LAKERS HOST KNIGHTS

Playoff preview tonight

Vernon Lakers host Penticton Knights in a B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff preview tonight, at 8 p.m. in the Civic Arena.

The best-of-seven Interior Division semi-final series gets under way next Tuesday with Vernon hosting Penticton. Lakers currently have 66 points, seven more than the third place Knights. However, Penticton trounced Vernon 11-4 last Sunday, in the Peach City.

Lakers conclude their regular season schedule Saturday, at home, against Kelowna Packers. The league-leading Packers will meet Merritt Warriors in the other division semi-final, next week.

Although tonight's game has no significance in league standings, Vernon General Manager Mel Lis said his club wants to win.

"As far as I'm concerned, every game is important," Lis said. "Every game means something. We want to build momentum heading into the playoffs."

Vernon defencemen Wes Elliott (knee), Chad Biafore (ankle), and Mike Conrad (strepped throat) are considered doubtful starters tonight.

Lis said, "Other than the injured players, we don't plan on resting anybody for the playoffs. We have something to prove tonight."

While team standings won't be altered by the outcome of the two weekend games, two Lakers hope to improve their individual statistics.

Centre Kevin Scott is in pursuit of the BCJHL scoring title. Scott currently has 122 points, five more than Lance Momotami, of Delta Flyers.

Campbell Blair has 105 points and is in a position to break two BCJHL records for scoring by a defenceman. Blair's 36 goals ties the single season mark, currently held by Doug Lidster. And he is three away from the single season points record of 108, held by Ian Kidd.

Meanwhile, Penticton has lost the services of the Hartnell brothers for the remainder of the season. Sean and Stacey Hartnell quit the Knights this week to preserve their scholarship to Ohio State.

The Hartnells, who started the 1986-87 season with Vernon, turned 20 last month. National Collegiate Athletic Association rules state that anyone who plays junior hockey after their 20th birthday loses one year of college athletic eligibility.

CURLING CLUB NEWS

Bird guaranteed share of top spot



by Ron Houston

With only three games remaining in league play, Big Momma's Pizza (Maureen Bird) is assured of at least a tie for first. Pardner's Restaurant (Wendy Cseke) would have to win all