

Lakers in second spot after trouncing Merritt

Vernon Lakers moved into sole possession of second place after handing the hometown Merritt Centennials an 8-1 trouncing, Thursday, in B.C. Junior Hockey League play.

The win improves Lakers' record to 12-9, one point better than third-place Kelowna Buckaroos with a record of 11-11-1. Penticton Knights continue to lead the league with a 14-5 record for 28 points.

In the only other BCJHL game, Shuswap Totems defeated Revelstoke Rockets, 5-2, in Revelstoke.

The losses by Revelstoke and Merritt leave the teams tied for last place, with six points.

GAME TONIGHT

Lakers were coming off a 7-6 loss to Penticton, Tuesday, and even though there is no league game scheduled for Vernon tonight, there is still no rest.

Tonight, Lakers play host to Cariboo College, 8 p.m. in the Civic Arena. The game was originally scheduled with Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League, but because of BCJHL rules, the game was cancelled.

On Thursday, Lakers led 3-0 at the end of the first period and 4-1 at the end of 40 minutes.

Stacey Wakabayashi and Nick Kapicki paced Vernon's attack with a pair of goals while singles came from the sticks of Rudy Poeschek, Ron Berezowski, Mike Enemark and Todd Ewen.

Allan Wall had the lone Merritt marker.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said Centennials were able to stay with

Lakers for the first two periods, but the third was a different story.

TRIED FIGHTING

"In the third they came out and were deliberately trying to get our guys into fights," said Lawrence. "I was a little surprised, I figured they would be a little better than that."

Along with Kapicki's two goals he also recorded two assists while linemate Greg Kowal had three assists.

"Some of our guys are really starting to come along, I'm really pleased."

Rex Grant recorded 42 saves for Lakers while the duo of Mark Taylor and Kory Brown blocked 35 for Merritt.

Because of poor road conditions, Lakers arrived back in Vernon at 4 a.m. and Lawrence said some of his players are getting a bit tired.

"I think we're starting to show some effects, some of our guys are looking forward to the layoff."



NICK KAPICKI
... scored twice

Revelstoke Rockets will be in town Sunday, for a 7 p.m. start. After that, Lakers get a 12-day rest.

Lawrence said he's heard Cariboo College has

a better team than last year, but still doesn't know too much about them.

IN GOAL

Lawrence plans to start Shawn Oswald in the nets, his first appearance since being assigned to Vernon by Kamloops Oilers.

"It's just a matter of Shawn getting back into playing shape," said Lawrence. "Against Cariboo, I'll be able to use different line combinations so the game does serve a purpose in that respect."

There will be reduced ticket prices for tonight's game.

In Revelstoke, Darrell Simpson scored twice to pace the Totems.

In addition to Simpson's pair, the fourth-place Totems got single goals from Ken Fenton, Ron Olson and Gred Cyr. Troy Hankin stopped 29 shots on the Shuswap goal.

The Rockets got goals from Datten Demone and Louis Gagne while Randy Kirby made 32 save.

Cougars play twice before lengthy layoff

Vernon Cougars can move back into sole possession of first place in the North Okanagan Hockey League when they travel to Kelowna, to take on the Packers, Saturday.

On Sunday, at 2 p.m., Cougars host Princeton Coyotes.

Vernon and Oliver Bighorns are currently tied for first place with 20 points, however, Cougars have two games-in-hand.

Vernon Coach Gary Swanson said he

expects his club to win twice this weekend. "We have to start building momentum for our tournament," he said. "The injuries are healed and the suspensions are over, so we don't have any excuses."

Cougars have a three-week break from league play after Sunday's game. In the interim, Vernon will host its annual tournament, Nov. 26-28 at the Civic Arena.

Quesnel Kangaroos, Prince Rupert, Oliver, Kelowna, Innisfail, and Cougars will compete for \$3,900 prize money.