

THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Dobbie's deeds earn early pick

by Gary McKenna

February 15, 2008 - Western Lacrosse Association general managers spend a lot of time pouring over stats sheets before making their entry draft selections.

But there is one thing that can't be summed up with a number in a column: the ability to get under the skin of opponents.

That's not to say Dane Dobbie, who was selected in the first round (fifth overall) by the Coquitlam Adanacs in Tuesday night's WLA draft, does not have some impressive numbers.

The former B.C. Junior A Lacrosse League Burnaby Laker has been dominant in the scoring department the last three years, especially in the post-season.

But the 21-year-old also has a reputation for getting a lot of mileage out of his five-foot-nine frame, delivering punishing body checks and agitating opponents who get in his way.

"He is a great player," said Senior Adanacs GM Les Wingrove. "He gives us a lot of strength on our left side. You just have to look at his playoff stats to see what he can add."

Those stats include 16 goals and 15 assists in seven games during a 2007 post-season run with the Lakers, and 23 points in seven games in 2006. He also helped the team to a Minto Cup win in 2005.

Tuesday night was not Dobbie's first time being selected in the first round.

The Calgary Roughnecks picked up the Ontario native fourth overall during the National Lacrosse League's 2007 entry draft and he has gone on to score two goals and one assist in three games with the pro team.

But even with his impressive stats, Dobbie said he was unsure how high he would go in the WLA draft.

"[The Adanacs] are a great team," he said moments after being selected. "I have had the chance to watch them quite a bit the last few years."

While A's management now admit they had been planning on picking up Dobbie all along, Wingrove may have been trying to shield his choice from other teams.

Last week, the GM told The Tri-City News that if Coquitlam Junior Adanacs goalie Tyler Richards was still available by the time the A's first round pick rolled around, they would snatch him up.



Dane Dobbie will no longer call Burnaby home, after being chosen in the first round of the Western Lacrosse Association entry draft by the Coquitlam Adanacs, from the BCJALL's Burnaby Lakers.

Mario Bartel/Black Press

But picking Richards did not seem like a high priority Tuesday night. Despite having three opportunities to snare the netminder, Wingrove opted for Dobbie, Brad Richardson and Curtis Ptolemy before Richards was picked up by New Westminster in the third round.

"I didn't think there would be anything of value in the second round and Brad Richardson fell down all the way," said Wingrove. "We had him at six and got him at 12."

Richardson, 21, was a runner with the Burnaby Lakers junior A team, where he played six regular season games, scoring one goal and racking up 11 penalty minutes last season.

He factored in the post-season, playing seven games and pitching in with six assists.

"He was injured a little bit last year but this guy is the real deal," said Adanacs coach Rod Jensen of the team's second-round choice. "He will be a better senior kid than a junior."

Ptolemy, also picked up with the Burnaby Lakers junior A squad, scored seven goals and 12 assists in 21 games in the regular season, and racked up 47 penalty minutes. He also pocketed four assists in seven games in the post-season.

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