Mixed news for Lakers

Vernon Lakers recieved some good news and some bad news this week.

The good news is forward Scott Young will make his debut with the club tonight and defenceman Chris Saunders is expected to rejoin the team within 10 days.

The bad news is defenceman Jim Scott has been lost for the remainder of the season. Scott suffered torn knee ligaments last Sunday, in Salmon Arm, and underwent surgery Tuesday.

Lakers host Revelstoke Rangers tonight and Penticton Knights visit the Civic Arena, Saturday night. On Sunday, Vernon travels to Salmon Arm to battle the Totems.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said the loss of Scott will hurt his club's defensive corps, but the addition of Young will bolster the offence.

"Young is the type of player who can spark a team," Dye said.

Young was among the leading scorers for Lakers during the 1983-84 season. Last September, he enrolled at the University of Calgary and was playing with the college's hockey team, the Dinosaurs. However, as a freshmen, Young was not receiving much ice time and when Dinosaurs visited Vernon last month for an exhibition game, the 20-year old winger signed with Lakers. He is taking a break from his studies to play the three weekend games.

"He plays with the type of intensity and enthisuasm that should help us against Penticton," Dye said.

Lakers are winless in five meetings with the Knights this season.

Saunders, meanwhile, has been sidelined three months with two broken arms. The Vernon minor hockey graduate has undergone an extensive rehabilitation program and is expected to play Feb. 23, in Revelstoke.

"We don't want to rush Saunders," Dye said. "We'll need him in the playoffs, particularly with Jim Scott out of the line-up."

Game times tonight and Saturday are 8 p.m.

In BCJHL action Thursday, Vernon minor hockey graduate Bruce Major scored at 7:19 of sudden-death overtime to give Richmond Sockeyes a 6-5 win over Merritt Centennials.

In the other game, Abbotsford Flyers defeated Burnaby BlueHawks 5-2.

In Merritt, goalie Scott King made 53 saves, nine of them in overtime for the Sockeyes.

"My criteria for my goalies is that they make 90 per cent saves," said Richmond coach Bill Wilms. "Tonight, he (King) made 91 per cent. He played outstanding."

The Centennials led 1-0 at the end of the first period and the teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the second.

Mike Scardina scored twice for Richmond, Ron Sparkes and Pat Ryan scored two goals each for Merritt.

Bob Romano stopped 42 shots, five of them in overtime, for Mwerritt.

In Burnaby, Doug McFaul scored twice for Abbotsford, which was tied 1-1 after one period and led 3-2 after two. Singles came from Darren Matias, Joe Quinn and Stan Marpole.

Burnaby's goals were scored by Ken Jorgensen and Bob Ginnetti.

Flyers goalie Al Loring stopped 25 shots while Burnaby's Mike Masionneuve made 37 saves.

Panthers host Fulton

'The Battle of Vernon' is scheduled tonight, at 7:30 p.m., at Vernon Secondary School.

Vernon Panthers, ranked second in the province among 'AA' schools, host Fulton Maroons, rated number one in B.C. among 'A' basketball teams.

Panthers' Coach Dave Jackson said although it is an exhibition game, emotions are running high.

"Tonight's game is a grudge match," Jackson said. "Both teams really want to win this game."

Panthers edged Maroons 56-52 in the only previous meeting between the two clubs this season. "Fulton wants another shot at us and we want to prove the first time we beat them was no fluke," Jackson said.

Vernon will play its final home game of the 1984-85 campaign, Saturday night, against Richmond Colts. Colts, who are third in 'AA' rankings, defeated Panthers two weeks ago in Richmond.

Jackson said, "There are a lot of reasons why the Richmond game is important to us. Firstly, if we qualify for the B.C. finals, there is an excellent possibility we'll be playing them. We have something to prove after losing to Richmond.

"Also, it is our final home game of the year . . . and it will be the final high school game, in Vernon, for our grade 12s. Guys like (Rob) Zimmerman and (Brian) Kruger, who won't be back next season, will be giving it a little extra."

Saturday's game is being held in conjunction with VSS Chimo Days and a variety of prizes will be presented to students on hand.

CURLING CLUB NEWS

By RON HOUSTON
VERNON CURLING CLUB MANAGER



On Thursday, I received a news release from TSN — (The Sports Network), carried on Vercom Cable T.V., informing us of the coverage of national curling events.

This week TSN has been carrying the Canadian Mixed. Starting Sunday, the Pepsi Junior Mens from St. John's Nfld. will be covered and of local interest of course, is the Dean Mackney team from Winfield. TXN will also be covering round-robin play of the Labatt Brier from Moncton, N.B. TSN will continue covereage later in March with the Uniroyal Junior and the Air Canada Silver Broom, both direct from Scotland. Anyone who does not have TSN available is welcome to view it in our lounge.

Jean Skobalski and her rink of Dot York, Phyllis Rintoul and Flo Curtis are down in Victoria this weekend for the B.C. Senior Ladies playdowns. A good luck telex was sent by our members and we would like to thank Baron Insurance for their kind donation of telex time.

Over in Esquimalt lat weekend, Basil Edwards and his team of Don Myler, Roy Trickett and Steve Makarenko completed the 16-team playoff with only 1 loss to capture the B.C. Senior Legion Provincial Championship. They now have the honor of representing Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 25 at the Canadian finals in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, in early-April.

One of Vernon's most popular postmen, Will Turner, captured the B.C. Postal championships last weekend in Kelowna. Now off to Ottawa for the Canadian playdowns are Will and his team of Don Jubenvill, Merv Mathers and Bruce Wilson.

At the Senior Men's Spiel over in Salmon Arm, out teams did very well. Capturing first in A event were Sid Roberts, Joe Buchanon, George Sissons and Harvey Worth. First in B event was won by Hal