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Duluth--- UMD hockey coach Ralph Romano, aware of the problem defending NCAA champion Michigan Tech poses in the Bulldogs' home opener Nov. 23-24, expressed satisfaction Friday with the progress made during the first week of practice.

"I'm presently quite encouraged with how three of our freshmen have looked. I feel that Mike Tok (Coleraine), Bob Hill (Duluth) and Lee Sutton (St. Paul) will definitely be of some help."

Tok has been tabbed to center a line with Captain Bill Lenardon (Ft. William) and Jay Beasley (Coleraine) at wings. Both Hill and Sutton are promising varsity defensemen.

"We are pleasantly surprised with Sutton in that he was somebody we didn't expect," said Romano. "It appears he has varsity potential. As of right now, our defense is much stronger than last year so far as balance is concerned."

Although it is still early, Romano seems concerned over the condition of some of his returning lettermen. He has 14 regulars back from 1961-62.

Aside from the Tok-Lenardon-Beasley combination, Romano had Mike Mithrush (Ft. William) centering Ron Johnson (Duluth) and Bill McGiffert (Duluth), and Duane Rostie (International Falls) centering Marv Zilkie (Winnipeg) and Bill Savolainen (Duluth).

Bill McGann (Duluth) remains foremost among the blueline returnees. Others are Dick Fisher, Jerry Udesen and Ed Sutton, all Duluthians.

Bill Halbrehder (Superior) and Jerry Wherley (International Falls) offer veteran strength at the goal. However, Wherley will join the squad a week and a half late because of football.