LAKERS NOW SECOND

Knights punished

PENTICTON (Special) — The British Columbia Junior Hockey League has penalized Penticton Knights for the use of eight ineligible players early in the 1986-87 season.

BCJHL Vice-President Don Lancaster announced today the league has taken 10 points away from the Knights for using the players, in the period from Sept. 20 to Oct. 4, before their interbranch transfers were obtained. The players in question are Shawn Howard, Mark Tsyka, Brad Heschuk, Mark Sorenson, Ivan Moore, Dowell Frantz, Steve Chelios, and Ken McArthur.

Howard was recently traded to Vernon lakers.

The points from those games have been awarded to Merritt Warriors (4), Summerland Buckaroos (2), Vernon (2), and Kelowna Packers (2).

As a result of the ruling, Kelowna leads the Interior Division with 66 points followed by Lakers with 50, Knights 45, Warriors 17, and Buckaroos 10. Vernon has four games-in-hand on Penticton.

An unconfirmed report today stated that Knights do not plan to appeal the loss of points.

Mel Lis, president and general manager of the Lakers, was pleased with the ruling. "I love it," Lis said. "I hope the ruling stands up. We can beat the Knights on the ice, but we'll gladly accept the points if they want to give them to us."

Lakers travel to Penticton, tonight, to meet the Knights.

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Knights host Lakers

Penticton Knights host Vernon Lakers in a crucial B.C. Junior Hockey League game tonight.

In the battle for second place, Knights have 55 points, seven more than Lakers. However, the red-hot Lakers have four games-in-hand. Vernon has 12 wins, two losses, and a tie in its last 15 games.

It will be the first time the two clubs have met since they completed a trade last week. Lakers sent high-scoring winger Stacey Hartnell to Knights in exchange for forwards Shawn Howard and Jan Zeidel.

Vernon Coach Ernie Gare said his club is healthy and he doesn't anticipate any major line-up changes. "Howard will take Hartnell's spot, with (Kevin) Scott and (Doug) Spooner," Gare said. "The other two forward lines will remain in the same, with Zeidel getting spot duty."

Meanwhile, Lakers' defenceman Campbell Blair is closing in on another BCJHL record. Blair recently established a new mark for career assists by a defenceman with 158.

The 20-year-old rearguard currently has 229 points, just six off the record established by Ian Kidd, formerly of Penticton Knights. With 14 games remaining, Blair is also in pursuit of three single season records and the career record for goals by a defenceman.

Lakers return to the ice Saturday night, at home, when they host first place Kelowna Packers.

In BCJHL action Thursday night, Juan de Fuca Whalers thumped Summerland Buckaroos 6-1 and Richmond Clippers hammered Nanaimo Clippers 11-4.