

Lakers host Clippers tonight

Nanaimo Clippers, who currently hold down third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Coastal Division, touch down in Vernon tonight in their first stop on a three-game road swing through the northern part of the Interior Division. It will be the first, and only, time this season Clippers will be in Vernon and the last time this season the two clubs meet.

In their only previous meeting, in Nanaimo Sept. 27, Clippers posted a 7-4 decision over Lakers in a fight and penalty-filled affair.

Nanaimo also plays Shuswap and Merritt before returning to the Coast after the weekend to end a four-game road trip that began Tuesday night with a humiliating 11-0 loss to Coastal Division-leading Richmond Sockeyes, which dropped the club to 6-6 for the season. That loss, coupled with Delta's win, bumped them from second to third place in their division.

Up front Clippers have three players currently registered in the top 10 of Coastal Division individual scoring. Leading the pack is veteran Jamie Cayford, who was on the Coastal Division all-star team in 1984.

Cayford, a left-winger who has seen duty this season at all positions, has eight goals and 12 assists for 20 points in 12 games.

Right behind Cayford are right winger Kent Lewis with 19 points and Bill Hardy with 18 points.

While this will be the jumping of point of a tough road trip for Clippers, it will also be the start of a particularly tough month for Lakers who play more games in November than in any other month during the regular season.

The club plays 13 games this month including five on the road, highlighted by a three-game sweep through the Lower Mainland section of the Coastal Division next weekend. Lakers play six games, including tonight's encounter, in nine days.

In fact, this may be one of the toughest weekends yet this season for Vernon, which also travel to Merritt, Saturday before returning to host division leading Penticton Knights Sunday night, at Civic Arena.

Meanwhile, Kelowna packers moved 10 points ahead of Lakers with a 9-5 win over Richmond Sockeyes, Thursday, in Richmond.

Wade Stubbley and Shawn Swail scored two goals each for Packers, who led 2-1 at the end of the first period and 7-3 after the second. Ward Carlson, Rick Biens, Greg Mobert, Shawn Harrison, and Darren Swartz added singles for Kelowna.

Paul Bifano replied with two goals for Richmond while Kevin Weremy, Ron Popoff and Bruce Kennard netted singles.

Kelowna netminder Frank Romeo blocked 33 shots while Scott King and Ray Woodley combined for 30 saves for Richmond.