

Rockets threaten to leave BCJHL

Revelstoke Rockets have threatened to pull out of the B.C. Junior Hockey League following several game misconduct and match penalties called Tuesday night in Kelowna, in a game against the Buckaroos.

"We refused to allow our team to be intimidated and humiliated by the referee," Bob Revell, president of the Revelstoke Junior Hockey Association, said Wednesday. "If the penalties are not reversed, we will pull out the franchise for the remaining 14 games."

Referee Brent DeLeeuw sent 15 Revelstoke players from the game in Kelowna and the Rockets elected to abandon the game in the third period when they were reduced to five players. Kelowna was leading 10-1.

One team that would not miss Revelstoke is first-place Vernon Lakers.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said, "I think it would be in everyone's best interest if Revelstoke dropped out. Rockets have the worst animal act in the league . . . you can't play hockey against them."

Lakers and Rockets have been involved in several incidents this season involving chippy, and at times, dirty play. In a game last month, in Revelstoke, several Vernon players were injured when a brawl erupted at the end of the game.

Lawrence said, "We have one more game with Rockets, in Revelstoke, and I'm not looking forward to it. They have absolutely no discipline on that hockey club. They aren't even close to making the playoffs so if they want to drop out, let them."

Revelstoke is 21 points behind Shuswap Totems, who occupy the fourth, and final, playoff spot.

Revell said the position of the Revelstoke club has been presented to Walter Harris of Kelowna, chairman of the Interior Division of the BCJHL. Harris could not be reached for comment.

Lakers return to action Friday when they host Merritt Centennials.

In Wednesday's lone BCJHL game, Penticton Knights defeated Centennials 7-4, in Merritt.

The game originally was scheduled for tonight, but was moved ahead a day to allow for an exhibition hockey game tonight between Montreal Canadien Oldtimers and Merritt Oldtimers.

The Knights, who outshot the Centennials 47-22, led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 5-2 at the end of the second.

Brett Hull led the Penticton attack with three goals. Kelly Para had a pair and Darryl Cust and Peter Loch added singles.

Rob Pfoh scored two goals for Merritt. Brent Demerais and Tim O'Toole had the others.