

CENTRE ROB KOSSAN joined Vernon Lakers, Thursday, after being released by Kamloops Oilers, of the Western Hockey League. Kossan was the top centre on Lakers during the 1981-82 season. (Jeff Brandt Photo)

Lakers strong down the middle

Centre Rob Kossan practiced for the first time with Vernon Lakers, Thursday, since being cut by Kamloops Oilers, of the Western Hockey League.

Kossan, who spent the 1981-82 season with Lakers, will be in the line-up Saturday when Vernon visits the B.C. Junior Hockey League's newest entry, Shuswap Totems, in Salmon Arm.

Lakers' Head Coach Murray Lawrence said he is glad to have Kossan back in Vernon.

WILL HELP

"Rob was a little rusty at practice because he hasn't been on skates for about a week," Lawrence said, "but I know he will help us."

Kossan is expected to play between left-winger Peter Oliphant and right-winger Gavin Shuia this weekend.

Lawrence said, "We've got good strength down the middle . . . centre won't be a problem for us."

Gord Simpson, Nick Kapicki, and Kossan will be the pivots Saturday, with Glen Doucette acting as a fourth centre, for spot duty and penalty killing.

The arrival of Kossan and three other plays on tryouts brought Lakers' roster back to 29 players.

"It is like a revolving door," Lawrence said. "We've got new players coming in almost every day. We don't want to turn anyone away in case they can help us."

The players on trials are: Mike Enemark, a defenceman from Penticton; Eric Furland, a defenceman from Richmond who was recently cut by Victoria Cougars; and Ron Berezowski, a centre from Prince Albert, Sask.

Meanwhile, the BCJHL season got under way Thursday night with three games.

Defending champion Penticton Knights defeated Revelstoke Rockets 5-3, Burnaby Bluehawks pounded Esquimalt Buccaneers 10-3, and Shuswap Totems blasted Merritt Centennials 8-1.

The Knights grabbed a 4-0 lead after two periods in Revelstoke and then coasted to victory over the Rockets.

Brent Hull, Kelly Perra, Darryl Kraft, Steve Charbonneau and Mark Verigin scored for Penticton. Vernon Worne, with two goals, and Randy Swanson scored for Revelstoke.

Vernon's home opener is Sunday night, against Totems.