# Lakers acquire rugged forward

By DON KENDALL
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Vernon Lakers completed two trades, Monday, on the eve of their rookie training camp.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare announced his club has acquired winger Mike Paller from Abbotsford Falcons, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, and winger Brian Lafroth from Prince George Spruce Kings, of the Peace Cariboo Junior League.

In exchange for Paller, Lakers sent forward Jeff Dobish to Abbotsford. Dobish was part of an eight-player deal with Juan de Fuca Whalers, that was completed earlier this summer. Phil Soukeroff, Mike Barkley, Darren Naylor and Dobish came to the Lakers in exchange for Todd Demchuk, Jan Zeidel, Mike Conrad, and Brian Main.

"We feel Paller can help us more than Dobish," said Gare. "He is a big, tough winger. He is particularly good along the boards."

Paller, 20, scored 15 goals and added 25 assists while picking up 205 penalty minutes during the 1986-87 season.

Prince George gave Lafroth to the Lakers for future considerations. "If Lafroth makes our club, we'll have to send someone to Prince George," Gare said.

Lafroth tried unsuccessfully to earn a spot with the Lakers, as a 16-year-old, in 1985. However, he makes his second trip to Vernon as a highly-touted prospect with two years of experience in the Cariboo loop.

"Prince George didn't want to give him up," Gare said. "They were counting on him to be their captain this year, but he wanted to come to Vernon."

Lafroth's older brother, Shawn, starred for two seasons with the Lakers before accepting a scholarship from the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

Meanwhile, about 85 rookies will step on the ice tonight at the Priest Valley Arena.

The huge contingent, which includes 13 goalies, is divided into three sections for on-ice workouts.

Gare declined to name the top rookie prospects but said, "We expect 10-12 rookies to be invited to our main training camp."

Rookie practices are scheduled tonight from 4-9 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 4-9 p.m.; and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The top 40 players will take part in an intra-squad game, Friday, at 6 p.m. The main camp opens next Tuesday.