

It's a whole new season following league decision

It's a whole new season for Vernon Lakers beginning tonight at Civic arena when they entertain Shuswap Blazers in their first B.C. Junior Hockey League outing since Dec. 10.

Following a decision by BCJHL executive to deduct points from three Interior Division clubs, including front-running Penticton Knights and Kelowna Packers, Lakers are left in serious contention for first place once again.

Friday, League Vice-president Don Lancaster announced that following a ruling by the BCAHA on the use of ineligible players, points were deducted from Knights, Packers and Merritt Warriors.

Merritt was hit hardest of all, losing 10 points they could ill-afford to squander. The loss drops the pesky Warriors to fifth place in the Interior Division nine points back of Summerland Buckaroos who reached the .500 level once again Friday night with a 5-3 victory over Blazers.

Knights and Packers both lost eight points for using ineligible players and are currently tied for first place in the Interior with 44 points . . . three better than Lakers.

Hopefully, Lakers will use the added incentive as initiative to defeat Blazers tonight. However, the club will be hurting considerably.

The team has been idle for nearly a month, despite a pair of exhibition contests in the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League before Christmas. Many of the players were feeling the effects of the long layoff during team practice sessions Thursday night and Friday. It may take the club a week or more to get back on keel while teams such as Blazers have been playing steadily during Lakers layoff period.

The local club will also be without two of its star performers in Trevor Pohl and, most especially, Dennis Holland. Pohl was served with a one-game suspension for his part in instigating the fight which led to a brawl with Merritt Dec. 6.

Holland, meanwhile, is busy playing with Team Pacific in the Quebec Esso Cup under 16 Hockey Tournament in Quebec. His team takes on the Soviet Union today in semi-final action.

Between the two missing players, they have in excess of 50 goals and more than 100 points and their absence will hurt the club.

Meanwhile, in BCJHL action Friday night, Kelowna Packers edged Merritt Warriors 5-4, Knights doubled the hometown Nanaimo Clippers 10-5, Delta Flyers defeated Langley Eagles 8-4 and Summerland downed Shuswap 5-3.



DENNIS HOLLAND

Packers received goals from Alan Schuler, and a pair from Shawn Swail while Alan Suzuki scored twice for Warriors.

David Shields had three goals and three assists for Knights who are playing on the Coast without the services of Head Coach Rick Kozuback.

Kevin Melrose also had three goals for Knights while Scott Rawson had one goal and six assists. Nanaimo got goals from five different players including Kent Lewis, Grant McDonald, Jamie Cayford, Brian DeLeeuw, and Todd Jennings.

In Summerland, Craig Bedard scored three goals to lead Buckaroos. Cliff Furnseth and Jackson Penny added singles for Summerland which led 2-0 after one period and 4-2 at the end of two.

Jeff Vilac, Darren Kwiatowski and Terrance Head counted for Blazers.

In league play tonight, Penticton plays in Delta, Langley travels to Nanaimo, Richmond plays at Abbotsford, and Summerland hosts Kelowna.

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Editor — DON KENDALL

Team Pacific faces Soviet Union today

MONTREAL (CP) — It'll be Team Quebec against Team Ontario and the Soviet Union vs. Team Pacific today in the semifinals of the Esso Cup midget hockey tournament.

Team Quebec, inspired by four goals by Pierre Turgeon of Rouyn, dumped Team Pacific 8-4 in one of two late games Friday while the Soviet Union was a 9-2 winner over Team Atlantic.

Other Quebec goals were scored by Michel Picard of Courville, Peter White of Montreal, Daniel Maurice of Repentigny and Marc Picard of Charlesbourg.

Scoring for Team Pacific were Doug MacDonald of Port Moody, B.C., Peter Schmid of Kamloops, B.C., Gord Krupke of Slave Lake, Alta., and Kerry Russell of Kamloops, B.C.

Team Quebec and the Soviets were the only undefeated teams, each with four wins

scored in the first period to give Team Atlantic a 1-0 lead heading into the dressing room, but the Soviets scored five times in the second to take control of the game.

Alexandr Mogilny and Yuri Faydov each scored twice for the Soviets, who also got goals from Oleg Filatovi, Dennis Ermakovi, Boris Fuks, Valery Andreev and Dimitry Khristich. Andrew McKim of Saint John, N.B., also scored for Team Atlantic.

In an earlier game, goaltender Patrick Vackland stopped 20 shots as Sweden had an 8-0 shutout over Team West. Jan Bergman and Daniel Pettersson each had two goals for the Swedes while Patri Liimatainen, Mikael Haeggstrom, Mats Granstroen and Claes Aterblom added singles.

The Swedes finished the preliminary