

Cents defeat slumping Lakers

Merritt Centennials dumped the slumping Vernon Lakers 4-2 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday in Merritt.

Second place Lakers have lost four of their last five games and have suffered three consecutive losses to the Centennials. On the other hand, Merritt moved to within five points of fourth place Summerland Buckaroos.

Vernon Coach Don Moores said his club can't buy a goal. "We were all over them (Merritt)," he said. "In the third period we were in alone on their goalie five times and couldn't put the puck in the net."

Centennials' netminder Bob Ramano was a standout with 46 saves, including 19 in the third period.

Mark Bogoslawski and Kevin Cheveldave each scored twice for Merritt, which led 1-0 after the first period. The teams were tied 1-1 after 40 minutes.

Sean Lafroth and Greg Kowal scored for Vernon. Lakers' netminder Jim Young made 36 saves.

Moores admits he would rather face Summerland than Merritt in the In-

terior Division semi-finals. "A lot of people underestimate the Centennials," Moores said. "They are capable of giving anyone, including (first place) Penticton, a run for their money."

Lakers were without forward Gord Simpson, who has the flu, and Sean Hartnell, who has a broken knuckle. Simpson is expected to return for Sunday's game in Salmon Arm, against the Totems, but Hartnell will be sidelined another two weeks.

In other BCJHL action Thursday, Burnaby Bluehawks scored four goals in four minutes to come from behind and edge Revelstoke Rangers 5-4.

In Burnaby, Revelstoke moved to a 4-1 lead by 11 minutes into the third period before Bluehawks started scoring.

John Hemmerling scored twice, including the winner at 15:12 of the third, while Bob Ginetti had two goals, including the tying goal at 14:20.

Vern Kinley replied with three goals for Rangers.

In games tonight, Revelstoke is at Langley and Merritt visits Summerland.