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Herrera of Venezuela.

Hockey club acquires a top midget player

Vernon Lakers' General manager Mel Lis has announced the acquisition of one of the top-ranked midget hockey players in Western Canada.

Winger Jamie Steer of Calgary has confirmed he will attend the Lakers' training camp, which opens Sept. 1.

Lis said, "He is a great catch for us. He turned down offers from a lot of teams to come to Vernon."

Steer, 18, scored 97 points, in 39 games last winter in the Southern Alberta 'AAA' Midget Hockey League.

"Prince Albert Raiders (Western Hockey League) really wanted him," Lis said. "But, he decided he wants to go to university. And several U.S. universities are already interested in him."

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules stipulate that WHL players are classed as semi-professional and therefore are not eligible for scholarships.

Meanwhile, Lis is working on two trades that could bring a pair of BC-JHL veterans to Vernon.

"I can't say anything yet, but I hope to have both those deals finalized this week," Lis said.

Lakers' rookie camp opens Aug. 26 in the Vernon Civic Arena.