KNIGHTS ACQUIRE HARTNELL

Vernon Lakers and Penticton Knights completed a three-player trade Saturday afternoon.

Lakers sent veteran winger Stacey Hartnell to the Knights in exchange for forwards Shawn Howard and Jan Zeidel.

Hartnell, who is among the top 10 scorers in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division, left Vernon 10 days ago and requested a trade to Penticton. His twin brother, Sean, also plays for the Knights.

Howard was among the leading scorers on the Knights' roster with 41 points, including 16 goals, in 34 games. Zeidel had scored six goals, in 20 games, with the defending Canadian champions.

Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis said he obtained two players who can help his club in its pursuit of the division championship. "Both boys can play for us," Lis said. "They are both big, skate well, and don't mind going in the corners to get the puck."

Howard is expected to replace Hartnell, on left wing, with high scoring Doug Spooner and Kevin Scott. Zeidel will battle Todd Demchuck and Ian Alger for the wing positions alongside Mark Greyeyes.

Red-hot Lakers defeat lowly Bucks

Vernon Lakers, one of the hottest teams in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, moved to within seven points of second place in the Interior Division with a 5-2 victory over hometown Summerland Buckaroos, Saturday night.

Lakers, 12-2-1 in their last 15 starts, now have a record of 23-13-2 for the season and have four games-in-hand over second place Penticton Knights, who just completed a three-game road trip through the Coastal Division.

Defenceman Campbell Blair became Lakers' all-time leading goal scorer for rearguards when he netted a pair of goals to give him 31 this season. That mark is one better than the record of 30, set by Mike Enemark in the 1982-83 season. Blair is just five short of the BCJHL record for goals by a defenceman and has 14 games remaining to chase the record.

Wes Elliott, another rearguard, also added a pair of tallies for Lakers while Ed Tuckwood had a single goal to complete the scoring. Lakers held a 39-23 edge in shooting while building period leads of 2-1 and 4-1.

Tom Cross and Tony Bower were the Summerland snipers.

Lakers inserted a pair of new faces in their lineup Saturday with Shawn Howard and Jan Zeidel, acquired from Penticton in a deal for Stacey Hartnell. Howard has taken Hartnell's place on left with Doug Spooner and Kevin Scott while Zeidel was used more sparingly by Coach Ernie Gare.

"They're both good skaters, and Howard fits in well with that line," suggested Gare.

Although Lakers have blown Summerland out many times in the past, Gare was more satisfied with the team's defensive game and less concerned with the fact that the club scored just five goals against the worst team in the league.

"If we look after our own end then the other end will look after itself," explained Gare. "We're definitely emphasizing defence now."

Lakers are idle until next weekend when they play a couple of four-point games. The club is in Penticton, Friday night, then hosts Kelowna, Saturday night, at the Civic Arena.

In other weekend games, Langley Eagles nipped Abbotsford Falcons 7-6, Merritt Warriors downed Summerland Buckaroos 8-5, and Penticton defeated Delta Flyers 7-4.

Canadian relay team captures silver medal