Players feel axe after weekend series

The axe has fallen.

Vernon Lakers Head Coach Ernie Gare cut nine players following weekend exhibition B.C. Junior Hockey League action. But some of the cuts may yet see duty with the Lakers this season.

Scott Bailey, a goaltender, was cut and sent to the Lakers' farm team, the Invermere Junior "B" squad. He could be back for a couple of games later this winter and so could Neil Eastman, Brian MacDonald, Matt Pasco, Aaron Damani and David Zakall. All were sent to the Columbia Valley Rockies located in the Kootenay city.

Given their outright releases were Scott Austin and Brent Ravem, both goaltenders, as well as Mark Merritt, as forward.

"Bailey was close to making the team but we decided he could use a little seasoning," said Gare. "He's a good one and we'll probably be bringing him back for a couple of games later on to give him a taste.

"We decided to go with the older, more experienced goalies, Randy McGrew and Brian Langlot," he added.

Local hopefuls still with the team include Scott Kowalski, Ryan Loxam and Jim Anderson.