Vernon Daily News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Popp in goal for third game

By DON KENDALL
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Willie Popp will be between the pipes for the Vernon Lakers when the centennial Cup playdowns resume, Saturday, at the Civic Arena.



WILLIE POPP

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare announced today that he has decided to rest goaltender Glen fry.

"Glen has played a lot of hockey for us," Gare said. "He didn't play poorly in Calgary...I just think he needs a break. And we have a lot of confidence in Willie."

Fry, who posted the lowest goals against average in the B.C. Junior Hockey League this season, has started all 17 of Vernon's playoff games.

Popp, 20, joined the Lakers two weeks ago, from the Richmond Sockeyes. Vernon was given permission to pickup the veteran goalie when it released rookie Barry Rysz for disciplinary reasons.

The Calgary Canucks lead the best-of-seven Western Canada semi-final 2-0 after posting 7-3 and 7-4 victories, this week, in Calgary. But, the Lakers remain confident they will defeat the Alberta Junior League champions.

"There is no doubt that we can beat the Canucks," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "We should have won the second game...we were all over them."

Lis said playing at home, this late in the season, is a tremendous advantage. "Their ice surface is much wider and longer and we didn't adjust to it very well," he said. "And our guys had trouble breathing in Calgary because of the altitude and humidity.

"We'll see how they do in our building...with our fans behind us."

Gare admits his club has to win Saturday night. "I'm not too concerned about being down 2-0," he said. "But, I don't want to go down 3-0."

Winger Mark Greyeyes, who suffered a knee injury in Calgary, is considered a doubtful starter this weekend. If Greyeyes can't assume his spot alongside scoring champion Dallas Drake and Mike Barkley, Gare will be faced with another major decision.

"We may move Olly (Greg Olson) on to that line, or move up a defenceman...maybe Adrian (Markin)," Gare said. "Adrian did a good job for us when we moved him up front against Penticton. And he plays particularly well in our building."

The Vernon coach could also insert one of the three players called up from their junior 'B' affiliate, the Columbia Valley Rockies, on to that line.

"I've got several options, but I'm not going to worry about it too much until we find out if Mark can play," Gare said.

Meanwhile, in the other Western Canada semi-final, the Notre Dame Hounds came from behind to defeat the Winnipeg South Blues 5-3, Thursday, at Wilcox, Sask.

The Hounds, of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, now lead their series 2-0.