Vernon goaltenders fight for their jobs

Vernon Lakers have three opportunities to end their losing streak this weekend.

Lakers host Merritt Warriors tonight; Penticton Knights visit Vernon, Saturday night; and Kelowna Packers entertain Lakers, Sunday night, in Rutland.

After starting the season with four consecutive victories, Lakers have now lost four straight. In the four losses, Vernon has surrendered 31 goals. . .an average of 7.75 per outing.

"We have to cut down on our goals against," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We spent a lot of time in practice this week working on backchecking."

General Manager Mel Lis and Gare have made no secret that they are not pleased with their goaltending. Dan Doran, from the Prince George Midget Reps, was brought in on a trial basis this week.

Gare said, "I'll look at all three goalies this weekend and make a decision on Monday."

Rookie Pete Repole is slated to start tonight against Merritt. Veteran Darryl Dickens, who will back-up Repole, gets the starting nod Saturday. And Ryan Dennis will be between the pipes, Sunday, in Rutland.

Lis expects the slump to end tonight. "We haven't been getting any breaks," Lis said. "One of these nights, hopefully tonight, everything will come together and we'll blow somebody out of the building."

In other player moves, Lakers demoted defenceman Chris Ganzert and forward Sandy Moger to the Vernon Midget Reps. They will be signed as affiliated players and may see duty with Lakers later in the season.

Centre Steve Humphrey, who watched Vernon's last three games from the stands, quit the team this week. And forward Terry Pohl, who refused to report to Summerland Buckaroos last month when sent there by Lakers, is now practicing with the local squad.

In the lone BCJHL game Thursday, Richmond Sockeyes blasted Summerland 10-1.

Jeff McLean, Mario Desjardins and Trevor Hendry got two goals apiece for the Sockeyes. Singles came from Peter Holmes, Tony Bobbitt, Dave Tomlinson and Paul Rutherford.

Summerland's lone goal was scored by Gord Paulsen.

Richmond outshot Summerland 66-22.

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Editor—DON KENDALL

