

# Shevalier not in L.A. Kings' future?

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Jeff Shevalier is under contract with the Los Angeles Kings through the 1996-97 season. But will he still be in management's plans at that time?

Talking with the usually confi-

dent 21-year-old, there's a hint he may never play a full season for the storied National Hockey League franchise, which cut him at his fourth training camp in September.

"I had a really good camp. I don't know what they (Kings'

coaches) were looking at. I guess they didn't see what they needed in me," said Shevalier on Monday, after his International Hockey League Phoenix Roadrunners (the Kings' IHL affiliate) dropped a 3-1 decision the night before in Kansas City against the Blades.

"I just have to keep trying. If I don't fit into their plans — and my contract is up after next year — then I'll see if another team wants me. Hopefully I can make a good impression on other teams watching ... you never rule out the possibility of trades."

Shevalier, disappointed at not sticking with the big club, said he struggled when he was sent down to the Roadrunners and it showed in his play.

But he has since adjusted, and recovered from a right hip flexor injury that kept him out of four games. The Acton Minor Hockey

product has scored 11 times and assisted on 13 others in 34 games.

Shevalier said it's tougher getting points this year, because most teams have adopted the neutral zone trap style of play.

"There are some things I have to improve on. If I didn't, I would be up with the Kings," reasoned the 185-pound Shevalier, who added he's working on regaining the 10 pounds he has lost since the start of the season. "I think it's just a matter of time, so I'll just keep plugging away."

"I have to keep an open mind. I'm here now, this is my team."



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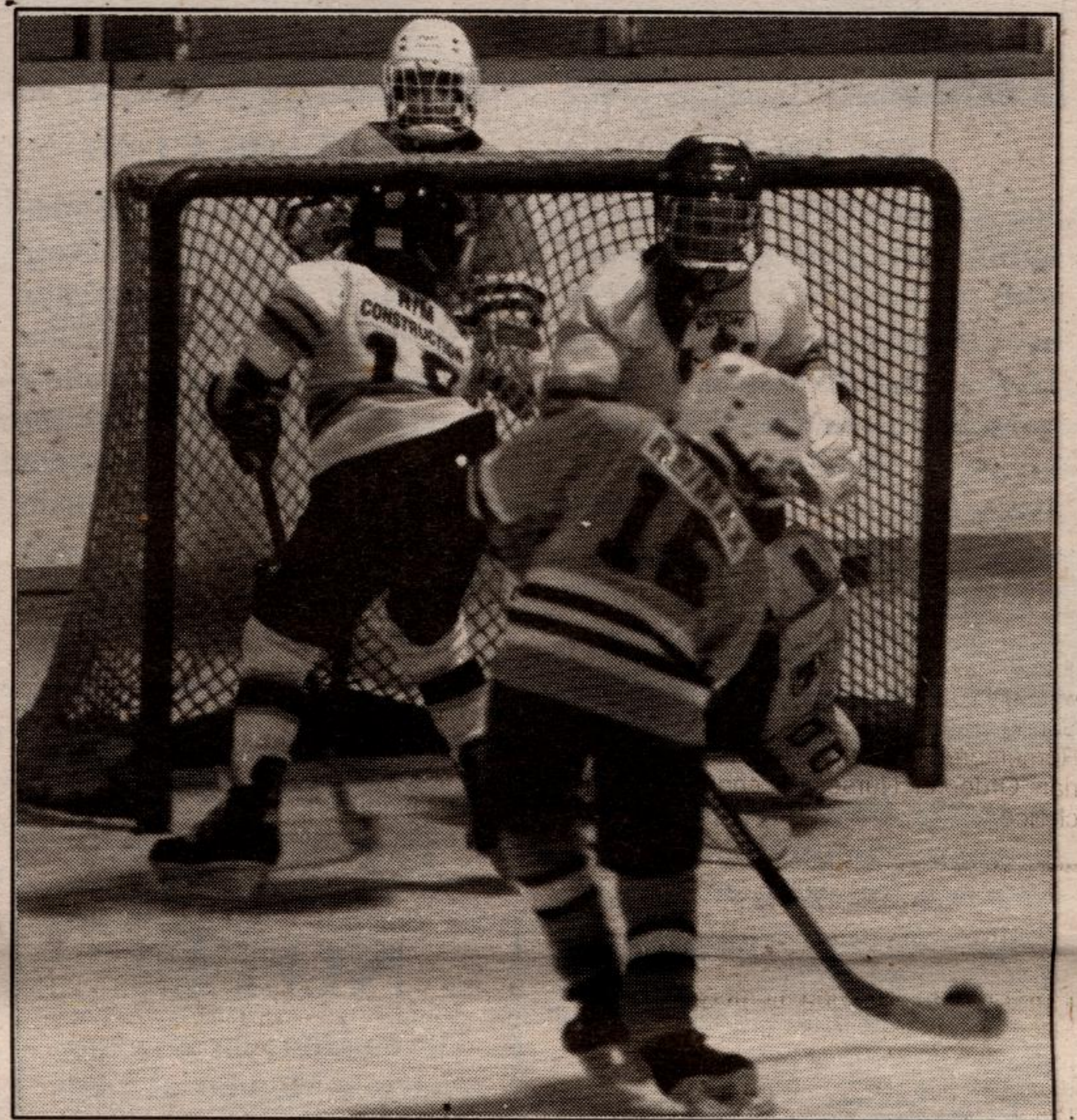
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