

KNIGHTS HOST LAKERS

First place on the line

"Tonight's the night." Vernon Lakers' General Manager Carl Enemark said tonight his club will defeat Penticton Knights, in Penticton, for the first time this season.

Knights currently hold a two-point edge over the second place Lakers. However, Penticton has won all three previous meetings with Vernon.

"Knights haven't beat us yet," Enemark said. "We've beaten ourselves three times. This time it is going to be different. We're playing well, we're up for the game, and we want first place."

Lakers will have a new face in the line-up tonight. Goaltender Ron Boyd was acquired from Richmond Sockeyes, Thursday. Boyd, 19, had the second best goals-against average in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Coast Division with 3.93, in six games.

He replaces Shawn

Oswald, who joined Lethbridge Broncos, of the Western Hockey League, on a trial this week.

"We're sorry to lose Oswald... he was playing well for us," Enemark said, "but Boyd comes highly recommended."

If Oswald sticks with the Broncos, Lakers will receive some compensation. "We'll probably ask for money, not players, from Lethbridge," Enemark said. "I feel our club is solid and we don't need any player assistance right now."

Lakers travel to Revelstoke, Sunday, before returning to the friendly confines of the Civic Arena, Tuesday, to meet Summerland Buckaroos.

Meanwhile, Enemark announced his club will host Langley Eagles in an exhibition game Feb. 1. Eagles currently lead the Coast Division with 14 wins, in 15 outings.



SHAWN OSWALD
... in Lethbridge

In BCJHL action Thursday, Kevin Taillfer's goal seven minutes into the third period stood as the winner as Shuswap Totems edged Sum-

merland 5-4.

Elsewhere, Revelstoke Rangers made 60 minutes seem like a century to Merritt Centennials in a 12-2 thrashing, and Cowichan Capitals doubled Burnaby Bluehawks 4-2.

In Summerland, the Buckaroos fired 17 shots at Totem goaltender Ralph Bechtold in the third period, but failed to get the equalizer. Bechtold stopped a total of 38 shots during the game.

Other Shuswap goals came from Albert Anthony, Tim Coghlin, Theo Vangerwen and Paul Tory, who also collected two assists.

Tom Benson, Jim Perich, Kelly Evin and Shawn Harrison scored for the Buckaroos. Dean Garnett and Mark Taylor shared the Summerland goaltending duties, making 36 saves.

In Revelstoke, Ron Bonora and Dean Gladue

each scored twice to lead the Rangers past the cellar-dwelling Centennials, who were outshot 58-35. The Rangers had a 2-1 edge after the first period, and carried a 7-2 advantage into the final frame.

Revelstoke got single goals from Guy Phillips, Verne Kinley, Rick Dusevic, Ian Alger, Rudy Poeschek, Keith Maybin, Mike Bickerman and Mike Bafara.

Brent Demerais got both Merritt goals on Revelstoke goalie Frank Romeo.

In Burnaby, the Capitals led 2-1 and 3-1 by periods, getting goals from Rene Command, Tom Kurucz, Brian Sweeney and Rob Montgomery. Cowichan goalie Norm Wright made 26 saves.

Rick Dietrich and Derek Waters scored for Burnaby while netminder Terry Burton was credited with 26 stops.

KENDALL'S KORNER

Vernon juniors dominate top 10



Vernon Lakers have accomplished something no other Vernon team has been able to do in more than a decade.

Statistics released this week by the B.C. Junior Hockey League show Lakers have four players in the Interior Division's top 10 scorers.

Dave Wensley leads the loop with 54 points, 10 more than his older brother, Bob, who occupies sixth place. Defenceman Ken McKenzie ranks seventh with 37 points and Rob Kossan is right behind in eighth position with 36.

There were several times in the past decade that Vernon had more than one player in the top 10; Terry Lowe, John Neeld, and Dale Slous in 1978; Gary Huth, Steve Danshin, and Ken Stroud in 1976; and Don Murdoch and Ken Price in 1974.

However, you have to go back to 1972 to find four, in fact six, Vernon players in the top 10.

Ernie Gare won the scoring title followed by teammates John Price (2), Jim Lawrence (3), Wayne Dye (4), Les Salo (8), and Glen Walton (9).

It is a longshot, but this year's edition of the Lakers could equal the feat of the 1972 team. Defenceman Gavin Shuya and speedy Scott Young could join their team-mates in the top 10.

ODDS AND ENDS

We are sorry to hear the annual Vernon Cougars' Hockey Tournament has been cancelled due to a lack of teams. In past years, the tourney has

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provided local fans with some exciting hockey. General Manager Gary Swanson said he is hopeful the tournament will resume next year.

Vernon's Eddie Johnstone is making himself right at home with his new National Hockey League team, Detroit Red Wings. Johnstone was traded to Detroit, by New York Rangers, in the off-season. Statistics released this week show Johnstone has 10 points, including six goals, this season.

Congratulations to Bob Mann who will get married later this month. Mann is one of this area's outstanding soccer and broomball players.

A former Vernon junior star is currently leading the Western International Hockey League in scoring. Ron Areshenkoff, now playing with Trail Smoke Eaters, leads the loop with 27 points, including 11 goals. He started his junior career in Vernon during the 1974-75 season. He later played with Medicine Hat Tigers before being drafted by Buffalo Sabres.

Glen Fester, who played his minor hockey in Vernon before spending four seasons with the University of North Dakota Fightin' Sioux, recently joined Spokane Flyers, of the WIHL. Flyers lead the loop with 10 wins, in 13 outings.

B.C. Games Chairman Ron Butlin tells us the 1984 Winter Games, being hosted by Forst St. John, will attract 2,270 athletes, in 22 sports. The sixth annual Games are scheduled March 1-4.