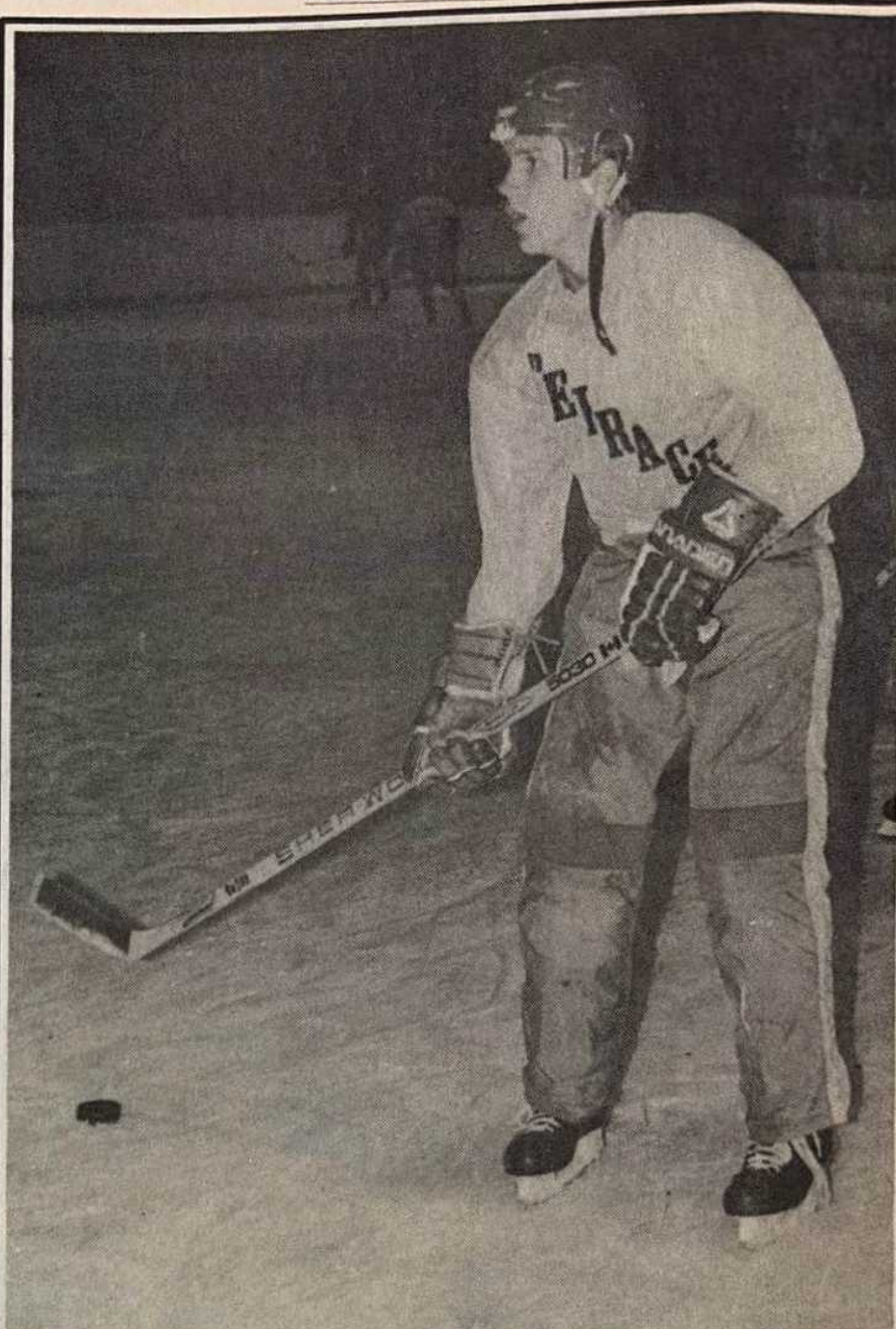




Sophomore Shawn Lofroth, who patrolled the blueline for Vernon Lakers last season, will likely move to centre ice this season where his speed and superb puck-handling abilities will be more ef-

fective. Lofroth suffered an injury to his hand during the summer but will be in action when the BCJHL regular season opens Sept. 21.

(Daily News Photo)

Speedster Lofroth will move to centre

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Lakers take on Salmon Arm Blazers in B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition action tonight, at the Enderby Arena.

In the first pre-season game of the 1985-86 campaign, last Saturday, Lakers thumped Blazers 10-2.

One player who won't be on the ice tonight for Vernon, but who could be ready for the season opener in 10 days is sophomore Shawn Lofroth. Lofroth, 18, arrived in Vernon last weekend and attended his first practice Monday night.

He suffered a broken wrist, in three places, and two dislocated knuckles when a manhole cover fell on his arm while working in Prince George during the summer.

"I'll be able to scrimmage next week and should be ready to play in about two weeks," Lofroth said.

The Prince George native was one of the best skaters in the Interior Division last season and promises to be even more effective, with a year's experience, this year.

Lofroth said, "I'm really looking forward to playing. After just one practice I can tell we have more talent than last season. We had a lot of rookies last year and now those guys are veterans. . . and all of them are

team leaders. There is real good team spirit."

Lofroth terrorized opposing teams with end-to-end rushes from his defensive position, during the 1984-85 campaign. In 42 games, he collected 38 points. However, due to an abundance of talented blue liners this season, Head Coach Don Moores plans to use Lofroth as a centre. And that move is fine as far as Lofroth is concerned.

"I played centre in midget, in Prince George," he said. They moved me back to defence when I came to Vernon because they were weak there. Now, it looks like we'll be strong on defence and I'll be able to help the team more up front."

Lofroth's younger brother, Brian, is trying to earn a spot on the Lakers' roster. He scored twice in last Saturday's game, but with so many veterans on the club, he may have trouble sticking.

"Brian is only 16 so if he doesn't make it, he'll go back to Prince George and finish high school," Shawn said. "Then he'll try again next year."

Another defenceman recovering from a broken wrist, Chris Saunders, also started skating this week. Saunders, going into his third season with Lakers, is expected back in the line-up in about three weeks.