Lawrence expects 'a good solid game'

Vernon Lakers will try to begin the 1982 B.C. Junior Hockey League season on the right note tonight, when they travel to Salmon Arm to take on the Shuswap Totems, in Lakers season opener.

Totems started their year off with a bang, trouncing the Merritt Centennials, 8-1, Thursday.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said he expects a tough game from Totems, but hopes his team can come out on top.

"We're looking forward to a good solid game of hockey," said Lawrence. "We know they have some good players and a good goaltender in Troy Hankin."

Lakers are continuing to bring more players into camp, making Lawrence's job a lot tougher.

"What can I do, I've got to take a look at everybody who comes in," said Lawrence. "Right now they seem to be crawling out of the woodwork."

"But in the next couple of days, I'm going to have to make some hard decisions."

Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League have sent Lakers two more players; Ron Berezowski, a centre and Mike Emermark, a defenceman. Oilers are also expected to release goalie Shawn Oswald. Oswald could be in Lakers lineup this weekend.

For the time being, Rob Imbeau and Bob Moll are handling the goaltending chores for Vernon. Norm Schwing is listed as the team's third goalie. Imbeau will get the start tonight against Totems.

"I've been impressed with both Imbeau and Moll and Schwing hasn't been too bad either," said Lawrence.

Despite Totems victory over Merritt, Coach Terry Shykora said he doesn't expect an easy time from Lakers.

"We know they'll be competitive, no doubt about that," said Shykora. "We know they've got some pretty good players, but I haven't seen them yet so it's a little hard to make any predictions."

Totems have good size all around with players averaging 170 to 175 pounds.

"We do have pretty good size, we have a big defence, but some of our guys have a lot of filling out to do yet," said Shykora. "So far they've taken the heavy going, but whether they can keep it up for the entire season remains to be seen."

Totems will be in town, Sunday, for a 7 p.m. start for Lakers home opener.

Three Vernon players chosen by Kelowna Wings

Three Vernon players were chosen by Kelowna Wings in the Western Hockey League priority selection draft this week.

Jeff Shaples, of Terrace, was Kelowna's first round pick. Shaples, 15, is a 185-pound defenceman.

Vernon's Jay Stark was picked in the second round. Stark, 14, is a defenceman with the Vernon Bantam Reps.

Another local defenceman, Keith Chase was chosen in the sixth round. Chase, 15, has been playing with Vernon Lakers, of the BCJHL. He was a member of the Vernon Bantam Reps last year.

Forward Derek Webb, 14, was selected in the eighth round. Webb is going into his second season with the bantam reps.

Kamloops Oilers, who have sent several players to Lakers this season, did not choose any Vernon players in the draft. However, forward Henry Reimer is already Oilers' property. Reimer is trying out with the Vernon Midget Rep Team.