LAKERS HOST KNIGHTS

Playoffs start tonight

Vernon Lakers host Penticton Knights in the opening game of the B.C. Junior Hockey League semi-finals, tonight at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Game two in the best-of-seven series is scheduled Wednesday night, in Penticton. The other semi-final has first place Kelowna Packers taking on fourth place Merritt Warriors.

Vernon finished the regular season with 68 points, five more than Penticton. However, Knights won seven of 10 meetings between the two clubs, including 11-4 and 4-2 decisions in the past two weeks.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare feels the first game, on home ice, is important for his club. "We have to get off to a good start," Gare said. "I'd like to score at least a couple goals in the first period."

The two teams have contrasting styles. Lakers play wide-open, offensive hockey. Knights sacrifice their scoring statistics by playing tough defensive hockey. Vernon scored 381 goals during the regular season, 97 more than Penticton. On the other hand, Knights allowed 205 goals against, 52 less than Lakers.

Gare said, "It won't be a high-scoring series. Penticton plays well defensively . . . they work hard in their end of the rink. We have to do the same thing. We have to play well without the puck."

Two of the young men on the hotseat will be goaltenders Jamie Loewen, of Penticton, and Vernon's Jason Palmer.

Loewen, who posted a 3.85 goals against average during the regular season, plays his best games in Vernon. On two occasions this year, Loewen stole victories for the Knights.

At the other end of the rink, Palmer compiled a goals against average of 4.93. Since joining Lakers from Langley Eagles, Palmer has won 19 games, lost four, and tied one. Vernon's other netminder, Mike Sutherland, may also see duty in the series.

"Jason is starting tonight," Gare said. "After tonight, we'll take it one day at a time."

Knights were dealt a serious blow recently when Stacey and Sean Hartnell quit the team to preserve a year of college hockey eligibility. However, Penticton has beaten Vernon twice without the twin brothers.

Lakers are two players over the roster limit so defencemen Bob Dever and Mike Conrad will sit out tonight. Wes Elliott (bruised knee) and Chad Biafore (ankle ligaments) are not 100 per cent, but will play.

Third game in the series is Friday, in Vernon; with the fourth game in Penticton, Saturday; and the fifth game, if necessary, back in Vernon, Sunday.

Meanwhile, the BCJHL confirmed Monday that Lakers' slick centre Kevin Scott won the league scoring title. Scott accumulated 126 points, seven more than Lance Momotani, of Delta Flyers.

Kelowna, with five players, and Vernon, with four, dominated the Interior Division top 10. Only John DePourcq, of Penticton, broke the domination of the top two clubs. DePourcq was fifth in the division with 109 points.

FINAL
BCJHL Coastal Division

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	P
Richmond	52	38	14	0	347	192	76
Langley	52	31	20	1	272	259	63
Delta	52	29	23	0	301	265	58
Nanaimo	52	24	27	1	276	292	49
Juan De Fuca	52	20	32	0	238	276	40
Abbotsford	52	14	38	0	217	351	28

Interior Division

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	P
Kelowna	52	45	5	2	396	177	92
Vernon	52	33	17	2	381	257	68
Penticton	52	30	19	3	284	205	63
Merritt	52	10	41	1	194	361	21
Summerland	52	5	45	2	169	4402	12

SCORING

Coastal		G	A	Pts	Pim
Momotani,	Del	60	59	119	22
Tomlinson,	Rich	43	65	108	75
Clarke,	Rich	65	38	103	151
Holmes,	Del	39	61	100	26
Moller,	Rich	27	64	91	20
Zulinick,	JDF	30	61	91	26
Smiley,	Abb	32	51	83	68
Macdonald,	Del	28	49	77	61
Eisenhut,	Lan	41	34	75	28
K. Nohr,	JDF	21	48	69	197
Interior					
Scott,	Ver	56	70	126	125
Taillefer,	Kel	41	76	117	222
Mangold,	Kel	57	57	114	91
Blair,	Ver	38	72	110	204
DePourcq,	Pen	52	57	109	10
Spooner,	Ver	47	57	104	135
Russell,	Kel	41	61	102	65
Mowery,	Kel	37	60	97	93
Bedard,	Ver	46	49	95	99
Hurd,	Kel	40	53	93	106

GOALTENDING

Coastal		MP	GA	Avg
Romeo,	Rich	1098	54	2.95
Stewart,	Lan	1860	130	4.18
Pencer,	Rich	1199	84	4.20
Dickson,	Del	2319	173	4.47
Renton,	JDF	1561	125	4.80
Interior				
Imoo,	Kel	1308	68	3.11
Tyszka,	Pen	879	47	3.20
Carignan,	Kel	1717	105	3.66
Loewen,	Pen	2210	142	3.85
Palmer,	Ver	1788	147	4.93

VERNON SCORING

Player	G	A	PTS.	PIM
Tuckwood	30	53	83	323
Greyeyes	37	44	81	107
Young	25	55	80	86
Howard	25	34	59	62
Alger	19	33	52	253
Elliott	5	26	31	215
Demchuk	10	17	27	118
Biafore	6	21	27	127
Olson	5	20	25	25
Zeidel	8	9	17	78
Fox	5	12	17	138
Moger	5	4	9	10
Conrad	3	6	9	117
Dever	1	8	9	67
Chase	2	4	6	215

Vernon swimmer and coach live out of their suitcases

Vernon swimmer Steven Van Der Meulen and Coach Barry Healey have logged more than 20,000 miles in the past month.

During that time, Van Der Muelen competed in three major swim meets, on two continents.

At the Winter Nationals, in Winnipeg, Van Der Meulen placed sixth in the 100m freestyle. He was fourth after 50m with a time of 25.1 seconds.

Healey said, "Our plan was to go out with the fastest. He was with the leaders after 50m and the second length of the race was very fast. At the final touch, with everyone together, he was sixth."

Also in Winnipeg, he was seventh in the 100m backstroke, but needed to finish among the top six swimmers to earn a berth on the World Student Games Team.

He won the 50m freestyle consolation event after failing to qualify for the finals by one-tenth of a second.

From Winnipeg, they flew to London and then to West Germany. Healey called the meet at Bonn, West Germany, "the fastest I have ever seen."

Nine members of the Canadian National Team, including Victor Davis and Allison Higson, were at the Bonn event.

Van Der Meulen recorded times of 23.30 seconds, 50m freestyle; 50.90 seconds, 100m freestyle; 57.75 seconds, 100m butterfly; 59.09 seconds, 100m backstroke; 23.75 seconds, 50m backstroke; and 25.74 seconds, 50m butterfly.

"Steve had his best times, or very close to his best times, in all six events," his coach said.

The next stop was Hamburg. "The pool was amazing," Healey said. "It cost $32 million and was 10 lanes wide."

In the 50m freestyle, Van Der Meulen placed ninth and had an opportunity to swim against world champion Michael Gross, of West Germany. His best race at Hamburg was the 100m backstroke in which he placed fifth.

Bird's eight-ender clinches first place

Maureen Bird (Big Momma's Pizza) clinched first place in the Parkside Pontiac Ladies Super League Monday night with an easy 11-6 victory over Lori White (Coldstream Hotel).

In other ladies' super league action Monday, Wendy Cseke (Pardner's Restaurant) defeated Connie Ouchi (Longhorn Pub) by an 11-4 margin; Sharon Delver (Rosman Brothers Auto) beat Jean Skobalski (York Transmission) 10-4; and Muriel Wynn (Western Concrete) got by Vicki Midtdal (J.C. Bradley Jewelers) 13-9.

Bird used a rare eight-ender, the second of the season recorded at Vernon Curling Club, to defeat White. The house was crowded with 11 rocks but, all eight of Bird's were lying shot.

Cseke came out strong stealing three in the first end against Ouchi and continued to play consistently throughout the remainder of the match, Ouchi made a tricky takeout for two in the seventh end but it wasn't enough to close the gap.

A split in the fifth end gave Delver a count of three to break a deadlock. A steal of two in the eighth followed by two more in the ninth end clinched the win and gave Delver a fourth place tie with Skobalski.

Midtdal jumped out front 4-0 after three ends but Wynn was quick to recuperate with four in the fourth end to tie the game. After nine ends the score was again tied 9-9, but Midtdal's rink, skipped by Leslie White, had the hammer. White's last rock had a bit too much on it and Wynn was left with four rocks for the win.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY, 1982

After two years of inactivity, Vernon Minor Football was on the comeback trail. A three man delegation from the Kelowna League came to Vernon to stir up interest and to see if interlocking league play could be developed between the two cities. Vernon league executive said they had trouble attracting players in the league.

KENDALLS KORNER

Scott's scoring heroics make prediction come true



by Don Kendall

Daily News Sports Editor

Kevin Scott, of Vernon Lakers, has made me look like an expert. Last September, I told anyone who would listen that Scott was going to win the B.C. Junior Hockey League scoring championship.

He was impressive last season with the lowly Salmon Arm Totems. And after watching him star in two pre-season games with Lakers, I was convinced he was the top offensive player in the league.

Scott had a slow start and wasn't among the league's top 20 snipers in November. But, he got hot in December and caught fire in January. Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare united Scott with Doug Spooner and Mark Greyeyes when the team reunited after its Christmas break. In the final six weeks of the regular season, that trio created havoc for opposing teams.

Scott finished the season with 126 points, seven more than his nearest rival. The line of Spooner, Greyeyes, and Scott wound up with 311 points.

Scott, 19, becomes the seventh Vernon player to go into the BCJHL record book as a scoring champion.

The last time a Vernon player won the scoring title was 1978-79 when centre Terry Lowe compiled 154 points, in 63 games. Lowe, who was 20 at the time, went on to star with the Vernon Cougars Intermediate Team for several years.

Before Lowe, you have to go back a long way to find a scoring champion who hung up his skates in the Civic Arena.

John Price and Gare (the coach of the Lakers) tied for the BCJHL scoring crown in 1972 when the accumulated 133 points. Price then spent six seasons with Cranbrook Royals, of the Western International Hockey League.

Gare played eight seasons in the WIHL, including five with the now-defunct Spokane Flyers. The highlight of his playing career was in 1977 when Spokane won the Allan Cup, emblematic of Canadian senior 'A' hockey supremacy.

In 1971, Jim Lawrence of Vernon Essos was the scoring champion with 127 points. Lawrence went on to play for UBC Thunderbirds and then became a teacher.

The previous year, 1970, a young winger named Wayne Dye captured the scoring title. Dye, who was just 16 at the time, had 84 points. He spent two more seasons in Vernon before joining New Westminster Bruins, of the WHL. He later wound up in Spokane, with Gare, and helped that club win the Allan Cup.

The only defenceman who ever won the BCJHL scoring title was Tom Serviss, who played with Vernon in 1967-68. Serviss spent a decade in pro hockey including stints in the World Hockey Association with Los Angeles Sharks, Michigan Stags, Quebec Nordiques, and Calgary Cowboys.

Unfortunately for local Hockey fans, we won't have an opportunity to watch Scott perform his magic with the puck next season. The Kimberley native has accepted a hockey scholarship from Michigan.

But, we can watch him in the BCJHL playoffs . . . hopefully for more than one series.