Lakers lose goalie

Vernon Lakers put their six-game win streak on the line tonight when they take on the Penticton Knights, in the Peach City.

The game is crucial for Lakers if they hope to catch the second place Knights before Christmas. Penticton has 43 points, eight more than Vernon. However, Lakers have three games-in-hand.



DARYL DICKENS

It is no coincidence that Vernon started its win streak with the arrival of goalie Jason Palmer who was acquired from Langley Eagles. With Palmer firmly entrenched as the team's number one goalie, veteran Daryl Dickens announced Thursday he is leaving the Lakers.

Dickens came to Vernon last year from Abbotsford Falcons. He has been inconsistent this season and was pulled after allowing five goals, in two periods, against Merritt Warriors, Tuesday night.

Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis said if Dickens wants to play elsewhere in the BCJHL he will attempt to work out a trade. "Right now, we're looking for a goalie to replace Dickens."

Randy Zemiak has been called up from the Vernon Juvenile Reps to serve as Palmer's back-up tonight.

While Lakers are 100 per cent healthy for the first time this season, the Knights are plagued by injuries. League-leading goal scorer John DePourcq returned to the Penticton line-up this week after missing four games with a pinched nerve in his arm. However, high-scoring Mike Barzel (shoulder), defenceman Dave McDolm (ankle), and defenceman Ken McArthur)leg) are still sidelined.

Lakers visit Summerland Buckaroos, Saturday, then host the Knights next Tuesday night.

In the lone BCJHL game Thursday, the Juan de Fuca Whalers overcame period deficits of 2-1 and 3-2 to defeat Nanaimo Clippers 5-4, in Victoria.

Grahame Bewley scored two goals for the Whalers while singles came from Kevin Nohn, Darren Naylor and Dino Budizoni.

Corky Parkes contributed two goals for Nanaimo. Todd Finner and Craig Frankfort each had one goal.

Juan de Fuca goaltender Tim Renton made 27 saves while Chris Fairlie stopped 32 shots for the Clippers.