

Lakers host Cents in playoff opener

Vernon Lakers host Merritt Centennials tonight in the opening game of the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division semi-finals.

The best-of-seven series resumes Thursday night, in Merritt, with the third game to be played Friday, in Vernon.

Lakers finished the regular season with 58 points, nine more than third place Merritt. However, Vernon can hardly be considered the pre-series favorite because Centennials won five of eight games between the two clubs during the regular season.

Also, Lakers will be without their leading scorer and sparkplug, Nick Kapicki. Kapicki received a concussion in a pre-game brawl last Thursday in Merritt. He will be sidelined for another week.

Vernon General Manager Vern Dye said he feels at least two Centennials should be suspended because of that incident. "There was no



NICK KAPICKI

... concussion

fight," Dye said, "they jumped him (Kapicki). All of our guys weren't on the ice yet and two guys jumped on Nick. As far as I'm concerned it was a set-up."

A BCJHL official was at the game and saw the incident, however, Dye said today he has received no notice of any disciplinary action.

Despite the obvious



TROY MICK

... joins Lakers

hard feelings between the two clubs, Dye doesn't expect a particularly rough series. "I don't think they'll try to pull something like that again," he said. "I think things will settle down."

Kapicki's spot on the roster will be filled by Troy Mick. Mick quit the Vernon Midget Reps last weekend after a disagreement with Coach Dan

Galbraith. The 15-year-old forward practiced with Lakers, Monday, and will play tonight according to Dye.

Scott Young, who has been attending university in Calgary, was expected to arrive in Vernon today and be ready for the series opener. Gord Simpson, who has been bothered by a leg injury, and Murray Baron, who has been sidelined with a foot injury, are also expected to play for Lakers tonight.

Lakers' assistant coach Dave Caldwell said the key for his club will be hustle. "Merritt works hard," Caldwell said, "so we have to hustle every shift. We can't afford to let them get a jump on us."

For the playoffs, the BCJHL has adopted a rule that was introduced last year by the National Hockey League. Each team will be allowed one, 30-second timeout at any time during the game.

Face-off tonight is at 8 p.m.

BCJHL

VANCOUVER (CP) — Statistics released Monday by the British Columbia Junior Hockey League:

STANDINGS

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pts
Burnaby	41	10	1	83
Richmond	30	19	2	62

Langley	31	21	0	62
Abbotsford	30	20	1	61
Nanaimo	21	30	0	42
Sidney	9	41	1	19

Interior Division

Penticton	47	5	0	94
Vernon	28	21	2	58
Merritt	24	27	1	49
Summerland	24	28	0	48
Revelstoke	12	38	1	25
Salmon Arm	7	44	1	15

SCORING Coastal

	G	A	Pts
Ginnetti, Bby	42	111	153
Poulin, Nan	60	56	116
Dusevic, Lan	32	76	108
Brisco, Nan	35	72	107
Basco, Lan	46	54	100
Major, Rich	42	55	97
Coroy, Nan	35	59	94
Engevik, Lan	50	42	92
Street, Rich	41	51	92
Bifano, Bby	42	47	89
Bulka, Abb	34	55	89

Interior

Murphy, Pen	68	84	152
Ryan, Mer	56	62	118
Brost, Pen	42	69	111
Winnicki, Pen	37	73	110
Kidd, Pen	31	77	108
Kinley, Rev	52	51	103
Cheveldave, Mer	44	59	103
Ware, Pen	52	47	99
Bogoslowski, Mer	42	56	98
Mowery, Sum	28	60	88

GOALTENDING Coastal

	Min	GA	Ave
Loring, Abb	2207	162	4.40
King, Rich	2007	169	5.05
Woodley, Bby	1615	138	5.13
Maisonneuve, Bby	1500	131	5.24
Seymour, Lan	1106	103	5.59

Interior

Pizzey, Pen	1647	92	3.35
McPhail, Pen	1449	93	3.85
Romeo, Ver	1488	126	5.08
Young, Ver	1767	150	5.09
Doyle, Mer	858	73	5.11

KENDALL'S KORNER



Knights too strong

Penticton Knights are ruining the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division, but you can't blame team management or players for working hard.

Knights are too strong for the other five teams in the Interior, as well as most teams in the Coast Division. The bad news is Penticton's organization is getting stronger every year while many of the other clubs are crumbling.

Several years ago, when it was fashionable for BCJHL teams to develop players for the tier one Western Hockey League, Knights made a commitment to groom players for U.S. colleges.

In the late-1970's, American colleges started recruiting heavily in Western Canada. Penticton management realized that if they could guarantee their players exposure to U.S. scouts, that they would have an excellent opportunity of attracting the best graduating midgets (16 year olds).

GOOD ALTERNATIVE

Young players found out that college hockey was a great alternative to the WHL. After four years in the collegiate ranks, if a player isn't drafted by the National Hockey League, he has an education and training to fall back on. After two or three years in the WHL, if a player isn't drafted by the NHL, he usually finds himself on the end of a shovel.

Penticton worked hard, for several years, to build contacts with dozens of hockey-playing universities. College scouts soon found out there was lots of talent in Penticton and in return, Knights gained valuable media exposure.

About five dozen players have gone from Penticton to the college ranks. And several of them are now professionals.

One forward local fans will remember is burly Brett Hull. Hull was consistently a thorn in the side of Vernon Lakers . . . and every other team in the BCJHL. Hull, who now stars for Minnesota-Duluth, was recently named the player of the week in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association after netting back-to-back hat tricks.

PLAYERS PURSUED

Several members of this year's powerful Penticton squad, which lost only five of 52 games, are being actively pursued by U.S. colleges. Scoring champion Joe Murphy needs an accountant to sort through the offers made to him.

Thanks to their reputation, and hard work, Knights have little trouble recruiting talented personnel who want to go to college after one or two seasons in the B.C. League.

While Penticton gets stronger, the rest of the division is struggling to stay afloat.

Second place Vernon Lakers enjoyed a good season on the ice, but had a disappointing year at the gate. Rumors are circulating that President Carl Enemark will sell the team after playoffs.

Merritt Centennials had the second-best record in the Interior, behind Penticton, after Christmas. However, the team is in serious financial trouble. Donations from a hotel chain at the beginning of this season, probably saved the Centennials from folding.

Fourth place Summerland Buckaroos, who moved south from Kelowna two years ago, are rumored to be looking for a new home. Bucks have attracted sparse crowds, at best, in Summerland.

MISSED PLAYOFFS

We may have seen the last of Revelstoke Rangers and Salmon Arm Totems, who both missed the playoffs. While Penticton was busy lining up scholarships for its players, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm were collecting money for room and board from their players. Fan support dwindled so badly in Revelstoke that the team's final home games were scheduled in Enderby.

Anyone who has been involved with junior hockey will tell you that few things remain the same from year-to-year. Before the 1985-86 BCJHL season gets under way, there will be new management, new ownership, and perhaps one or two new cities in the Interior Division. But, one thing you can bet on, Penticton will be the class of the division again next year.