

# Eskimos Want 'Tough' Pros

By DAVE WHITE  
Of The Journal

VANCOUVER — A tough mental attitude is a must for the kind of professional ball players Eskimo head coach Neill Armstrong wants for his team.

"Attitude goes a long way to help a Canadian boy in the CFL today," said Armstrong as his club prepared to meet the WFC leaders, B.C. Lions tonight at Empire Stadium.

"The step from junior or college ball is in the same category. It's a bigger step than it used to be and rookies must develop a professional mental at-

titude quickly if they want to stay.

"Canadian coaches have to find a spot for at least one or two Canadian rookies each season," said Armstrong, "and I think that in Edmonton we are finally beginning to get good development.

"If two graduates can make it to the pro ranks each year, then I feel there is an excellent junior program."

Four players from the Wildcats and the Huskies went to Eskimos' main training camp. Two — Tom Machan of Huskies and Marcel De Leeuw of Wild-

cats — still are with the team. Huskie Ron Forwick left camp and Wildcat Ken Siaty was dropped after five games.

"We're still interested in both," said Armstrong "In fact I think Forwick would still be with us if he had been mentally prepared for the sacrifices called for in the pro ranks I'm certain he will be next season."

Armstrong said when looking for linemen, he definitely was looking for size. "There just can't be as many big Canadian kids as there are in the U.S. simply because of the difference in population.

"Machan has the size, and he's beginning to toughen. Canadian end Barry Mitchelson is another example. He's a good prospect, but lacks speed. We know he has good hands, and his blocking as a tight end has vastly improved."

Armstrong also was high on Peter Lewis, a graduate of UBC, who's done a fine job at defensive tackle, defensive back Terry Wilson and Tommy Thomson.

But the onus tonight could be on Canadian quarterback Mike Kostin, who's played most of

his ball this season at safety. Armstrong chose Kostin to back up Bill Redell, who will replace the injured Jon Anabo.

Kostin was tabbed a fine passer and runner in his college days at Loyola (Montreal). Some even went as far as to say he was a better college prospect than Russ Jackson was when he was at McMaster.

Apparently Kostin has the tools to do the job. If he has what Armstrong calls "the professional mental attitude" he'll make the grade.

Another Jackson? It's a nice thought.