EAGLES IN TOWN TONIGHT

Lakers limp into weekend

The high-powered Vernon Lakers' machine won't be operating on all cylinders for three home games, in the next five days.

The Lakers host the Chilliwack Eagles tonight, at 8 p.m.; the Penticton Knights, Saturday; and the Summerland Buckaroos, Tuesday.



DANE JACKSON

Vernon will be without at least four players for tonight's confrontation with the Eagles.

Right winger Dane Jackson is visiting the University of North Dakota and is not expected back until Saturday or Sunday. Goalie Barry Rysz, who suffered a cracked collarbone in practice last week, will be sidelined another 10 days. And because the Lakers have already clinched first place, Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare has the luxury of resting a couple of his slightly wounded troops.

Centre Greg Parnell (hamstring) and defenceman Shawn Hendry (knee) are not expected to play this weekend. Defenceman Darcy Martini, who has been bothered by a throat infection, is also considered a doubtful starter for tonight's contest.

"Hendry, Parnell, and Martini could probably all play if they had to," Gare said. "But, I'd rather give them a few days off and give them time to heal."

The prospect of going into the weekend games without three or four regulars ins't a major concern to Gare. "We'll probably be a couple guys below the limit, but that means a few guys who haven't got too much ice time lately will get plenty of playing time," he said.

Meanwhile, in BCJHL action Thursday, Jamie Kurki scored three goals as the Kelowna Packers trounced the Juan de Fuca Whalers 12-2.

Kelowna, which outshot the Whalers 42-32, led 3-1 at the end of the first period in Victoria and 9-2 at the end of the second.

Mike Kasabuchi and Craig Gustafson scored two goals each for the Packers. Dwayne Gallant, Doug Gardiner, Allan Schuler, Mike Murinko and Len Jorgenson added singles.

Mike VanSickel and Clayton Fahey scored for the Whalers.

In Merritt, the Merritt Centennials outscored Salmon Arm in the third period to edge the Tigers 7-6.

The teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the first period but Salmon Arm led 3-2 at the end of the second.

Al Rushton scored the game-winning goal at 11:20 of the third period to make the score 7-5. Greg Shulte scored for Salmon Arm 97 seconds later but Merritt goalie Gordon Besse was unbeatable after that,

Bill Birks scored twice for the Centennials. Cal McGowan, Chris Kaban, Rich Brew and Bob Vermette added singles.

Jeff Kental had two goals for Salmon Arm. Jim Eliason, Graham Bewley and Brad Neumiek had the others.

Besse made 33 saves while Darcy D'Amours made 32 saves for Salmon Arm.

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Editor — DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Midgets tie opening game

Victoria scored three goals in the third period to salvage a 7-7 deadlock with Vernon Lake Country Sports in opening round play, Thursday, at the Pepsi-Cola International Midget Hockey Tournament, in Rutland. Al Litster was the offensive star for Vernon with two goals and three assists. Darcy Quiring also scored a pair for Lake Country with singles from Dave Schiman, Jim Anderson and Todd Creed. Vernon was scheduled to meet Coquitlam earlier today.

Bowling tourney

There are still a few openings in the 28th annual Winter Carnival 16-game Bowling Marathon, to be held Sunday, at Lincoln Lanes. The tourney gets under way at 9 a.m. For further information, or to register, phone 542-9837.

PVSS sweeps games

Pleasant Valley Secondary School of Armstrong swept four junior basketball games against Clarence

responded to Donatelli's latest letter and, therefore, he's a free agent under the NHL's collective bargaining agreement.

Olajide victorious

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael (The Silk) Olajide of Vancouver, who almost withdrew from the fight after cutting a finger on a razor a week earlier, scored a unanimous 10-round decision Thursday night over