13 veterans at training camp

Lack of experience won't be a problem for Vernon Lakers when the B.C. Junior Hockey League season gets under way next month.

Fifty-three players, including 13 with junior 'A' experience, will be on the ice Tuesday night when the Lakers open their training camp at the Priest Valley Arena. The contingent includes 25 forwards, 20 defencemen, and eight goaltenders.

The players will be divided into two groups for on-ice workouts Tuesday, at 6:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare said goaltending is his primary concern going into camp. "We don't expect (Jason) Palmer to return so the number one spot is up for grabs," Gare said.

Lakers received some good news Sunday night when goaltender Mike Sutherland notified the club he has been released by Seattle Breakers, of the Western Hockey League, and will arrive in Vernon tonight. Palmer, who is also trying out with the Breakers, and Sutherland shared the Lakers' netminding duties during the latter part of the 1986-87 season.

Another netminder who warrants a long look at camp is Barry Rysz, who play with Dawson Creek Capitals, of the Peace Cariboo Junior League, last season. The diminutive goalie is solid on his skates and has a quick glove.

Gare said, "Rysz looked good in rookie camp. He is small and could be vulnerable on high shots, but he looks extremely quick."

On defence, there will be no shortage of returnees. Seven players with BC-JHL experience are battling for berths with the Vernon blue line corps.

The veterans include Keith Chase, Wes Elliott, Jason Fox, Bob Dever, Chad Biafore, all-star Greg Olson, and Paul Soukaroff, who was obtained in an off-season trade with Juan de Fuca Whalers. The abundance of defencemen gives Gare an opportunity to try the speedy Olson on the forward line.

"We're going to try Olson up front and see how he does," Gare said.

Lakers play their first exhibition game Friday, in Penticton, against the Knights. On Saturday, Vernon takes on the Merritt Centennials, in Winfield.

Okamoto wins tourney

BUFORD, Ga. (AP) — Japan's Ayako Okamoto broke out of a tie with a two-foot birdie putt on the 16th green and shot a 1-under-par 71 Sunday to win the $250,000 World Championship of women's golf.

Okamoto had a one-shot victory over Betsy King, the season's leading money winner.

The victory was worth $81,500 — richest prize in LPGA history — for Okamoto, who lifted her season's earnings to $411,995, just behind King.

King won $43,400 for finishing second and retained her money lead with $425,175.