

Broken bone sidelines Kapicki

The toughest portion of the hockey season, the homestretch, looms on the horizon for Vernon Lakers.

The final drive begins this weekend with a home-and-home series against Penticton Knights, one of two teams Lakers are battling with for top spot in the BCJHL Interior Division.

Vernon currently holds down top spot, three points ahead of Kelowna Buckaroos and Penticton.

Lakers travel to Penticton, Friday, then host Knights, Sunday night.

KAPICKI HURT

Vernon is hurting more than ever before in the injury department. While most of the problems are minor, one key player is sidelined for the remainder of the season.

Nick Kapicki, the speedy little centre who fronts an all-local line along with long-time friends Greg Kowal and Kevin Thorlakson, currently wears a massive plaster cast over his left foot and will be nothing more than an observer for the rest of this season.

Kapicki had previously cracked a bone in the same foot but was playing with freezing to kill the pain. However, an incredible amount of stress put on the foot in a game last weekend, during a power-stop, broke the fragile bone in two.

Centre Ron Berezowski is still healing from stretched ligaments in his right



NICK KAPICKI
... out for season

knee and will also be sidelined for at least three more weeks.

Some of the less severe injuries are: Bob Wensley, hip-pointer; Glen Doucette, bruised ribs and shoulder; Mike Enemark, sore knee from a previous, more serious, injury; Gord Simpson, broken index finger.

However, with the exception of Berezowski and Kapicki, all will be fit for duty this weekend.

AT CENTRE

The loss of Berezowski, then Kapicki, leaves the Lakers short at centre. Stacey Wakabayashi has been moved from right

wing to fill this spot temporarily.

Kapicki's loss also leaves a huge void in the penalty killing and forechecking department.

Of the 11 games remaining in the regular season for Lakers, six are at home and five on the road, including a two-game swing through the coast at the end of the month.

In BCJHL action Wednesday, Kevin Scobie scored his second goal of the night at 6:36 of sudden-death overtime to give Cowichan Capitals a 5-4 win over visiting Nanaimo Clippers.

In the league's other game, New Westminster Royals downed Merritt Centennials 5-1.

The Capitals fired a 68-shot barrage at Nanaimo goalie Al Loring, while Ed Jones faced 44 shots in the Cowichan goal.

Rick Ellison, Vince Coupal and Brent McMillan also scored for Cowichan which trailed 2-1 after the first period and moved ahead 3-2 after the second.

The final frame was a see-saw battle with Darrell Pederson tying the game for the Clippers with only seven seconds remaining. Dale Brisco scored twice for Nanaimo.

In New Westminster, the Royals scored three unanswered goals in the third period to down the Centennials.