

BIG WEEKEND FOR LAKERS

Vernon Lakers have an opportunity this weekend to put some breathing room between themselves and Summerland Buckaross.

Lakers travel to Summerland tonight and host Merritt Centennials, Saturday night, at 8 p.m.

Vernon currently occupies second place in the Interior Division with 46 points, eight more than Summerland.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said this is an important weekend for his club. "Tonight's game is a four-pointer and we owe something to Merritt," Dye said.

Centennials ended Vernon's unbeaten streak at 10 games, last Saturday, with a 5-3 win in Merritt. Lakers made the tip with only 12 players due to the flu and injuries.

Dye said, "We should be near full strength tonight. As far as I know, everyone is recovered from the flu."

Defenceman Chris Saunders, who suffered two broken arms in November, will be sidelined another six weeks and Al Young will complete a three-game suspension tonight. However, centre Nick Kapicki, who suffered a minor neck injury in last Sunday's victory over Summerland, is expected to play.

On Saturday, all students will be admitted to the game for a reduced rate.

In Thursday's lone BCJHL game, Brent Mowery and Jim Klenk each scored twice and netminder Dean Garnett stopped 45 shots at Summerland thrashed Merritt 8-2.