

Lakers host Bucks

B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division semi-finals get under way tonight with second place Vernon Lakers hosting third place Summerland Buckaroos.

Second game in the best-of-seven series will also be played in Vernon, Saturday night. The series shifts to Summerland for the third and fourth games, Sunday afternoon and Tuesday night.

LAKERS WIN

In the final games of the regular season, Thursday, Lakers trounced Salmon Arm Totems 11-6, Merritt Centennials upset Summerland 5-2, and Penticton Knights beat Revelstoke Rangers 4-1.

Penticton takes on Revelstoke in the other semi-final series.

Lakers had little difficulty handling Buckaroos during the regular season. Vernon won 10 of 12 meetings between the two clubs, including a perfect 6-0 record in the friendly confines of the Civic Arena.

Despite the obvious advantage over Summerland, Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark said his club isn't taking the series lightly.

"Buckaroos have good team speed," Enemark said. "And they've got a few guys who can put the puck in the net."

The Vernon coach singled out Albert Anthony, Kelly Evan, and Shawn Harrison as forwards who Lakers will have to watch closely.

Enemark said, "The reason for our success against Summerland was good defence and goaltending. We'll have to concentrate on playing in our zone."

Peter Martin is expected to start in goal tonight for Lakers.

WENSLEY HURT

Vernon is healthy, with one exception. Rugged forward Bob Wensley has a severe charleyhorse and will be sidelined up to two weeks.

On Thursday, in Salmon Arm, Scott Young led the Vernon attack with two goals and three assists.

Bruce Major, Dave Wensley, Jeff Doerr, Glen Kirk, Gavin Shuya, Mont Martel, Ron Berezowski, Greg Kowal and Kevin Kobelka added singles for Lakers.

Vernon held period leads of 5-3 and 7-5.

Enemark said, "It was the last game of the season and neither team had anything to prove. Salmon Arm is out of the playoffs and their guys just want to go home. And we're just waiting for the playoffs to start."

SCHWING HOT

Meanwhile, last place Merritt got a 43-save performance from Vernon native Norm Schwing on route to its win over Summerland.

Advance tickets for tonight's game are on sale at Al Kowal's Esso Service.