

Czech juniors to meet Lakers

Vernon Lakers have a real treat in store for hockey fans early in the New Year.

Lakers will play host to the Czechoslovakian Junior National Team, Jan. 5, marking the first occasion that a European team has played in this city.

The Czech team, comprised of junior players 18 years of age and younger, was second place finishers in the 1982 World Junior Championships.

Not only will the local team have an opportunity to meet a world-calibre junior hockey club, but by hosting the Czech team, Lakers will open the door to other possibilities.

"By hosting them (Czechs) we have a chance to be a representative team in Europe in 1984 if we so wish," said Lakers' General manager Carl Enemark.

The match, set up through the co-operation of Canadian Sports International, will be a one-game affair although the Czech team will go on to compete against Penticton Knights, the following night, before travelling to Alberta to take on a pair of AJHL clubs.

Meanwhile, Lakers have to contend with their regular BCJHL season which has them hosting both Revelstoke Rangers and Penticton Knights, Friday and Sunday nights, respectively.

Friday night, Lakers will have a chance to humble Revelstoke at Civic Arena and avenge a 10-9 loss the visitors handed them during their last visit to Vernon.

Revelstoke, currently chasing fourth spot in the Interior Division, is one of the league's more improved teams this season and

of late have racked up an impressive list of victories including back-to-back wins against both Vernon and Penticton two weeks ago.

Of equal importance is the fact that a pair of points out of Revelstoke will inch Lakers closer to the top rung in the Interior Division ladder.

Sunday night, is shaping up to be another battle for first place between Lakers and Knights. After four consecutive losses to Knights this season, the local club will be looking eagerly for their first victory and top spot.

In addition to having captain Bob Wensley return to the line-up for Friday night's game, Lakers will also introduce a new prospect to the fans in Vernon.

Eighteen-year old Shannon Pohl, a left winger, will make his debut Friday night after practicing with the local club this week.

Lakers are currently one man under the BCJHL roster limit.

Meanwhile, Merritt Centennials have enlisted the aid of former Lakers' coach Chuck Tapp in their quest for a path out of the doldrums.

After dropping 19 consecutive games, most by blowouts, Centennials fired coach Enio Soccolotto last week and appointed Tapp head coach, Monday.

Tapp was signed as head coach of Lakers in July, but was dropped just three games into the regular season.

National Hotel holds slim lead

National Hotel Raiders hung on to first place in the White Valley Hockey League with an 11-3 win over Westside Totems, Wednesday, in Lumby.

National Hotel holds a one point edge on Toros Mustangs, who dumped Labatts Sabres 5-2, Wednesday.

Garnet Beninger led the Raiders with three goals while Marty Stein added two goals and two assists. Brian Hunt and Doug Aiechele also tallied twice for National while Rick Horsley and Dave Thorlakson notched singles.

Richard Louis, Jr., with two goals, and Sonny Williams replied for Totems.

Raiders held period leads of 5-1 and 8-1.

The only penalties in the game involved a first period altercation between Raiders' Graydon Brown and Mitch Sofiak, of Totems. Both players were ejected.

In the other game, Dean Hascarl scored twice to lead Mustangs. Randy Loski, Rob York, and Bob Morden rounded out the scoring for Toros.

Bob Sophonow countered with both goals for Sabres.

Mustangs led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 3-1 after 40 minutes.

League play resumes Saturday, in Lumby, when Flying Frenchmen hosts Sabres.