

Lakers at home after tough trip

Vernon Lakers host Esquimalt Buccaneers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action tonight, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Lakers suffered back-to-back losses on a Coast road trip this week, including a 13-4 shellacking by New Westminster Royals.

Vernon Coach Murray Lawrence said he is confident his club can bounce back against the Buccaneers. "We had a good meeting after we got home Thursday," Lawrence said. "We talked things over and re-established our priorities."

NO HITTING

"We have to forget what happened in New Westminster . . . we were awful. The Royals checked well, but we made it easy for them. Our club wasn't hitting or skating."

Lakers will have rugged forwards Todd Ewen and Ron Berezowski back in the line-up tonight. Both players missed the Coast swing due to charleyhorses.

"We could have used those guys (Ewen and Berezowski) on the Coast," Lawrence said. "They give us a little muscle up front."

DOUCETTE OUT

Centre Glen Doucette is still sidelined with a separated shoulder. He is expected to return to the ice in about two weeks.

On Saturday, Merritt Centennials visit Vernon.

In Thursday's only BC-JHL game, Revelstoke Rockets edged Shuswap Totems 5-4, in overtime. The loss leaves Totems three points behind third place Lakers and Vernon has four games-in-hand.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Royals win opening game

Lynn Zwarych scored 20 points to lead Vernon Royals to a 57-45 win over Lumby Timberettes in opening round action in the Royals' Invitational Basketball Tournament, at VSSS. In other games, Kamloops dumped Richmond 58-36, Salmon Arm crushed Castlegar 62-37, and Penticton trounced Trail 74-26. The eight-team event concludes tonight, with the championship game at 8:15 p.m.

Scored six

Gary Turik scored six goals to lead Lakeside Whalers to a 16-5 win over Toros in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action, Thursday night. Bernie Jager replied with a pair of goals for Toros.

Robinson returns

MONTREAL (CP) — Veteran defenceman Larry Robinson, sidelined since Dec. 4 with an injured left shoulder, was to rejoin Montreal Canadiens in Calgary on Thursday, a

spokesman for the National Hockey League said. The Canadiens are scheduled to meet the Flames on Saturday night.

Investigates scrap

MONTREAL (CP) — Executive vice-president Brian O'Neill of the National Hockey League plans to investigate an office scuffle between right winger Chris Nilan of Montreal Canadiens and left winger Curt Fraser of Vancouver Canucks, a league spokesman said Thursday. Nilan and Fraser scrapped in the hall on their way to their dressing rooms and had to be separated by police.

Starts 26th season

SEATTLE (AP) — Veteran right-hander Gaylord Perry has signed with Seattle Mariners for the 1983 season, his 26th in professional baseball, the American League team announced Thursday. Perry, at 41 the oldest se-