

The Vernon Lakers held their awards presentations recently with eight players receiving recognition for their contributions to the team over the course of the season. In back from left: Adrian Markin, most improved player; Ian Alger, most popular player; Dallas Drake, top scorer and most valuable player; Chad Biafore and Phil Soukoroff, best defenceman (tie). In front, from left; Jamie Steer, most gentlemanly player and rookie of the year; Mike Paller, most under-rated player; Glen Fry, playoff MVP.

(Daily News Photo)

Lakers' leading scorers take majority of awards

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

A couple of familiar names stole the spotlight and the majority of individual awards recently as the Vernon Lakers paid hommage to their team, booster club, and support staff during awards night and banquet celebrations.

Dallas Drake and Jamie Steer, who finished one-two, respectively, in team individual scoring this season, each walked away with a pair of major awards. The two were honored in recognition of their efforts and their contribution to the local Junior A club over the course of the 1987-88 B.C. Junior Hockey League season.

Drake, whose 126 regular season points in only 40 games gave him not only the team scoring award but also the BC-JHL scoring championship, received the team's top award in the form of the Lis Equipment Trophy as the club's most valuable player during the regular season. Along with the hardware, Drake also received a sizeable clothing voucher from Country Casuals as part of the award.

Drake also was awarded the team trophy as the club's top scorer.

Steer, meanwhile, was the overwhelming choice for both of the awards he received from the Lakers. He was winner of the Most Gentlemanly Player honor as well as the Rookie of the Year award.

The stylish 17-year old winger, always a scoring threat and always prepared to give 100 percent on the ice, amassed 119 points in his first junior hockey season and gave Drake a run for the scoring championship right up until the last week of play.

In addition to his scoring exploits, Steer picked up just 14 minutes in penalties during the 52-game season in which he appeared in every game.

Ironically, the two teammates will face each other as opponents next season in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Drake accepted a full-term scholarship with Northern Michigan University while Steer accepted a scholarship deal at Michigan Tech University. Drake was one of two Lakers who signed with Northern Michigan.

Meanwhile, Ian Alger, the rugged winger who completed his junior hockey career with his fifth consecutive season this campaign, was chosen Most Popular player by the fans while Chad Biafore and Phil Soukoroff, the club's double threat on the blueline, were selected best defencemen.

Goaltender Glen Fry was unanimous choice on the club for playoff MVP honors.

Rounding out the major awards were Adrian Markin and captain Mike Paller who copped team awards as most improved player and most under-rated player, respectively.

The evening featured an unexpected musical bit of entertainment supplied by a group of players led by Paller and hulking defenceman Keith Chase both of which accompanied the group on guitars.

The latter event served to consolidate the players togetherness over the course of the season while proving the character depth of the club in the bargain.