NHL bound!

LAKERS' WINGER RATED HIGH IN DRAFT

A forward with the Vernon Lakers is bound for the National Hockey League.

Right winger Dane Jackson, 18, is ranked 45th overall by Central Scouting, but authority has it he'll go early in the second round of the NHL Amateur Draft June 11.



DANE JACKSON

And it will be the Vancouver Canucks who make that selection according to sources close to the situation.

"We have it from the horse's mouth that he's going to go in the second round to Vancouver," explained Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis.

The Canucks, who draft second in the first round and second in the next round, will make Jackson their first BC Junior Hockey League draft choice in the team's history. He'll be the 23rd selection overall if things go according to plan.

The most recent issue of The Hockey News carries pictures and stories of all the players expected to go in the first two rounds including Jackson's mug shot. According to the report filed by THN, Jackson began the 1987-88 season in relative obscurity and was "discovered" accidentally by NHL scouts who were making some quick assessments of the team.

However, the story of relative obscurity is news to Lis who supplied THN and Central Scouting with the information on the rugged right-winger.

"We (Lakers) went to Castlegar and watched him when he played Junior B so it was no fluke that we brought him to our camp," said Lis. "The Hockey News and Central Scouting talked to us this season about him so it was no surprise to us."

THN lists Jackson as 6'1" and 190 lbs and for a change it's no exaggeration of the player's size.

"I just talked to him (Jackson) last night and he's 193 lbs." said Lis.

Jackson scored 24 goals and added 30 assists for the Lakers playing a secondary role through most of the regular season. However, sports fans in Vernon easily recognized his smooth skating ability and his strength on his feet. In the late playoff rounds, Jackson was one of the club's best players.

Last year Jackson was a member of the B.C. team that competed in the Canada Games, placing second overall.

The NHL Amateur Draft takes place June 11 at the Montreal Forum.

Maroons capture top spot

Mother nature offered Fulton Maroons a helping hand Tuesday afternoon.

The Maroons used the wind to their advantage to score 10 second half points in securing a 10-4 victory over Spring Valley Secondary School of Rutland. The win gives the Fulton rugby squad the Okanagan Valley Senior Boys "A" High School Rugby Championship.

"We used the wind to our advantage and kept kicking it to keep it in their end zone," explained Maroons' coach Marty Stein.

There was no scoring in the first half of the game as the two sides jockeyed for field position and tried to locate holes in the others' defence.

"The first half saw us trying to feel each other out so most of the play was in the middle of the field," explained Stein.

Todd Dulaba and Roger Annis each scored one try for the Maroons who fell behind 4-0 early in the second half befors rallying for the victory. Blair Montguire put his kicking toe to good use also, converting one of the team's trys.

The occassion marks the first time that Fulton has won an Okanagan Rugby Championship. The title caps a very successful season for the powerful and talented Fulton squad.

Vernon Daily News | **sports**

Editor — JIM JUDD

Vernon defenceman to sign with Hawks

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports Editor

The Portland Winter Hawks are dipping into the Vernon well once again.

The Western Hockey League major junior team, which has scooped a half dozen players from the ranks of the local Junior A team in recent years, have agreed to sign veteran defenceman Chad Biafore for the 1988-89 WHL season. The deal remains to be accepted by the Vernon player.



CHAD BIAFORE

Biafore has indicated, however, that he and his father will travel to Portland today to finalize the agreement which will essentially afford the talented blueliner two years of free university education. In return, he will play his overage year with the major junior club.

Biafore spent two full seasons with the Vernon Lakers helping them to the BCJHL Championship as well as the provincial Junior A title before losing out to Calgary in the Pacific Region championship series. His quickness and ability to move the puck caught the attention of Portland's Wayne Meier who feels that his club can utilize the same talents to their advantage next season.

"We think that Biafore will play the point on our power-play and that he'll play a major role on our defence," explained Meier, Director of Player Personnel for the Winter Hawks. "We've got ourselves a hockey player that can be a factor for us and make an impact.

"We certainly have a spot for him on our defence," he added. "He'll add some experience to our young and basically inexperienced defence."

In addition to Biafore, the Winter Hawks have signed goaltender Byron Dafoe who toiled for the Juan De Fuca Whalers of the BCJHL Coastal Division last season.

As well as educational requirements, Meier said that his team will also be in contact with NHL teams in order to arrange a pro tryout for the talented rearguard.

"The Hartford Whalers have already expressed an interest in Chad to us so there's certainly a chance that he could get a pro look," said Meier.

Biafore, 20, originally had planned to spend the next four years in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with an American University. However, an incident several years ago has come back to haunt him and has seriously jeopardized his status in the NCAA.

"I attended a junior college three years ago in Cranbrook and the NCAA rules state that any player attending a junior college uses up years of eligibility for each year there," he said. "I used up three years of my NCAA eligibility according to them (NCAA).

"Some of their rules are unbelievable," he added.

Biafore had the choice between a full four-year scholarship at Chicago-Illinois and University of Anchorage, Alaska.

Both of those institutes, along with a host of others now, are willing to offer the talented defenceman a packags deal for his remaining eligibility in the NCAA.

He's exploring other possibilities now, though.

"We're close to an agreement (with Portland) but I still don't know if I want to go that route," he added.

Biafore is a native of Cranbrook, B.C.