LAKERS HOST BUCKS TONIGHT

Vernon Lakers host Summerland Buckaroos in their final B.C. Junior Hockey League pre-season game tonight, at 8 p.m., in the Vernon Civic Arena.

Lakers split two exhibition games last weekend while Buckaroos suffered a pair of crushing defeats. Kelowna Packers hammered Summerland 15-3 and 13-3.

For some players, tonight's encounter will be their final opportunity to impress Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We'll go with our rookies tonight," Gare said. "We want to give them another look before we make any more decisions."

To make room for the rookies, Lakers will rest eight veterans.

The training camp roster was reduced to 28, Monday, when Gare cut two rookies and another player left on his own. Goalie Glen Mitchell and forward Ian Young were released while forward Doug McIntyre returned to Weyburn Red Wings, of the Saskatchewan Junior 'A' Hockey League.

McIntyre played minor hockey in Vernon, but started his junior career last season in Weyburn.

Gare said, "We were disappointed that Doug decided to leave, but it was his decision. There is still a chance that we'll get him back."

The BCJHL regular season starts Friday night when Lakers host Merritt Warriors, at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Portland Winter Hawks, of the Western Hockey League, invade the Civic Arena for an exhibition confrontation.

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