

DOUG SPOONER has been offered a scholarship by the University of Alaska-Anchorage. During his three seasons with Vernon Lakers, Spooner earned a reputation as one of the best all-around players in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. (Don Weixl Photo)

ALASKA WANTS VERNON CAPTAIN

Doug Spooner, who was captain of the Vernon Lakers during the 1986-87 season, has been offered a hockey scholarship by the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

Spooner has not yet formally accepted the offer, but recently told Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare that he plans to attend the Anchorage campus this fall. In Alaska, one of his teammates will be Shawn Lafroth, who received a scholarship last year after starring with the Lakers during the 1985-86 season.

Gare has mixed feelings about losing one of the hardest working players in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. "I'm happy for Doug . . . I'm glad we were able to help him get a scholarship," Gare said. "But on the other hand, I hate to lose him. I'm sure he would have won the scoring race next year. He leaves a big pair of skates to fill."

Spooner, 19 collected 104 points and was named to the Interior Division All-star Team last season.

He is the fifth member of the 1986-87 Vernon squad who has received a U.S. college scholarship. The others are: Craig Bedard, Alaska-Fairbanks; Shawn Howard, Minnesota-Duluth; Campbell Blair, Maine; and Kevin Scott, Northern Michigan.