

Holland and Spooner major award winners

Rookie centre Dennis Holland, along with freshman forward Doug Spooner accounted for the bulk of the awards Friday night as Vernon Lakers wound up their season with their annual awards night and banquet.

Holland, who turned 17 in January, led the team in scoring during the regular season with 43 goals and 62 assists for 105 points and sixth place overall in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division scoring race.

His productive season earned him Rookie of the Year honors from the local club as well as the Lakers' award as leading scorer. Holland showed good durability in his first year of junior hockey, missing just one of Lakers 52-game schedule during the regular season. However, that one game happened to be in early January when the local youngster was in Quebec competing in the Esso Cup Midget Hockey Tournament with Team Pacific.

Holland centred a line with twin brothers Troy and Trevor Pohl. Troy led the team in goal-scoring with 46 on the season and also received honorable mention during the banquet for his exploits. Holland will now join Portland Winter Hawks of the Western Hockey League and may see action this spring in the Memorial Cup playoffs which will be hosted by Portland.

Spooner, 17, a native of Ashcroft, B.C., picked up the team hardware for Most Popular Player and also for Most Valuable Player. The wirey centre picked up 33 goals and 33 assists for 66 points during regular season but also added a hard-nosed attitude up front for the team and enjoyed the tough going.

In other areas, Most Sportsmanlike Player award by the team went to defenceman Jim Scott of Quesnel, B.C. Scott, 5'6" and 180 lbs., was in his second year with the club and is a 20-year old.

Meanwhile, Shawn Lofroth of Prince George picked up the team award as the Best Defenceman. Lofroth, 18, had 53 points for the club this season and was one of four selections from Lakers to crack the Interior Division All-Star team last January.

Newcomer Mark McCleary, a 20-year old out of Vancouver, was given special mention for his big contribution during the playoffs. McCleary, a sparkplug on offense during the seven-game series against Kelowna Packers, had 13 points.