

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Bucks trounce Lakers

First place Kelowna Buckaroos stretched their winning streak to eight games by defeating Vernon Lakers 8-3 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Sunday, in Kelowna.

Buckaroos now have 42 points followed by Penticton Knights, with 38, and Lakers, with 36.

Vernon Coach Murray Lawrence said he felt, prior to the game, his club had only an outside chance of beating the Bucks. "It is pretty hard when you have seven regulars out of the lineup," he said. "We got beat, but don't count us out."

MISSING SEVEN

Lakers were without six players who were suspended after a donnybrook Dec. 23 in Revelstoke. Centre Glen Doucette is still sidelined with a separated shoulder.

Lawrence said, "We stayed with them until the third period. I was disappointed with the way we played the last 15 minutes . . . we ran out of gas."

Kelowna led 5-3 after the second period.

Brent Harrison and Enzo Caccavo had two goals apiece to lead the Bucks while Simon Wheeldon, Macelle Raby, Shawn Harrison, and Jeff Armitage netted singles.

Rob Kossan, Ron Berezowski, and Stacey Wakabayashi replied for Lakers. Wakabayashi now has 18 goals since joining Vernon, from Kamloops Oilers, 18 games ago.

Lakers' goalie Matt Sekela stopped 39 shots while Randy Kirby, who was recently acquired from Revelstoke Rockets, blocked 24 for Kelowna.

Vernon filled its roster with four juveniles: Shane Koski, Kelly Rosehill, Kevin Aeichele, and Keith Major; and two midgets, Keith Chase and Chris Saunders.

KNEE INJURY

"The kids played pretty well," Lawrence said. "One thing that does concern me is (Mike) Enemark's leg. He gave it everything he has, but his knee is obviously bothering him. I don't know how long he'll be able to play."

Enemark suffered a knee injury two weeks ago and was expected to undergo surgery to repair a torn cartilage. However, the operation was postponed, by his doctor, until after the season.

Despite the hometown win, Buckaroos' Coach Wayne Naka wasn't all smiles about his club's performance. "We let up in the third period," he said. "If you want to maintain first place, you have to outwork everybody."

HOSTS ROCKETS

Lakers are idle until Friday when they host the Rockets. On Saturday, Abbotsford Flyers are in town.

Vernon may have a new face in its line-up next weekend. Forward

Robert Toye who has been playing with Prince Rupert Kings, has arrived for a tryout.

In other games Sunday, Shuswap Totems shutout Merritt Centennials 9-0 and New Westminster Royals dumped Burnaby Bluehawks 9-6.

In Salmon Arm, Albert Anthony had three goals to lead the Totems to their shutout defeat of Merritt.

The Totems led 4-0 at the end of the first period and 9-0 after two.

Greg Cyr got two for Shuswap, while Brian Fuller, Joe Bilodeau, Craig Iseke and Rob Klenk added singles.

Ray Silvey stopped 26 shots to get the shutout. Mark Taylor and Kory Brown combined for 36 saves in Merritt's net.

At New Westminster, injury-riddled Burnaby Blue Hawks lost steam in the final period and allowed New Westminster Royals to come back for a 9-6 win.

The Blue Hawks led 3-2 at the end of the first period and 5-4 after two, but couldn't hold the Royals back in the third.

Cliff Ronning had three goals for New Westminster, while Mike Phipps added two.

Burnaby, which had only 13 players dressed for the game, was led by Pat Austin with two goals.

League play resumes Tuesday with Cowichan at Abbotsford and New Westminster at Richmond.