

Portland trades for Vernon boy

By DON KENDALL
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Portland Winter Hawks, of the Western Hockey League, announced Thursday they have obtained the playing rights to Vernon minor hockey graduate Troy Mick.

Spokane Chiefs sent Mick to Portland in exchange for Rick Herbert. Herbert, a defenceman, has played in the WHL for three years and was chosen by Chicago Black Hawks in the fifth round of last year's National Hockey League amateur draft.

Portland head coach Ken Hodge said today he is pleased to acquire a player with Mick's ability. "We think he is a hockey player who will help us in the future," Hodge said. "Troy is a prolific goal scorer. We lose three left wingers next season and he certainly fits in our plans."

Mick, 16, started the 1985-86 season with Vernon Lakers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League. After a dispute with Lakers' Coach Don Moores over a lack of ice time, Mick went to Merritt Warriors. Since going to Warriors, he has scored 31 goals and added 25 assists, in 24 games.

Portland has scouted the Vernon area extensively and currently has two local products on its defensive corps. Jeff Finley, in his second season with Winter Hawks, was drafted last spring by New York Islanders and Jay Stark, 17, was acquired in a trade with Spokane earlier this season.



Dennis Holland, of Lakers, is on Portland's protected list and Hodge also hopes to have the 16-year-old centre in his line-up next season. Holland, so far, has been undecided whether to seek a U.S. college scholarship or go to the WHL.

"If Dennis decides to come with us next year, there is a strong possibility we'd reunite Troy and him on a line," Hodge said. "I watched them play together as bantams and they impressed me with their understanding of each other on the ice. They seem to have a sixth sense for one another."

Mick will remain with the Warriors until Feb. 14 when he is scheduled to join the Winter Hawks for two games against Seattle Thunderbirds. He is then expected to rejoin Merritt for the remainder of the regular season.

Mick said he is excited about playing for Portland. "I'm going to a class organization," he said. "This is great."

The possibility of playing with Holland added to Mick's pleasure. "The first thing I thought of when I heard about the trade is that I'll have a chance to play with Dennis," he said. "We had a lot of fun together in minor hockey."

Portland General Manager Brian Shaw and Marketing Director Bill Newbigging met with Mick, Thursday, in Merritt and were scheduled to meet Holland's parents, today, in Vernon. Shaw is expected to watch Holland play tonight in Summerland.

Hodge said one positive side effect of Thursday's trade is that Stark, who has been the team's sixth defenceman, will get more playing time. "With Herbert gone, Jay will get a lot more ice time," Hodge said. "We expect him to develop a lot in the second half of our season."

Buckaroos host Lakers

Summerland Buckaroos host Vernon Lakers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action tonight. In the only BCJHL game played Thursday, Kevin Cheveldave scored two goals and assisted on another to pace Merritt Warriors to a 6-4 victory over Summerland. Troy Mick, Allan Walls, Jeff Leyer, and Tim Roux also scored for Warriors. Ray Horyn, with a pair, Dave Tomlinson, and Randy Olsen replied for Bucks. Merritt is now tied for fourth place with Summerland, but Warriors have three games-in-hand. On Saturday night, Vernon hosts Merritt.