

Great trip to Coast for streaking Lakers

A little more than a week ago, Vernon Lakers were a junior A hockey club struggling to shed an image of mediocrity.

However, on the heels of a triumphant three-game road trip to the B.C. Junior Hockey League Coastal Division, Lakers are now sporting a modest winning streak. The streak currently stands at four wins but the team has won five of their past six starts including games against Interior Division-leading Penticton Knights and Coastal Division leading Richmond Sockeyes.

With eight of their next 10 games at home, things are starting to look somewhat rosey for Lakers and their Head Coach Don Moores who survived a vote of confidence given him by team

executive members immediately prior to the recent turn-around in the team's status.

"We have an excellent schedule right up to Christmas time," noted Moores who commutes from his home in Kamloops to coach the local club. "We're looking forward to playing in front of our fans and showing our stuff. In the last five games we've played very well . . . we're really coming together."

One area that had been suspect until recent times was Lakers' defensive unit. Until the current win streak began, it was goaltender Darryl Dickens who had been carrying the defensive load for the club.

Moores was quick to point out that the major difference of late has been

the marked improvement in the defence.

"All seven of our defencemen played well in the recent road trip and so did our goaltenders so I'm really pleased about that," said Moores.

One reason for the sudden improvement has been the appearance of veteran rearguard Campbell Blair, whom the team purchased from Summerland Buckaroos just prior to the Coastal swing. Moores expressed his satisfaction with the acquisition.

"He (Blair) helped an awful lot, he's a mature player and he always comes to play," suggested the Lakers' coach. "He reads situations very well and either plays the puck or packs it."

The presence of Blair on the blueline augmented a potentially adequate defensive unit which also features Vernon native Chris Saunders, who is expected to further improve as time goes by this season. With sophomore speedster Shawn Lofroth returned to his familiar spot on the blueline following an unsuccessful attempt to make him a forward, the club now has good mobility and a much-improved power-play.

Another player who came into his own during the brief trip to the coast has been second-year forward Stacey Hartnell. A slow start didn't do anything for Hartnell's confidence this season but in two games last weekend the burly winger collected 10 points to break out of his shell.

Another potentially productive forward who was suffering through a slump was forward Greg Guest but he too has shown positive signs of improvement since the trip according to Moores.

Though the club will have the benefit of a long home stand working in its favor during the next three weeks, Moores isn't about to let the team's progress slide because of their recent improvement.

"We're realizing that regardless of who we play we have to play well all the time," he said.

Lakers won their third consecutive game on the Coast, Saturday, with an 8-4 decision over Abbotsford Falcons.

Hartnell had two goals and three assists to lead Lakers, who had a 75-24 advantage in shots. Dennis Holland also scored a pair for the winners while Steve Humphrey, Trevor Pohl, Rick Rozecki, and Blair added singles.

Abbotsford led 2-1 after one period before Vernon moved ahead 5-3 after the second.

Lakers host Langley Eagles, Friday at 8 p.m. The tough Merritt Warriors visit Vernon on Saturday night.

Cross-country lessons on Silver Star Mountain

Parks and Recreation Department of the Regional District of North Okanagan, in co-operation with the North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club and Stussi Sports, is co-ordinating cross-country ski lessons for all ages and levels of skiers.

All lessons will take place at the cross-country ski area on Silver Star Mountain and will be taught by qualified instructors.

Packages available include lessons designed for children, beginners, ladies and groups. In addition there will be an instructors clinic made available for those who wish to learn the appropriate instructing techniques for the sport and a children's Jackrabbit Ski League will also be started.

Jackrabbits, for children seven years of age and over, includes a skill awards system which allows the child to measure their progress and experience the satisfaction of earning awards for newly acquired skills.

This program will consist of six, two-hour lessons from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, beginning Dec. 7. Cost of registration includes instruction,

Beck sidelined

NEW YORK (AP) — Defenceman Barry Beck will be lost to New York Rangers for two weeks with a muscle bruise and spasms in his left shoulder, the National Hockey League team announced Monday.

The Rangers' captain suffered the injury in a 4-3 loss Saturday night to Minnesota North Stars.

Jackrabbits membership, and achievement awards.

For those just starting out, there is a program which covers everything beginning with simple basics. There is a choice of three one-hour or two one-hour lessons combined with one indoor session to discuss equipment, waxing, and various ski techniques.

For groups, a group of 10 or more skiers can enjoy this fun way to learn the sport during a special one and a half hour lesson.

A group of ladies may choose one day at random, gather on the hill and receive a special ladies-only lesson for one hour along with a guided tour around a selected trail on Silver Star.

Also, private lessons are available. These are one hour in duration, but give skiers one-on-one exposure to the sport. There are special group rates for those who wish private lessons.

A one-day on the snow clinic for anyone interested in becoming qualified as a ski instructor will also be offered. The clinic will be based on the CANSI program and would be of benefit to anyone who is assisting with the Jackrabbit program.

There will be a partial subsidization by the recreation department and the ski club for any club member volunteering for the Jackrabbit program. The instructor's clinic will be held Nov. 17, on Silver Star.

For further information, or to register for any program, contact the regional district at 545-5368 or Stussi Sports at 542-4141.

BCJIL

VANCOUVER (AP) —
Statistics released Monday by

the British Columbia Junior
Hockey League:

STANDINGS

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pts	
Richmond		14	3	0	28
Delta		8	8	0	16
Nanaimo		8	9	0	16
Sidney		5	14	0	10
Langley		3	16	0	6
Abbotsford		1	13	0	2

Interior Division

Penticton	18	2	0	36
Kelowna	16	3	0	32
Vernon	13	7	0	26
Merritt	9	8	1	19
Summerland	6	10	1	13
Shuswap	5	13	0	10

SCORING LEADERS

Coastal

	G	A	Pts
Austin, Rich	21	18	39
Jennings, Nan	13	20	33
Decker, Del	11	22	33
Kujala, Lan	12	19	31
Lewis, Nan	11	20	31
Crossley, Rich	17	13	30
Cayford, Nan	11	19	30
Bifano, Rich	11	18	29
Sloan, Lan	12	16	28
Hardy, Nan	12	15	27

Interior

Shields, Pen	21	30	51
Carlson, Kel	29	20	49
Davidson, Pen	14	30	44
Harrison, Kel	22	21	43
Stubbley, Kel	20	19	39
Holland, Ver	16	20	36
Cyr, Pen	14	22	36
Taillifer, Shu	9	27	36
Fisher, Kel	7	29	36
Anderson, Pen	16	17	33
Tomlinson, Sum	16	17	33

GOALTENDING

Coastal

	Min	GA	Avg.
Woodley, Rich	551	27	2.72
Palmer, Del	152	9	3.55
King, Rich	449	28	3.74

Fay, Sid	523	41	4.70
Dickson, Del	628	50	4.77

Interior

Dolvin, Kel	312	16	3.07
Sharples, Pen	483	25	3.10
Loewen, Pen	520	29	3.34
Sutherland, Kel	240	14	3.50
RSomeo, Kel	408	27	3.97