

Holland stars for Team Pacific

MAGOG, QUE. (Special) — Vernon's Dennis Holland scored two goals to lead Team Pacific to a 6-5 win over Czechoslovakia in opening round play Monday at the Esso Cup International Midget Hockey Tournament.

Holland, who is the leading scorer with Vernon Lakers, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, was named as the game's first star.

Wayne Hynes of Calgary, who plays with Medicine Hat Tigers, of the Western Hockey League, also scored twice for Team Pacific. Kerry Russell and Randy Kwong, both of Kamloops, added singles. Russell plays with Kelowna Packers, of the BCJHL, and Kwong is on loan from Calgary Canucks, of the Alberta Junior Hockey League.

Team Pacific, which led 6-2 after the second period, meets Finland tonight in Quebec City.

In other games, Eric Cuvrette scored four goals to pace Quebec to a 7-6 victory over Team USA, while Ontario downed Team Sweden 5-3 and Western Canada defeated Team Atlantic 5-3.

The tournament ends in Verdun on Sunday.

Lakers resume practices

The second part of the B.C. Junior Hockey League season begins for Vernon Lakers, Saturday night, when they host Shuswap Totems.

Lakers are scheduled to practice Thursday after more than three weeks off the ice. And according to Head Coach Don Moores, the rest was good for his club.

"We played a lot of hockey in late-November and early-December," Moores said. "We lost a couple games, (against Summerland Buckaroos) that we probably should have won, because we weren't sharp. Everybody should be ready to do now after the break."

Lakers are firmly entrenched in third place in the BCJHL's Interior Division, behind Kelowna Packers and Penticton Knights. Moores feels the top two clubs can be caught and he may make some roster changes to prove his point.

"We're looking to strengthen ourselves in some areas," Moores said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we made a couple changes."

Two, or possibly three, new players will be at practice Thursday night. Vernon minor hockey graduate Kelly Rosehill and centre Dallas Drake, who has been playing with the Rossland junior B team, will skate with Lakers.

Rosehill, a former captain of the Vernon Juvenile Reps, has not been playing hockey this season.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said his club is also negotiating for the rights to a player with junior experience. However, Dye said he cannot yet reveal his identity.