Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Dennis returns to face Merritt

Vernon minor hockey graduate Duane Dennis will be in the line-up Friday night when the Vernon Lakers host the Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at the Civic Arena.

Dennis, who was sidelined for four weeks with a painful ankle injury, will be reunited with high-scoring linemates Jamie Steer and Greg Parnell.

Hard-hitting Shawn Hendry, who replaced Dennis alongside Steer and Parnell, will fill a different role Friday. Right winger Mike Barkley is visiting Michigan Tech University so Hendry will play alongside Barkley's regular linemates, Mark Greyeyes and Ian Alger. Barkley is expected to return in time for Saturday's rematch in Merritt.

Penticton Knights, Merritt, and Vernon share first place in the Interior Division so the importance of the weekend twinbill cannot be overstated.

"We have something to prove against Merritt," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare.

In the only previous meeting between the two clubs, the Centennials hammered Vernon 10-5, Sept. 27, in Merritt.

Gare said, "We're playing a lot better now. Our club is stronger defensively . . . and our players are used to playing with each other."

Glen Fry will make his fifth consecutive start between the pipes for the Lakers. The big goaltender has posted a 4-0 record, with a 2.00 goals against average, since coming to Vernon in a trade earlier this month.

In the only BCJHL game Wednesday night, Rob Clarke fired three goals to lead the Richmond Sockeyes to a 9-4 home-ice win over the Abbotsford Falcons.

The Sockeyes also got goals from Tony Bobbitt, Keith Fair, Rick Rozecki, Mario Desjardins, Brad Dixon and Dan Walton.

The Falcons scorers were Paul Thompson, Rob Ripley, Doug McDonald and Blain Moore.

Richmond goalie Jason Palmer stopped 25 shots while Abbotsford goalie Darcy D'Amours blocked 32.