Lakers tangle with Mustangs

The overall effect of a 12-day layoff can be disastrous for any truly competitive sports team.

That goes double for the Vernon Lakers since a momentary lapse in concentration could see them slip easily from contention in the close-fought Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

Naturally, Murray Lawrence, coach of the Lakers, isn't about to let their opportunity for a first place finish, or even a playoff spot, slip through his fingers by being idle for a two-week stretch.

Hence, Friday morning the Lakers embark for the Cariboo where they will engage in an exhibition match with the Williams Lake Mustangs.

Mustangs toil amid the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League, a loop which also carries a Junior A status but, is known to be more of a glorified Junior B league. That has been the popular consensus since their league champions have been blown out by the BCJHL champs each season for the B.C. title.

Lawrence and his charges don't intend on taking anything too lightly though.

"They (Peach-Cariboo League) have improved a lot up there," said Lawrence. "They've got players in that league this season that we were trying to sign down here."

One of the major problems which comes to light concerning an exhibition game of this type is that the Mustangs may see this as an opportunity to give their counterparts of the BCJHL a few physical reminders to take back home.

In this regard the Lakers' coach sees no immediate problem.

"I'm not really worried about anything like that happening," said the Vernon mentor. "They leave early Saturday for a weekend road trip that will include some important games and they can't afford to risk any unnecessary suspensions or injuries."

Even with this level of optimism, Lawrence will not totally abandon those possibilities. He won't dress any of his players who are recovering from injuries.

"I don't think we'll take any unnecessary risks in that regard."

However, it will be an opportunity to test some new talent in the Lakers' lineup. Steve Arcand, a



MURRAY LAWRENCE
. . . on road

defenceman who hails from California and came to Vernon via the Drumheller Minors of the AJHL, will get his first chance to suit up as a Laker.

"We'll use him in Williams Lake to get an idea of what he's like in a game situation," said Lawrence. "He looks good in practice and he responds well plus he really wants to make this club."

Defence has been no easy area to maintain for the Lakers lately with several defencemen out of the lineup with injuries. One of these is Craig Iseke who is sidelined with a severe back injury and will be out for at least a couple of weeks.

Another is larry Wiburg, currently suffering from a couple of out of place discs in his back. Wiburg's perscription includes nothing but rest, without contact of any sort for another week.

Novice team avenges losses

Minit Tune avenged a pair of losses last week with back-to-back shutout victories this week, posting wins of 3-0 and 2-0 over Rosman Brothers and Terra Magg, respectively, in Vernon Novice House League action.

Minit Tune got single goals from Mandid Khun Khun, Criss Morgan, and Greg Danby en route to their 3-0 win over Rosman Brothers. Minit Tune goaltender Danny Vistica received the shutout.

In the game against Terra Magg, Jason Philip-Watts and Derrick Wiseby had goals and Danny Vistica the shutout once again.

In other Novice league action this past week McDonalds earned a pair of points by posting ties with Rosman Brothers 1-1 and Terra Magg 2-2.

Ryan Wood scored for McDonalds and Tyler Dyck hit the twine for Rosman Brothers in this goaltender's duel. Jory Stang tended nets for McDonalds while his counterpart for Rosman Brothers was Steve Fullbrook.

In the McDonalds-Terra Magg draw, Chris Dodds and Chris Schimpl handled the scoring duties for McDonalds while Stang handled the game between the pipes. Scoring for Terra Magg were Forest Gagnon and Paul Kershaw.

In an exhibition match played by novice teams Sunday, Rosman Brothers outgunned the Drews by a margin of 8-6.

Danny Reinhardt and Mike Edwards each scored a pair of markers for Rosman's while singles came off the sticks of Tyler Dyck, Mathew Heemskirk, Paul Rosman and Jeff Exner.

Jason Altmeyer and Steven Dugdale each had a pair of tallies in a losing cause for the Drews. Rounding out the Drews' scoring were Jeff Holt and Colin Kjelgren.



