Palmer in goal against Penticton

Jason Palmer will be between the pipes tonight when the Vernon Lakers travel to Penticton, to meet the Knights, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

Palmer, who starred for the Lakers during the 1986-87 season, had expected to play with Seattle Thunderbirds, of the Western Hockey League, this winter. However, after a dispute with Seattle management, he quit the club and played three exhibition games with Portland Winter Hawks, on loan from Seattle. Thunderbirds refused to release him and the 19-year-old goalie returned to Vernon last week.

"Jason wants to play so we'll throw him right into the fire," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare.

Palmer will be Vernon's fifth starting netminder, in only eight games, "I haven't been totally satisfied with our goaltending," Gare said. "Our shot-save percentage isn't great."

Barry Rysz, who will backup Palmer tonight, is tentatively scheduled to start at home, Saturday night, against the Kelowna Packers.

Meanwhile, the Lakers are healthy with the exception of defenceman Greg Olson. Olson will have arthroscopic surgery on his ankle next week and is expected to be off the ice until late-October.

Centre Dallas Drake, who was sidelined three weeks due to a knee injury, will be between wingers Dane Jackson and Mike Paller tonight. Drake looked impressive in spot duty during Vernon's 6-5 win over Salmon Arm Tigers, Tuesday night.

In the lone BCJHL game Thursday, Jim Figliomeni and Wayne Kirbyson scored two goals each to lead Salmon Arm to a 7-2 triumph over the Summerland Buckaroos.