

Lakers send Vernon natives to BCJHL all-star contest

Vernon Lakers will send a pair of Vernon natives to the BCJHL All-star game Thursday night at Civic arena and for both Nick Kapicki and Greg Kowal it will represent their last "kick at the cat" in a pair of lengthy junior hockey careers.

Kowal, in his third full season with the local club, is playing in his first all-star game and hopes, through his tenacity and hard work, to catch the eye of a college scout or two that will be in attendance.

A 20-year old, Kowal's career hasn't been marked so much by his goal-scoring ability as his hard work and never-say-die attitude toward the game. However, his fastest start of his career this season has left Kowal with 27 goals at the all-star break, a pace far ahead of last season when he scored just 26.



GREG KOWAL
... hometown crowd

Nevertheless, Kowal would like to either make his opportunity good or end his junior hockey career in a blaze of glory before the hometown crowd.

"I'm really excited because it's my last year and I'm glad I made it," said Kowal of his selection to the all-star squad. "It's in our hometown so I want to play really well," he said adding that he hopes also to play with long-time friend and team-mate Nick Kapicki.

Kapicki will be making his second appearance at a BCJHL all-star game this year and if his performance equals the show he put on last season then local fans will have a lot to cheer about and college scouts will be flocking to the Interior Division dressing room following the game.

Last season, Kapicki, who was added to the all-star roster just prior to the game, centred Merritt's Brent Demerais and Salmon Arm's Rob Klenk. Together, the three accounted for four of the Interior Division's eight



NICK KAPICKI
... have some fun

goals with Kapicki setting up all four. They were the most consistent and entertaining line on the ice that night among a group of players that included Brett Hull, Bob and Dave Wensley and a

host of other big name BCJHL stars.

"It's more or less just a chance to have fun," offered Kapicki in reference to the game. "I'd definitely like to get a scholarship and playing to impress the scouts is really the only pressure I'll have on me... otherwise I just want to have fun."

Kapicki also expressed disappointment that more of his team-mates weren't chosen to the all-star squad. Lakers, solidly in second place, a position they have held all season, played second fiddle to the struggling Summerland Buckaroos in the all-star selections with Bucks having five players on the Interior team.

"I'm disappointed that we don't have more guys on the team," Kapicki said. "Jim Young (Lakers' goaltender) is the best goaltender in the league."