

Portland lures Pohls

Twin brothers Troy and Trevor Pohl have been persuaded to change their destinations in September thanks to the relentless work of Wayne Meier and the Portland Winter Hawks' junior hockey organization.

Winter Hawks have signed the rugged wingers to play for the Western Hockey League Club for the next two seasons and as part of the deal to attract the brothers to play major junior hockey, the organization will take care of their educational needs for two seasons after they finish junior.

The two spent last season with Vernon Lakers of the B.C. Junior Hockey League where they attracted a lot of attention with their skills as well as their hard-nosed attitude. Following Lakers' exit from the playoff scene, Meier attempted to persuade the two to join Winter Hawks in time for the WHL playoffs and the Memorial Cup Tournament, which that team hosted in May. Unfortunately, the brothers chose to accept a scholarship program from North Dakota University.

"If they had showed up for the Memorial Cup we could have really

showcased them (Pohl brothers) and they might have gone in this year's draft," suggested Meier, director of player personnel for Winter Hawks. "We're very well connected with the NHL."

Meier and General Manager Brian Shaw are extremely happy to have the pair with Winter Hawks.

"We're very happy . . . I've worked three months to convince these boys that this was the best vehicle for them to play pro hockey," explained Meier.

"The boys are going to play for us for two years and we're going to look after their schooling for two years . . . if they don't play pro hockey we'll pay for another two years after that in Canada so we'll look after their education for the next four years."

Troy Pohl netted almost 100 points with Lakers last season including 48 goals while Trevor had 28 goals and 66 points. However, the two picked up more than 600 minutes in penalties between them while also providing local hockey fans with an entertaining form of on-ice dynamics.

The brothers won't be lonesome in



TROY POHL



TREVOR POHL

Portland either as they will join four other Vernon players as they contend for the Memorial Cup in the 1986-87 season. Also with Hawks are defencemen Jeff Finley and Jay Stark and forwards Troy Mick and Dennis Holland.

Although the Pohls have a high skill level it is their rugged aggressiveness that is most sought-after by Winter Hawks.

"Our team is highly skilled so we can't just bring in a goon who can't handle the puck and can't keep up with the play," explained Meier. "They are

very aggressive and have good hockey skills as well."

Winter Hawks have made Vernon their unofficial training ground and the WHL club isn't finished recruiting yet. Two other local players have impressed Meier.

Defenceman Tom Arkell, 16, recently earned a berth on the Okanagan's Under-17 Team. The rangy rearguard will be invited to Portland's main training camp, in September.

Rugged forward Ian Edwards, 14, has accepted an invitation to Portland's rookie camp, to be held in Edmonton. Edwards was recently named to the Okanagan Pee Wee All-star Team.

"Ian impressed me during the Winter Carnival Pee Wee Tournament," Meier said. "I haven't seen Tom play yet, but I've heard a lot of good things about him. We'll be looking at him in the Mac's Tournament (later this month)."

With the number of players recruited from this area, Meier said jokingly, "I guess we'll have to move our office to Vernon."