PLAYERS ON ICE IN TWO SHIFTS

Lots of jobs available at junior training camp

Though he has at least seven returning players currently in camp, Vernon Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare informed his 46 hopefuls Tuesday night that there were 20 jobs available with the local junior hockey club.

As even more players drift into camp today, the actual number will likely swell to more than 50 including eight goaltenders. Tuesday night, Gare and his coaching staff looked over the prospects from among the 40 skaters and six goalies on the ice as Lakers' opened training camp for the 1987-88 season.

"I told the kids last night that there's 20 jobs open," said Gare who is now in his second season as Head Coach of the Vernon club.

Luckily, four of his returning players are defencemen which gives the club strength at this important position. However, the goaltending position as well as nearly a dozen forward positions are available as well.

"We're strong on defence so that's not as much of a priority as forward and goaltending," Gare explained. "We have essentially just three forwards from last year so we need all sorts of players, there's lots of opportunities."

Naturally with so many players in camp the situation necessitated a breakdown of the group into two shifts.

"There's a lot of kids that want a shot," suggested Gare. "If they were on the ice at once it would be difficult.

"Last night some of the guys looked tired," he continued. "A lot of them haven't been on the ice yet . . . the tempo should pick up as the camp progresses though."

For some camp won't progress too far along as Gare has indicated that he will begin making his first cuts Thursday evening and that by the time the club has played several exhibition games on the weekend he will have made quite a number of additional cuts.

"I'll probably trim some tomorrow (Thursday) night," he said. "I'd like to be down to 35 after Saturday night's game."

In addition to the on-ice session, Lakers are also going through some fairly extensive dryland training during the days around the Polson Park area. The club will be on the ice this evening at 5:45 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. at Priest Valley arena.

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Editor — DON KENDALL

Former teammates will faceoff tonight

Gompert.



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