

LEDUC SPORTS
HALL OF FAME

Dixon Ward Jr.

Former National Hockey League player Dixon Ward Jr. was born in Edmonton in 1968 and grew up in Leduc, playing with Leduc Minor Hockey from 1974 to 1985. He played for the Red Deer Rustlers from 1986 to 1988, scoring 131 points in 51 games. In 1988, he was drafted in the seventh round, 128th overall, by the Vancouver Canucks in the NHL Entry Draft.

Dixon played for the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux for the next four years, becoming the first and only player in the school's history to achieve 100 goals and 100 assists in a university career. After graduating, Dixon played in the NHL until 2003 for teams such as the Vancouver Canucks and Buffalo Sabres, recording 95 goals and 129 assists in 537 regular-season games. He also recorded 14 goals and 20 assists in 62 playoff games.

He received the Jack A. Butterfield Trophy as the most valuable player in the American Hockey League's Calder Cup playoffs during the 1995-96 season. He made it to the Stanley Cup finals in 1999 with the Buffalo Sabres. He was also the captain for the championship-winning Team Canada in the 2003 Spengler Cup.

After retiring from the NHL, Dixon started working with the Okanagan Hockey Group. He is currently the vice president and director. The organization has five academies around the world, providing summer hockey training for more than 5,000 students each year.

Dixon lives in Kelowna with his wife and two children.

