

SEASON RESUMES

Lakers in second place after Christmas holiday

Vernon Lakers find themselves back at square one following a week-long Christmas layoff that ends today when Lakers face Summerland Buckaroos to resume their regular season schedule.

Lakers lost ground to the front-running Penticton Knights who ran up an impressive string of victories while Lakers were laying about idle.

The tale so far is that Vernon presently trails Knights by six points although the local club now has a pair of games in hand over Penticton.

However, it also means there is some added pressure on Lakers to win those games they have in hand beginning with Buckaroos tonight in Summerland.

Despite the fact that Lakers now are in second place, coach Mike Enemark feels it is still Penticton who are under the pressure to perform.

"They (Penticton) know we're right behind them now, and it's up to them to perform," said Enemark.

Meanwhile, Lakers are at a disadvantage for tonight's game as they will have the services of just one goaltender instead of two.

Regular starter Peter Martin is presently ineligible to

play because Lakers have not yet received his release from the league.

"Martin had signed with Revelstoke but hasn't received his release yet," said Enemark. "Lawrence (Murray) was supposed to have sent his release in three weeks ago but nobody can find it yet."

One player, Ron Berezowski, finishes his six-game suspension Thursday and so will be eligible to start Friday night when Lakers host Revelstoke Rangers.

However, the status of captain Bob Wensley is still in doubt pending a ruling by league officials on a suspension he has coming as a result of an altercation with an official two weeks ago in Penticton.

Presently Lakers are keeping their fingers crossed that the suspension will be light enough to allow Wensley to return to the lineup in a short time.

"We're going to phone down this afternoon," offered Enemark.

Enemark is somewhat worried for the moment about the lengthy layoff the team has had.

"It will help us in the long run having the long rest but it may hurt us in the next couple of games," said Enemark.