

Good news for Lakers

Vernon Lakers received some good news Thursday on the eve of their B.C. Junior Hockey League game with Abbotsford Falcons.

Tests to determine if forwards Shannon Pohl and Greg Guest had mononucleosis

proved negative.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said both players have been given clearance to play tonight when Vernon hosts Abbotsford, at 8 p.m. Pohl, who had been complaining of fatigue, missed his club's last two games.

"It is nice to know those guys are healthy," Dye said. "We were worried about them for a few days."

While Pohl and Guest may play, Frank Dutoff has been sidelined by the flu. Dye said he doesn't expect Dutoff to play tonight, but the speedy forward may be ready for Sunday's game when Lakers host Kelowna Packers.

Packers currently lead the Interior Division with 38 points, one more than Lakers and two ahead of Penticton Knights. Kelowna and Penticton are involved in a crucial home-and-home series, tonight and Saturday, before Packers visit Vernon.

All students will be admitted to tonight's game at a discount price and the shot on goal program prize will be worth \$2,000.

Meanwhile, in BCJHL action Thursday, Richmond Sockeyes whipped Merritt Warriors 15-3. Richmond Coach Bill Wilms said his club must continue to look to Interior clubs for opposition the Coast Division can't provide.

"We've gone two games scoring 13 and 15 goals," said Wilms. "We're probably playing with the best intensity and puck movement that we've had all year."

"Our intensity is up to the level to where it has to be for us to beat the Interior teams. We're running away with the Coast but we have to gear our game to the Interior teams."

In the other game, Summerland Buckaroos whipped Abbotsford Falcons 9-4 to give the Interior Division a split of the two games.

In Richmond, the Sockeyes jumped to a 6-0 lead in the first period and coasted past Merritt.

SCORES FOUR GOALS

Kevin Weremy led the Richmond assault with four goals and three assists. Dave Holmes and Bruce Kenward added three goals apiece.

Pat Austin and Jeff Crossley both scored twice and Sean Harder scored the other Richmond goal.

Kevin Cheveldabe, Kevin Thorlackson and Jeff Veitch scored for the Warriors who were outshot 62-26.

In Summerland, Andy Pokutec scored two goals to pace the Buckaroos who led 4-2 and 5-3 at the period breaks. Neil Didcock, Dave Tomlinson, Craig Bedard, Ed Tuckwood, Don Burke, Jackson Kenny and Karl Goebel completed the count.

Replying for Abbotsford were Trevor Tiger with two goals and Ian Alger and Sheldon Sabad.

Tonight, Merritt visits Langley, Abbotsford is in Vernon, Kelowna plays in Penticton and Richmond takes on the Clippers in Nanaimo.

Names manager

CHICAGO (AP) — Former major leaguer Jim Essian on Wednesday was named manager of Chicago Cubs' minor league affiliate in Winston-Salem, N.C., a spokesman for the National League club said.



SHANNON POHL

BCAHA cancels tourney

NANAIMO, B.C.(CP)—An international hockey tournament planned for the Christmas holidays has been cancelled.

Doug Harding, owner of Nanaimo Clippers of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, said the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association decided to cancel the tournament after he was unable to get written confirmation from three of the four overseas entries.

"It would have been a bigger catastrophe to have run it and had something go wrong than to cancell it and run it again last year," Harding said.

A Czechoslovakian team had committed itself to the tournament, he said, but he had trouble getting written confirmation from the West Germans and Swiss, Last-minute changes would have seen a Japanese team replace Poland.

Harding appealed the provincial association's decision to the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, but the national body upheld the cancellation.