Knights trim Lakers in exhibition game

Penticton Knights, playing in their third exhibition game this season, capitalized on a nervous rookie squad of Vernon lakers to earn a 7-1 victory over the Vernon club Friday night in Penticton.

The two teams play a return engagement tonight beginning at 9 p.m. at Vernon Civic arena.

Luckily, Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare wasn't too concerned with the score Friday night, only with observing the actions of some of his freshmen players in a game situation.

"I saw some good things that I was happy with," explained Gare who sited the play of rookie goaltender Peter Repole as one of these good things. Repole played the first half of the game and surrendered four goals but the score could have been much worse since Knights caught Lakers off guard.

"The score wasn't indicative of the play," suggested Gare. "We were nervous in the first period and took six straight penalties and they got on top of us 4-0."

Knights led 4-0 and 5-1 by periods. Kevin Scott, formerly of Shuswap Blazers, scored the lone goal for Lakers.

Gare feels it will be a different story tonight both on the ice and on the scoreboard.

"We'll have a lot more veteran players on the ice tonight," Gare said. "We'll have a whole new defence actually. They (Knights) are only making a couple of changes for tonight so that's pretty well their team."

Gare will swing the axe following tonight's game and expects to have his training camp roster pared down to a more workable figure of 25 or 26 players by Monday evening's session. Practice sessions move to Civic arena from Priest Valley arena for Monday with players on the ice at 9:15 p.m.