Lakers, Rangers swap goaltenders

Vernon Lakers Coach Mike Enemark hopes he has made his final trade of the season and a solution to the goaltending crisis the team has faced this season.

Lakers recently completed a one-for-one deal with Revelstoke Rangers that sent goaltender Darrell Dickens to the Rangers and has brought 18-year old netminder Frank Romeo to the Lakers.

"Hopefully it's the final trade of the season for us," said Enemark. "I think we've solved our goaltending problems now."

Lakers recently released 20-year-old goaltender Rob Bedell without ever suiting him up in a Laker uniform.

Romeo is no stranger to the BCJHL having been the number one netminder for Rangers during the past season and a half.

"Frank is 18 with two years of experience behind him," Enemark explained. "He's got a lot of pluses — he wants to come to Vernon and he always played well against us."

Romeo is a product of the Revelstoke minor hockey system, but felt a lot of unnecessary pressure on him as a result of playing for the home team in his own rink.

"Murray Lawrence (Revelstoke coach) said there was a lot of pressure on him in Revelstoke because he was local so he wanted out and he wanted to come to Vernon," Enemark said.

Fortunately, Lawrence was reasonably impressed with Dickens' performance against Rangers, in Revelstoke, two weeks ago when the lakers dropped a 4-2 decision. There were few problems in striking the deal.

Meanwhile, Lakers are preparing for another sojourn into Penticton, Friday night, where they will take on the division-leading Knights. Lakers have yet to beat Penticton in their own arena over the past two seasons but keying on certain areas during practice this week may go a long way toward changing that.

"We've been working on special teams a lot as well as on defensive zone play," Enemark said.