

Dozens of rookies on the ice tonight

The initial phase of the 1986-87 version of Vernon Lakers gets under way tonight at Priest Valley Arena when the team's rookie camp opens.

The five-day camp will feature 60-70 youngsters, each hoping to earn an opportunity to attend the club's regular camp which opens Sept. 7.

"We'll have about 60 or 70 kids and I'm looking to take approximately 15-20 of these kids to our main camp," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare.

One of the areas Gare and Assistant Coach George Fargher will have their eye on particularly is defence. Gare wants to invite as many young defencemen as he can to main camp, although he has at least four veteran blueliners returning this season.

Another area Gare will be scrutinizing is goaltending. There's no question the Vernon coaching staff is looking for a starting goaltender.

Among the hopefuls in this department at the rookie camp are Marty Glockner, who played with Williams Lake of the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League last season, along with Randy Zemlack, who toiled for Vernon Midget Reps.

There are a number of others that Gare and Fargher will be keeping an eye on.

"As far as hopefuls, we've got guys like Ken McArthur, who played for Notre Dame (midget AAA champs) and we've got three or four guys from Salmon Arm . . . one of them is Kevin Scott who I already like," said Gare.

Meanwhile, there are a handful of players that will be coming to main camp that Gare hadn't been expecting. Among these are Vernon native Doug McIntyre, who played for Weyburn Red Wings of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League last year, along with Greg Bedard and Ed Tuckwood, formerly of Summerland Buckaroos. In addition, Terry Pohl, the third of the Pohl brothers triplets, will check into camp looking for a spot at centre ice. Pohl toiled for Quesnel Millionaires, of the PCJHL, last year.

With the prospects coming to camp and the returnees, Gare is looking forward optimistically to the coming season and with good reason.

"We'll easily be three lines deep," suggested the Vernon coach, referring to the depth the club will likely have.

Rookies take to the ice at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon and again at 7:15 until 8:45 p.m. They'll be on the ice twice each evening until Friday when they'll play an intra-squad game.