

Lakers suffer another setback

October wasn't a particularly good month for Vernon Lakers, winning just five of nine games and November is already shaping up as a bigger challenge to the club's playing abilities.

Lakers dropped a 7-6 decision to the hometown Kelowna Packers Saturday night . . . their third consecutive loss, dropping them to 8-6 in regular season play in the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The Vernon club leads Merritt Warriors by two points for third place in the BCJHL Interior Division. They trail front-running Penticton Knights and Packers in their division.

Lakers open November with six games, in nine days, including a three-game swing through the tougher half of the Coastal Division, and games against Merritt and Penticton.

However, Lakers could get back into the winning groove Friday night when they host Nanaimo Clippers, of the Coastal Division. Clippers beat Lakers 7-4 in Nanaimo, in late September, during the club's first road trip to the coast, and Lakers could get the ball rolling once again by avenging that early season loss.

Saturday night, Carey Fisher and

Shawn Swail each fired two goals to lead Kelowna over Vernon. Packers also got goals from Ward Carlson, Rick Diens and Wade Stubley and outshot Lakers 30-25.

Defenceman Murray Baron scored three goals from Vernon while singles came from Sean Hartnell, Stacey Hartnell, and Shannon Pohl.

In other games Saturday, Penticton crushed Langley 14-2, Delta doubled Nanaimo 6-3, and Richmond beat Sidney 5-2 while Sunday Merritt edged Shuswap Blazers 10-9 in overtime, and Richmond Sockeyes beat Sidney Capitals 5-3.

Troy Mick scored four goals for Warriors while Jim Roux scored twice including the tying goal and the game winner in overtime. Kevin Cheveldave also scored twice for Warriors who trailed 6-3 and 7-5 by periods.

In Penticton, Cal Brown scored three goals to lead the Knights and John DePourcq and Greg Cyr added two goals each.

In Delta, Flyers got two goals each from Sean harder and Mark McLeary who also had two assists.

In Sidney, Lance Montotani led Richmond with two goals.