Many NHLers will play in Lakers golf tourney

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

Ray Ferraro, Pat Price and Steve Tambellini all liked it so much they're coming back.

They're coming back to the second annual Vernon Lakers Hockey Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament that is. The first event netted about $1,000 and the money will be used to assist a pair of hockey players to continue their education, said tournament organizer Ernie Gare.

"At the dinner this year we'll announce the names of two winners of $500 scholarships," said Gare, head coach of the Vernon Lakers Hockey Club. One scholarship is the Roly Samartino Memorial Scholarship, named after the long-time trainor and minor hockey booster in Vernon. It will be presented to the Vernon Laker graduating player, a 20-year-old who intends on furthering his education at a Canadian university next year.

The other scholarship is the Vernon Junior Hockey Scholarship which will be granted to the Vernon minor hockey graduate deemed most deserving. The winner may, or may not be a Laker player, it could be a midget or juvenile-aged player who came through the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

"The money raised will be put into an interest-bearing account," said Gare. "And we'll present it next year to help boys further their education."

The MC this year is BCTV sportscaster John McKeachie. Other professional players confirmed in the tournament include Vancouver Canucks defencemen Ian Kidd and Jim Benning, two St. Louis Blues players; rearguard Rob Dirk and forward Ron Flockhart and Jeff Finley a Vernon defenceman who suited up last year with the New York Islanders.

"There might be a couple of surprise NHLers at the last minute, but they aren't confirmed yet so I better not say for sure," said Gare.

The Vernon tournament is slated for July 15 and 16 but that's also the same weekend as Wayne Gretzky's wedding in Edmonton so a lot of NHLers won't be in Vernon who might otherwise have been able to make it, including Ernie Gare's brother, Danny.

Keith Brown of the Chicago Black Hawks will likely be here, but that isn't confirmed.

Former Kamloops Blazer standout Greg Evtuchevski, who played in Europe last season, will take part in this year's tournament, as will former St. Louis Blues leftwinger and current head coach of the Merritt Centennials, Ed Beers. Several notable local players will also be present. Among them is Brent Gilchrist, a slick playmaker who made a living with Sherbrooke, of the American Hockey League last season. Also, Portland Winter Hawks' Dennis Holland and Troy Mick plus another player from Vernon who recently inked a pro contract, Seattle Thunderbirds' defenceman Jay Stark.

The tournament calls for a Texas scramble, a format which amounts to a best-ball affair. Each five-man team member will hit a drive on every hole but only the best ball will be played. Everyone else picks up his ball and proceeds to the longest drive and whacks it from there. The same procedure is followed until the ball is in the hole.

"Last year we netted about $1,000 and hopefully this year we will realize a little more," said Gare. "The idea is to bring a bunch of guys together and have a good time and make a contribution to a good cause at the same time.

A highlight of the weekend is a tour of Okanagan Lake being offered the guests courtesy of Shelter Bay Charters.



Vernon Lakers head coach Ernie Gare (right) isn't sure what club to use and his caddy, Mel Lis, doesn't even know which ball he'll hit. Both men agreed to ham it up to help promote the Lakers golf tournament next week.
(Daily News Photo)

Ballplayers see collusion

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Dawson says he isn't surprised that owners exchanged information about him, and his former Montreal Expos teammate, Tim Raines, says that if given another chance at free agency he may leave Montreal.

Commissioner Peter Ueberroth says he encouraged the practice and doesn't see anything wrong.

Dawson and Raines are among the players referred to as the "January 8 Eight" in the Major League Baseball Players Association's post-hearing