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sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Lakers take to road for first Coast trip

Satisfied with his club's performance during their three-game weekend last week, Vernon Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare is confident his charges will perform equally well on the road this weekend.

Lakers take the first of two road swings through the Coastal division this season beginning Friday night in Delta. Saturday the club is in Abbotsford while Sunday Lakers square off with Langley.

In order to shore up his sagging defensive unit Gare took steps to at least offer his goaltenders some feeling of security and the confidence that comes with that feeling.

Tuesday Gare cut goaltender Peter Repole from his roster, sending the young netminder back to Quesnel where he expects Repole will see quite a lot of action with Millionaires in the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League.

He (Repole) has got good potential and we'ld like him back next year," offered Gare of him. "He's only played midget hockey prior to this season and he'll get more ice-time with the Millionaires."

The trimming of Repole leaves Lakers with two goaltenders including veteran Darryl Dickens and the youthful Ryan Dennis. Both have considerable Junior A experience and both have turned in solid goaltending performances for Vernon at times during this season.

"I'm happy with them both and now that we're down to two goalies it'll help their confidence," suggested the Vernon coach.

Gare also announced that there will be an extra body on the team bus when they make their way back from their coastal trip this weekend. Left-winger Todd Demchuk, formerly of Nanaimo Clippers, will join the club when they get to the Lower Mainland. Demchuk is payment for an earlier deal that saw forward Greg Leaky go to Nanaimo.

Meanwhile, Gare has taken extra time lately in working on some particularly weak areas of the club's game.

"We've been working on defence mostly and also what we're doing when we don't have the puck," he explained. "We'll be going down there (Coast) confident in our game . . . we want to win all three."

Lakers are currently sporting a record of six wins and five losses and hold down third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior division.