WARRIORS IN TOWN TONIGHT

Lakers start year with win

Vernon Lakers defeated the B.C. Junior 'B' All-star Team 8-4 in exhibition hockey before a near-capacity crowd, Thursday, at Osoyoos.

The junior 'B' squad will represent B.C. at the Canada Winter Games, next month.



STACEY HARTNELL

Stacey Hartnell led the Vernon attack with three goals while Kevin Scott added a pair. Singles went to Ian Alger, Todd Demchuk, and Mark Greyeyes.

Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis said the game was a good tune-up for his club after a 10-day Christmas break. "I'm impressed with the provincial team," Lis said. "They have some excellent hockey players. We had to work hard to win."

Lakers return to the ice tonight when they host Merritt Warriors, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at 8 p.m. On Saturday night, Vernon entertains Abbotsford Falcons.

After putting together an eight-game win streak in early-December, Lakers were winless in their final three outings of 1986. They lost to Penticton Knights and Merritt before battling to a 5-5 deadlock with first place Kelowna Packers. Lis has set an ambitious goal for his team and predicts the slump will end tonight.

"We have 18 games remaining . . . and I want no less than 15 wins," Lis said. "I'm confident we can catch Penticton, and if Kelowna goes into a slump, we could catch them too."

Packers lead the Interior Division with 54 points, seven more than the Knights. Vernon occupies third place with 40 points, but has two games-in-hand on Penticton.

"We blew some games earlier in the season because of injuries and goaltending," Lis said. "We don't have any excuses now. The team is healthy and (Jason) Palmer is giving us good goaltending."

Vernon Daily News | sports
Editor — DON KENDALL

Capitals edge pesky Penguins

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — The Washington Capitals could not afford to wait for the playoffs before starting the traditional second season in the National Hockey League.

Last in the Patrick Division with the

The deadlock continued until Ville Siren put the Penguins ahead at 16:50 of the third period. A shot by Lou Francescetti then bounced off the leg of Duchesne and past Roberto Romano to tie it 3-3, setting the stage for Gart-