Lakers sign slick winger

Jamie Steer turned a lot of heads this week at the Priest Valley Arena.

Steer has demonstrated the skills of a junior superstar during the Vernon Lakers' training camp. His speed, puckhandling ability, and shooting have prompted observers to ask, "Who is that guy?"



JAMIE STEER

Steer, 18, starred with the Calgary Buffalos Midget 'AAA' Team last season. In 40 games with the Buffalos, Steer collected 46 goals and 46 assists.

"He is quite a hockey player," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis, who signed Steer the day he arrived in Vernon. "He was one of the top-rated midgets on the prairies last year."

Steer had been expected to join Prince Albert Raiders of the Western Hockey League. But, the slick winger decided to try for a U.S. hockey scholarship. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules prohibit the awarding of scholarships to WHL players because they are classed as semi-professional.

"Once I decided that I wanted to go the scholarship route, my (midget) coach told me Vernon would be a good place to play," Steer said. "The Lakers have proven they help their players pursue scholarships."

Steer admits Prince Albert made him an attractive offer. He declined to discuss details, but said, "They had a spot for me on right wing."

Lakers Head Coach Ernie Gare feels Steer has all the tools to be a star in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. "He is a dynamic hockey player," Gare said. "He is an intense player. . .with excellent skills. He should score a lot of goals in this league."

Meanwhile, Gare reduced his training camp roster to 40 by releasing seven players after Thursday night's intra-squad game. The cuts included Vernon minor hockey graduate Doug MacIntyre and goalie Wade Parker, who played with Summerland Buckaroos of the BCJHL last season.

Lakers will use an all-rookie line-up tonight when they travel to Penticton, to meet the Knights, in a pre-season contest. On Saturday night, Lakers tangle with the Merritt Centennials, in Winfield.

GOALPOSTS: Veteran forward Mark Greyeyes is limping because of a charleyhorse he suffered during the Vernon Pro-Am Summer League. Greyeyes expects to be sidelined another seven to 10 days . . . Lis is still negotiating for an experienced BCJHL goalie . . . Seattle and Spokane will play a WHL exhibition game Sunday afternoon in Winfield.