Chase rejoins Lakers

Vernon Lakers will have a familiar face back in the lineup tonight when they step on to the ice in Kelowna.

Defenceman Keith Chase, who left the club earlier this month due to work commitments, rejoined the team this week. The 20-year-old rearguard now feels he can juggle his work and hockey schedule.



KEITH CHASE

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare welcomed back the hard-nosed Vernon native. "His return is a positive thing for our club," Gare said. "He is a team leader . . . he's great in the dressing room."

Chase has practiced with the Lakers this week, but will probably see limited duty this weekend due to his recent inactivity.

"I'm not sure how much he'll play . . . he was off the ice for two weeks," Gare said. "He'll probably kill some penalties and take the odd shift."

Lakers, who host the Penticton Knights on Saturday, will be without defenceman Greg Olson and centre Greg Parnell for both weekend outings. Olson is still recovering from two ankle operations and isn't expected to start skating until Christmas. Parnell has torn muscles in his shoulder and will be sidelined for another week.

Meanwhile, ex-Laker Jason Fox scored two goals to lead the Salmon Arm Tigers to a 6-4 win over the Merritt Centennials in the lone B.C. Junior Hockey League game played Thursday night.

Graham Bewley also tallied twice for the Tigers while Rod Ewacha and Brad Neumeier added singles.

Merritt marksmen were Richard Brew, Cal McGowan, Frank Biller, and Shawn MacNeill.

Garvin Weber made 39 saves in his debut in a Tiger uniform while Lauren Balland stopped 38 shots for the losers.