Lakers receive good news

Vernon Lakers received some good news today.

Defenceman Wes Elliott, who suffered a knee injury in Sunday's 11-4 loss to Penticton Knights, will not require surgery. Elliott's injury has been diagnosed as a bad bruise.



CHAD BIAFORE

"My knee is really swollen but the doctor told me I don't have any ligament damage," Elliott said. "I don't think I'll play this weekend, but I should be ready for next Tuesday."

Lakers host Penticton Knights, Friday, and Kelowna Packers, Saturday, in the final two games of the B.C. Junior Hockey League regular season. The Interior Division semi-finals begin Tuesday with Penticton visiting Vernon.

Defenceman Chad Biafore, who has been sidelined three weeks with an ankle injury, resumed skating Monday night.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare is hoping Biafore will also be ready to play next week. "We hope Chad will be healthy enough to take a few shifts this weekend," Gare said.

Gare, like everyone else, knows his team must play better defensive hockey if it wants to avoid an early exist from the playoffs. Lakers have surrendered 21 goals in their last two games.

"There is no way Penticton is seven goals better than us," Gare said. "We can beat that team, But, we have to play better in our end of the rink. Right from the goalie to the defence to the forwards. . .everyone has to do their job."