

FIRST APPEARANCE

Lakers take on Knights in four point contest

Vernon Lakers will play host to the high-flying Penticton Knights at Civic Arena tonight. It will mark the premiere appearance of Knights in Vernon this season.

The contest will be a four-point game for Vernon who currently trail Knights by two points but Penticton has a pair of games in hand on the local club. Knights have yet to lose a contest and lead the BCJHL Interior Division with 18 points . . . four better than Lakers.

HAVEN'T LOST

Another point worth mentioning about Penticton is the fact that they have yet to lose a game after nine outings this season.

But if Lakers' coach Mike Enemark can keep his charges operating at a fever pitch such as they were in Summerland Saturday night, there could be a big measure of disappointment in store for Knights tonight.

"They're up for their first loss tonight," said the confident Enemark. "It'll probably be the best game Vernon fans have seen this year . . . if we play the way we did in Summerland we'll beat them for sure."

"Penticton is about the same as Summerland but they got an early jump on everyone," Enemark added. "Other teams will be catching up to them soon, however, including us."

CONFIDENT

The Vernon coach has taken on a whole new load of confidence since the Saturday night outing. Lakers dropped that con-



MIKE ENEMARK
... confident

test by a one goal margin but the overall effect of the game was very positive for the whole team as far as Enemark is concerned.

"The guys are feeling good about themselves," he said. "We lost on Saturday but they have nothing to be ashamed of."

Meanwhile, Enemark has analyzed Penticton's strengths and weaknesses to this point and plans to adjust Lakers' game plan accordingly.

"They've got a good skating club . . . they don't beat themselves, they play well in the offensive zone," said Enemark. "We've got to capitalize by forcing their defence . . . they are young and fairly slow so we'll try



RUDY POESCHECK
... to Revelstoke

take advantage of that.

"We'll have to come out skating and taking the body also," he added.

With only a few exceptions Lakers will take to the ice tonight in full strength. Presently out of the lineup is defenceman Clay Cotie who is suffering knee trouble while forwards Tom Kurucz and Rob Revell will also sit out tonight's contest simply due to the numbers game.

Another new player may make an appearance in a Lakers' uniform this evening. Vernon has signed centre-winger Kevin Kabalka who came this way via a deal with Revelstoke Rangers for defenceman Rudy Poescheck.

Poescheck, a regular

blueliner with the local club last season, spent the first month of his playing days this season with Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League. Kamloops, in sending the 18-year-old defender back to the BCJHL, requested he be allowed to play in Revelstoke rather than Vernon.

Shawn Oswald will get the nod as starter between the pipes for Lakers tonight.

STEADIER

With only a small portion of the regular season behind them now, Lakers will be looking to break out of their present mold and turn into a steadier, more precision-balanced team.

Though the transition may have appeared a bit slow this year, Enemark knows the local club will be in the thick of things in the days ahead.

"We've got a lot of older guys who take longer to get into shape," Enemark said. "But, once they do get in shape they don't wear out as fast . . . we'll wear other teams down faster than they'll wear us down . . . especially towards the end of the season."

Lakers' fans can help the team out and maybe fill their own pockets with a little cash Thursday night when the booster club presents a giant bingo in aid of the local club. Game time is 7:30 p.m. with doors at Vernon Rec Centre open at 5:30 p.m. There will be \$2,400 in prize money up for grabs.