Finnish goalie may start tonight

Vernon Lakers have an opportunity to move into a tie for first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division when they host the Salmon Arm Tigers, tonight, at 8 p.m.

Lakers (3-3) currently have six points, two less than Merritt Centennials (4-3) and Penticton Knights (4-3). Salmon Arm (2-3-1) trails Vernon by one point.



JAKI TURUNAN

Vernon now has four goalies on its roster, but Head Coach Ernie Gare was unable to name his starting netminder at press time. Finnish goaltender Jaki Turunan will be between the pipes if the Lakers receive approval to play him from the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association. If not, Jason Palmer will be in goal.

Two things are certain . . . Barry Rysz will be the backup goalie and Mark Tyszka, who played in Vernon's 8-5 win over Richmond Sockeyes last Saturday, will watch tonight's game from the press box.

"I'm not necessarily unhappy with our goaltending," Gare said. "But, nobody has come to the forefront yet.

"Kamloops called us and said they'd like the Finn to play here. Then we got Jason back and we told him we'd give him a good look. By this weekend, we'll probably drop one goalie . . . possibly two."

Turunan, 17, has two years of junior experience in Espoo, Finland.

"The league I played in is maybe a little better than this league (BCJHL), but not as good as the other league (WHL)," Turunan said.

This is the second stint in North America for the 5'10" netminder. He tried out with New Westminster Bruins of the WHL and spent a month with the Burnaby Winter Club midgets in 1985 before returning to Finland. He attended the Bruins' training camp again this year before going to Kamloops and then Vernon.

"I had no chance to make the Bruins," he said. "When I arrived in New Westminster they had already signed Dusty Imoo (who starred with Kelowna Packers last year) and Ray Woodley. Then, I twisted my knee and was off the ice for two weeks."

Turunan was surprised the Blazers dispatched him to the Lakers after only one week in Kamloops. "I played well against Spokane," he said. "I played two and one-half periods and only allowed two goals."

Turunan brought a release from his Finnish club with him and plans to enroll in a Vernon high school this week. But, he hopes his stay with the Lakers will be brief.

"I want to play in the WHL," he said. "I know there are a couple WHL teams interested in me. If Kamloops decides one of its goalies isn't playing well, or if they trade me, then I will get another chance in the WHL."

Turunan, like most Finnish youngsters, learned to speak English in school. And like most Finnish hockey players, his dream is to play in the National Hockey League.

"All young players in Finland want to play in the NHL," he said. "It is the best league in the world. But, few players ever think they will make it because it is so far away. That is why I came to North America . . . it is tougher to get drafted playing in Finland."

Palmer had also hoped to play in the WHL this season, but now appears destined to spend the 1987-88 campaign in the BCJHL. After starring with the Lakers last season, Palmer was recruited by Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL.

Palmer quit the Thunderbirds in early-September and played three exhibition games with Portland Winter Hawks, on loan from Seattle. However, Thunderbirds refused to trade the 19-year-old netminder and Palmer returned to Vernon. Game time tonight is 8 p.m.

BCJHL

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	F	A	P
Delta	6	0	0	47	18	12
Richmond	6	2	0	57	37	12
Juan De Fuca	3	4	0	34	32	6
Nanaimo	2	4	1	37	36	5
Chilliwack	2	3	0	31	35	4
Abbotsford	1	4	1	28	41	3

Interior Division

Merritt	4	3	0	38	44	8
Penticton	4	3	0	40	36	8
Kelowna	3	2	1	21	18	7
Vernon	3	3	0	37	34	6
Salmon Arm	2	3	1	29	30	5
Summerland	1	6	0	28	66	2

SCORING

Coastal

	G	A	Pts	Pim
Desjardins, R	10	19	29	29
Holmes, D	13	7	20	2
Clarke, R	8	9	17	66
Mcfarlane, R	7	8	15	22
Dutton, C	10	4	14	15
van Sickle, JDF	9	5	14	0
MacDonald, D	6	8	14	8
Frizzell, D	8	5	13	12
Nottingham, D	5	8	13	4
Parkes, N	7	5	12	2

Interior

Biller, M	8	10	18	43
Steer, V	10	6	16	2
Schwartz, SA	8	7	15	39
Heschuk, P	3	12	15	6
Rushton, M	5	9	14	0
Kruse, M	6	7	13	19
Figliomeni, SA	4	7	11	6
McGowan, M	1	10	11	4
Hilditch, Pe	3	7	10	4
Parnell, V	2	8	10	30

GOALTENDING

Coastal

	MP	GA	Avg
Dickson, D	240	9	2.25
Fry, R	171	11	3.86
Dafoe, JDF	232	17	4.14
Jones, N	308	22	4.29
Holland, D	120	9	4.50

Interior

Casey, K	176	3	1.02
Whaley, V	75	4	3.20
Skoleski, SA	302	20	3.97
Radbourne, K	194	15	4.64
Loewen, P	362	30	4.97