

LAKERS ENTER FINAL SERIES

Dallas Drake led the B.C. Junior Hockey League in scoring during the regular season. He returns to the Vernon Lakers' lineup tonight as they take on Richmond Sockeyes in the league final. For more, see page 13.

(Daily News Photo)

SERIES STARTS TONIGHT

Lakers ready to meet Sockeyes



WAY TO GO LAURIE

Members of the Cerebral Palsy Swim Club congratulate Vernon's Laurie Reeves, who won five gold medals in the recent Windsor Indoor Classic for the physically disabled. Reeves took top spot in the 50m, 100m, and 200m freestyle events and the 50m and 100m breaststroke races. Reeves works as an assistant coach with the cerebral palsy swimmers.

(Daily News Photo)

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

The Vernon Lakers' offensive machine will be firing on all cylinders tonight when they host the Richmond Sockeyes in the opening game of the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship series.

Three forwards who saw only limited duty in the first two playoff rounds have been pronounced healthy and will be on the ice tonight.

The return of league scoring champion Dallas Drake, 50-goal scorer Mike Barkley, and rugged Trevor Pohl gives Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare a complement of 10 forwards to choose from.

Drake suffered a knee injury against the Penticton Knights and was considered a doubtful starter for the series opener. But, after 10 days of rest, the slick pivot is ready to play.

"Dallas looked really good in practice this week," Gare said. "He was flying out there."

Drake and Barkley will be reunited with Mark Greyeyes on one line. The second line, which boasts as much firepower as Drake's unit, consists of Jamie Steer, Greg Parnell, and Ian Alger. But, it is Vernon's other forward line that draws the toughest assignment against the defending Canadian champions.

Captain Mike Paller, along with wingers Duane Dennis and Dane Jackson, will be asked to stop Richmond's top trio comprised of Barry Kress, Dwayne Wills, and Rob Clarke.

Kress leads all playoff scorers with 27 points, in 10 games. The line has accumulated 67 points . . . an average of 6.7 points per game.

As the home team, Gare has the last line change and is expected to match Paller against Kress whenever possible.

"Stopping that line will be a key for us," Gare said. "Mike's line played extremely well against Penticton and I think they can do a good job against Kress."

Glen Fry will start his ninth consecutive playoff game in goal for the Lakers with Mike Doyle expected to be between the pipes for the Sockeyes.

Doyle took over as Richmond's number one puck-stopper when Willie Popp sustained a broken wrist last month. Doyle has posted an impressive 2.11 goals against average in eight post-season appearances.

Game time tonight is 8 p.m. The second game is scheduled Sunday, at 7 p.m.

GOALPOSTS: The only Laker who won't play tonight is defenceman Greg Olson, who has a separateed shoulder . . . Popp had his cast removed this week and may play in the series . . . Advance ticket sales for tonight's game were approaching 2,000 at press time. Tickets for Sunday's contest will be available at the arena tonight . . . In a list of Vernon players who have obtained U.S. college scholarships, that was published Friday, Jamie Steer was omitted due to a typographical error. Steer will be attending Michigan Tech . . . Sunday's game will be televised on Vercom Cable-TV (channel 10) at 8:30 p.m.

IMPRESSIVE RECORD