SERIES STARTS SATURDAY

Finalists equal . . . on paper

If statistics say anything about hockey teams and individual players, then the latest B.C. Junior Hockey League statistics speak loudly for both the Richmond Sockeyes and the Vernon Lakers.

The two teams are running virtually neck-and-neck after two rounds of BC-JHL playoffs . . . at least on paper.

The Sockeyes will face-off against the hometown Lakers, Saturday night, in game one of the best-of-seven BC-JHL championship series. Game two will take place Sunday, at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Richmond is sporting an impressive 8-2 record in the playoffs but, like the Lakers, will enter the championship series after sweeping their division final series. The Sockeyes disposed of the Delta Flyers in four straight games during their best-of-seven division final. The Lakers beat the Penticton Knights in four consecutive outings.

After 10 playoff games, statistics show that the Sockeyes hold a slight defensive advantage over the Lakers while the Vernon squad has the advantage offensively. Richmond outscored their opposition 63-29 in 10 games, meaning they averaged 6.3 goals for per game and allowed only a stingy 2.9 per game against.

Vernon outscored their opponents by an equally impressive margin of 59-28 though since they are undefeated in playoff action this season, they only appeared in eight games. That gives the Lakers an average of 7.4 goals for per game and 3.5 against.

In the goaltending department, Richmond's Mike Doyle reflects that teams' defensive prowess with a 2.12 playoff average. Glen Fry, who has started all eight playoff dates so far for the Lakers, has a 3.44 average.

In the individual scoring department, the Sockeyes show as much depth as the Lakers. Barry Kress of Richmond leads all players with 13 goals and 14 assists for 27 points, in 10 games.

Linemates Dwayne Wills and Rob Clarke hold down third and fourth spots with 22 and 18 points, respectively.

Further down the list, Wayne Stripp, Rick Herbert, Keith Fair and Dan Walton are all in the top 20 scorers as well. Stripp and Herbert have 13 points each in nine games while Fair and Walton have a dozen points apiece.

For the Lakers, Greg Parnell and Dallas Drake have 18 points each, though Drake picked up his 18 points in just five and a half games. Jamie Steer is next on the team's list with 17 points while Mark Greyeyes has 14 points, including eight goals.

Ian Alger is continuing his steady scoring pace from the regular season with 13 points while Adrian Markin has collected 12 points.

The balance between the two clubs should be even more apparent when they take to the ice Saturday night.

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