

Lakers blast Capitals 12-6

Vernon Lakers Head Coach Don Moores gambled in training camp when he decided to move sophomore Shawn Lofroth from defence to forward.

Moores reasoned that with the players he had on defence, he could take better advantage of Lofroth's speed up front. On Thursday, in Sidney, Moores looked like a genius.

Lofroth scored three goals to lead Lakers to a 12-6 win over Sidney Capitals in the first outing of a three-game swing through the Coast Division.

Moores said, "With Shawn's skating and puck-handling skills, he could help our club more as a forward."

During his rookie season with Lakers, as a defenceman, Lofroth averaged almost a point per game.

In Sidney, Troy Pohl scored twice for Vernon while Rick Rozeckik Shannon Pohl, Greg Guest, Dennis Holland, Troy Mick, Sean Hartnell, and Wes Gentles added singles.

Troy Pohl, along with one of his

triplet brothers, Trevor, were acquired from Salmon Arm Blazers earlier this week.

Sidney was paced by the two-goal performance of Kevin Arnold while Todd Decker, Mike Jones, Rob Montgomery, and Phil Soukoroff netted one apiece.

Lakers, who jumped to a 6-0 lead in the first period, visit Nanaimo Clippers tonight. Vernon concludes its Coast trip, Saturday, against undefeated Delta.

Lakers' home opener is next Thursday against Kelowna Packers.

In other BCJHL action Thursday, Merritt Warriors nipped Summerland Buckaroos 4-3.

In Summerland, Jeff Leyer and Vernon minor hockey graduate Kevin Thorlakson scored in the third period to give Warriors their road victory.

Mike Catchpole and Brad Smiley also scored for Merritt while Campbell Blair, Dave Tomlinson, and Andy Pokupec replied for Buckaroos. Summerland held period leads of 2-1 and 3-2.