Vernon undefeated in pre-season outings

Vernon Lakers extended their pre-season win streak to three games with a 7-3 victory over Kelowna Packers in B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition action, Wednesday night, in Rutland.

Despite the victory over the defending Interior Division champions, Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare said his club didn't play particularly well.

"It wasn't a great game," Gare said. "We just played well enough to win."

Vernon took a 3-0 lead before the game was marred by a series of fights in the second period. After the final punches were thrown, Lakers had only three defencemen for the final 30 minutes.

Mike Barkley and ex-Packer Kevin Harder scored two goals each for the Lakers while Adrian Markin, Jason Kemila, and Dallas Drake added singles.

Jamie Kurki, Dwayne Gallant, and Kevin Careless replied for the Packers.

Harder's line, which featured Barkley and Mike Paller on the wings, was the best unit for Vernon. Gare also praised the performance of Markin, a defenceman who played junior 'B' hockey in Castlegar last winter.

"Markin had a real good night," Gare said.

Barry Rysz started between the pipes for the Lakers and blanked Kelowna for the opening period. Daryl Michayluk surrendered two goals in the second period and Travis Piercy was beaten once in the final 20 minutes.

Goalie Mark Tyszka, whom Lakers acquired Tuesday from Penticton Knights in exchange for defenceman Jason Fox, is expected to arrive in Vernon today.

Veterans Mark Greyeyes, Wes Elliott, Chad Biafore, and Greg Olson didn't dress for the Lakers.

Meanwhile, Gare reduced his roster to 30 today by releasing four players. Tom Arkell of Vernon, Rob Hewston of Enderby, Bryan Dicken of Fernie, and Michayluk were cut.

Lakers resume their pre-season schedule Sunday, in Enderby, against the Salmon Arm Tigers. On Monday night, Penticton Knights visit the Vernon Civic Arena.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hockey tourney starts Friday night

The sixth annual Pecan Pie Hockey Tournament is scheduled this weekend at the Vernon Civic Arena. Visiting teams include Vancouver, Kelowna, Osoyoos, Canmore, Alta., and Sundrie, Alta. Play gets under way Friday, at 7 p.m., with the championship game slated for Sunday, at 2 p.m. Spectators are welcome.

Racquetball winner

Wendy Herzig of Vernon won the D/novice category in the recent Kelowna Open Racquetball Tournament at the Four Seasons Racquet Club. More than 100 players from throughout Western Canada and the Northwestern United States competed in the tourney.

Series tied

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — Derek Keenan scored three goals to lead the Brooklin, Ont., Redmen to an 11-7 win over the New Westminster Salmonbellies in the Mann Cup senior lacrosse championship Wednesday night before 1,700 fans.

The win tied the best-of-seven