

LIS MAKES HIS CHOICE

Gare to coach Vernon Lakers

By DON KENDALL

Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Lakers' President Mel Lis today named Ernie Gare as head coach of the B.C. Junior Hockey League team.

Lis, who recently purchased the club from Carl Enemark, said he feels fortunate to have someone with Gare's background coaching his club. "I had several candidates for the coaching job," Lis said. "I felt it was important to start with a clean slate . . . with someone who lives in Vernon," Lis said. "I met with him (Gare) and I was very impressed with the gentleman."

Other candidates included former professional player Don Hay, of Kamloops, and Chuck Tapp, who coached Merritt Warriors, of the BCJHL, last winter.

Gare helped Vernon win its last provincial junior title in 1972. He went on to star in the Western International Hockey League with Spokane and Trail Smoke Eaters. After his playing career ended, he started coaching at the minor level. In 1982-83, he co-coached Vernon Juvenile Reps, who won the Okanagan-Mainline League championship and reached the B.C. finals.

He was named head coach of Spokane Chiefs, of the Western Hockey League, last summer. After only three months as head coach, Gare was demoted to assistant coach and head scout. At the same time, General Manager Al Rollins was fired and replaced by Marc Pezzin, who also took over as head coach. Then, in March, Pezzin and Gare were both fired.

"I gained a lot of experience in Spokane," Gare said, "but it wasn't a very good situation. Management was in turmoil for most of the season."

Despite his unhappy introduction to junior hockey, Gare is looking forward to coaching again.

"I'm excited about getting back into coaching," he said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Lis, who will also act as the team's general manager, expects about 12 returnees from last year's team, which finished third in the Interior Division.

"It will be nice to have so many veterans at camp," Gare said, "but everyone will have to prove they deserve to be on the team."

"At the same time, I'll have to prove something to them . . . I have to earn their respect."

Gare said his priorities include finding a playing style suitable to the ability of his players and improving Lakers' dismal playoff record. Vernon has been eliminated in the opening round of the BCJHL playoffs for the past four seasons.

"This team has a history of playing well in the regular season and doing poorly in the playoffs," he said. "Naturally, we hope to change that."

Lis expects to name one or two assistant coaches, within a month, after discussing prospects with Gare.

Gare's family has a long history in hockey. His father, the late Ernie Sr., was honored by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association for his years of dedication to the sport. The association's Coach of the Year Trophy is named in his memory.

Ernie's younger brother, Danny, was captain of Buffalo Sabres and Detroit Red Wings, of the NHL. Another brother, Morey, starred with Penticton Knights, of the BCJHL, before accepting a U.S. college scholarship.

Vernon players selected in draft

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

A Vernon minor hockey graduate and a pair of former Vernon Lakers were among the elite junior prospects from around the world selected in Saturday's NHL amateur draft.

Vernon native Jay Stark, a rearguard with Spokane Chiefs and then Portland Winter Hawks, was the first player chosen in the sixth round Saturday while goaltender Scott King and defencemen Murray Baron, both of whom played with Lakers last season, were chosen in the 10th and eighth rounds, respectively.

Baron and King, both Kamloops natives, were two of only six BCJHL players chosen in this year's draft. The other four were all members of the Centennial Cup champion Penticton Knights.

For Stark, who was reportedly ranked as high as the third or fourth round, being selected was a relief but he was a bit disappointed that he didn't go a little higher.

"Sure I'm a little disappointed that I didn't go in the higher rounds but I had a feeling it would be about the sixth round," he explained. "I kept having visions of sixes all week."

Stark will return to Portland this fall for another season of junior hockey, but he is looking forward to a great season of playing a regular shift on the blue line with the Portland club and he has been encouraged by his selection by Detroit Red Wings. Stark feels that he was chosen by the right club as far as getting an opportunity to crack the NHL in the next several years.

"I definitely feel I got drafted by the right team because they (Detroit) are right in the middle of rebuilding," he explained. "I'm looking forward to a good season in

Portland though... the way I look at it everything else is up to me now."

Meanwhile, Baron, who plans to attend University of North Dakota this fall on a full scholarship, had been on the Central Scouting list for most of last season having impressed the powers that be early in the season and confirming his talents during the BCJHL all-star game, in January, and again during the BCJHL playoffs, in April.

Baron was chosen by Philadelphia Flyers late in the eighth round — 167th overall.

"That was maybe one of the reasons they drafted him was that he'd have four more seasons to develop," suggested Baron's father, Roy.

The lanky Vernon blueliner certainly has the size to make the pro ranks at 6'3" and more than 200 pounds along with a pro shot from the point to go along with his size.

Baron plans to pursue a degree in business administration while at UND where he'll have an opportunity to play alongside former Penticton defenceman Ian Kidd, who will be entering his sophomore year at the NCAA school.

King, on the other hand, was totally surprised by his selection in the amateur draft. He was chosen by Red Wings as well, going 190th overall, the first choice in the 10th round of drafting.

King began last season with Richmond Sockeyes, of the BCJHL Coastal Division, but was dealt to Lakers early in the season where he took over the starting position. His season reached a climax during the playoffs when Lakers were ousted in the first round, in seven games, by Kelowna Packers.

"I know there was a Detroit scout watching me and I had a pretty good playoff series against Kelowna," he

said. "It was a surprise to me that I was taken though... I had no idea I was going to be drafted."

However, like Baron, being taken in the draft won't alter his future plans but it was a great encouragement for him to pursue a career in the sport.

"I'm still going to school for four years," he said. "It's good for the ego getting drafted though and it's very encouraging."

Although it was surprising that the BCJHL didn't produce more results in this year's draft, it was no surprise that Knights dominated the



JAY STARK



MURRAY BARON

B.C. selections.

Centre Lee Davidson was the first player chosen, going just before Baron in the eighth round, 166th overall to Washington Capitals. He was followed by defenceman Trevor Pochiponski and goaltender Warren Sharples, taken in the ninth round 170th and 184th overall. Pochiponski was taken by Los Angeles Kings while Sharples was selected by Calgary Flames.

Defenceman Cal Brown rounded out the Penticton selections going 221st overall in the 11th round, to Hartford Whalers.

Canucks pick Woodley in first round of draft

VANCOUVER (CP) — The Vancouver Canucks opened with an American and closed with a Russian in Saturday's National Hockey League draft but it's unlikely either player will wear a Vancouver uniform this season.

With the seventh pick in the first round, Vancouver chose Dan Woodley, a six-foot, 190-pound forward from the Portland Winter Hawks of the Western Hockey League.

In the 12th round, they selected Vladimir Krutov, a right winger from the Soviet Union.

The Canucks got to pick Woodley when the Boston Bruins, who thanks to a trade had the option of using Vancouver's first pick either this year or next, passed until 1987, gambling that Vancouver will finish poorly in the coming season.

"We were a little surprised we got our choice," said general manager Jack Gordon. "They think we're going to have a bad year, but we're not going to be finishing 20th or anything like it."

Gordon said Woodley, who holds dual citizenship — he was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., but was raised in Vic-

toria — will come to training camp "but chances are he'll need another year in junior."

Woodley has been invited to join the national teams of both Canada and the U.S. rather than go back to Portland next season.

"It's a decision I should be making as soon as possible," said Woodley, who had 45 goals and 47 assists with the Winter Hawks last season.

Vancouver coach Tom Watt said playing with a national team might be good for Woodley if he can't make the NHL club.

"The national teams are great developing grounds and we'll still have his rights, so we may not have any objections to him going there for a year or two."

The drafting of Krutov, 26, follows last year's selection of his linemate on the Soviet national team, Igor Larionov.

"We took him (Krutov) simply because there is some softening in the Soviet position and there is always the chance they may let them come over after they are over 30," said Gordon.