INTERIOR DIVISION PLAYOFFS TONIGHT

Lakers get good news about Barkley's injury

Star forward Mike Barkley will miss some hockey but he will definitely be around during the playoffs.

That's the good news that the Vernon Lakers received Monday following a visit to the doctor by the club's 50-goal scorer.

Barkley received a punishing check during the third period of the club's last regular season game against the Penticton Knights Saturday night and the initial conclusion was that Barkley had suffered a separated shoulder and that he would be lost indefinitely.

However, a diagnosis Monday revealed that the injury wasn't nearly as serious as was first thought. The shoulder is bruised, not separated, meaning that Barkley will recover fully in due time.

"It's not as serious as we originally thought," confirmed Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis Monday. "It's actually very good news for us.

"We'll rest him until we need him," continued Lis. "He'll keep skating with the team but as long as we keep winning we'll probably rest him."

Meanwhile, the club opens its best-of-seven Interior Division semi-final series with Merritt Centennials tonight. The series switches to Merritt Wednesday night for game two with games three and four scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights in Vernon and Merritt, respectively.

Lis hopes that his club, which has dominated the Centennials through much of the season, can keep the pressure on and end the series as quickly as possible in order to afford everyone some rest.

"I'm hoping that we can take them (Centennials) in four games and that the other teams will go the full distance," suggested Lis. "We could use the rest."

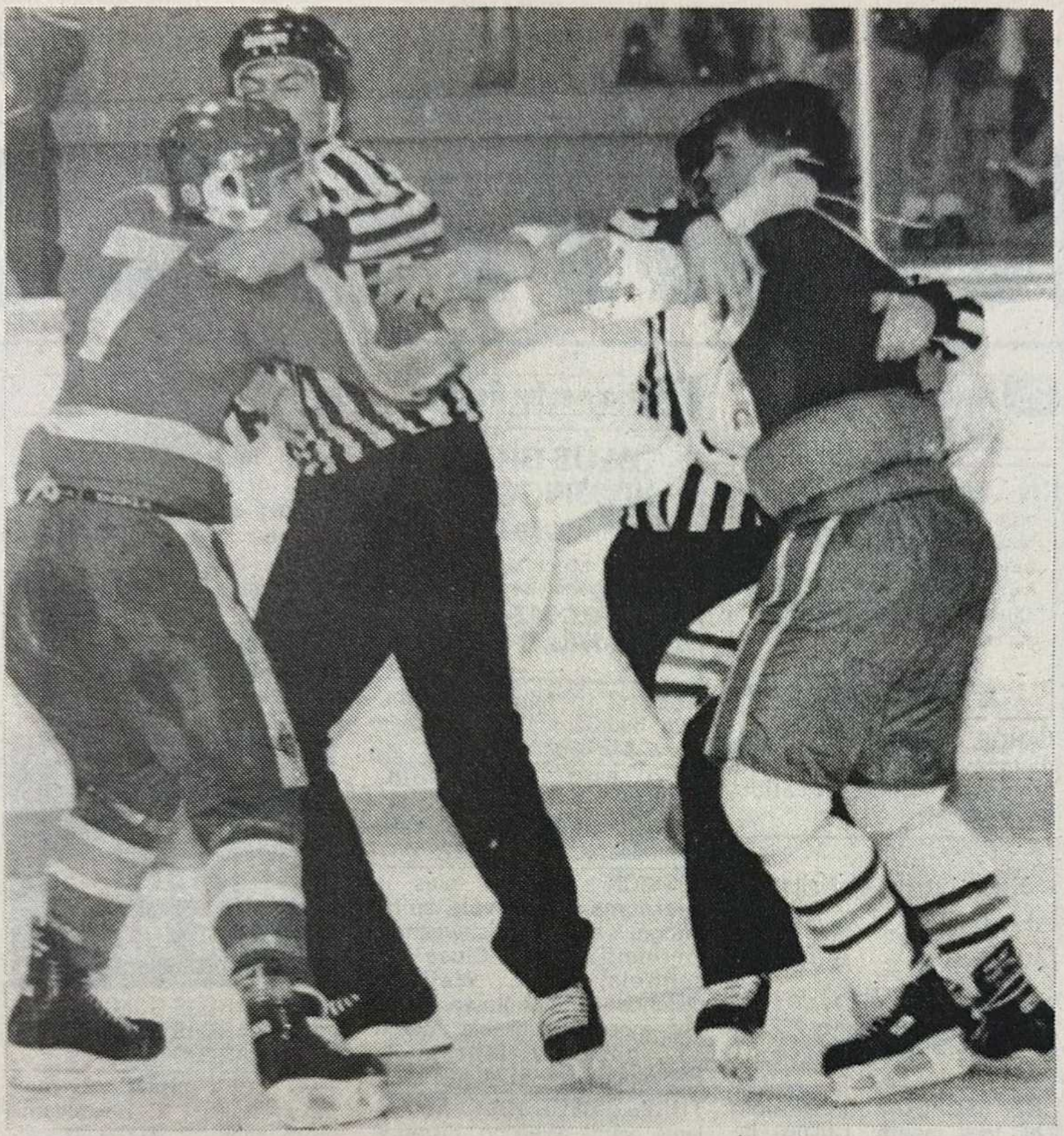
The club will have a few honors to bestow upon itself and at least one team member during the playoffs. The Lakers will receive plaques honoring their overall performance in the league and another for finishing first in the Interior Division. In addition, centre Dallas Drake will receive the league award as the BCJHL scoring leader.

The scoring lead came right down to the last game of the season and Peter Holmes of the Delta Flyers gave Drake a late run for the money when he scored three goals and had one assist in a 9-4 Flyers' victory Saturday night. Holmes finished the season with 60 goals, and 64 assists for 124 points.

Drake, however, had 39 goals and 87 assists for 126 points, giving the Lakers their second BCJHL scoring champion in as many years. Drake's assist total is just four off the league record recorded by Vernon native Terry Lowe 10 years ago.

Drake's feat is especially impressive in view of the fact that he missed the first six games of the regular season and then had a slow start. He had 27 points in his last six games.

Game time tonight is 8 p.m.



TREVOR POHL, right, and Penticton's Kevin Caputo (7) mixed it up on several occasions Saturday night during the last regular season meeting between the two hockey teams. In the event that the two clubs meet for the BCJHL Interior Division championship you can bet there will be sparks flying between the two once again. (Wayne Emde Photo)

St. FX 4 Dalhousie 1

BCJHL

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	F	A	P
Richmond	34	16	2	325	216	70
Delta	34	17	1	316	204	69
Nanaimo	28	20	4	277	252	60
J. De Fuca	25	25	2	248	241	52
Chilliwack	21	31	0	262	360	42
Abbotsford	18	33	1	267	326	37

Interior Division

Vernon	42	10	0	381	196	84
Kelowna	28	22	2	286	224	58
Penticton	26	26	0	268	252	52
Merritt	25	27	0	287	300	50
Salmon Arm	17	33	1	245	308	35
Summerland	6	44	1	191	474	13

SCORING

Coastal

		G	A	Pts	Pim
Holmes, D		60	64	124	80
MacDonald, D		50	54	104	70
Butterworth, C		36	68	104	15
VanSickle,	JDF	58	39	97	111
Dutton, C		55	36	91	114
McDonald, A		39	49	88	18
Methorst, A		44	42	86	121
Clarke, R		44	41	85	227
Parkes, N		37	43	80	70
Knapton, N		35	42	77	164

Interior

Drake, V		39	87	126	46
Steer, V		51	67	118	14
Biller, M		57	49	106	240
Barkley, V		47	44	91	84
Greyeyes, V		37	54	91	91
Rushton, M		32	55	87	57
Bianchini, K		31	53	84	123
McGowan, M		23	55	78	50
Momotani, P		26	51	77	20
Alger, V		34	40	74	206

Goaltenders

Coastal

	Min.	GA	Avg.
Popp, R	1146	59	3.08
Renton, JDF	1392	103	4.44
Dafoe, JDF	1716	129	4.51
Jones, N	1683	133	4.74

Holland, N	1166	94	4.83	
Interior				
Fry, V	2948	115	2.35	
Rysz, V	1338	61	2.73	
Casey, K	1337	79	3.54	
Loewen, P	2044	162	4.75	
Hildebrand, K	1022	84	4.93	