



## ***Kent Valley's Damon Hanson Picked by Medicine Hat Tigers in 7<sup>th</sup> Round***

**Kent, WA – KVHA News for 3 May, 2010** – Congratulations to Kent Valley's Damon Hanson. As we anticipated, Hanson was drafted in the seventh round of the Western Hockey League (WHL) 2010 Bantam Draft. Hanson was picked by the Medicine Hat Tigers as their eighth draft pick of the session. The Tigers had one draft pick in the first round, two in the second, two in the fourth, two in the sixth, and one each in the seventh, eighth and ninth rounds. Of their 10 draft picks, six are Alberta natives; one is from the Northwest Territories, one from British Columbia, one from Montana, and Hanson from Kent, Washington.

The Medicine Hat Tigers finished the regular season (2009/2010) in third place in the Central Division of the Eastern Conference behind the Calgary Hitmen (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Kootenay Ice (2<sup>nd</sup> place.) The Tigers defeated the Kootenay Ice 4 games to 2 in the first round of the playoffs. They lost to the Calgary Hitmen in the second round.

Medicine Hat has a long WHL and Canadian Hockey League (CHL) heritage that goes back to the 1970/1971. The Tigers have won the WHL Championship five times in 40 seasons. They won the Memorial Cup in 1986 and 1987.

A scouting report described Hanson as a; *"Potential power forward who skates well."* But, it was Hanson's performance in the Pacific District Selects Camp at Kent Valley Ice Centre that got the attention of WHL scouts. Hanson was contacted by the Medicine Hat Tigers, Saskatoon Blades, Moose Jaw Warriors, Chilliwack Bruins and Seattle Thunderbirds prior to last Thursday's draft.

I spoke with Damon Hanson at Kent Valley Ice Centre Monday afternoon. The young hockey player couldn't help but smile when he commented that he was very pleased about being drafted. *"It is wonderful, just great and very exciting."* Hanson credited his mom Leslie and grandpa Phil for encouraging and supporting him along the way.

Hanson attends Lindberg High School in Renton and has been skating since he was age 3½. When asked about his goal in hockey, Damon replied; *"The NHL and the Pittsburgh Penguins."* Hanson's advice to young hockey players pursuing their hockey dreams; *"Always stick with it! Never give up!"*

Hanson will attend the Medicine Hat training camp later in the summer. Hanson added that he plans to skate at Kent Valley next season. Kent Valley Hockey Association congratulates Damon Hanson and wishes him success in achieving his hockey goals.

KVHA also sends out congratulations to former Kent Valley player Daniel Sosa who was drafted by the Lethbridge Hurricanes. Sosa, a defenseman, played several seasons with Kent Valley and was active in Kent Valley's hockey development programs before moving on to the Seattle Jr./Sno-King joint team that played in the Pacific Coast Bantam Hockey League (PCBHL) last season. Sosa was the Hurricanes only U.S. born prospect selected in the WHL's 2010 Bantam Draft. Hurricanes Assistant GM and Director of Player Personnel Brad Robson said; *"Overall, I am excited with not only our four picks from the first two rounds, but also the players who were available to us in the middle and higher rounds. When we evaluate the players we take a lot of things into account, but in general we always look to build an exciting team with speed, skill and toughness all three of which are qualities exemplified by this year's draft class."*

See you at the rink!

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