

An Exclusive MESSENGER Interview

Dave Lair — The Lakers All-Time Leading Scorer

By PAT SPADAFORE

OSWEGO--It will go down as one of the greatest moments in the history of Oswego State hockey. It was quite an accomplishment to pass his former teammate to become the all-time leading scorer in Laker history.

With just 50 seconds remaining in the second period of last week's game with Hobart in Geneva, Ed Merritt scored and Laker Co-Captains Dave Lair and Greg Moore were credited with assists. It was that assist that enable Dave Lair to surpass 1982 graduate Rick Pratt's all-time scoring record of 266 career points.

Now with 271 career points after Saturday's RIT game, Lair will continue to add to that total the remainder of the 1982-83 season.

"It really hasn't hit me yet," Lair reflected. "Maybe a few years from now I will think a lot more about it."

However, he added, "It was on my mind, like when the 39 game point streak was broken. I was happy when it was over with because then it was off my mind and I could go out there and play."

"I try to use mind over matter, and the fact that I think they can't stop me means I'm not going to worry about what they are going to do, but what I'm going to do" — Dave Lair

Since coming to Oswego State in 1979-80, Lair has made three All-Star Teams in each of his three years.

Lair was third in overall scoring leaders in the ECAC Division II West Region his rookie year and earned Rookie of the Year honors. He scored 30 goals, handed out 47 assists for a total of 77 points.

In his sophomore year he duplicated his All-Star status and improved his scoring to 42-39-81 to become the nation's leading scorer in Division II hockey.

Last season he again gained three All-Star roles, ECAC Player of the Year, Forward of the Week (for scoring back-to-back hat tricks) and led all forwards with 38 goals.

Early Start

"It all started when I was seven years old in a real ironic way," chuckled Lair when referring to his start in hockey.

He went on, "I came home from school and my father says 'here, here's a pair of hockey gloves. Go down to the store and get me a pop.' So I came back and he gives me a pair of skates and says 'go do this,' then he

gives me something else. He started me out in hockey."

Then tragedy struck in the Lair family when Dave's father was killed in a work-related accident. "I was only eight years old but I think it was kind of meant to be that way...you know what I mean?" commented Dave.

Well, Dave Lair sure did and he has expressed his love for his father in his hockey performances.

Lair has set fire to the league thus far this season, scoring 13 goals with 17 assists for 30 points in just eight games. That's an average of nearly four points per game.

"I'm more aware of this being my last year. This is it you know," said Lair. "I've been working hard all summer. I ran quite a bit in the summer and I was a little bit better prepared. I'd run at 12 or 1 O'Clock on a real hot day and one day run 2 miles and the other about 3 1/2 miles."

Lair attributes many facets to his success as a scorer, one of which has been his linemates Ed Merritt and Jerry Morrissey.

"We really didn't get together much towards the middle of the year. Now we all work together, talk together and just keep on working and working on one thing. And the fact that Eddie is playing super hockey and Jerry is coming back off injuries, will help us work even better," said Lair.

A nice thing about Dave Lair is his personality and his modesty. With all the All-Star titles given to the 24 year old native of Niagara Falls, Ontario, his modesty is evident.

"I try to use my mind over matter, and the fact that I think they can't stop me means I'm not going to worry about what they are going to do, but what I'm going to do," states Lair.

Lair came here from Canada where he feels "there's not much difference between the two countries."

"I tried to get into a Division I school but I had some problems with my high school. I had pretty good grades but the fact that I didn't finish on time. I took a couple of years off, didn't work out so I came here," tells Lair.

When still living in Canada, Lair played hockey for the Niagara Falls Junior B Canucks.

Lair is really glad he came to Oswego. "I think this is the greatest town to play hockey in. The fans are really great and the town is really great. I think that Jimmy Patterson at Racemaster and Bill Reese at Oswego Sub Shop are great as they help us out, as well as our Coach Don Unger. He has done a real good job this year."

When he's not shooting pucks in on goal, Dave likes to hunt, fish and go to the Oswego Speedway.

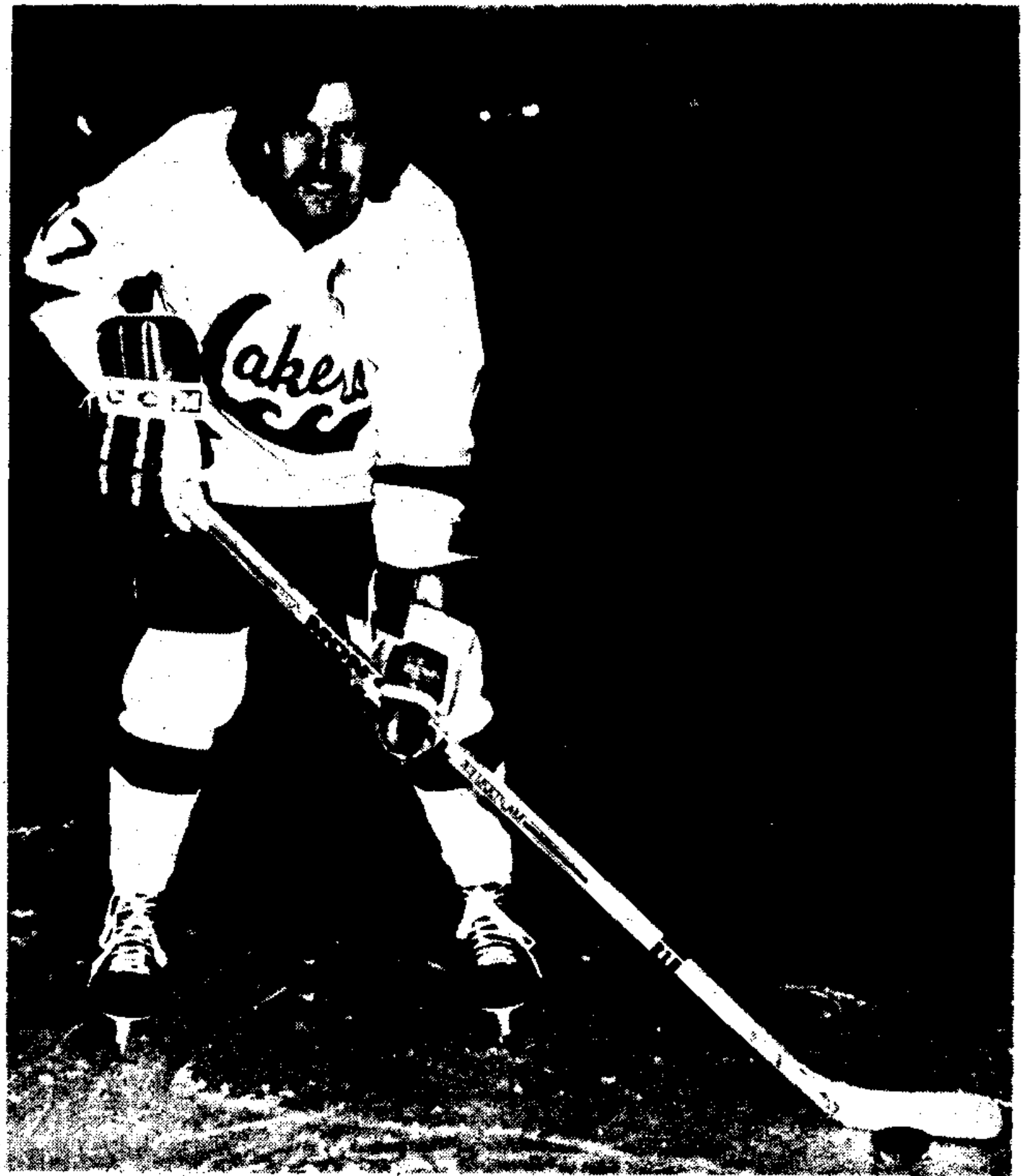
As far as the future, Dave Lair has a definite statement. "I definitely want to pursue a career in professional hockey."

As to where he wants to play, Dave responds, "I can only wait and see what scouts come to watch our games and go from there."

On the subject of pro hockey, Lair has these views of the recent successful youth movement: "I think that there are so many kids coming up today and its a known fact that there are so many players playing hockey is better than 20 years ago."

Aside from playing professional hockey, Dave Lair has a shorter term goal in mind and that is to win the national championship for the Oswego State Great Lakers.

With the caliber of hockey that Dave Lair is playing, along with the rest of the Great Lakers, the goals of the all-time leading scorer at Oswego State may just come true.



Senior Dave Lair (No. 17) of the Oswego State Great Lakers, became the all-time leading scorer at the college last week when he surpassed the 266 total that was held by Rick Pratt. With

271 current points, Lair has 20 more regular season games to continue rewriting the history books. (Photo by Tom Nevich)

Oswego Y Swamps Fulton

The Oswego Laker swim team swamped the Fulton Y last Saturday with a solid 329-229 win. Oswego captured eight of the ten age groups being contested in winning their third meet of the season against two losses.

Kim Shanley led the eight and under girls in a close win. Kim captured the 25 free and 25 back as well as placing third in the 50 free. Chris Ascenzi came through nicely with a first in the 100 IM, a second in the 25 back and a third in the 25 free. Gretchen Slosek powered home second in the 100 IM, 25 fly and 25 breast. Sarah Lockwood scored vital points with a third in the 25 breast. Beth Conzone swam well although not cracking the top three this week.

For the eight and under boys, things were a bit easier. Matt Purtell, Jon Rosenberg, Adrian Thomas and Eric Simmonds took the 100 medley relay and were never headed again. Brian Cole was a double winner taking the 25 free and 25 fly. Drew Thomas snagged the 25 back and his brother Adrian nabbed the 50 free. Matt Purtell swept the 25 breast. Eric Simmonds finished second in the 50 free and third in the 25 back. Jon Rosenberg edged into second in the 25 free. The 100 medley relay of Drew and Adrian Thomas, Matt Purtell and Brian Cole grabbed first. Greg Slosek swam well this week for the boys.

It was another close win for the nine-ten girls. Brandy Nettles was a triple winner once again with fine wins in the 100

IM, 50 fly and 100 free. Rhonda Bullard was in great form taking the 50 free. Julie Funk powered to a second in the 100 IM and a third in the 50 breast. Jennifer Nelson stroked home second in the 50 breast and third in the 50 fly. Michele Bower nabbed a third in the 100 free and Wendy Nelson was third in the 50 back. Kim Calvarrese, Aimee Nelson, Michele Bower and Rhonda Bullard were winners in the 200 free relay.

Another big win was turned in by the nine-ten boys. Matt Mitchell, Dan Lapus, Chris O'Brien and David Tonkin cranked out a win in the 200 medley relay. Matt Mitchell also took firsts in the 100 IM and 50 fly. Dan Lapus grabbed the 50 free and 50 breast. David Tonkin was the winner of the 50 back. Chris O'Brien swam well in taking the 100 free. Matt Smith finished third in the 100 free and Jeff Tonkin was third in the 50 free. The 200 free relay of O'Brien, the two Tonkins and Smith posted a win.

The eleven-twelve girls ground out to a fine win. Beth Hemink swam the race of her life in the 50 breast to go along with firsts in the 50 free and 50 back. Allison Thomas burned the opposition with wins in the 200 IM and 100 free to go with a second in the 50 fly. Doreen Salmonsens swam very well with seconds in the 100 free and 200 free. Niki Morgan had seconds in the 50 free and 50 back and a third in the 200 free. Sue Funk piled up thirds in the 50 free and 50 breast while Jill Cicarelli posted

a third in the 100 free. The 200 free relay of Sue Funk, Jill Cicarelli, Doreen Salmonsens and Chris Engel blitzed to a first.

Duane Lapus captured firsts in the 200 IM, 50 fly and 50 back, but couldn't hold off the opposition all by himself for the eleven-twelve boys.

Alice O'Brien powered the thirteen-fourteen girls to a big win. Alice easily swept the 200 free, 100 back and 100 breast. Mary Spencer added the 200 IM and 100 fly. Kris Funk placed second in the 50 free to go with thirds in the 100 free and 100 breast. Newcomer Laura Koszewski showed fine speed with a second in the 100 free and a third in the 50 free.

The thirteen-fourteen boys grabbed a win on the strong shoulders of Rob Sczapak who came in first in the 200 IM, 100 fly and 100 breast. Larry Spring captured the 200 free and 500 free in addition to a second in the 100 breast. Seth Rapaport notched fine wins in the 50 free and 100 free coupled with a second in the 500 free. Scott Cole nabbed a second in the 200 free for the winners.

Dinah Lapus couldn't beat a whole team of fifteen-eighteen year olds, but she certainly tried. She took the 200 IM and 100 back and then placed second in the 100 fly.

Dan Funk grabbed firsts in the 50 free, 100 free and 200 free to pace the fifteen-eighteen boys to their first win.

Next week the Oswego Y Laker team will journey to Liverpool in search of its fourth win of the season.

Oswego Lifters Place Well in Auburn Meet

AUBURN--In a recent regional powerlifting meet held in Auburn, N.Y., the Body Shoppe Health Studio of Oswego fared well, with owner Scott Cannova placing third in the 165 pound class, Bill Alton fourth in the 148 pound class, Dan Norris fifth in the 198 pound class and Chris Pardoe sixth in the 242 pound class.

Also, Mark Williams, posing for the Body Shoppe Health Studio, placed third and fourth in the open class at the Empire State Body Building contest in Rochester, N.Y.

