

Lakers face Merritt in pre-playoff push

Vernon Lakers will be on the road again this evening as they make the first of two long treks to Merritt to take on the hapless Centennials.

Although Merritt have won just six games this season Lakers cannot afford to take them lightly as they need every possible point they can accumulate in regular season if they hope to have home-ice advantage should they become Interior champions.

Presently trailing first place Penticton Knights by six points, Lakers have two games in hand and another game with the

Knights, in Penticton, next week. However, Lakers have to hope Knights lose at least one of their three remaining games if they hope to overtake them for first place.

Lakers are a healthy club at present and besides their need for points, a few personal records are still on the line in the last games of the regular season.

Both Ron Berezowski and Greg Kowal are chasing the 20-goal plateau and should the two forwards reach it, the club would boast 12 20-goal scorers in its lineup ... more than

any other team in BCJHL history. It is that up front firepower that Lakers' management hopes will carry it through the playoff season and on to bigger and better things.

Meanwhile, in other BCJHL action Wednesday night, Brett Hull increased his season goal-scoring total to 99 as he scored six goals and added two assists to pace Penticton Knights to a 12-8 victory over visiting Salmon Arm Totems.

Hull's seasonal point total is just three short of John Newberry's all-time high of 183. With three regular season games remaining, the Penticton winger will no doubt establish a new record in that category as well.

Todd Brost and Ian Kidd added two goals each for Penticton in the makeup game with the Totems postponed from Jan. 3. Aaron Scott and Murray Winnicki added singles.

Tim Coghlin countered with four goals for Salmon Arm while Rob Klenk had two, Henry Reimer and Jim Klenk singles.

Penticton led 4-3 at the end of the first period and 7-6 at the end of the second.

Ian Clark and Mike Jeffrey combined for 31 saves in Penticton nets while Ralph Bechtold and Glen Ferguson teamed up to stop 37 shots on Salmon Arm goal.

Super Leagues advance to final

Dave Podollan (Fair Glass) needed an extra end but finally pulled out a 7-5 decision over Ben Shewaga (Golden Crown Restaurant) in one of two playoff games that took place in the Vernon Super League Wednesday night.

In the other contest, Wally Tutkaluk (Paddington Station) disposed of Larry Wynn (RJ's Chicken and Ribs) 7-5 in nine ends.

Meanwhile in the Wawanesa League playoffs (Baron Insurance Superleague), Jack Hockey (Smitty's Pancake House) edged Ron Houston (Hong Kong Village) 7-5 while Doug McCune (Central Hardware) made short work of former champion Randy Brown by disposing of him 9-3 in seven ends.

In the Vernon Super league, Podollan will meet Tutkaluk in the league final next Wednesday night while in the Wawanesa league it will be McCune and Hockey battling it out for supremacy.