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Eskies search for camp site

A fire which partially destroyed the Concordia College gymnasium last weekend may have set Edmonton Eskimos' 1978 training camp plans back a year.

The club earlier had agreed to pay half of a \$25,000 tab for the resurfacing of the Concordia field, in addition to making other renovations.

But the field is nothing but a white elephant, as far as the Eks are concerned, without the accompanying dressing rooms and showers.

After splitting training between North American Baptist College (living quarters) and Confederation Park (playing field) the past two seasons, the Eskimos decided they wanted to move their camp closer to Clarke Stadium and the Commonwealth Games Stadium.

Damage to the Concordia College building, estimated at \$750,000, has Eskimo personnel searching for alternate accommodations for their annual pre-season training camp.

Frankie Morris, director of player personnel, indicated that the Clarke Stadium soccer field may once again be utilized for daily workouts but as far as a setting for training

camp, "everything else we've looked at outside of Concordia doesn't suit our needs.

"When the gymnasium burned, we lost our changing room and showers. The shower facilities are the biggest problem. If we can get showers we'll probably use Concordia for our training camp.

"In fact, we're more than 75 per cent sure we'll be at Concordia. Nothing else we've looked into fits the bill."

Morris also mentioned the University of Alberta as a possible practice site. The Clarke Stadium soccer pitch, just north of the stadium, eventually will be turned into a parking lot for buses but may still be available for workouts this year.

Eskimos marketing manager Dave Williams, and Morris, are two of a skeleton Eskimo staff in town. "We'll wait for everyone to get back before reaching a decision," said Williams.

Eskimos had anticipated up to a \$40,000 expenditure for the renovation and use of Concordia for their training camp and regular season practice field.

Time appears to be the problem now.