

Hectic weekend for junior squad

Vernon Lakers are entering one of the busiest weekends of the B.C. Junior Hockey League season.

Lakers host Revelstoke Rockets tonight, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Vernon pays a return visit to Revelstoke; and Sunday, Kelowna Buckaroos visit the Civic Arena.

Lakers practiced early this morning and after the workout, Head Coach Murray Lawrence said he feels his club will end its offensive slump tonight. Vernon scored only four goals in two losses to Shuswap Totems last weekend.

Lawrence said, "We've spent a lot of time on shooting during the past week. We had lots of scoring chances against Shuswap, but couldn't put the puck in the net."

Lakers will be without captain Gord Simpson for all three weekend games. Simpson was suspended for head-butting during a fight.

With Simpson out of the line-up, Lawrence has been forced to do some line juggling.

"I feel we have three solid lines," Lawrence said. "I'd be surprised, and disappointed, if we don't score a lot of goals."

Rob Kossan will play between Peter Oliphant and Todd Ewen; Nick Papicki centres Ron Berezowski and Brian Heller; and Kevin Weremy will be with Brent and Glen Doucette.

IN GOAL

Lawrence plans to start Bob Moll in goal, with Rob Imbeau slated to play Saturday, in Revelstoke. Norm Schwing, who was third goalie on the roster, has been sent to Williams Lake, of the Peace Cariboo Junior 'A' League. Schwing played with Vernon Juvenile Reps last season.

In BCJHL action Thursday, Darrel Pederson scored two goals to lead Esquimalt Buccaneers to a 7-3 win over Richmond Sockeyes while Abbotsford Flyers dumped Burnaby Bluehawks 7-4.

Rob Kaivell, Dale Brisco, Dwaine Jurreit, Dale Penner and Len Evans

added singles for the Buccaneers, while Lorne Cumming, Derrek Waters and Eric Catchpole tallied for the visiting Sockeyes.

Esquimalt led 3-1 after one period and took a 6-2 advantage after 40 minutes.

Karl Landry and Bill Geddie combined for 25 saves in the Esquimalt net, while Richmond netminder Ron Boyd also stopped 25 shots on goal.

In Burnaby, Ralph Vos scored two goals and added two assists in Abbotsford's win over the Bluehawks.

Dwight Mathiasen also scored twice for the Flyers who led 2-1 after the first period and 3-1 after the middle frame. Bill Shibicky, Dave Moree and Kevin Poirier completed the Abbotsford scoring.

Jim Hochstetter, Brian Mueller, Darcy Phillips and Howie Baldock scored for Burnaby.

Peter Saunders stopped 26 shots in Bluehawks' net while Rex Grant and Glen Stone combined for 19 stops in the Abbotsford goal.