Tough weekend ahead

Vernon Lakers head into one of the toughest weekends of the B.C. Junior Hockey League season without one, or possibly two, defenceman.

Lakers host Penticton Knights, Friday, and Kelowna Packers, Saturday, before travelling south for a return engagement with the Knights, Sunday, in Penticton.

Packers lead the Interior Division with 31 points, three more than the Knights. Lakers occupy third place with 19 points.

Rugged rearguard Keith Chase is in the midst of a three-game suspension and won't be available until Sunday. The status of rookie defenceman Greg Olson is in doubt. Olson, who has been sick for more than a week, underwent tests Tuesday in Kamloops.

"We'll know more after Greg returns to Vernon today," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "He was so weak last weekend that he couldn't play."

With the absence of Olson and Chase, the arrival of Terry Cummins was timely. Cummins, who played with Merritt in 1984-85, joined Lakers last week.

"I think he (Cummins) can help us," Gare said. "He plays his position well and knows what to do with the puck."

Meanwhile, Packers continued to feast on weak opponents, Tuesday, by blasting Summerland Buckaroos 8-0. Packers outshot the lowly Summerland squad 60-26.

In other games Tuesday, Nanaimo Clippers outscored Abbotsford Falcons 11-6 and Delta Flyers doubled Langley Eagles 6-3.

Greg Guest, who spent the 1985-86 season with Lakers, scored once for the Eagles.