B.C. CHAMPS WIN OPENER

RICHMOND, B.C. (CP) — Bill Hardy, Dave Tomlinson and Matt Hervey scored two goals apiece Tuesday night to lead the Richmond Sockeyes to an 11-4 Centennial Cup playoff victory over the Red Deer Rustlers.

The victory opened a best-of-seven Western semifinal between the B.C. and Alberta Tier II junior hockey champions. Second game in the series will be played here tonight before the remainder of the series shifts to Red Deer.

Jim Dunn, Tony Bobbitt, Jason Phillips, Mike McCormick, and Dean Rutlege also scored for the Sockeyes who held period leads of 4-2 and 6-3 and had a huge 60-34 edge in shots on goal.

Kevin Melrose, Brian Puhalsky, Greg Pulliam and Rick Anderson scored for the Rustlers who got three goals on the power play.

Richmond also scored three power-play goals as they took 91 minutes in penalties while the visitors took 101 minutes.

"I was very pleased with our effort," said Richmond coach Orland Kurtenbach after his club's 16th consecutive playoff victory before 1,000 fans. "When we work, we win and we haven't been outworked yet."

Red Deer coach Larry Billows called the game the worst his team has played since he took over at the beginning of February.

"If we don't play better, it's a long ride home," said Billows.

The Sockeyes are also expecting the Rustlers to improve.

"It's not going to be a blowout," said Richmond netminder Frank Romeo. "They're going to be a lot more prepared."