

Bucks edge Lakers

Losing their last regular season home game 4-3 to visiting Summerland Buckaroos, Wednesday night at Vernon Civic Arena, didn't sit too well with Lakers' Coach Don Moores.

In fact, it may have been the last straw to break the camel's back. Moores ordered his young charges to run every set of stairs in the rink, in uniform, following the loss.

The victory gives Buckaroos a three-point lead over fourth place Merritt Centennials in the battle for third place in the BCJHL Interior Division. Summerland's two remaining games are against the hapless Salmon Arm Totems.

Despite the fact that Lakers, who could do no worse than or better than second place in the division for the past six weeks, avoided playing Centennials in the opening playoff round, Moores was unimpressed with the attitude of his players Wednesday night.

"I've got a lot of players who aren't prepared to play hockey," Moores said. "We had just two lines tonight because nobody wanted to play."

"If they need some motivation they can have the stairs."

Lakers overcame an early 1-0 deficit on goals by Greg Kowal and Stacey Hartnell, but Bucks rebounded to tie the game at 2-2 before the first period ended. Ed Tuckwood and Craig Bedard were first period scorers for the visitors.

The teams traded goals in the second frame with Bucks' Mike Barzal and Lakers' Jason Phillips supplying the goals.

However, strong goaltending by Richard King, and a goal by Karl Goebel, were all the ingredients Bucks needed to win the third period and the hockey game.

King made 50 saves for the night, including a half dozen in the dying minutes with Lakers sporting an extra attacker and an empty net.

Lakers' Jim Young turned aside 30 of 34 shots that came his way.

Despite the brilliant performance of King, which could have been interpreted as the deciding factor in the game, Moores felt he should have had a much bigger effort from everyone, especially because the two teams will meet in the semi-final round of playoffs and Moores doesn't want a repeat of last year's upset loss to the Bucks.

"We didn't play with any discipline or intensity," he said. "Sure the standings are irrelevant for us now, but we had a lot of players who just came to skate."

Lakers are in action tonight when they travel to Merritt for their last regular season meeting with Centennials. The local squad is down 4-3 in games during their series with Merritt this season and Moores wants to even up the score.

Friday, the lakers are in Penticton for their last meeting with Knights prior to playoffs. There is still room for about 15 persons to take the special fan bus. Ticket and bus transportation is available for \$10. For information contact Madelaine at 542-5151, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., or phone Dye's Family Recreation Centre at 542-9931.

