Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor – DON KENDALL

First place up for grabs

First place in on the line tonight when Vernon Lakers host the Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

The same two clubs clash Saturday night in Merritt.

Going into weekend action, the Penticton Knights, Vernon, and Merritt share top spot in the BCJHL's Interior Division with 18 points.

"I'm not looking for a split . . . I'm looking for a sweep," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "We have been sharp in our last four games and if we play up to our ability, Merritt can't beat us."

During their current four-game winning streak, the Lakers have been plagued by penalties and have faced numerous situations when they have been two-men short.

"We have to stay out of the penalty box," Lis said. "We can't afford to dig ourselves into a hole by taking stupid penalties."

Lakers will be without right winger Mike Barkley, who is visiting Michigan Tech University this week. However, left winger Duane Dennis will return to the line-up tonight after missing four weeks due to an ankle injury.

In the lone BCJHL game Thursday night, Andy Faulkner , Rod Ewacha, Shaun Crowther, and Rick Krandelmeir scored to lead the Salmon Arm Tigers to a 4-3 win over the Juan de Fuca Whalers.

Randy Zulinick, Glen Whitehead and Mike Van Sickle scored for the Whalers.

Goaltender Ryan Dennis was outstanding for Salmon Arm, kicking out 34 shots while Brian DaFoe made 27 saves for Juan de Fuca.