Lakers in Penticton for first exhibition

Vernon Lakers play their first exhibition game tonight in Penticton where they'll face the defending Centennial Cup champion Knights.

Knights will have a number of advantages over the local club, one of which is the fact that they have already played two exhibition games and have made a number of cuts from their training camp roster. However, Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare isn't concerned with winning tonight, he only wishes to see what many of his rookies do under a game situation.

"I just want to see how they can do in junior A hockey, that's what exhibition games are for," suggested Gare.

Exhibition game rules dictate that a club can only dress 19 players including goaltenders. Gare would have liked to have taken 21 players since he still has all 35 players in training camp. He and assistant coach George Fargher won't be swinging the axe until after the club plays their home-and-home exhibition series with Penticton this weekend.

Saturday night the local club entertains Knights at Civic arena. That game gets underway at 9 p.m. instead of the usual 8 p.m. because of the Pecan Pie Recreational Hockey Tournament which is going on at the Civic.

Gare is going with a completely untried defence tonight, taking two rookie goaltenders and six freshmen defencemen. The only exception to his all-rookie cast will be up front where he'll insert a handful of veteran players just to ensure that things run smoothly.

"I'm not too worried about what they (Knights) have," explained the Vernon coach. "I'm not worried about winning, I'm looking at it from a coaching standpoint."

Exhibition hockey

Vernon Lakers entertain Centennial Cup defending champion Penticton Knights Saturday evening at Vernon Civic arena. The game is the second in a home-and-home exhibition series between the two B.C. Junior Hockey League clubs.