p.m. The camp will also run Thursday evening at the same time at Priest Valley arena before the club entertains Penticton Knights Friday night at Civic arena. It will be the first game of a home-and-home exhibition series with the defending Centennial Cup champs.

"There's always a chance that rookies will take jobs away from vets," suggested Gare. "That's what training camp is all about. We have some really talented rookies."

In addition to talent Gare also has size at his disposal. Many of the new faces in camp are young also meaning the club will have youth as well as experience this year.

"We're going to have a good mixture age-wise," Gare said. "We'll have three or four 16 and 17-year olds so we'll be strong in years to come also.

"You want to have that youth so you can prepare for the future," he added. "With the number of vets we have we'll be very competitive this year too."

Meanwhile, Gare and assistant coach George Fargher have noticed the pace has picked up once again but the players are still reluctant to show their new coach they are willing to mix it up on the ice. However, for now, Gare is satisfied with the increase in intensity.

Many of the players, particularly those who play either centre and/or left wing, have shown a talent for playing both positions so Gare won't be strapped for players in either position. However, it will be difficult to choose from the collection he has already.

"We're shuffling guys around and finding out where they're most effective," he explained. "We've got an over abundance of left winger/centres."

However, some players have already demonstrated that they aren't ready for junior A hockey and it will be an easy decision to trim them from the roster.

"There are already a few guys who you can tell won't make the club but it's surprisingly few," Gare said. "It will be good experience for them to finish the camp anyway."

Meanwhile, the local club is still negotiating with Merritt Warriors over the release of Vernon native Keith Chase. Chase, a burly stay-at-home defenceman, spent two seasons with the Merritt club and they are reluctant to let him go without considerable compensation. Considering the kind of season Chase had in the Molson Pro-Am hockey league this summer and his reputation as a solid team-man, it would probably be worth the price.

And, while the club is negotiating paying compensation, they'll soon be looking at collecting some similar compensation from Langley Eagles in exchange for right-winger Greg Guest.

The 18-year old Guest is currently registered for university on the coast and has decided to play for Muzz MacPherson's Eagles.

"He (Guest) couldn't get the courses he wanted here and we weren't going to stand in his way," Gare said. "We'll get some compensation for him as soon as the season starts."

The last time Lakers received compensation from a team for another player, twins Sean and Stacy Hartnell came to Vernon in exchange for Bruce Major in a deal between Lakers and Richmond Sockeyes.

Lions are concerned about kicking game

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia Lions are concerned about the kicking game as they prepare for a battle of the Canadian Football League divisional leaders Sunday in Toronto against the Argonauts.

Head coach Don Matthews said Tuesday the Argos have fashioned a respectable 7-3 record this season on the basis of the punting and kickoffs of Hank Ilesic along with sound play by the Toronto defence.

"Toronto must be a good team because they keep finding ways to win," Matthews said at his weekly news conference. "Ilesic is the premier punter in the league when he goes for distance and he also presents problems with his long kickoffs.

"Against Toronto we always take the ball at the 35-yard line after field goals because of the fine job Ilesic does with his kickoffs."

Ilesic is the CFL's leading punter with a 49.3-yard average this year, compared with the 42.2 average of B.C.'s Lui Passaglia.

Toronto place-kicker Lance Chomyc, who gives way to the strong-legged Ilesic on kickoffs, has made 23 of 27 field goal attempts, while Passaglia has been good on 17 of 27 after missing the first three league games with an abdominal muscle pull.

EARLY VICTORY

The Lions, 8-2, defeated Toronto 28-17 earlier in the season at B.C. Place Stadium when Argo quarterback Condredge Holloway watched from the sidelines with a knee injury while Norman Gibbs and David Bates called the signals.

Now the Argos have Holloway and former Ottawa pivot J. C. Watts at quarterback, along with No. 3 quarterback Tim Cowan, obtained recently from the Lions in exchange for a first-round draft pick in 1987.

"Toronto didn't do well last year after losing Holloway with a leg injury," said Matthews. "You can see the difference this year with him in the lineup.

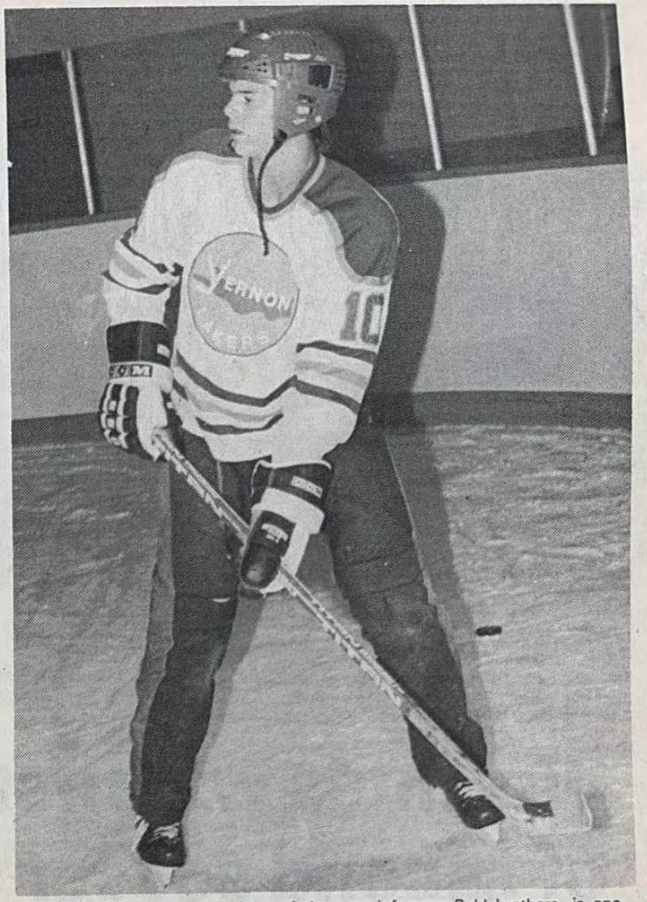
"We respect Holloway because he's always looking for that something extra to make his team a winner. Having veteran quarterbacks makes Toronto an entirely different team this year."

Matthews plans two lineup changes for the Toronto game. Linebacker Bernie Glier comes off the reserve list in place of Bruce Barnett, who suffered a hip-muscle injury last week during a 40-10 victory over the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Rookie lineman Bob Skemp will take the place of veteran offensive tackle Bryan Illerbrun, traded to the Montreal Alouettes for another first-round pick next year. Illerbrun has not reported to Montreal.

NEW STARTER

Jim Mills moves into the starting lineup at right offensive tackle on the strength of a strong, 30-minute performance against Ottawa in the second half.



TERRY POHL, the third triplet of the now infamous Pohl brothers, is one of the players in Lakers' camp who can play either left wing or centre equally well. Unfortunately there are a good number of players with the same credentials so these two positions will be among the most hotly contested at Lakers' camp. (Daily News Photo)

Vernon Daily News | **sports**

Editor — DON KENDALL

Inconsistent Eskimos feeling Comfortable

By The Canadian Press

The Edmonton Eskimos are 7-3, in second place in the Canadian Football

1986 may rival that of the team's glory years in the late 1970s and early '80s when they won five consecutive Grey Cups.