

Wak stars with Oilers

KAMLOOPS (Special) — Stacey Wakabayashi scored a goal and was named the game's first star when Kamloops Oilers edged Seattle Breakers 4-3 in Western Hockey League action, Tuesday night.

The speedy forward stole the puck at the Seattle blue line and raced in on goal alone at 16:34 of the third period. His goal erased Breakers' 3-2 lead and set the stage for Greg Evtushevski's winning goal, for Oilers, at 19:13.

Wakabayashi and Todd Ewen were recalled from Vernon Lakers due to a series of injuries that have hit the Oilers. Lakers were eliminated from the B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs last week by Penticton Knights.

Wakabayashi was Vernon's leading scorer during the regular season and playoffs while Ewen led the club in penalties.

Kamloops Coach Bill Laforge had Wakabayashi filling in for the injured Jim Camazzola, on a line with Dean Evason and Doug Saunders.

"We had to use a lot of new people because of the injury problems," Laforge said. "With all the juggling, we had too many right shots up front . . . we even had to ask Wakabayashi to play his off-wing."

Laforge had words of praise for Ewen, a burly 16-year-old winger. "Todd played well," Laforge said. "He was particularly prominent in our forechecking."

Bucks in command of semi-final series

By The Canadian Press

Kelowna Buckaroos and Abbotsford Flyers moved one step closer to facing off in the B.C. Junior Hockey League finals Tuesday night when they soundly defeated their opponents in semifinal play.

In Kelowna, the Bucks downed Penticton Knights 9-2 to take a 3-0 lead in that best-of-seven series. In New Westminster, the Flyers improved their advantage over the Royals to a 3-1 margin by doubling the hometown team 6-3.

Enzo Caccavo and Scott Shoffstall each scored twice for the Buckaroos, while Rod Schluter, Jeff Armitage, Dale Reimer, Don Barber and Mike McGrath added singles.

Mark Verigin and Darryl Cusp scored for Penticton, which was outshot 37-31.

Kelowna coach Wayne Naka said he hoped his club could wrap up the semifinal series when the teams meet tonight in Penticton.

"It would be nice and we can talk about it now that we're up 3-0," he said. "But Penticton is always tough at home."