

Bucks

host

Lakers

Vernon Lakers tackle Summerland Buckaroos in a crucial B.C. Junior Hockey League home-and-home series this weekend.

Lakers travel to Summerland tonight and the two clubs play a return match Sunday at 7 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Second place Lakers have 27 points, three more than the Buckaroos. However, Summerland has three games-in-hand on Vernon.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said this is a big weekend for his club. "We've got two, four-pointers to play," Dye said. "We need two wins to give us a little breathing room."

Defenceman Shawn Lofroth returns to the Vernon line-up tonight after missing seven weeks with a broken wrist.

Dye said, "We're glad to have Lofroth back. He gives us lots of speed behind the blue line."

Vernon will be without defencemen Brian Burlingame, who is sidelined for about a week with a shoulder injury; and Chris Saunders, who is out indefinitely with a broken arm.

On Sunday, all North Okanagan minor hockey players will be admitted to the game for \$1. Lakers will be giving away several prizes including a sweater and three autographed sticks.

In BCJHL action Thursday, Burnaby Bluehawks solidified their hold on first place in the Coastal Division with a 9-4 win over the visiting Merritt Centennials. The win gives Burnaby a 19-4-1 record.

Merritt goalie Norm Schwing was peppered with 51 shots.

In another game, Nanaimo Clippers double Sidney Capitals 8-4.