

Cents and Bucks in a tight battle

With four games remaining in the regular season, Vernon Lakers have clinched second place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division. However, Vernon's opponent in the opening round of playoffs has not yet been determined.

Merritt Centennials blasted Summerland Buckaroos 7-1 in BCJHL action, Tuesday. The win gives Centennials 43 points, one less than third place Buckaroos. Both clubs have three games remaining, including one contest with Lakers.

For obvious reasons, Merritt and Summerland would rather finish third and meet Vernon in the Interior semi-finals rather than finish fourth and take on the first place Penticton Knights. The powerful Knights have lost only five of 49 outings this season.

On the other hand, Centennials have defeated Lakers in four of seven meetings this season.

Vernon has an opportunity to decide its

playoff foe, Thursday, when it visits Merritt.

Meanwhile, in other BCJHL action Tuesday, Penticton blasted Revelstoke Rangers 14-4 and Richmond Sockeyes had a 7-6 overtime win over Abbotsford Flyers.

In Penticton, Joe Murphy had three goals and four assists for Knights. Dave Shields, Rod Ware and Scott Rawson had two goals each for Penticton while Shaun Edwards, Murray Winnicki, Todd Brost, Ed Kirstofoli, and Mike Moree added singles.

Troy Kaye had a pair of goals for the fifth-place Rangers, while Keith Maybin and Delore Lakusta had one each.

Grant McPhail made 30 stops in goal for Penticton; David Watts made 36 saves for Revelstoke.

Knights coach Rick Kozuback said it's hard to play well against teams like Revelstoke that aren't playing well.

He said, "They (Revelstoke) don't come to play. They're in last place and pending a move next year.

"The kids have nothing

to play for. They lack coaching and the discipline isn't there.

"It's hard for us to play against a team like that."

SOCKEYES 7 FLYERS 6

Rick Dietrich scored two goals, including the winner at 4:19 of overtime to lead Richmond to a 7-6 win over the hometown Abbotsford Flyers.

Bruce Major, Henry Reimer, Brian Silverson, Bill Adams and Keith Street scored for the Sockeyes, who trailed 4-2 and 6-3 by periods.

Rob Reid had a pair for the Flyers. Singles came from Mike Bulka, Darren Matias, Gary Douville and Rod Summers.

Glen Pencer and Scott King combined to make 53 saves in goal for third-place Richmond; Al Loring stopped 35 for fourth-place Abbotsford.

MERRITT 7 SUMMERLAND 1

Leading Merritt was Kevin Cheveldave with three goals and two assists. Brad Smiley had two goals and an assist for Merritt, while Pat Ryan and Mark Bogoslawski added singles.

The lone scorer for the Buckaroos was Ed Tuckwood.

Summerland's Dean Garnett stopped 43 shots in goal, while Merritt's Bob Romano made 36 saves.

The score was tied 1-1 after the first period and Merritt led 5-1 after the second period.

Both teams have three games remaining in regular season play.

Dupree sidelined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Running back Marcus Dupree is out for the rest of the 1985 United States Football League season because of a knee injury, Portland Breakers announced Tuesday.

Doctors performed successful arthroscopic surgery Tuesday morning to repair damaged ligaments in Dupree's left knee, Breaker spokesman John Brunnelle said.

The Breakers said they would replace their superstar with Buford Jordan, who ran for 1,276 yards on 214 carries last year as a rookie.