

Lakers sweep games

Vernon Lakers completed a highly successful romp through the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League Saturday night with a convincing 12-3 victory over Quesnel Millionaires.

Friday night, Lakers needed overtime to get by league-leading Prince George Spruce Kings 5-4 in exhibition action.

The games were the last two the Ver-

non club will play prior to commencement of their B.C. Junior Hockey League schedule Jan. 4. The team is now temporarily disbanded until practice resumes Jan. 2.

Doug Spooner scored the club's tying goal and also the game winner Friday night in Prince George to give Lakers their come-from-behind victory over the stubborn Spruce Kings.

"They (Prince George) have a pretty good team and their on top of their league," explained Vernon Head Coach Don Moores.

Lakers were without the services of defencemen Shawn Lofroth, who is sidelined until the new year with a charley horse, and captain Murray Baron who is spending his holiday time at Michigan Tech University visiting the campus he may decide to attend next season on a full scholarship.

In the only BCJHL game Sunday night, Delta Flyers rebounded to beat Sidney Capitals 6-2. Saturday night, the Coastal Division leading Richmond Sockeyes completed a rocky road through the Interior Division with a 4-2 victory over Summerland Buckaroos. In other games, Kelowna defeated Shuswap 4-3 in overtime, Nanaimo edged Delta 6-5 and Sidney beat Abbotsford 5-1.

Sockeyes needed two unanswered goals in the third period to lift them over Buckaroos. Kevin Weremy scored twice for Sockeyes while Tony Galpin and Sean Harder added singles. Gord Paulson and Dave Tomlinson replied for Bucks.

Kelowna's Shawn Harrison scored his second goal of the night on a short-handed, two-on-one break 5:15 into overtime to put the Packers in the winner's circle once again. Packers had rallied with two goals in the final three minutes of regulation time.

Packers also got goals from Jamie Kurki and Rick Viens. Tony Bobbit, Richard Van Ry and Jeff Kentel were the Shuswap scorers.

There are no games tonight in the BCJHL, but Tuesday night Sidney visits Richmond, Delta is at Abbotsford and Kelowna plays the Buckaroos in Summerland.

Canada meets Soviets in World Cup soccer

MEXICO CITY (CP) — In 1972, the Soviet Union ventured forth to prove it could play hockey with the best. Next June, Canada attempts to show the world it can play soccer with the best. And the Soviets will be part of that venture, along with France and Hungary.

Canada found itself grouped Sunday with those three European powers for the first round of soccer's World Cup tournament, scheduled May 31 to June 29 in Mexico.

The draw, staged for a world-wide television audience estimated at two billion, put Canada in Group C where matches will be played at Leon and nearby Irapuato, high-altitude towns about 300 kilometres northwest of here.

Sixteen of the 24 competing countries will advance to the lose-and-out second round — the top two teams from each of the six groups and four teams with the best third-place records.

"It's going to be difficult," Canadian coach Tony Waiters said. "What we've got to do in the first round is get two results — a win and a tie.

"It's not impossible, but a tough nut to crack."

He was delighted at the quality of opposition his players will compete against.

"There's something in all three teams which is attractive," Waiters said.

Canada begins its World Cup play June 1 in Leon against France, which won European Group 4 qualifying with five wins and one draw, losing only to Bulgaria and East Germany in away games.

"France plays a terrific brand of soccer," said Waiters, a former England international goalkeeper. "They really are the 'in' team of European soccer with their creative play.

"In Quebec, the people will be delighted that we are playing France in the first game."

Canada's second game is scheduled June 6 in Irapuato against Hungary, who won European Group 5 qualifying against Austria, the Netherlands and Cyprus, losing once against five wins.